



CSM Column
January 2011

Welcome back and Happy New Year! As I traveled around the command in 2010, I was routinely impressed with the professionalism and commitment of our Soldiers and Civilians. There is definitely a strong “can do” attitude within the command! As we enter into 2011, I’m sure many of you made resolutions, and hopefully you’ll be able to keep them. I’d like to start my January column by challenging each of you to take up two additional goals for 2011.

Before I do, I’d like to share with you a portion of the introduction that GEN Martin E. Dempsey, Commanding General US Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC), wrote for the [Army: Profession of Arms 2011 Campaign](#):

Our Army exhibits all of the qualities and attributes articulated in The Army Values. We know who we are, and that’s a great foundation on which to build. Nevertheless, we’re certainly a different Army than we were in 2001, and we remain an Army in transition—always working to learn, always seeking to adapt to meet the needs of the Nation. We have become a modular force, and we’ve aligned ourselves to the force management process called ARFORGEN.

As an Army in transition, it’s appropriate that we examine ourselves as a profession—the Profession of Arms—and ensure that we understand and are living up to the principles that define us as a profession. As someone told me recently, “you’re not a profession simply because you declare yourself to be a profession...you have to earn the title every day.” We need to review, reemphasize, and recommit to our profession. We need to ensure that our leader development strategies, our training methodologies, and our personnel systems all contribute to defining us as a profession.

Over the next year, we will lead a discussion of The Profession of Arms. We will ask ourselves two fundamental questions:

- *What does it mean for the Army to be a Profession of Arms?*
- *What does it mean to be a Professional Soldier after over nine years of war?*

I will spend much of 2011 discussing the Profession of Arms Campaign. As a lead-in to those discussions, I’d like to first ask each of you; Soldier, Civilian, or Contractor to take the time to evaluate your primary contributions to the USASMDC/ARSTRAT mission. How do you help assure mission success? As you identify your contributions, I ask that you write them down because after you’ve identified them, I want to challenge each of you to list ways that you can contribute more efficiently and effectively in 2011. How can you become a better Soldier, a better Civil Servant, or a better support Contractor?

As a Soldier this may mean becoming a better first line supervisor, or a more effective member of your squad or unit. Perhaps it means spending more time maintaining physical fitness or maintaining outstanding proficiency in your assigned duties or responsibilities. These same goals may hold true for our Civilians as well. For all of us it may mean committing to being more efficient in our work habits and becoming better communicators – across the entire staff. I’m sure we can all find at least one thing we can do better, something that will help make USASMDC/ARSTRAT even more successful.

Second, I’ll ask each of you; husband, wife, father, mother, son, or daughter to look at your current family situation. Hopefully each of you is in a healthy and rewarding family environment. In reality, I know some of us are experiencing strains in our family relationships; others may even be estranged from some or all of their family members. Whatever your current family situation, I challenge each of you to take a long hard look at yourself and determine what you can do to make your family life better. Perhaps this means becoming a better listener or better at sharing your thoughts and feelings. Maybe it means reaching out to a family member and finding ways to mend long-standing problems. It could be something as simple as committing to remember important dates or to attend family events. To be successful, your evaluation must center upon what YOU can do to change or improve the situation, not what someone else has to do to make the situation better.

The goal of both these challenges is to become an even better person than you currently are. By doing so, we will increase our personal satisfaction both as a stronger member of the USASMDC/ARSTRAT team, and as a happier member of our families. As we increase our own satisfaction and self-worth, we also contribute directly and indirectly to the betterment of those we come into contact with – at work and in our personal lives. This win-win situation helps not only better us as human beings; it also helps better the circumstances of everyone else!

Secure the High Ground!