



S M D C / A R S T R A T
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CG Column
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January is the start of a new year and a new decade. Hopefully, everyone had a joyous and safe holiday season.

As we begin the second decade of the third millennium, our Army is deeply entrenched fighting two wars in Iraq and Afghanistan with some 149,000 Soldiers deployed into the Areas of Operation. Despite the strains and pressures of multiple deployments, the performance of our Soldiers in the combat zones continues to be magnificent with enlistment rates remaining at or above goals.

The success by our Soldiers on the battlefield would not be possible without the support they receive from their families at home and from the civilians working hard to provide capabilities to the Warfighters.

I am especially proud of the work accomplished last year by the USASMDC/ARSTRAT Soldiers, Civilians, and contractors. Each member of the USASMDC/ARSTRAT team took up the challenge to provide dominant space and missile defense capabilities to the Warfighters and can justifiably be proud of their accomplishments. While it would not be feasible to list every accomplishment, it is important to name a few.

In the area of space, last year our G-6 and 53rd Signal Battalion accepted operational control of two Wideband Global SATCOM (WGS) satellites that significantly increases the communications capabilities for the Warfighters in OIF/OEF. Each WGS satellite increases military communications capability by tenfold over existing communications satellites. Additionally, in partnership with industry, the Army developed a satellite for the first time in 50 years. SMDC-ONE is a nano-satellite that is designed to be responsive and dedicated to the ground commander. We expect to launch the SMDC-ONE satellite in 2010.

In the area of missile defense, the dedication and unwavering vigilance by our missile defense and radar crews are unmatched. While the national strategy for ballistic missile defense changed last year, what did not change were the crews who train for and defend the United States 24/7 from ballistic missile attack.

In the area of technical achievements, last year witnessed the first solid state 100Kw laser weapon performance in a laboratory. This is one of two lasers being developed with the High Energy Laser Joint Technology Office. The outlook seems very promising and we look forward to seeing the results of their on-going efforts.

Last year's list of accomplishments would not be complete without mentioning the deployments by USASMDC/ARSTRAT Soldiers to Iraq and Afghanistan providing space support to the Combatant Commanders. Our Army Space Support Teams and Commercial Imagery Teams have provided continuous support to the OIF/OEF since the conflicts began.

All in all, I am very proud of the efforts of the entire USASMDC/ARSTRAT team throughout 2009. Now we must prepare to meet the challenges of a new decade.

First and foremost, we must continue to keep our people uppermost in our priorities. The focus for the command remains unchanged – supporting the Warfighter. However, our focus cannot be achieved without taking care of our Soldiers, our Civilians and their Families.

One way of taking care of people is by ensuring the environment is safe from physical and force protection hazards. The Department of the Army recently released 10 tips for identifying potential insider threats. Please review those tips and share them with members of your organization. Those tips are available on the USASMDC/ARSTRAT internal command net.

Next, we will continue to provide the Warfighter dominant space and missile defense capabilities. In the coming year, we will also continue to define our role in cyber operations and how best to support the new Cyber Command.

Finally, as a values-based organization, we will continue to maintain transparency and keep ethical practices upper-most in all that we do. As Nicolas Boileau wrote in 1666, "honor is like a steep island without a shore: one cannot return once one is outside." Likewise, all that we do is for naught if we don't follow our moral compass.

Thank you for all that you do each day in defense of our nation. I look forward to another successful and safe year by the USASMDC/ARSTRAT team, keep up the good work!

SECURE THE HIGH GROUND!