



**S M D C / A R S T R A T**  
Headquartered on Redstone Arsenal, Alabama



CG Column  
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***"Naked and starving as they are, we cannot enough admire the incomparable patience and fidelity of the soldiery."***  
*(From a letter by Gen. George Washington to Governor George Clinton, February 16, 1778, Valley Forge)*

America's Soldiers have served selflessly on the frontiers of freedom since the birth of our nation; spending holidays and special occasions away from home and away from loved ones. The selfless service forged in the winter of 1777 continues. There are some 263,000 Soldiers deployed around the world with about 152,000 in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. Keep our deployed men and women in your thoughts and prayers.

USASMDC/ARSTRAT closes out 2009 the same way it started it – focused on supporting our Warfighters with advanced space, missile defense, and cyber capabilities.

This past year has been very busy for SMDC/ARSTRAT: we continue to deploy our Soldiers in support of OIF/OEF as well as to help train members of the Afghanistan National Army; we continue to provide continuous space support to the Warfighters on the ground; we are managing the payload on the newest Wideband Global Satellite Communications system (WGS), and we continue to provide the nation with a round-the-clock defense against intercontinental ballistic missile attack.

Our civilian workforce, much like our Soldiers, is located around the globe. They are the bedrock of our organization providing advanced space and missile defense capabilities that allow USASMDC/ARSTRAT to support the Warfighter.

Providing America's Warfighters the absolute best capabilities requires a dedicated team of professionals – Soldiers, Civilians, and contractors – working in a strategic environment that changes daily. Our enemies constantly adapt to find ways to attack us. Likewise, the Army of the twenty-first century is adapting. Only an adaptive and versatile Army will succeed. As the Chief of Staff of the Army has stated:

*"While the Army has been progressively adapting since the end of the Cold War, we must take advantage of what we continue to learn in our current operations, use emerging technology and continuously adapt to build a balanced Army to meet the demands of 21st-century conflict,"* Gen. George W. Casey, Jr., Army Chief of Staff.

There will be challenges ahead in the coming year as we continue to operate in this era of persistent conflict. However, with challenges come opportunities as well. The deliberations will continue in defining cyber operations providing an opportunity for SMDC/ARSTRAT to clarify our Army Service Component Command roles and responsibilities for this emerging and increasingly important mission area. There will be challenges and opportunities in missile defense as we finalize a global CONOPS, integrating our systems and processes and providing the nation increased protection from ballistic missile attack. And lastly, there will be challenges and opportunities in space as we continue or work with the Operationally Responsive Space program to meet the ground commander's requirements.

There are many challenges and the opportunities ahead in 2010. Hopefully during this holiday season, you will make time to spend with family and friends and celebrate the blessings we enjoy as a free nation. Please continue to be vigilant about the dangers of the season. CSM Borja offers some excellent words of advice about drinking and driving in his column. Take a moment to think through your activities and have a plan to ensure you and your loved ones will be safe. We need every one of you on the team!

On behalf of my family and the SMDC/ARSTRAT team, we wish each of you a safe and happy holiday season! Thank you all for what you do each day in the name of freedom.

*SECURE THE HIGH GROUND!*