

AFCEA LUNCHEON



CRACKING THE CODE THE SPACE COMBAT POWER TEAM

May 2026

Colonel Brendan Hochstein
Commander, SYD 89

Gordon Conference
Center

DISTRIBUTION A. Approved for public release: distribution is unlimited. SSC-PA-1936-05182026



SYSTEM DELTA 89

Commander: Col. Brendan Hochstein, USSF
Deputy: Ms. Stephanie Eberhardt, NH-04, DAF
Senior Enlisted Leader: SMSgt Ashlee Robards, USSF



Space Combat Power

MISSION

Develop and deliver cyber, ground- and space-based combat power capabilities to contest and control the space domain through fires, movement, and maneuver, preserving US, Allied, and commercial freedom of action in, from, and to space.

WHAT WE DO

Conduct acquisition activities to develop and deliver Space Control capabilities to drive Space Superiority in the following **Mission Areas**:



Orbital Warfare

Combat operations via fires, movement, and maneuver

MD 9



Electromagnetic Warfare

Combat operations through the electromagnetic spectrum

MD 3



Cyberspace Warfare

Combat operations in the cyber domain

MD 6



Space Domain Awareness

Space-based reconnaissance, surveillance, rendezvous, and proximity ops

MD 9



Space Data Network

Resilient space combat power connectivity capability

Enterprise Capabilities



Innovation & Prototyping

Next-generation technology development via partnerships



Space Based Interceptors

Space-based missile defense capability

2/10



Our Space Combat Power Team

Following our recent System and Mission Delta stand-ups, our teams—including members from SSC and CFC—work together as a unified team with one shared mission.



PEO
Col. Bryon E. C. McClain



DPEO
Col. Scott L. Klemperer



MD 3



MD 3/CC
Col. Angelo Fernandez



MD 6



MD 6/CC
Col. Travis Prater



MD 9



MD 9/CC
Col. Ramsey Horn



SYD 89



SYD 89/CC
Col. Brendan Hochstein



MD 3/CD and SPD
Col. Edward Gutierrez



MD 6/CD and SPD
Col. Joseph Pomager



MD 9/CD and SPD
Col. Erik S. Stockham



3 STS/CC
Lt. Col. Benjamin Jewell



6 STS/CC
Lt. Col. Jason Altenhofen



9 STS/CC
Lt. Col. Derek Wouden



SPD/Orbital Warfare
Dr. Rachel Murphy

- **SPM/Space Capabilities**
Lt. Col. Jared Grady
- **SPM/Space Dominance**
Lt. Col. Michael Ryan
- **SPM/Combat Power**
Lt. Col. Michael O'Connor
- **Chief Architect & User Integration**
Mr. Jesse Bullinger



SPD/Innovation & Prototyping
Col. Jonathon Seal

- **SPM/Prototype Ground**
Mr. Michael Masoner
- **SPM/Prototype Operations**
Lt. Col. Melissa Sawyer
- **SPM/Space Test Program**
Lt. Col. Brian Shimek
- **SPM/Space Safari**
Lt. Col. Lincoln Miller
- **SPM/Rapid Reaction Branch**
Lt. Col. Rachel Owen



SPD/Space Superiority
Lt. Col. Aurelio Irizarry

- **SPM/Capability Development**
Lt. Col. Cesar Rodriguez
- **SPM/Orbital Maneuver**
Lt. Col. Joseph Speakman
- **SPM/Space Recon & Surveillance**
Lt. Col. Darren Ng



SPD/Vacant
SPM/Space Based Interceptor
Lt. Col. Nicholas Milano

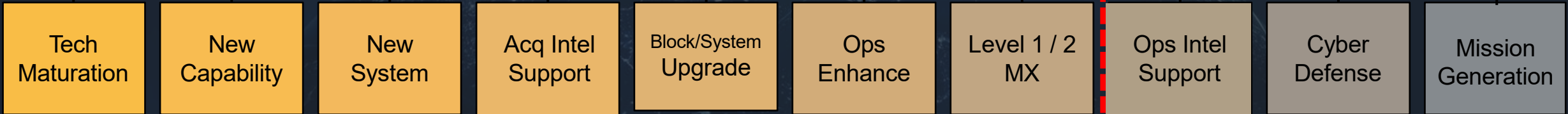
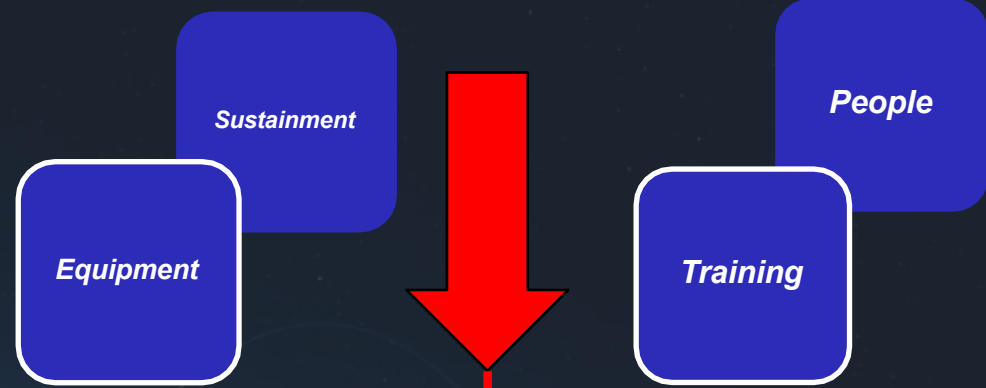


SPD/Spectrum Warfare
Lt. Col. Gary Goff

- **SPM/Space Data Network**
Lt. Col. Jeff Fry
- **SPM/Next-Gen Programs**
Lt. Col. Damon Wong
- **SPM/Rapid Acquisition**
Lt. Col. Adam Dunk
- **SPM/User Integration**
Mr. Johnnie Mah



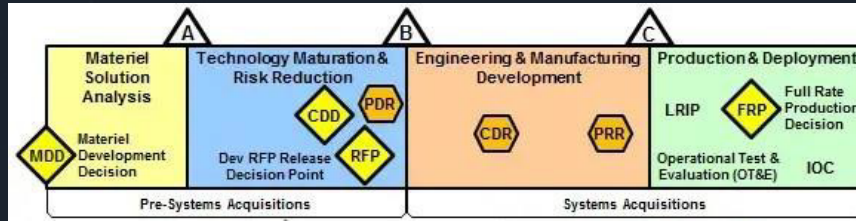
PREVIOUS Distribution of Workload



Readiness Fragmented



CURRENT Distribution of Workload



System Delta

Mission Delta

Tech Maturation

New Capability

New System

Acq Intel Support

Block/System Upgrade

Ops Enhance

Level 1 / 2 MX

Ops Intel Support

Cyber Defense

Mission Generation

Unity of Effort for Capability Development

Unity of Command for Readiness

Current Events - Rubber Meets the Road

"The first movers were US CYBERCOM and US SPACECOM, layering non-kinetic effects, disrupting and degrading and blinding Iran's ability to see, communicate, and respond."

--- General Dan Caine, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
Pentagon on March 2, 2026
Detailing the opening phases of Operation EPIC FURY against Iran



Rapid Acquisition & Commercial Solutions

RG-XX: Proliferated GEO constellation providing space-based SDA capabilities by 2030

- Multiple award IDIQ RFP for Space Segment released in Jan 2026
 - Informed by robust industry feedback
 - Focused on commercial best practices and industry driven solutions
- Acquisition goals: Rapid and affordable proliferation via:
 - Commercially available technology
 - Design life 3-5 years
 - Multi-manifest launches



- Mission Set Capability outcomes over Requirements
"We need to..."
- Maximize commercial competition and "solution-diversity"
- Proliferation over Perfection
- Alternative Acquisition Pathways: The MTA Advantage



Mission Set Capability over Requirements

<u>Acquisition Approach</u>	<u>The Legacy Model (Prescriptive)</u>	<u>The SYD 89 / RG-XX Model (Capability-Driven)</u>
Core Philosophy	Tell industry exactly <i>how</i> to build it.	Tell industry <i>what</i> operational outcome is required.
Example Request	"Build a 2,000 kg satellite with a 1.5-meter electro-optical sensor, powered by 4 deployable solar arrays, operating at X frequency."	"We need to maintain continuous custody of maneuvering targets in the GEO belt and characterize their payloads within X hours."
Vendor Response	Vendors compete to see who can build the government's exact design cheapest.	Vendors propose their own unique commercial architectures, software, and sensor combinations to solve the problem.
Mission Impact	Locks the government into outdated technology by the time the design is finally launched.	Unleashes commercial innovation, allowing startups to solve problems using novel, cheaper, or faster methods the government hadn't considered.



Joint Force Integration & The Future Fight

- SYD 89 works daily to stay ahead of adversary threat timelines and kill chains while connecting and enabling mission threads for the Combatant Commands.
- The synergy between SYD 89 (acquisitions and development) and Combat Forces Command's MD 3, 6, and 9 (operations and sustainment) is REAL. Staff meetings, PMRs, Staffer Days...
- The SYD-MD relationships are organized by mission area ensuring everything we do is aligned with a specific operational outcome.
- For operators, this means your voice is heard earlier in the acquisition process. For acquirers, this means you have a direct line to your ultimate customer.
- SO WHAT?: we are improving overall mission readiness and delivering what the joint warfighter urgently needs better than we were before.



QUESTIONS?