

# The Eagle

United States Army Space and Missile Defense Command

Volume 10, Number 7, July 2003

## New DCG-Operations assumes duties

By Maj. Laura Kenney

**COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.** — In a welcoming ceremony framed against the backdrop of the Rocky Mountains, the new deputy commanding general for operations assumed his duties June 23.

The ceremony introducing Brig. Gen. Robert P. Lennox was conducted in front of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command (SMDC) Colorado Springs building. Also attending were Gen. Lance Lord, commander, Air Force Space Command, and many state and local dignitaries.

LTG Joseph M. Cosumano Jr., commanding general, SMDC, commented on Lennox's character as a team player and soldier.

"What a fine soldier and general he is," Cosumano said. "Although many of his accomplishments can be read about in his bio, there's a lot that's missing.

"Brig. Gen. Lennox comes to us from his last post as deputy commanding general, Fort Bliss," he said. "In that position, he helped more than 10,000 soldiers — active and Reserve Component — and their equipment deploy for OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM.

"And all of you have heard about the 507th Maintenance Company, the unit that suffered everything there is to suffer during IRAQI FREEDOM," Cosumano said. "They had KIAs, MIAs, wounded and POWs. Imagine dealing with that situation on the home front. Together with his wife Jenny, Brig. Gen. Lennox handled what was necessary, from the family support group level to every detail. As the whole drama of the 507th played across the international media, these two people



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Dennis Beebe

LTG Joseph M. Cosumano Jr., commanding general U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command, and Brig. Gen. Robert P. Lennox, new deputy commanding general for operations, salute as the National Anthem is played during the ceremony welcoming Lennox to the command.

dealt with it in the real world, while still doing a magnificent job facing other daily challenges.

"Brig. Gen. Lennox is one of the great young generals in the Army today, and he comes to us at a time of tremendous change. We still have many soldiers and civilians deployed in harm's way, as they put their lives on the line for a just and righteous cause. The new DCG for Operations will be an important part of a great team. Welcome," concluded Cosumano.

Lennox thanked Cosumano for his kind words, but immediately deferred the praise

to his soldiers.

"These are indeed exciting times we live in," Lennox said. "Between current operations, the stand up of the Ground-based Midcourse Defense Brigade and establishing the Army Service Component Command relationship with U.S. Strategic Command, we have many challenges ahead of us. I had the chance to witness firsthand the terrific job Army Space soldiers were doing during IRAQI FREEDOM. You have a world-class reputation, and I couldn't be prouder about joining you. I'm anxious to roll up my sleeves and get started."



U.S. Army photo

### Vignettes from the field

Sgt. Sabrina Bannister, Army Space Support Team 5, poses next to a border sign during a humanitarian relief mission she assisted with while deployed to Iraq. See story and photos on pages 10-11.

## Inside The Eagle



**Missile silos settle into Alaskan test bed, page 12**

**First-ever FTX for B Co., 1st SATCON Bn., page 15**



**Athletes, volunteers benefit from Special Olympics, page 19**

# The Command Corner



LTG Joseph M. Cosumano Jr.  
Commanding General



CSM David Lady  
Command Sgt. Maj.

**D**uring July, our nation celebrates its 227th birthday. Rightfully, this month offers us a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the gift of freedom that has been bestowed on this great nation by the sacrifices of America's soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines ... past and present.

On July 4, 1776, members of the Second Continental Congress meeting in Philadelphia made a momentous decision that changed the course of history: formal adoption of the Declaration of Independence. The members knew the significance of their actions that historic day. John Adams, the first vice president and the second president of the United States, attended that meeting. In a letter to his wife, he wrote, "I am apt to believe it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires and illuminations from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more."

Americans around the world will spend July 4, Independence Day, with friends and family enjoying cookouts, parades and fireworks. As Mark Twain mentioned in several July 4 speeches, Americans have the typical evening hours celebrating down pat, with "noise, and noise and noise — all night long." It is truly a time for celebration as we mark the birth of our nation, but it should also be a time for reflection and thanks.

Thomas Jefferson, our third president, wrote, "For a people who are free and who mean to remain so, a well-organized and armed militia is their best security." The legacy of the Army is inextricably linked to the creation of our country. With a birth even before that of our nation, the U.S. Army has been called upon multiple times to protect our vital interests in locations around the world. From the snow-covered fields of Trenton, to the wheat fields of Gettysburg, to the forest of the Argonne, to the sprawling beaches of Normandy, to the dense jungles of Vietnam, and the scorching deserts of the Middle East, America's soldiers have been on point. The Army has never wavered from its solemn duty to preserve and protect our liberties and rights.

This same spirit remains strong today as demonstrated by the dedication and professionalism of every member of the SMDC family. SMDC soldiers, civilians and contractors are serving throughout the world providing space-based capabilities vital to the warfighter as they help to combat terrorism, protect our troops and defend the homeland. At the same time, spouses, family members and friends continue to provide invaluable support and comfort. I am very proud of your dedication, professionalism and commitment.

July can also be a wonderful opportunity to partake in vacations, trips to the beach or mountains and other outdoor activities. Please take the opportunity to consider the importance of safety when planning your activities. Naturally, legal and safe use of fireworks and other pyrotechnics are vitally important.

This year has been an extremely busy year for SMDC, one that is expected to remain full of exciting challenges as we work to fulfill our mission requirements. My most sincere best wishes and gratitude are extended to you for your dedicated hard work and professionalism. As you enjoy the wonderful opportunities July offers, take the time to reflect, especially on July 4, on the sacrifices of those who fought for our freedom and those serving today to keep it.

SECURE THE HIGH GROUND!

**I**t has been a month since I was welcomed into this command, and I am steadily becoming more and more impressed with the leaders, soldiers and civilians of this command. It is a pleasure to be part of a forward-focused command engaged in such significant operational and developmental missions. I am grateful to LTG Joseph M. Cosumano Jr. for his confidence and to Command Sgt. Maj. Wilbur Adams Jr. and Command Sgt. Maj. Reginald Ficklin for their example. It is good to serve among Space Warriors!

I do not speak that last sentence lightly. Our fellow soldiers and civilians within the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command have demonstrated the Warrior Ethos of the U.S. Army throughout the most recent successful military operations. Our mission statements speak of our supporting the warfighter, but in doing that so successfully throughout OPERATIONS ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM, you have shown that you are warriors too.

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack Tilley conducted a conference with his major command sergeants major in early June, and there the Army Staff revealed the Warrior Ethos. This ethos is a new concept for our Army — an important concept in further unifying the Army as we continue to transform toward the objective force while winning the wars of today. It is defined as: "The Warrior Ethos forms the foundation for the American Soldier's spirit and total commitment to victory, in peace and war, always exemplifying ethical behavior and Army Values. **Soldiers always put the mission first, refuse to accept defeat, never quit, and never leave behind a fellow American.** Their absolute faith in themselves and their comrades makes the U.S. Army invariably persuasive in peace and invincible in war."

Consider this definition, especially the highlighted sentence. We are all warriors, whether assigned to maneuvering combat units or not. As soldiers, we have sworn to defeat all enemies of our nation, foreign or domestic. We all have a part in the war: our missions and our products all contribute to the victory.

We soldiers wear a black beret to symbolize our unity in the Army, a force comprised of Active and Reserve components and many specialties. The Warrior Ethos is a further step in creating a unified culture among all soldiers, whatever their component or specialty, unit or location. We are all warriors, because we will not let our nation, our leaders and peers, or our fellow Americans down. We will not stop until mission is complete and victory is secured. We all will demonstrate high standards; we will all be ready and willing to give what is required and to inspire our fellow soldiers to do the same.

Add this ethos to your rucksack. Take it to heart, for it is an underlying ideal and, with the Army Values, should define our commitment to mission and each other, our very significance as soldiers in the most successful Army that the world has ever seen.

Warriors of SMDC, it is a privilege to be your senior enlisted leader. As I continue to travel among you and to communicate LTG Cosumano's intent and vision to you, among my missions will be to demonstrate, and insist upon all of us demonstrating, the Warrior Ethos as we "Secure the High Ground" for our nation.

ON POINT, SIR!

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## CG DIRECT

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*CG presents annual quality awards*

## And the winners are ... OTII, Battle Lab, Technical Center and USAKA/RTS

By Gil Adams  
Huntsville, Ala.

Sometimes it pays to be the best. For four U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command organizations, being the best in the annual Commanding General's Quality Awards program paid off big.

At the ceremony in early June, SMDC Commanding General LTG Joseph M. Cosumano Jr. presented the Office of Technical Integration and Interoperability with the first-ever Most Improved Organization Award. Bill Reeves, director, OTII, received the award for the highest leadership scores in this year's awards competition. OTII's score sets the benchmark.

The Battle Lab received the Merit Award for Quality. The award, accepted by Director Larry Burger, demonstrated Battle Lab's leadership strong mission focus. Their strategic planning effort is at a benchmark level. Battle Lab's package contained many favorable results that could be traced back to the Strategic Plan and the Strategic Readiness System and

Balanced Scorecard initiative. The Battle Lab received a trophy and a check for \$25,000.

Col. David G. Farrisee presented the Chief of Staff Award to co-winners Space and Missile Defense Technical Center and U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll/Reagan Test Site. He took the opportunity to encourage those organizations that may not be fully participating in the self-assessment process to "get on the bandwagon" of continuous improvement and conduct self-assessments for the 2004 program.

Rodney Robertson, deputy director of the Technical Center, received the trophy and a check for \$50,000. The Technical Center presented a well-honed approach to determining and satisfying changing customer needs and aligned their results with the Balanced Scorecard, Strategic Readiness System and many completed action plans.

USAKA's results are tied to customer, employee and supplier Integrated Process Team work efforts. USAKA presented a six-step marketing process to attract potential customers. Lt. Col. Tim Mango

accepted the trophy and \$50,000 check.

The Commander's Quality Award was not presented this year. While the command improved as a whole, and a number of organizations showed improvement, none of the organizations scored at the benchmark level set by previous winners.

Overall, SMDC improved from last year's performance. With the exception of OTII, which has strong leadership yet few results, command performance can be separated into two camps — those who demonstrated results consistent with the effective deployment of the Strategic Readiness System and the Balanced Scorecard and strategic planning — and those who don't have such results.

Highlights of key strengths and opportunities are:

**Strengths**

- Effective Strategic Readiness System, Balanced Scorecard and strategic planning deployment among award winners.
- Improved efforts among award winners to address customer and employee needs.

- Use of meaningful results measures and trends among the top three award winners.
- Leadership that successfully moves the award-winning organizations forward.

**Opportunities for Improvement**

- Added emphasis on SRS, Balanced Scorecard and strategic planning efforts among non-winners.
- Improved customer and employee satisfaction management systems.
- More meaningful results measures, especially among non-winners.

"With regard to Army Performance Improvement Criteria, Malcolm Baldrige criteria and even SRS, the foundation is about people," Cosumano said. "It's about putting together an organization that motivates people, rewards people. It all ends up with customers and the mission — customers satisfied, mission accomplished. The awards program is a very important process to recognize those organizations who strive to be the best."

# What We Think

## The Eagle asks:

*What do you feel is the most pressing issue facing Army families and why?*



Capt. Mitch Steverson  
GMD Test Director  
Kwajalein Atoll

Family Separation! The Army's current mission requirements are driving more frequent and extended periods of separation. The current swell of American patriotism has diminished this issue somewhat, but leaders should be acutely aware that the ability to retain service members will greatly depend on their ability to address this issue.



Capt. Patrick Mate  
Aide to Maj. Gen. John Urias  
Huntsville, Ala.

Without a doubt, the most pressing issue facing Army families is OPTEMPO (Operations tempo). The pace and length of deployments that are currently being asked of our Army soldiers is putting a major stress on our military families.



Maj. Dennis Brozek  
G-5, Space Strategy, Policy and Doctrine  
Arlington, Va.

The most pressing issue facing Army families is dealing with stress. Deployments to OIF and OEF, unaccompanied short tours, extended TDYs, even PCS moves, all these can be well thought through and planned out, but the stress level associated with these type activities causes great strain on the family.



Staff Sgt. Victor Stock  
D Company  
1st Satellite Control Battalion  
Camp Roberts, Calif.

TRICARE is a pressing issue, especially for remote locations. It is becoming very difficult to find doctors who will accept TRICARE, and once you do, knowing if you are properly covered can be just as difficult. In addition, when issues come up, sometimes it is necessary to change Primary Care Managers as often as three or four times a year to ensure that you are getting the proper medical attention.



Katie M. Cohen  
Strategic Business Planner  
G-5  
Arlington, Va.

In my opinion, the most pressing issue for Army families today is separation of family due to deployment. When the soldier raises his/her hand and swears allegiance to defend this country, he/she is also swearing in the family to the same. The difference is that while one moves forward to the front line (the battle field), the other maintains the rear (the home). Both are in combat without the support, or the presence, of the other.



Sgt. 1st Class  
Gregory P. Denton  
Satellite Controller  
RSSC-CONUS  
Tampa, Fla.

The Army needs to educate soldiers and their spouses about financial management. ACS provides some information during short briefs held monthly on selected topics. However, a weekend seminar covering all aspects of financial management such as TSP, home buying, investments, credit cards, insurance (life and auto), check-books, and retirement planning would be more beneficial.

# Theater Missile Warning Company gets new commander

By Sharon L. Hartman

**COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.** — 1st Space Battalion's Theater Missile Warning Company held a change of command ceremony May 22 at the command's headquarters building here.

The ceremony hailed incoming commander Capt. Charles Nesloney as he assumed command from outgoing commander Maj. Shelley Volkwein.

Lt. Col. Scott Netherland, commander, 1st Space Battalion, hosted the ceremony and commented on the accomplishments of Volkwein's command.

"Maj. Volkwein has been an excellent company commander for the Theater Missile Warning Company," Netherland said. "She inherited the job with the company running 90 miles per hour.

"We had just recently deployed a shelter to U.S. Central Command, and there were still some things we needed to do," he said. "We needed to do some refinement of the best crew competition, we needed to implement the constant vigilance mission in the Joint Tactical Ground Station (JTAGS) shelters, and she accomplished those two high-priority things among many others and did a great job of it."

Speaking on the incoming commander, Netherland commented on the similarities between Volkwein and Nesloney.

"Capt. Nesloney is very much cut from the same mold that Maj. Volkwein was, being an air defense officer," said Netherland.

"Although Maj. Volkwein was a great commander, there is no such thing as maintaining the status quo," he said. "We always are seeking to improve capability training, to try to identify shortcomings



Photo by Sharon L. Hartman

**Capt. Charles Nesloney, incoming commander for the Theater Missile Warning Company, accepts the company colors from 1st Space Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Scott Netherland, in a change of command ceremony held May 22.**

and to improve on them. Wherever we can advance the ball, we want to do that.

"Capt. Nesloney is already putting his fingerprint on the company by implementing the Best Crew competition for JTAGS Colorado Springs and Texas right now. He inherited the program and within two weeks of taking command, he implemented some changes for the competition that will allow it to be more standardized across all JTAGS units, and improve the quality of training," said Netherland.

Nesloney's prior background in Air

Defense also gives him an advantage in his new command.

"Had I known about JTAGS when I was an ADA commander and understood where those early warnings were coming from, just knowing where that type of information came from would have greatly helped because I would have understood how the network flows," said Nesloney.

"When I wasn't getting the information, someone would ask me, what about this, or what about that, and I couldn't tell them how that information came through or why I wasn't getting that information," he said.

"Now when I go out and talk to Patriot units or theater commanders, I can explain to them in detail where the JTAGS elements integrate into their theater, how they integrate into their operations, what we bring to the warfighter and how we support them," he said. "They'll have a better level of understanding from me of how we can do this."

Speaking on his expectations for his new command, Nesloney commented on the high opinion he holds of his soldiers.

"My expectations are for my soldiers. They are the best 14-Juliet soldiers that we can train," he said. "My success is what they bring to the fight and how well they execute their mission. That's my focus, to make sure that they're successful by having the resources and the training, so when they go out and execute a mission, the theater commander knows that my guys are giving them proper and accurate information.

"Bottom line for me is I have to make sure that I am trained, and that I train my soldiers in a way that will allow them to go out and execute their mission, and that they then come home — safe and sound," said Nesloney.

## Bush nominates retired general to be next Army Chief of Staff

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — President Bush has nominated retired Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker to be the next Army chief of staff.

Schoomaker retired in November 2000 as the commander U.S. Special Operations Command at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla.

The Senate must confirm Schoomaker before he can take up his new duties.

This is only the second time that a president has reached into retired ranks for a high-ranking military position.

Army Gen. Maxwell Taylor was retired when President John F. Kennedy asked him to serve as the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in 1962.

Schoomaker was commissioned via ROTC in June 1969. Early in his career, he served in Germany and Korea.

In 1978, he became commander, 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment (Airborne) at Fort Bragg, N.C.

He was part of the unsuccessful rescue attempt of the American hostages

taken by radical students in Iran in 1980. Eight Americans died and five were wounded at the Desert One refueling site in Iran.

In a 1999 *Soldiers* magazine article, Schoomaker said that the failures of that rescue attempt led to the formation of the U.S. Special Operations Command.

Schoomaker had several assignments with the Joint Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg throughout the 1980s and served on the Long Commission to investigate the October 1983 terrorist bombing of the Marine Barracks in Beirut.

He was appointed commander of U.S. Special Operations Command in 1997.

Among his decorations he has received the Distinguished Service Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster), the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit and two Bronze Stars.

Schoomaker, 57, is a master parachutist and has received the Combat Infantryman Badge.

## President says United States will support actions in Liberia

By Jim Garamone  
American Forces Press Service

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — President Bush said during a quick media opportunity in Senegal that the United States will participate with the Economic Community of West African States and the United Nations in any humanitarian mission to Liberia. "We're now in the process to determine the extent of our participation," Bush said.

The president told reporters that Liberian President Charles Taylor, "must go." Taylor accepted a Nigerian offer of asylum, but did not put any timetable on leaving Liberia. Taylor said he would not go until a U.S.-led peacekeeping force was in place.

Bush said the United States is working with friends in the region to determine "what is necessary to maintain the cease-fire and to allow for a peaceful transfer of power."

On July 7, a 32-member military team landed in Monrovia, Liberia, and is assessing the situation in the war-torn West African country, U.S. European Command officials said.

The humanitarian assistance survey team is gathering information about the situation in Liberia. The team has a variety of specialists to help make any assessment. These specialties include: medical, contracting, civil engineering, logistics, water purification and so on. The team is working out of the American Embassy in Monrovia.

Bush said West African leaders are concerned about the civil war in Liberia spilling over into other areas of the region.

Freed American slaves founded Liberia in 1822. Though never a U.S. colony, American-Liberian ties remained close. Many U.S. corporations established businesses in the country — most notably Firestone, which at one time maintained the largest rubber plantation in the world there.

Liberia has been through a series of civil wars since 1989. Taylor — once a member of the government — was accused of embezzling from the government. In 1989 he returned to Liberia to lead a revolt against the government. He took power in 1997 and was elected president the same year. Taylor is a descendent of American slaves, and studied in the United States.

## Civilian News

### TSP's new online system stretched to maximum capacity during initial use

Numerous federal employees and retirees encountered difficulty in using the new online computer system for the federal Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) during its first 24 hours. Officials at the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board reported that Web servers had been flooded with requests and could not accommodate all the potential users. Overnight, following implementation, the system transferred \$1.2 billion between funds and processed 52,311 changes to the way contributions are allocated among funds, said Tom Trabucco, director of external affairs for the board, which administers the retirement system. Under the new online system, changes are processed daily instead of monthly, and self-service via the Web or telephone will be the norm for participants. Federal workers and uniformed military personnel are able to make changes in their retirement accounts on the plan's Web site at [www.tsp.gov](http://www.tsp.gov). Because of the enormous online demand, TSP plan participants who want to access their accounts by phone can call (504) 255-8777 to make changes in their accounts or get updated balances.

### Web site updates emergency information for civilian employees

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (Army News Service)** — The Army's Civilian Personnel Office has designed a Web site to prevent the woeful scenario of not knowing whom to contact if one of its employees is injured or dies while on duty. The site was operational March 2002. However, more than two-thirds of the 230,000 Army appropriated- and non-appropriated-fund civilians have not updated their emergency contact data at the site, [www.cpol.army.mil](http://www.cpol.army.mil). The information provided to the site would be used to notify family or friends in the case of an emergency or death. After accessing the CPOL site, individuals can click on the "emergency contact data" tab to register and set up a password. Once a password is established, employees can go to the form and fill out the name, relationship, address and phone number of their appointed contact person.

### Operation Tribute to Freedom shows continuing support to military

**WASHINGTON, DC** — "Uncle Sam Wants You" is a familiar recruiting slogan to generations of Americans. But in this case, it's an invitation for all Americans to sign up for a different kind of military operation. OPERATION TRIBUTE TO FREEDOM, a Defense Department initiative, is a way for Americans to show their continuing support for the nation's military men and women and share with the Defense Department the different ways in which individuals and communities are expressing this support. To join the team, just go to the OPERATION TRIBUTE TO FREEDOM Web site on [www.DefendAmerica.mil](http://www.DefendAmerica.mil), select "Join the Team," fill in your name, and explain what you're doing to pay tribute to the men and women of the military. Once you submit your registration to the team, you'll be able to download an OPERATION TRIBUTE TO FREEDOM certificate, making you an official member of the team.

### DoD officials say A-76 changes won't affect public-private competitions

The revised Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-76 will not present any significant difficulties for the Defense Department, according to officials responsible for competitive sourcing policy at DoD. In May, OMB released the latest version of the circular, which outlines the public-private competitive process. One of the biggest concerns addressed during the revision process was imposing a 12-month time limit on competitions as a general rule. Under the old circular, competitions often took years. Annie Andrews, DoD's assistant director of competitive sourcing and privatization, said the department has such a long history of public-private competitions that most changes in A-76 are being taken in stride. DoD began performing such competitions during the Reagan administration, said Joe Sykes, director of competitive sourcing and privatization. Andrews said OMB's changes to A-76 provide for certain consistency across all of government that had been lacking before. She also commended the accountability included in the new circular, saying that having one point person or point-of-contact at DoD will make competitions more efficient.

## Military News

### SMDC Army Family Action Plan Conference kicks off July 29

The U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command will conduct its 2003 Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) Conference July 29 through Aug. 1 at the Crystal City Marriott Hotel in Arlington, Va. Eighty command representatives will participate in this conference as adult and youth delegates, facilitators, recorders, transcribers, issue support personnel, and workgroup coordinators. Guest speakers and numerous national level exhibitors will also participate. For more information about the conference, visit the Web site at [www.smdc.army.mil](http://www.smdc.army.mil) and click on "Family Programs."

### Military targeted in lending scams

The National Consumer Law Center (NCLC) has accused "quick cash" lenders of targeting service members and veterans with unfair lending practices. NCLC has released a report stating these businesses prey on the military by offering loans at higher than normal interest rates. According to the NCLC, they use deceptive practices that violate federal laws, and many of their high-interest loans could also be in violation of state laws that prohibit unfair, deceptive acts and other fraudulent practices in the marketplace. Military personnel are particularly vulnerable to these scams because their paychecks are of a very stable source — the U.S. government. For more details on these scams, see [http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Jun2003/n06062003\\_200306062.html](http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Jun2003/n06062003_200306062.html).

### U.S. savings bonds to be converted to electronic accounts

*Stars and Stripes* reports that the federal Treasury Department plans to convert paper U.S. savings bonds to electronic accounts within the next three years. Most military personnel buying savings bonds — EE or I series — already do so electronically through the agency's "safekeeping" program. Under the safekeeping program, personnel in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps can buy electronic bonds and have them stored as such through their respective branch of the military. While paper notes no longer will be available to purchase once the transformation is complete, their electronic replacements will be available online from a federal Web site.

### Army advocates in-state tuition for military families

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (Army News Service)** — The Georgia Board of Regents listened when the Army started informally asking all states in February to consider favorable in-state college tuition policies for soldiers and their family members. Georgia changed its in-state tuition rules in late May to mirror the Army's desire for soldiers and their family members to have in-state tuition eligibility both in their state of legal residence and the state where the soldier is assigned, and continuity of that eligibility once established. In addition to Georgia, there are currently 15 other states the Army considers to be soldier-friendly in meeting its in-state tuition desire, said Mike Tevnan, an education specialist at the Total Army Personnel Command. Those states include Arizona, Connecticut, Florida, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Nevada, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Tennessee and Utah. More information can be found on the Army Education Homepage, [www.armyeducation.army.mil](http://www.armyeducation.army.mil), under the civilian links of its links page.

### DeCA wants to hear from shoppers

The Defense Commissary Agency's Consumer Awareness Team has produced a short survey to gain more insights into the attitudes and demographics of DeCA shoppers and non-shoppers. The survey is in a postcard format which can be picked up in each store, but the survey can also be taken at <http://catsurvey.shortsurveys.com>. To entice participation, the CAT has funded a total of 250 commissary gift certificates of \$50 each for random draws (both online and postcard included in the drawings) from among the survey participants. The survey is being taken between now and mid-September.

# Awards/Promotions

## On-The-Spot Cash Awards

**Victoria R. Binford**, Huntsville, Office of PARC/Contracting and Acquisition Management, Acquisition Management Division, Branch K  
**Frederick W. Clarke**, Huntsville, Technical Center, Sensors Directorate Core  
**Clyde N. Elliott**, Huntsville, Technical Center, Systems Directorate Core  
**Anne P. Greene**, Kwajalein Atoll, Test and Evaluation Center, USAKA/RTS, Community Relations Office  
**Doris H. Ingram**, Huntsville, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-8, Resource Management, Program Support Division  
**Janice S. Jean**, Huntsville, Technical Center, Sensors Directorate Core  
**Paula A. Kennedy**, Huntsville, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-8, Resource Management, Program Support Division  
**Bernard L. Kerstiens**, Huntsville, Technical Center, Space Technology Directorate Core  
**Judy H. Krawczyk**, Huntsville, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-8, Resource Management, Program and Policy Division  
**Elizabeth H. Moulder**, Huntsville, Office of PARC/Contracting and Acquisition Management, Acquisition Management Division, Branch K  
**Kenneth R. Parham**, Huntsville, Technical Center, Systems Directorate Core  
**Robbie H. Phifer**, Huntsville, Office of PARC/Contracting and Acquisition Management, Acquisition Management Division, Branch K  
**Carolyn S. Randles**, Huntsville, Technical Center, Space Technology Directorate Core  
**Jeffery M. Shields**, Huntsville, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-8, Resource Management, Management Division  
**Mark A. Shipman**, Huntsville, Technical Center, Systems Directorate Core  
**Janet L. Siersma**, Huntsville, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-8, Resource Management, Program Support Division  
**Delene J. Solorio**, Colorado Springs, G-3, Operations, Force Modernization Division  
**Michael J. Trowse**, Huntsville, Technical Center, Systems Directorate Matrix  
**Marilyn J. Williams**, Huntsville, Technical Center, Systems Directorate Core  
**Paul R. Yancey**, Huntsville, Technical Center, Data Analysis and Exploitation Directorate Matrix

## Performance Awards

**Anthony C. Austin**, Huntsville, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1, Personnel, Civilian Personnel Division  
**Daisy H. Barnett**, Huntsville, Battle Lab, Missile Defense Directorate  
**Barbara A. Cantrell**, Huntsville, Technical Center, Test and Evaluation Directorate Core  
**Veronica M. Collins**, Huntsville, Battle Lab, Missile Defense Directorate, Combat Applications Division  
**Barbara C. Dixon**, Huntsville, Office of Technical Integration and Interoperability  
**Sandra F. Ervin**, Huntsville, Technical Center, Advanced Technology Directorate Matrix  
**Judith J. Fowler**, Huntsville, Office of PARC/Contracting and Acquisition Management, Acquisition Management Division, Branch K  
**T. G. Hunter**, Huntsville, Technical Center, Systems Directorate Matrix  
**Taraysa E. Jones**, Huntsville, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1, Personnel, Plans, Policy and Training Division  
**Don W. Larimore**, Huntsville, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-4, Logistics, Supply and Service Division  
**Edward C. Longo**, Arlington, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3, Operations and Plans  
**Mack A. McCrary**, Huntsville, Deputy Chief of Staff, Information Management, Plans and Operations Support Division, Mail Distribution  
**Lou A. Moss**, Houston, NASA Detachment  
**Glenda A. Phillips**, Huntsville, Technical Center, Space and Intelligence  
**George B. Sloan**, Huntsville, Technical Center, Data Analysis and Exploitation Directorate Core  
**Christine M. Stewart**, Huntsville, Technical Center, Data Analysis and Exploitation Directorate Core

**Patrick A. Tilley**, Huntsville, Technical Center, Data Analysis and Exploitation Directorate Core  
**Ellis E. Whitt**, Huntsville, Technical Center, Data Analysis and Exploitation Directorate Core  
**Angelia L. Young**, Huntsville, Technical Center, Directed Energy Directorate Matrix

## Quality Step Increases

**Carolyn R. Caudle**, Huntsville, Office of Deputy Commanding General, Research, Development and Acquisition  
**Sharon J. Crawford**, Huntsville, Technical Center, Tech Center Operations  
**Kathleen L. Gotto**, Huntsville, Technical Center, Kinetic Energy Interceptor Directorate Core  
**Brenda K. Jones**, Huntsville, Technical Center, Information Science and Technology Directorate Core  
**James M. Madewell**, Huntsville, Technical Center, Sensors Directorate Core  
**Tullie M. Miller**, Huntsville, Office of PARC/Contracting and Acquisition Management, Acquisition Management Division, Branch K  
**Dianne W. Nichols**, Huntsville, Office of Technical Integration and Interoperability  
**Simone U. Philson**, Huntsville, Battle Lab, Analysis and Operations Directorate, Battle Lab Operations Division  
**Lucile B. Reeves**, Huntsville, Deputy Chief of Staff, Information Management, Plans and Operations Support Division, Administrative and Technical Information Library  
**Nelda H. Reynolds**, Huntsville, Office of Legal Counsel

## Special Act Awards

**Daisy H. Barnett**, Huntsville, Battle Lab, Missile Defense Directorate  
**Mark J. Kilpatrick**, Huntsville, Technical Center, Systems Directorate Matrix  
**Robert G. Bowles**, Colorado Springs, G-6, Communications, Information Management Division  
**Michael G. Chapman**, Huntsville, Technical Center, Test and Evaluation Directorate Matrix  
**Steven R. Elliott**, Huntsville, Battle Lab, Simulations Directorate, Simulation Development Division  
**Jonathan C. Fleming**, Huntsville, Technical Center, Directed Energy Directorate Matrix  
**Darcellena K. Grindrod**, Huntsville, Technical Center, Kinetic Energy Interceptor Directorate Core  
**Gene E. Lenning**, Huntsville, Technical Center, Space Technology Directorate Matrix  
**Donald D. Marsh**, Huntsville, Technical Center, Sensors Directorate Matrix  
**Yancy C. Mitchell**, Huntsville, Technical Center, Tech Center Operations  
**Robert E. Nyquist**, Colorado Springs, Office of PARC/Contracting and Acquisition Management, Contracting Division  
**Diane P. Paton**, Colorado Springs, G-6, Communications, Information Management Division  
**Steve F. Pierce**, Huntsville, Battle Lab, Analysis and Operations Directorate, Studies and Analysis Division  
**Kay L. Platter**, Colorado Springs, G-4, Logistics, Supply and Transportation Division  
**Donald Powers**, Colorado Springs, Directorate of Public Works  
**Mark E. Reavis**, Huntsville, Research, Development and Acquisition, Command Analysis Division, Systems Analysis Branch  
**Kenneth H. Shipman**, Huntsville, Technical Center, Sensors Directorate Matrix  
**Gail E. Sikes**, Huntsville, Technical Center, Data Analysis and Exploitation Directorate Matrix  
**Richard W. Todd**, Huntsville, Technical Center, Systems Directorate Matrix  
**Randolph P. Wampler**, Colorado Springs, Force Development and Integration Center-West  
**Jayson E. Wilson**, Huntsville, Research, Development and Acquisition, Command Analysis Division, Systems Analysis Branch  
**Joseph W. Wychulis**, Colorado Springs, G-2, Intelligence

## Time-Off Awards

**Betty B. Bowden**, Huntsville, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-2, Intelligence, Security Division  
**Diana L. Cochran**, Huntsville, Technical Center, Joint Center for Technology Integration  
**Aaron A. Corder**, Huntsville, Technical Center, Information Science and Technology Directorate Core  
**Charlie M. Dickerson**, Huntsville, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-4, Logistics, Logistics Support Division  
**Deborah H. Heidt**, Huntsville, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1, Personnel, Plans, Policy and Training Division  
**Susan S. Johnson**, Huntsville, Technical Center, Information Science and Technology Directorate Core  
**Thomas B. McAlpin**, Huntsville, Technical Center, Joint Center for Technology Integration  
**Susan McRae McCulley**, Huntsville, Technical Center, Systems Directorate Core  
**Stephen A. McKay**, Huntsville, Technical Center, Information Science and Technology Directorate Core  
**Johnnie H. Morgan**, Huntsville, Technical Center, Information Science and Technology Directorate Core  
**Shelia K. Noel**, Huntsville, Technical Center, Systems Directorate Core  
**Tara L. Ragan**, Huntsville, Technical Center, Information Science and Technology Directorate Core  
**Cynthia M. Van Rassen**, Huntsville, Office of Legal Counsel

## Achievement Medal for Civilian Service

**Victor H. Cabrera**, Huntsville, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-8, Resource Management, Accounting Division  
**Carol B. Meenen**, Huntsville, Office of PARC/Contracting and Acquisition Management, Contract Operations Division, Command Support Services Branch

## Commander's Award for Civilian Service

**Paul L. Hester**, Kwajalein Atoll, Test and Evaluation Center, USAKA/RTS, Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site Command and Staff, Test Support Division

## Invention Award

**David A. Hayes**, Huntsville, Technical Center, Sensors Directorate Matrix  
**James R. Alexander**, Huntsville, Technical Center, Directed Energy Directorate Matrix

## Civilian Promotions

**Regina M. Abernathy**, GS-9, Huntsville, Test and Evaluation Center, USAKA/RTS, Kwajalein Support Directorate  
**Teresa H. Brown**, GS-11, Huntsville, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-2, Intelligence, Security Division  
**Alice K. Goodloe-Cutts**, GS-9, Huntsville, Battle Lab, Missile Defense Directorate, Combat Applications Division  
**Kent D. Duncan**, GS-14, Kwajalein Atoll, Test and Evaluation Center, USAKA/RTS, Office of the Staff Judge Advocate  
**Kyle J. Holdmeyer**, GS-9, Huntsville, Technical Center, Directed Energy Directorate Core  
**Wanda D. Igo**, GS-9, Huntsville, Battle Lab, Analysis and Operations Directorate  
**Paul A. Page**, GS-14, Huntsville, Battle Lab, Analysis and Operations Directorate, Studies and Analysis Division  
**John H. Penley**, GS-11, Huntsville, Office of PARC/Contracting and Acquisition Management, Acquisition Management Division, Branch K  
**Lornette W. Stokes**, GS-12, Huntsville, Deputy Chief of Staff, Information Management, Plans and Operations Support Division, Administrative and Technical Information Library  
**William C. White**, GS-13, Huntsville, Test and Evaluation Center, USAKA/RTS, Directorate of Resource Management

## SMDC Chief of Resource Management receives recognition as a Distinguished Black College and University Graduate

By Giselle Bodin

**HUNTSVILLE, Ala.** — Col. Michael LaValle, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-8 (Resource Management), at the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command (SMDC), has been recognized by *US Black Engineer and Information Technology* magazine as one of the country's Most Distinguished Black College and University Graduates for 2003.

The list, which is primed to become an annual recognition, represents the success of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in producing leadership for all sectors of society — from academia to government and the military to the Fortune 500. It will honor between 50-75 representatives in this initial year.

LaValle earned his bachelor's degree in business administration at Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Mo., in 1979. He went on to receive his master's in management from the Florida Institute of Technology in 1992.

A native of St. Louis, Mo., LaValle received his commission through the Reserve Officer's Training Corp (ROTC) program at Lincoln University in 1979 and entered

the Army as a Finance Corps officer.

In addition to obtaining his bachelor's degree, he also received the Distinguished Military Graduate award at Lincoln University. According to LaValle, ROTC offered a "unique opportunity to continue personal and professional development, as well as serve the country."

Before arriving at SMDC in July 2000, LaValle was the deputy commander, 266<sup>th</sup> Finance Command, Heidelberg, Germany, from June 1998 to July 1999. Other previous assignments include serving as commander, 208<sup>th</sup> Finance Battalion, Heidelberg, Germany; assistant chief, Audit and Compliance, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations, Headquarters, Department of the Army, Pentagon; executive officer, 177<sup>th</sup> Finance Battalion, Camp Casey, South Korea; detachment commander, 175<sup>th</sup> Theater Finance Command, Eighth U.S. Army, South Korea; assistant branch chief, Defense Fuel Supply Center, Defense Logistics Agency, Alexandria, Va.; chief, Finance and Accounting Division, Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute, Bethesda, Md.; chief, Military Pay Branch, 2<sup>nd</sup> Finance Company, Camp Casey, South Korea;

commander, Headquarters Company, Jungle Operations Training Center, Fort Sherman, Panama; and disbursing officer, 193<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Brigade, Fort Davis, Panama.

LaValle participated in OPERATION JOINT GUARD, OPERATION DESERT SHIELD and OPERATION DESERT STORM. He graduated from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College in 1989, the Armed Forces Staff College in 1990, and the U.S. Army War College in 2000.

The editors of *US Black Engineer and Information Technology* chose the honorees through research of persons previously mentioned in the magazine, those who received other awards from the magazine, and those nominated by the deans of their colleges. The magazine will publish the list in this month's edition. Since this is the first year these awards were distributed and since these awards went to HBCU graduates spread out around the world, LaValle is honored to receive such a prestigious award.

"This honor is quite a surprise, one which I sincerely appreciate and humbly accept," said LaValle. "I have come to know many individuals, many from HBCUs, who worked hard and fought courageously to



Col. Michael LaValle

pave the way for me and others. These pioneers helped me, by opportunity, to achieve this recognition. To them, I say thanks for all you have done, and I only hope that I am doing the same by opening doors for others."

LaValle's next assignment will be in St. Louis, Mo., where he will serve as the Defense Finance and Accounting Service executive client representative, overseeing processing requirements in support of military organizations in three distinct geographical areas. He is scheduled to relocate in July 2003.

## Fourth FA 40 class begins

By D.J. Montoya

**COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.** — Twenty Army officers proved they had nothing to be superstitious about on Friday, June 13 as they began their instruction in the Functional Area 40 Space Operations Qualification Course offered by the Force Development and Integration Center-West.

This class is the fourth to take the intense eight-week instruction designed to build a corps of space experts. Graduating officers will assist combatant commanders in using space to support the warfighters.

Terry Nelson, deputy director FDIC welcomed the students.

"You are a small class, but a very important one. Each graduating class has an impact far beyond its numbers."

Nelson asked for the students' help in improving the course for the next class.

"Changes that effect this course are occurring every day," he said. "It's your job to let us know what direction we should be taking."

Course instruction for the students is divided into three segments beginning with classroom instruction.

Another segment involves off-site visits to places such as the National Reconnaissance Office and the National Imagery and Mapping Agency in Washington, D.C. This includes hands-on training with the Army Space Program Office, which developed the Tactical Exploitation of the National Capabilities Program (TENCAP) support systems in use by Army warfighters.

The culmination of the course is found in a 30-hour command post exercise designed to test each student's proficiency in 22 individual critical tasks.

After graduation, the new FA 40 officers are given assignments to operational staffs and space systems program offices.

Col. David Shaffer, commander of the 1st Space Brigade (Provisional), U.S. Army Space Command, and an alumnus of the course, made opening remarks.

"This is a great opportunity for you as well as a terrific course.

"Wherever you are assigned, you will teach and sell space," Shaffer said. "That's part of your mission."

Shaffer briefed the new



Photo by Sharon L. Hartman

Col. David Shaffer, commander, 1st Space Brigade (Provisional), addresses the members of the fourth FA 40 Space Operations Qualification Course as they begin their studies.

students on a number of subjects to include the new Provisional Brigade structure within the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command, the official Army space policy (recently signed in April), new U.S. Strategic Command priorities (space being at the top of the list) and ground-based midcourse defense.

He concluded, "Finally, realize that 70 percent of the

learning in this class depends on you. Talk to each other and understand what is being taught. Not all of what you need is in this course so talk to your next command and then look for those extra pieces of information you will need.

"Remember, take advantage of your classmates' experiences," Shaffer said.

Plans are under way for the next FA 40 class, slated for August.

# Army's birthday celebrated by western branch of SMDC

By Maj. Laura Kenney  
and Sharon L. Hartman

**COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.** — Soldiers stationed at Peterson Air Force Base here definitely feel overwhelmed sometimes by the sea of blue in which they operate, although joint relations are strong and friendly. But when it comes to celebrating something as service specific as the Army's 228th Birthday, it took some determination and a little help from friends across the way to make sure the day was celebrated in proper Army style.

The helpful friends were the soldiers at Fort Carson, just across the city and, as everyone knows, a very hooah Army post. Having compassion for their somewhat isolated brethren, the post invited the entire local branch of SMDC to join in their already planned shindig — an Army ball with full regalia.

June 7 was a memorable evening on many accounts. Among these were feeling at home with similarly uniformed comrades, participating in time-honored Army traditions such as the Table for the Fallen Comrade, and the resounding toasts to the Army.

Two outstanding events of that shining, formal evening will long linger in the minds of those attending.

First, the governor of Colorado gave the keynote address. Gov. Bill Owens, a longtime friend of the military, made a moving speech about what the Army meant to him personally and to the country. Not a veteran himself, he professed himself proud to be the next best thing — the son

of one. His father served in the Army in both World War II and Korea.

"Anyone who studies history will note that the West always wins," Owens said. "Politically and economically, the West produces the esprit-de-corps of free men. But as Americans, we are reluctant warriors, who nonetheless, when moved to action, have proved the determinative force."

Owens said he once heard Colin Powell make a profound remark in response to the criticism that America wants to take over the world. "He said, 'The only thing we have ever asked overseas is for a place to bury our dead.'"

Thunderous applause followed that remark. Owens continued.

"To quote another great mind, military historian Victor Hanson, 'It is as difficult to provoke us as it is to survive our eventual response.'"

As Americans, we are slow to anger and to become involved," Owens said. "But once we do, we save more lives when we go to war. The bad guys kill more of their own civilians than we do of their soldiers. And nothing illustrates that more than our recent victory in Iraq. At the heart of all American victories and preserving all our freedoms, you will find the Army of the United States. This is your birthday, and I salute you," concluded Owens.

The second most memorable event of the evening featured

two videos that had audience members standing tall, and many surreptitiously wiping away tears.

The introductory video presented current operations — pictures of Fort Carson and SMDC soldiers engaged in their wartime missions in IRAQI FREEDOM — stirring pride in all those who watched. Portraits of those left behind tugged at the heartstrings.

The next video was both a stirring call to arms and a memorial. Set to the song "Have You Forgotten" written and sung by country singer Darryl Worley, the never-to-be

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*'When I look at our flag, I think about those who have served before me to keep it flying.'*

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— 1st Sgt. Scott Ballard

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forgotten pictures and newsreels of Sept. 11, 2001's tragic events played across the screen. All stood at attention to watch, although no such order had been given. No one stirred or whispered as the scenes of loss, heartbreak and heroism unrolled. It was a solemn tribute and a timely reminder to all who serve of exactly why they serve, uniformed and family members combined.

A dinner followed, and an evening of fun and comradeship cemented the ties that bind Cavalry and Space soldiers alike as all toasted the anniversary of their chosen service.

Closer to home base, another celebration commemorated the significant

occasion of the 228th birthday.

Members of the 1st Space Brigade (Provisional) marked the Army's birthday with a ceremony that reflected the tradition and core values of their great institution.

The theme of this year's birthday was "The Army at War and Transforming."

Col. David W. Shaffer, commander of the brigade, hosted the event and stressed the longevity of the Army's service by relating it to a video presentation of the command's past three years that was shown during the ceremony.

"We are here to recognize the Army's tradition and history of the nation," said Shaffer.

"You saw three years of what has happened in Army Space Command during that video," he said. "You also saw the commanding general talk about the 15 years it has taken to get to this point, when he was discussing the brigade's activation.

"Think about what we are here to celebrate today: The Army's 228th Birthday. That's a long time and a lot of service to the nation from all members of the Army, past and present," Shaffer said.

The ceremonial cake, adorned with seven white candles, was brought in by the Western Region Soldier of the Year, Spc. Jennifer Swift. Each candle represented one of the seven core values of the Army. Lighting them were seven members of the command representing civilian members, active duty, Reserve and National Guard, officers and enlisted.

"I think it's great we're celebrating the Army's birthday," said Maj. Steve Elle, executive officer of the 1st Satellite Control Battalion.

"It's a great tradition, and with all the important things our service has done for the nation, it's fitting that we recognize the Army's contributions."

1st Sgt. Scott Ballard, acting command sergeant major, extinguished the candles and assisted Shaffer in cutting the cake with the ceremonial saber.

"When I look at our flag, I think about those who have served before me to keep it flying," said Ballard.

"I especially feel a responsibility as an 'able' man to serve my country in honor of the many that have sacrificed a great deal — their lives or the ability to live out the rest of their lives as whole persons. I felt very humbled, but at the same time proud to be a part of this celebration of the Army's birthday."



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Dennis Beebe

Capt. Jeff McBroom lights one of the seven candles representing Army core values on the birthday cake with which SMDC-Colorado Springs celebrated the Army's 228th Birthday.

# Program Executive Office Air and Missile Defense changes name, gains Army Space Program Office

## SMDC Public Affairs Office

**HUNTSVILLE, Ala.** — In a ceremony June 20, the Program Executive Office Air and Missile Defense (PEO AMD) became Program Executive Office Air, Space and Missile Defense (PEO ASMD). The ceremony also recognized the transition of the Army Space Program Office (ASPO) from the U.S. Army Space and Missile

Defense Command (SMDC) to PEO ASMD.

"Today is a day of historic proportions," said LTG Joseph M. Cosumano Jr., commanding general, SMDC. He likened transferring ASPO to losing a teen-ager who has matured to the point of moving out of the house. He discussed the history of ASPO up to its success in Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM.

"Without them [ASPO], the conflicts of recent months would not have been as successful," Cosumano said.

"Today we are renaming PEO AMD to PEO ASMD," said Maj. Gen. John M. Urias, program executive officer, Air, Space and Missile Defense and SMDC's deputy commanding general for Research, Development and Acquisition. "It's a small change in name but a significant change in mission.

"PEO Air, Space and Missile Defense is the Army's first Space Program Executive Office," Urias said. "Having a single PEO to manage and integrate these systems will help institutionalize the use of space products in the Army. It will also provide a transition point for mature space technologies developed in SMDC to be brought into the formal acquisition cycle and incorporated into future space products.

The Honorable Claude M. Bolton Jr., the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, signed the memorandum transferring

operational control of ASPO and designating the new PEO ASMD in May.

Gaining the operational control of ASPO will include Blue Force Tracking, Situational Awareness and the Army's Tactical Exploitation of National Capabilities (TENCAP) Program. Also included in the transfer is the Tactical Applications (TAC APPS) Program, previously handled by SMDC.

The transition is being made for several reasons, including consolidation of space control and synergy of program development. These moves are also being made to comply with the October 2001 Chief of Staff of the Army guidance to realign acquisition programs to the PEO structure.

The PEO-ASMD takes weapon systems developed by SMDC and moves them into acquisition and eventually the hands of the warfighter.

"PEO ASMD will be the linkage between the requirements, technical development, experimentation, testing and integration and the formal acquisition process for space products to be delivered to the warfighter," Urias said.



Photo by Joe Ramirez

Col. Steven G. Fox, right, director of ASPO, receives the official documentation from Maj. Gen. John M. Urias transferring ASPO to the PEO ASMD.

## Farnsworth takes charge of 1<sup>st</sup> Space Battalion

By Sharon L. Hartman

**COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.** — The Army's 1<sup>st</sup> Space Battalion held a change of command ceremony, June 26 at the Peterson Air Force Base Parade Field.

The ceremony hailed incoming commander Lt. Col. Jeffrey Farnsworth as he assumed command from outgoing commander Lt. Col. Scott Netherland.

Netherland, who had assumed command of the battalion in November 2001, departs for Fort Leavenworth, Kan., where he will attend the U.S. Command and General Staff College.

Col. David W. Shaffer, commander, Army Space Brigade (Provisional), hosted the ceremony and commented on the great accomplishments made during Netherland's command of the battalion.

"The battalion has come a long way in the last two years, and a lot of that has to do with the great leadership provided by Lt. Col. Netherland," Shaffer said.

"Two years ago, this battalion was still in the business of getting oriented and very much in the business of selling itself to the rest of the warfighters. They were out there trying to get their foot in the door to make sure the warfighters knew that they were there and what they could contribute.

"They've made so much progress since then," Shaffer said. "The warfighters now know what we can do and are demanding space support to the point where we now have more requirements than we have personnel available to fill the teams necessary to accomplish the missions."

Netherland in an earlier interview had noted the measures the battalion took to compensate for just such shortages in personnel.

"We ran out of teams organic to the

battalion to fulfill all the mission requirements, so we dipped into other elements across the command to borrow soldiers for these missions," Netherland said.

"Although painful to everyone who had to give up soldiers, our senior leadership believed they would rather endure the pain than let the warfighter go without space support."

During his farewell remarks, Netherland thanked the leaders and soldiers who helped make those accomplishments possible.

"To the soldiers of the battalion, thank you for your professionalism and your dedication. You did not support from the rear. You deployed forward into harm's way and provided relevant space capabilities in places of need. That turned out to be in the forward-deployed headquarters of our Army and Marine brethren in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Germany and Korea.

"You've met every challenge and completed every mission. I could not be more proud of you and your accomplishments, and I proudly turn over command of this great organization to Lt. Col. Farnsworth."

Farnsworth, accepting his role as commander of the battalion, pledged his loyalty to the chain of command and the soldiers of the battalion.

"You may rest assured of my faithful service and unyielding dedication to the welfare and readiness of our soldiers and families, and to the successful execution

of the battalion mission," Farnsworth said. "Space warriors near and far, I am deeply honored and proud to serve as your commander. I shall leave no stone unturned in my service to you."

Lt. Col. Jeffrey A. Farnsworth was raised in Vergennes, Vt. He was commissioned into the Army Corps of Engineers after earning a bachelor's degree in civil

engineering from Norwich University, the oldest private military college in the nation. His military education includes the Engineer Officer Basic and Advance courses, U.S. Command and General Staff College, Inter-service Space Fundamentals and Intelligence Operations Courses, the Space Applications Advanced Course, and Army Space Operations Officer Qualification.

Farnsworth was in the first-year group of officers selected to serve as an Army Space Operations Officer. His space assignments include

Army Space Command Liaison/Exchange Officer to Naval Space Command, Dahlgren Va., where he served in N5 (Space Plans and Policy) and N3 (Chief, Marine Corps Space Support Team); Headquarters Space and Missile Defense Command, deputy chief of staff for Operations and Plans, Arlington, Va., as the acting chief and deputy division chief for Space Operations, Plans and Policy; and Headquarters, Department of the Army, deputy chief of staff (G-3), Pentagon, Washington, D.C., as the Space Policy Branch chief, Directorate of Strategy, Plans and Policy.



Photo by Dennis Plummer

Lt. Col. Jeff Farnsworth

## Vignettes from the field

# Space soldiers share their OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM stories

By Maj. Laura Kenney

**COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.** — Whether their most memorable moment was a Theater Ballistic Missile flying overhead, or another such being exploded by a Patriot missile only meters away from their site, or the look on the face of Iraqi citizens as they celebrated their liberation from Saddam Hussein — Space soldiers who've returned from serving overseas in support of IRAQI FREEDOM agree the overall experience was one they wouldn't want to have missed.

"We did a good thing," said Lt. Col. Eric Henderson, who led Army Space Support Team 14. "I'd say 90 percent of the people over there are rejoicing in their liberation. The other 10 percent are desperate, and those are the ones who fired rocket propelled grenades and artillery at us where we were located at the Presidential complex in Tikrit. But that's Saddam's hometown, and you'd expect some loyalty. Still, most of the citizens were happy we were there. It's somewhat frustrating that what gets reported in the civilian news seems to only be the negative, but what we saw was mostly positive."

Henderson returned stateside June 20, but the other members of his team are still in Iraq, supporting the 4th Infantry Division out of Fort Carson.

A soldier who was deployed far forward with the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Spc. Josh Foye, ARRST 5, agreed.

"Even the day after hostilities really commenced, the people we saw in a village right across the border from Kuwait were happy we were there," he said. "I wanted to deploy and am really proud to be part of helping free the Iraqi people."

Foye's most memorable moment of his deployment (his team served in theater from November to June) came the day hostilities began in earnest.

"It was totally wild," he said. "I'd just come off shift, and was in my tent talking to the Marines rooming with us. I commented on how surprised I was that, so far, Saddam had not retaliated against all the stuff we were throwing at him. I stepped outside the tent, and a SEERSUCKER TBM flew overhead. It blew my mind, just watching it fly over."

That same missile, on the receiving end, also provided that "most memorable moment" for his teammates in the rear at Camp Commando in Kuwait. They call it the "Big Boom."

"It was aimed right at us," said Capt. Bob Barrett, team leader for the rear detachment of the split-based space support operation. "Thankfully, a Patriot missile took it down, about 500 meters away. When we heard the explosion, everybody on camp just kind of froze. Then the yelling started to take cover, and we all got in the bunkers and into MOPP (Mission-Oriented Protective Posture)."

Not all memories revolve around the immediate combat.

1st Lt. (P) Angela Johnson, also of ARRST 5, had the opportunity, after the main thrust of combat was over, to accompany Combat Camera on a photographic mission.

"The people of the village we visited on a humanitarian relief mission were very glad to see us," she said. "They all vied to get their pictures taken with us. The women told me I could be an Iraqi woman, since my skin and hair were the same color as theirs. The funniest part of our trip revolved around the village children. I

had had my nametapes printed in Arabic, and had one sewn on the back of my hat. All day, children were following me around town, chanting "Johnson, Johnson." I think they were thrilled to actually know my name."

Iraqi children also created an indelible impression for Henderson.

"The little ones just break your heart," Henderson said. "The poverty and the aftermath of living under such a brutal system — you have to really hope that their lives get better. I hope we catch



Sgt. Fabienne Van Cappel, 193rd Space Support Battalion, Colorado National Guard, grins for the camera while deployed to Oman.



Capt. Timothy Tubergen, left, Lt. Col. Eric Henderson, and Maj. Sandra Yanna, the officers of Army Space Support Team 14, gather around their vehicle while deployed in Iraq.



1st Lt. (P) Angela Johnson



1st Lt. (P) Angela Johnson



U.S. Army photos

ela Johnson, Army Space Support Team 5, and Belle Bienvenquiri, a DoD Combat Camera, hunt the Kuwaiti wildlife with cameras.

Saddam, and then show him captured to the people — they need to see that.”

Staff Sgt. Gregory Brandsted of the 193rd Space Support Battalion, Colorado National Guard, served in Oman. Although he missed his family and children, he at least had a degree of familial support most soldiers miss. His brother, Staff Sgt. Kent Bransted, is in the same unit, and both were deployed to the same location.

“We were over there for six months. As the older brother, (by two years) of course I looked after him,” said the senior Brandsted, laughing. “We both wanted to be there. I’d been mobilized with the 193rd after Sept. 11 and had the opportunity last year to be released from active duty. But I volunteered to stay on despite major financial losses due to the difference in pay, because I knew this was coming. It [IRAQI FREEDOM] needed to be done, and I’m very proud that my brother and I were part of it. But I am definitely — now that it’s mostly over and I’ve done my part — looking forward to becoming a civilian again.”

Other experiences round out the contrasts between the harshness of combat and the mingled joy and pathos of observing Iraqi children.

“We were working in a unique joint environment, supporting the Coalition Forces Land Component Command,” said ARRSST 3 team leader, Maj. Chauncy Nash. “Our living conditions were pretty good, nothing to complain about, and we definitely feel our contributions were valued. There was a lot of knowledge about Space benefits there, and we brought the practical side to it, helping things mesh.”

Operations Officer for ARRSST 3, Capt. Bo Taylor, had the unique experience of observing first hand some of the oil fires started by Saddam’s forces.

“Nothing could have prepared me for the sight of those burning oil wells,” said Taylor. “Up to the point of actually getting to the location, I just couldn’t imagine what they would actually look like. Flames rose to about 300 feet in the air, visible for miles. On this particular day, the temperature was at least 100 degrees outside but even that seemed cool compared to the heat of the flame. On several occasions, we would seek cover behind a vehicle to shield us from the heat wave. The roar of the flame sounded like a freight train. Watching the guys who put it out was amazing.

I went back to base speckled with a fine mist of crude oil but very glad I’d been able to see it.”

Speaking of joint operations, Foye got a kick out of working with Marines.

“It was probably easier than trying to work with Air Force or Navy,” said Foye. We have a lot more in common with the Marines, both of us (Army and Marines) being what you could call grunts. All kidding aside, they were great. On the professional side, they didn’t seem to know what to do with us at first, but once we showed them what we could do as far as Space benefits, they loved us. And then personally ... well, at first there were a lot of Army jokes, but once they realized my Marine jokes were 10-times better, they laid off. I pulled guard duty with them, shared MREs (meal, ready-to-eat) and tents with them. It was a good experience — working joint.”

James Dunlap, a civilian contractor who is also a staff sergeant in the 193rd Space Support Battalion, who worked joint as well, spending three weeks in Iraq in his contractor role, training-up members of the Joint Special Operation Task Force North on new equipment.

“As Maj. Nash said, there’s already a significant knowledge base out there about what Space can do for the warfighter,” Dunlap said. “My job was to show them how their equipment could produce imagery products that they use in their missions. It helped put a new emphasis on Space.”

Henderson commented on the recurrent theme of Space support to the warfighter.

“It’s not just a T-shirt slogan — Space support to the warfighter. To me, if you’re wearing a helmet and a flak jacket for a real reason, you’re a warfighter. Our soldiers were there in harm’s way, in the “trenches,” wearing those flak jackets and helmets, getting shot at too. My team, or any Space soldier, is as much the warfighter as any other soldier. Our military kicked butt over there, and Space was a big part of that fight,” Henderson said.

Many Space soldiers remain in theater, still part of the ongoing turbulent situation. For those who’ve come home, new memories are in the making.

Nash’s most memorable moment came as they deplaned on American soil.

“My 5-year-old daughter TaNia saw me coming down the hallway, and she ran right past the checkpoint, yelling, “Daddy! Daddy!” Airport personnel started to stop her, but, realizing that this was about soldiers returning home from Iraq, they ended up letting her run straight through. Right into my arms.”

“That’s my best memory,” he said. “But I’m glad of all the others too.”



on, Army Space Support Team 5, poses with Iraqi children during a humanitarian relief mission.

# Missile silos settle into Alaskan test bed

*Fort Greely site ready in 2004*

Boeing Release

Construction continues at a rapid pace at Fort Greely, Alaska, one of the major sites for the Ground-based Midcourse Defense test bed. The first two missile silos arrived in May and were recently installed in the 80-foot deep holes drilled last year.

Fort Greely, near Fairbanks, is the site for a segment of the expanded missile defense test bed, which will contain six GMD interceptor missiles in silos, command and control buildings, and several support facilities.

The silos, silo interface vaults and silo closure assemblies are transported by barge and then truck to the missile field at Fort Greely. Travel to this isolated outpost in central Alaska is never easy. But when you're hauling a 130,000-pound missile silo, the trip is definitely not for the faint of heart.

The giant 75-foot long, shrink-wrapped silo begins its trek from the manufacturer, Oregon Ironworks, in Vancouver, Wash., where it is loaded onto a crane barge, first, and then onto a large transport barge that will carry the silo down the Columbia River to Valdez, Alaska. At the port of Valdez, the silo is loaded onto a truck for the final leg of the journey on land. But this is no ordinary truck. It is a custom built, 221-foot long transporter that will carry the silo across 286 miles of rugged mountain passes on sharply curving roads with grades that vary from 8 to 12 percent. Chase vehicles must clear the roadway in front of the silo transporter and two "push" vehicles follow to give the transporter the extra power necessary to make it across the mountains. Traveling about 33 mph,



Courtesy photo

A crane lifts the first Ground-based Midcourse Defense missile silo in place for installation at Fort Greely, Alaska, where a segment of the expanded missile defense test bed is under construction.

through weather that ranges from fog to snow, the trip from Valdez to Fort Greely takes about two days.

The first two silos were delivered to the missile field in May with two more deliveries scheduled for July and August. The remaining silos and equipment will be shipped this summer and installed by the end of September when the extremely short construction season in Alaska draws to a close.

But even when the temperatures drop to 40 below, construction activities won't stop — the work just moves indoors. With more than 300,000 square feet of facilities now under roof, the GMD team will focus on preparing buildings to receive and install equipment.

As work continues at the missile silo field this summer, two radars at Shemya,

Alaska, and Beale Air Force Base, Calif., are being modified by the Boeing GMD team to support the test bed.

The GMD Joint Program Office at Redstone Arsenal manages the program led by Maj. Gen. John Holly. Boeing is the prime contractor for the GMD program. Bechtel is the construction contractor for the Fort Greely missile field and a Corps of Engineers' contractor, Fluor Alaska Inc., is doing construction of facilities and support structures.

The purpose of the test bed is to conduct more operationally realistic missile defense testing and provide the country with an initial defensive operations capability to protect the United States from limited ballistic missile attacks. Completion of the initial test bed is scheduled for September 2004.

## Stateside satellite support unit gets SMART-T training

By Air Force Tech Sgt. John Steele  
Unit Reporter

**MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla.** — Members from Regional Satellite Communications Support Center continental United States Extremely High Frequency section here had the rare opportunity in May to do some hands-on training with a particular piece of high-speed equipment.

The 280th Combat Communications Squadron made the two-day road trip from their home base in Dothan, Ala., to train RSSC personnel on the Secure Mobile Anti-jam Reliable Tactical-Terminal, or SMART-T.

The training consisted of getting familiar with the terminal, its capabilities and terminal set-up.

Even though the RSSC personnel routinely plan user communication needs regarding the terminal, hands-on experience for themselves is rare. The training lasted for three days, and six members were able to get up to speed on this new EHF terminal's capabilities.

The base is home to the U.S. Central Command, and this terminal is widely used to support ongoing operations in Iraq.

The terminal is mounted on

the back of a High-Mobility Multi-purpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV), which makes it completely mobile. Set-up time takes about 30 minutes. The terminal may use commercial

power, the HMMWV itself or an on-board generator for power. It can support voice and data up to 1.544 Mega bits per second and has a maximum throughput of 2.24 Mbps, allowing more information to transmit more rapidly and accurately.

The SMART-T can even work under remote operation up to a mile away. It has the capability of using any EHF-capable satellite, but for data ranges in excess of 2,400 bps, it requires a more robust system.

The training was a special treat to the communications planners stationed at RSSC CONUS, since most of their time is spent allocating resources for others to train. It was their turn this time, and they got to see first-hand how the products that RSSC supplies to the tactical warfighter are implemented.

"SMART-T is the operational terminal of the future, and the training was phenomenal. We greatly appreciated the efforts of the 280th CBCS, in coming all that way to provide the training," said Tech. Sgt. Kelven Preston.



Photo by Wilson Small

Air Force members of Regional Satellite Communications Support Center CONUS engage in training on the Secure Mobile Anti-jam Reliable Tactical-Terminal, or SMART-T. Far left, Master Sgt. Randy Green supervises the training. Senior Airman Amber Duncan and Staff Sgt. Shannon Metcalf are setting up the terminal for operation, while, behind them, Tech. Sgt. Kelven Preston and Senior Airman Candy Knight are going over the theory of operation.

## Online registration and voting experiment to be launched

By Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A DoD voting experiment in the 2000 presidential elections that allowed military and overseas voters to cast their ballots through the Internet will be expanded in 2004.

Beginning this fall, the Federal Voting Assistance Program hopes to get as many as 100,000 military personnel — stateside and overseas — their eligible dependents and U.S. citizens living outside the United States to take part in the Secure Electronic Registration and Voting Experiment, said Polli Brunelli, the program director. SERVE covers only those U.S. citizens who fall under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act.

Mandated by Congress, the project eligible voters from participating project states will be able to register and vote electronically via any Windows-based personal computer with Internet access from anywhere in world, Brunelli said.

In the 2000 experiment, 84 citizens located in 21 states and 11 countries voted in jurisdictions in South Carolina, Texas, Florida and Utah, proving the theory that online voting could work for voters

wherever they lived, Brunelli said.

"We conducted a small 'proof of concept' experiment for the 2000 presidential election, and it was very successful. Now we are conducting another electronic voting project. Congress wants it to be large enough to be statistically relevant. This will allow us to make supportable recommendations to the Congress on the future of Internet voting for UOCAVA citizens," she said.

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**'We're looking for  
volunteer voters to  
participate in the project.'**

— Polli Brunelli

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Brunelli noted that 10 states are interested in participating in the 2004 SERVE project: Arkansas, Florida, Hawaii, Minnesota, North Carolina, South Carolina, Utah, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Washington.

"We're looking for volunteer voters to participate in the project," she explained, "and we have a Web site where interested voters can see if their voting jurisdiction

is participating in the project. Beginning later this year, the voter can sign up, then register and be able to vote in the 2004 elections."

According to Brunelli, local and state election officials will use the SERVE system to receive voter registration applications, provide ballots to voters and accept voted ballots.

Brunelli said security during the registration and ballot process is a primary concern. SERVE will utilize digital signatures for registration and ballot encryption as part of the security features.

"People are concerned about Internet security. We've looked at the threats that could happen to this type of system, and we've developed mitigating measures to guard against those threats," she said.

Brunelli said that not every county in states participating in the experiment will be part of SERVE. She said voters can find a list of participating jurisdictions at the SERVE Web site. However, she added that those counties that do participate will include the "full ballot" for that election — local, state and federal.

The experiment's official Web site can be found at [www.serveusa.gov](http://www.serveusa.gov). For more information on SERVE or the Federal Voting Assistance Program, go to [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov).

## SMDC, Air Force to develop Predator Squadron Operations Center

By Debra Valine  
Editor, *The Eagle*

The U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command Battle Lab (SMDBL) is once again capitalizing on existing programs.

The Battle Lab is working with the U.S. Air Force Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Battle Lab (UAVB) at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida to take proven battlefield visualization software (Advanced Warfare Environment - AWarE) programs being used in the Future Operational Capability Tactical Operations Center (FOC-TOC) to initially develop a tactical coordinator workstation and later to configure the FOC-TOC to be the Predator Squadron Operations Center (P-SOC) for unmanned aerial vehicles.

The ultimate goal, however, is to get data specifications for other fielded unmanned aerial vehicles and produce a final product that is compatible with all UAVs. This includes a lab demonstration, which will include joint environment testing for Shadow, Hunter and Predator unmanned aerial vehicles if approved by their project managers.

"At this time, we have one ground control station for every Predator UAV," said Mike Leech, a military analyst and project lead in the Battle Lab in Huntsville, Ala. "Each ground station currently requires a large staff to support Predator operations.

"What we plan to do is develop a Predator Squadron Operations Center that will leave the pilot and sensor operator in the ground station, but allow a manpower



Courtesy photo

Predator unmanned aerial vehicle is one platform for the tactical coordinator workstation being developed by SMDC and the Air Force.

reduction factor of three-fourths of the support staff. The remaining one-fourth will be relocated to the P-SOC, which will be at the AOC (air operations center) or further in the rear area."

In addition to reducing the footprint required to support the UAV, you get coordinated Predator operations. You have one station doing multiple Predator missions. Right now we are looking at a 1:4 ratio, said Tony Kirkpatrick, the lead software developer with Symbiont Enterprises Inc (SEI). Also on the team are operational lead Don Long of Titan Corp., and the transition partner Sue McClung with the Joint Technology Center/Systems Integration Laboratory (JTC/SIL) on Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Ala.

Predator comes in many forms: intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance (ISR), Hellfire armed Predators, and any other sensor-type ports developed for Predator. Users will be able to manage their data from a single ground station.

"There is a lot of information and an ability to go back and evaluate," Kirkpatrick said. "If you do not have that information coordinated, if you cannot get it to the guy doing the analysis, it is no longer timely. Right now, they have a data management problem, and they certainly want to improve it."

Three goals of the workstation are: 1. Smaller footprint; 2. Data management; and 3. Better operational management and coordination.

Currently the Battle Lab does C4I (command, control, communications, computers, and intelligence) and missile defense with the FOC-TOC. The FOC-TOC and its tactical radio/communications and computer backbone and the AWarE Visualization Software will be the cornerstone of this project.

"This project is an extension of what we have already accomplished with the FOC TOC," Leech said. "We are taking what we have learned in missile defense and

transferring it over to another application in another service with new data types.

"The reason they came to us — there are many TOC programs out there — is because we are experienced bringing in the tactical data feeds," Leech said. "They saw that we have already done a part of what they need. The Predator workstation will manage a larger data output than we are used to (mostly the video feeds), but with cutting edge technologies this is becoming less and less of a problem.

"We are a Windows-based system," he said. "This is primarily for the reduced cost in training (almost every high school graduate has had some Windows training), the evolving capabilities of Windows systems and the ease and cost of replacements for equipment and software."

Once the P-SOC Tactical Coordinator Workstation system is finished, SMDC will take the FOC TOC out to Nellis Air Force Base and do an actual exercise with Predator.

# Soldier celebrates 20 years of freedom from 'killing fields'

By Spc.(P) Merl McKerrow  
Unit Reporter

**CAMP ROBERTS, Calif.** — For many Americans, the term "killing fields" vaguely reminds them of a movie they may or may not have seen.

The movie details the atrocities inflicted by the Khmer Rouge on the subject peoples of Cambodia. But for one D Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Satellite Control Battalion, soldier, the ominous term has no such blurry connotations. Instead it represents the real life nightmare he and his family fled 20 years ago July 20.

The 20-year anniversary of Staff Sgt. Khemmony Kong and his family's heroic flight from Cambodia will be celebrated in the land that he now calls home: the United States of America.

During the late 1970s and early 1980s, Cambodia, then known as the Khmer Republic, was in a state of political upheaval. In 1975, the Communist army launched an assault resulting in an overhaul of the country's political structure. Many of the people rejoiced at the end of civil war, however, the government of the newly established Democratic Kampuchea began to restructure Cambodian society completely.

The regime controlled every aspect of life and reduced citizens to the level of abject obedience through terror. Solid estimates of the numbers who died between 1975 and 1979 are not available, but it is likely that hundreds of thousands were brutally executed by the regime, giving rise to the term "the killing fields." In 1979, Vietnamese forces invaded and occupied the country, and it became the People's Republic of Kampuchea.

Kong's father was a member of the anti-Communist Khmer Republican Army, and his family had not seen him since 1975.

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**'I just wanted to give back to the United States for everything that it has given me: freedom, opportunities, no fear of the knock on the door.'**

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— Staff Sgt. Khemmony Kong

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Even though the country was Republican again in the early 1980's, people couldn't be completely safe from the secret police. Kong's family witnessed close friends being arrested and sent to prison. They knew it was only a matter of time before the secret police were kicking down their own door.

As a seven-year-old child, soon after his father's disappearance, Kong was brutally tied up, beaten, and tossed into a small locked room, all for the crime of showing too much emotion. He was observed in public crying about his father.

"I saw too many things," Kong said. "People dragged away and beaten, people killed. The authorities did not want to waste bullets, so they always chose other methods to kill with. It didn't matter what you did. You were always at risk, maybe just a kick to the kidneys or a smash to the head. It all depended on their mood."

Escape was the daily dream. The Kong

family originally wanted to escape to Thailand, but found that it was really no safer than Cambodia. They then heard of a refugee camp sponsored by the United Nations that could help them. This camp relocated families by sending them to any country that would accept them. Families had no choice about which country they went to. It was a matter of fate, as if someone was throwing darts at a map of the world.

When Kong was 14, the dart landed on the United States. A year and a half in Thailand followed before the family's eventual arrival at their final safe haven. The U.N. High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), a nonprofit organization, sponsored refugee families by supplying airline tickets and finding them places to live. After a year of living in the new country, the family would begin repaying the interest-free money they owed to UNHCR.

When the Kong family arrived in the United States they settled in Santa Ana, Calif. The adults of the family attended an orientation program designed to equip them with basic necessary skills, such as English and how to obtain employment through this program, which was equivalent to a junior college. The younger members of the family went to school to continue their education.

The family members that were able to get jobs ended up working for less than minimum wage. Their employers exploited the fact that they had just arrived in the country and were unaware of all the benefits to which they were entitled. Kong's mother and two older brothers continued their schooling to enhance their communication and work skills in an effort to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the United States. Kong's sister is currently working toward her master's degree. The rest of his family members still live in Southern California — Tustin, Irvine and Santa Ana. Kong's father was declared officially dead in 2002.

Kong considered joining the Army after high school. The benefits the recruiters offered seemed great but not exactly what he was looking for at the time. Instead, he decided to continue his education.

In 1994, Kong, then 26, decided to give the Army another chance. Since his arrival in America, he had witnessed the U.S. military standing strong through several conflicts, including DESERT STORM.

"I just wanted to give back to the United States for everything that it has given me," said Kong. "Freedom, opportunities, no fear of the knock on the door. The main reason I joined the Army is that I love this country."

Kong enlisted as a combat engineer and was stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C. from 1994 to 1997, during which time he became Airborne qualified. During this period, Kong stated that he "got smarter" and was later able to re-class as a satellite network controller. After Advanced Individual Training, Kong was assigned to Fort Buckner, Okinawa, from 1998 to 2002. On his way to the island station, he stopped in Cambodia and married his long-time pen pal girlfriend, Paula Ma.



Staff Sgt. Khemmony Kong

Kong had originally met Paula's sister, Lynn Ma, in California, while attending church functions with his family. She had asked him if he would like to write Paula in Cambodia. They started writing in 1996 and continued the pen-pal friendship that gradually deepened. In one of Kong's letters, he asked her to marry him.

After they got married, Paula had to stay in Cambodia until she got her visa, then spend a year with her sister Lynn before joining her husband on Okinawa in 1999.

Now 35 years old, Kong enjoys being stationed in California, where he's preparing to become a platoon sergeant. Kong's first sergeant, 1st Sgt. Ottis Pledger, said, "Although unfortunate, dire circumstances often prepare exceptional individuals more effectively than ordinary conditions. It takes fire to make steel, and Kong has definitely been through the fire."

The dreams of that one-time frightened refugee turned outstanding American soldier have achieved a richness and variety far beyond that of his stark hopes 20 years ago ... but the achieving of the dream of freedom has made all his other hopes and goals possible. He wants to return to school and finish a college degree. His long-term goals are to retire from the military and spend more time with his family. He wants to be the best husband and father that he can be and provide his family with all the education, opportunities and benefits the United States has to offer.

One of Kong's soldiers, Sgt. Clint Spencer, talked about his deep respect for his squad leader.

"Staff Sgt. Kong is a leader who is all about his soldiers. He has faced such tragedy in his own life that it has given him an empathy and strength that make him a caring and unique leader," said Spencer.

"For me, the Army is paradise," Kong said, "or at least the next best thing, especially compared to what came before. I have work that I love, and I get paid for it, which enables me to care for my family. Most important of all, my family is safe. We are not frightened of the knock on the door anymore."

## B Co., 1<sup>st</sup> SATCON Bn. leads the way in its first-ever FTX

By West Point Cadet  
Lt. Andrew Maxa

**FORT MEADE, Md.** — The soldiers of B Company, 1st Satellite Control Battalion, overcame heat category 5 weather, swarming insects and ticks June 23-27 during the unit's first-ever Field Training Exercise.

Soldiers completed Nuclear, Biological and Chemical training, an obstacle course, a 4.5-mile road march, and several missions against Opposing Forces wearing multiple integrated laser engagement system gear. Those missions included reacting to a close ambush, defending an assembly area at night and attacking a defense.

The exercise was divided into two rotations. Headquarters Company stayed in the field for the full week and the majority of the company came out in two-day rotations to allow B Company to continue its regular, day-to-day mission and train at the FTX simultaneously.

At the gas chamber the first day of the FTX, the company commander, Capt. Thaddeus Underwood, challenged all the soldiers to stay in the chamber longer than he could without a mask, which turned out to be six minutes. Pfc. Wil Langford

matched the captain, but another contender outlasted both of them.

Spc. Jerry Dotseth rose to the occasion and stayed in longer than anyone else. After finally being forced to leave the chamber by the noncommissioned officer in charge, he walked out as if immune to the effects of the gas.

On the second day, the soldiers were split into squads and sent to a Listening and Observation Post.

During the journey, they were ambushed. After clearing the LP/OP, the soldiers advanced to a more built-up enemy position, rejoining a sister squad.

The squads conducted a successful platoon movement to contact and took time off for lunch. But not totally time off, as Staff Sgt. Raul Sheran gave classes on individual movement techniques and reacting to conventional and NBC artillery.

After the "working lunch," the squads moved to assault an enemy position that contained a .50 caliber machine gun. They put their classes to use as artillery simulators, smoke grenades simulating NBC attacks, and multiple hand grenades with dummy fuses were employed during the assault.



Photo by Capt. Thaddeus Underwood

Staff Sgt. Harry Osborne and Staff Sgt. Nakia Maxon, B Company, 1st SATCON Battalion, jump over an obstacle in almost perfect unison while running the obstacle course during their unit's FTX.

Triumphant, the soldiers were driven back to the assembly area, given hot meal and sent home.

The second rotation cycled through the FTX tasks in a different order due to the weather. Heat category 5 temperatures forced the second rotation to road march to the obstacle course first.

Sgt. Joshua Lowell beat the commander for no-mask endurance by staying in the gas chamber more than 10 minutes.

Patrolling squads fought mock battles well past dusk

before being sent back to the assembly area to get some rest for the night. Unfortunately, the OPFOR had other plans and probed the "good guys" positions well into the night. Finally, at around 3:30 a.m., the OPFOR ran out of ammo and called it a night.

Throughout the exercise, all soldiers involved showed outstanding motivation and continued to drive on through heat category 5 weather, flying and crawling insects, and long days and nights to accomplish the mission — good old fashioned Army training!

## A Cadet's eye-view of an FTX with B Co. Dragons

By West Point Cadet  
Lt. Caleb Williams

**FORT MEADE, Md.** — I knew the soldiers of B Co., 1st Satellite Control Battalion (otherwise known as the Black Dragons), were good when, soon after reporting in for my Cadet Troop Leadership Training tour, I walked onto the operations floor and heard soldiers speaking Swahili to the commander. Later, I discovered it wasn't mere Swahili but a complex hybrid language of acronyms, pseudo-English, and high level techno-babble that I would have to (somewhat) master over the course of my four-week experience with the unit. (CTLT is similar to an internship and typically taken the summer after a junior year in college for officers-in-training.)

"Don't worry. Half the time even these guys don't know what the words mean," said company commander, Capt. Thaddeus

### Commentary

Underwood, reassuringly. "It makes me look good when I ask them, and they don't know."

The first week involved intense physical training in the mud nearly every morning and long hours of listening to this alien lingo on what they call the "control floor" — a place that suspiciously resembles Star Trek's "bridge" (the old Star Trek bridge, that is). When the SATCONers were asked if they ever felt like they were the crew on the Starship Enterprise, they glanced at each other nervously and fidgeted absently with the controls.

"Satellite control is a complicated business," said battle-hardened Staff Sgt. Frank Kimberlin. "We've got soldiers out there on the ground. If it wasn't for us, they would have to use civilian communications," he said.

By week two, I had been in the company longer than most of the new guys.

It was easy to see why B Co. is "Above the Rest." It seemed that nearly everyone in the company was in line for an award of some kind for superior performance.

"A large percentage of my time as executive officer is spent tracking and writing the awards for all our stellar performers. Yeah, it's hard sometimes,

when every one is so superior," complained 1st Lt. Jessica Burris, executive officer. "But it's good work. I like taking care of soldiers. That's what it's all about. Hooah!"

And that powerful "hooah" echoed throughout my monthlong stay, taking on even more significance the final week.

Raising the bar yet another notch, the Black Dragons assembled at o'dark-thirty hours for the final step off to a field training exercise site at Fort AP Hill, Va. The heat was deadly. The swarming insects were vicious. But the 31 Sierras didn't even seem to notice.

"Yeah, I guess I prefer CS gas over your conventional 'air' blend," noted Spc. Jerry Dotseth after seven minutes in the gas chamber without his mask. "I wish they hadn't kicked me out so soon," he lamented. "I kinda liked that all-over tingly feeling."

Despite a troublesome soldier who playfully fired on his platoon leader during road marches and at after-action reviews, multiple integrated laser engagement system training was realistic. I found Sgt. Amanzio Brady and Sgt. Craig Campbell's extensive combat experience via the Special Operations Command computer game a huge advantage during the opposing forces exercises.

All kidding aside, I witnessed first-hand the flexibility and adaptability of the Black Dragon soldiers. Even though they're known as high-tech guys, they did all the right soldier things outstandingly. The Army is fortunate to have such high quality soldiers operating some of its most sensitive and critical communications. The Black Dragons have shown that they indeed "boldly go where no one has gone before" — Above the Rest!



Photo by Capt. Thaddeus Underwood

Sgt. Joshua Lowell and Spc. Tyler Alcos, B Company, 1st SATCON Battalion, contemplate the steep climb ahead of them during the obstacle course portion of their unit's FTX.

# Musings on service by the Best Crew, C Co., 1<sup>st</sup> SATCON

**Editor's note:** The following editorial was written by the winning team of C Company's Best Crew competition.

**LANDSTUHL, Germany** — Third Squad was selected as C Company's Best Crew because it distinguished itself by being able to collectively complete all assigned tasks. No single individual was responsible for the success, but the fulfillment of the responsibilities of each member resulted in an exemplary operational performance.

Moreover, the members of this crew understand that to be an "Army of One" means that all soldiers, regardless of gender, race, religion or job specialty, work in partnership and in unity as a single, unwavering force ... The U.S. Army.

From the moment they raise their right hand until they depart from military service, American soldiers are charged with the responsibility of representing the moral and mental fiber of their country. That dedication to fulfilling those responsibilities exhibits a vast amount of respect for their leaders, the military as an institution and themselves as members of that institution.

Soldiers at all levels have four basic individual responsibilities.

- Defend the United States and its way of life
- Duty performance and mission accomplishment
- Commitment to their team
- Uphold the Army's values

The Oath of Enlistment is a pledge to defend the United States against all enemies. Soldiers voluntarily undertake this mission of not only protecting their own families, but all fellow citizens. Soldiers stand firmly on guard protecting America from all who oppose or threaten the American ideals that are the foundations of our nation.

Those who have gone before us have given their lives in defense of this nation and those who follow will continue to make the ultimate sacrifice for home and country.

The Soldier's Code clearly declares that American soldiers are the protectors of the greatest nation on Earth and they are proud of their country and their country's flag. Soldiers who are truly inspired by our nation's ideals will at all times conduct themselves in a respectable manner. Their military service will be a testament to all those who are honored by service to their country and is the very nature and essence of every soldier's individual responsibility.

Duty performance and mission accomplishment are the next set of individual responsibilities. Constant alertness and attention to detail are required to ensure commanders have control over their forces in order to achieve mission success and preserve the interests of the United States.

Due to the increased demand for soldier involvement, soldiers are required to train longer and harder than ever before. They are required to perform extended duties in foreign lands as well as within the United States.

In order to advance to the next higher level of duty, soldiers have a responsibility to develop professionally and personally using both civilian and military institutions and opportunities.

Soldiers also have a duty to remain physically and mentally ready to endure any combat or assigned task. Through training, soldiers fulfill the responsibility of learning their military occupational



1st SATCON Battalion photo

Members of C Company, 1st Satellite Control Battalion's Third Squad, who won the Best Crew Competition, accompanied by company and battalion leadership — Clockwise from left: Sgt. 1st Class Randy Heintz, Operations Platoon Sergeant; C Co. Executive Officer, 1st Lt. Derotha Johnson; Sgt. Glen Shockley; Sgt. Chad Pierce; 1st SATCON Bn. Commander Lt. Col. Mearen Bethea; Sgt. Benjamin Singleton; Bn. Command Sgt. Maj. Ricky Judy; Spc. John Smith; Pfc. Blair Boggs; Pfc. Michael Brondsema; and Staff Sgt. Robert Lewis, Operations NCO.

specialties. Soldiers with the 1st Satellite Control Battalion have the important duty of ensuring that quality communications are provided to all the warfighters in their area of operations.

Additionally, leaders have an increased responsibility to their subordinate soldiers. Leaders are driven by excellence and they inspire others to seek it too. It is the leader's responsibility to make sure that his or her soldiers are properly trained, motivated and capable of accomplishing the mission. They have the added responsibility to ensure their soldiers' basic personal needs are met and in order.

Leaders are to be aware of the pressures on the military family and must be ready to understand and care for the needs of those families under his or her command. They must ensure soldiers are properly equipped and paid, receive quality medical care, and be allowed opportunities to practice their religious beliefs.

Leaders are chosen because not only are they capable of performing the tasks involved in their job specialties but they are also capable of managing their soldiers in such a manner as to forge victory from the chaos of battle. Leaders are ultimately responsible for the success of the mission and the lives of their soldiers.

The most important individual responsibility for a soldier is sacrifice for the success of the team. The ability to adapt to a team mentality will ultimately determine the outcome of any situation. In every aspect of military life, all soldiers, especially leaders, must concentrate on sharing knowledge with the rest of the team. No one person on a team is more valuable than any other. To think otherwise is to discredit the concept of teamwork.

The last responsibility soldiers have is to uphold the Army's Values. These values are the very essence of what it means to be a soldier. They exist to provide soldiers with a solid foundation

upon which to develop successful careers and to make commendable choices that affect their public and private lives. The responsibility to this value system goes far beyond just knowing them; a soldier lives them daily.

Soldiers have an obligation to be loyal to their country, the Army, their unit and to fellow soldiers. They must be respectful, exhibit the highest level of integrity and conduct themselves in such a manner as to bring honor and pride not only to themselves but also to this great institution, the U.S. Army.

Furthermore, despite any fear of danger or adversity, each soldier must be willing to make the ultimate personal sacrifice. A soldier's commitments to these core values is apparent every time they stand proud — demonstrating the discipline and courage of their profession.

Soldiers are professional, consistently well trained and highly motivated. Held in the highest regard, soldiers, if necessary, will sacrifice their lives for the lives of those they have promised to protect and defend. The responsibilities of American soldiers are great. They must convey an image of professionalism, highest moral character and unity.

Soldier's duties have become increasingly demanding, requiring them to protect the world's interests and to accomplish the mission at all costs. The world is counting on the American soldier, and every soldier is counting on another for the successful execution of his or her responsibilities and obligations that will directly affect themselves, their teammates, their units, the Army, their country and the world.

President John F. Kennedy once said, "Our privileges can be no greater than our obligations. The protection of our rights can endure no longer than the performance of our responsibilities."

American soldiers are the dedicated, committed and selfless individuals responsible for those privileges.

# Climb of a lifetime accomplished by Space soldiers

By Sgt. 1st Class Dennis Beebe

**COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.** — You may have climbed the steep steps of the Chichen Itza pyramid in Mexico. You may have climbed the Eiffel Tower in Paris or even made it up the tallest cathedral in Europe, but you truly have not lived until you have hiked up the old Manitou Incline Railway on a sunny summer morning.

A group of soldiers and a civilian worker from the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command here now claim bragging rights of “having truly lived” by their conquering of the famous incline.

“The unique thing about the (Manitou) Incline is despite whatever level of physical conditioning you’re in (or you may think you’re in), the Incline will kick your tail regardless,” said Capt. Bo Stolarcek, SMDC, G-6, communications. “If you don’t think so, try it. If you go, take a buddy and be safe!”

The Incline is the first part of a trail that eventually makes its way to the top of Pikes Peak. Pikes Peak rises a staggering 7,800 vertical feet above downtown Manitou Springs in a horizontal distance of 7.25 miles.

The group of hardy souls met early Friday, June 13. The truly superstitious amongst them might have turned back upon gazing at the momentous task before them, but the endless stair steps up beckoned with a call greater than fear or superstition.

“It was weird to look behind and see a beautiful view only to turn around again and see a wall of pain,” said Staff Sgt. Gaylon Hensley, Headquarters and Headquarters Company.

They started out stepping up the over 5,000 railroad ties that are all that’s left of the Incline’s 1.1 mile of railroad track, originally used in the early 1900s to haul pipes and people up the 68-degree slope. A mudslide in 1990 damaged a 500-foot section, and the owners decided the danger was too great to repair and reopen, so they shut it down. Some people who wanted to run up it for conditioning sometimes use the old track bed as a training trail. The area is now owned by a combination of the Manitou Cog Railroad, the U.S. Forest Service, (the top 1,000 feet) and the city of Colorado Springs.

“The only thing I have to say about the whole adventure was that it took teamwork to get me up there,” said Cpl. Jennifer Meadows, HHC, Special Technical Operations. “If it weren’t for Staff Sgt. Hensley pushing me, I never

would have made it.

“Hiking the Incline is one of those things that you never know just how well you can do until you try,” she said. “You get to the base and look up, and tell yourself that it’s going to be hard. Then once you start moving up, you begin to think it’s impossible, and you want to give up. But all you really have to do is keep pushing yourself, and you’ll eventually make it.

“Look at what you get once you’re at the top — a spectacular view and a sense of accomplishment,” Meadows said. “It’s all just an easy coast down the mountain from there.”

There is a 2,011-foot gain of altitude from 6,574 feet to 8,585 at the top of the Incline.

“This was very challenging physical training,” said Sgt. James Menzies, SMDC Legal Office. “The trip to the top seemed like it would never end, but the run to the bottom was great.

“I would like to do this again for Physical Training,” he said. “But I plan to take my 16-year-old son, Shawn, with me and do it on my own again as well. It was a great way to provide variety and training and also to show soldiers a little piece of Colorado history. You just don’t know till you get the view from the top!”

After taking in the view and a few pictures, the party, which had split into three groups of various abilities, headed back down the 4.2-mile Barr Trail. The descent, although much easier than the strain of the ascent, was not without its own complications.

“I took a fall at the very end of the trail,” said Meadows. “I went along as the Combat Life Saver, and I was the only person to get hurt! I still laugh when I think about it or see the pictures of the guys taking care of my arm.”

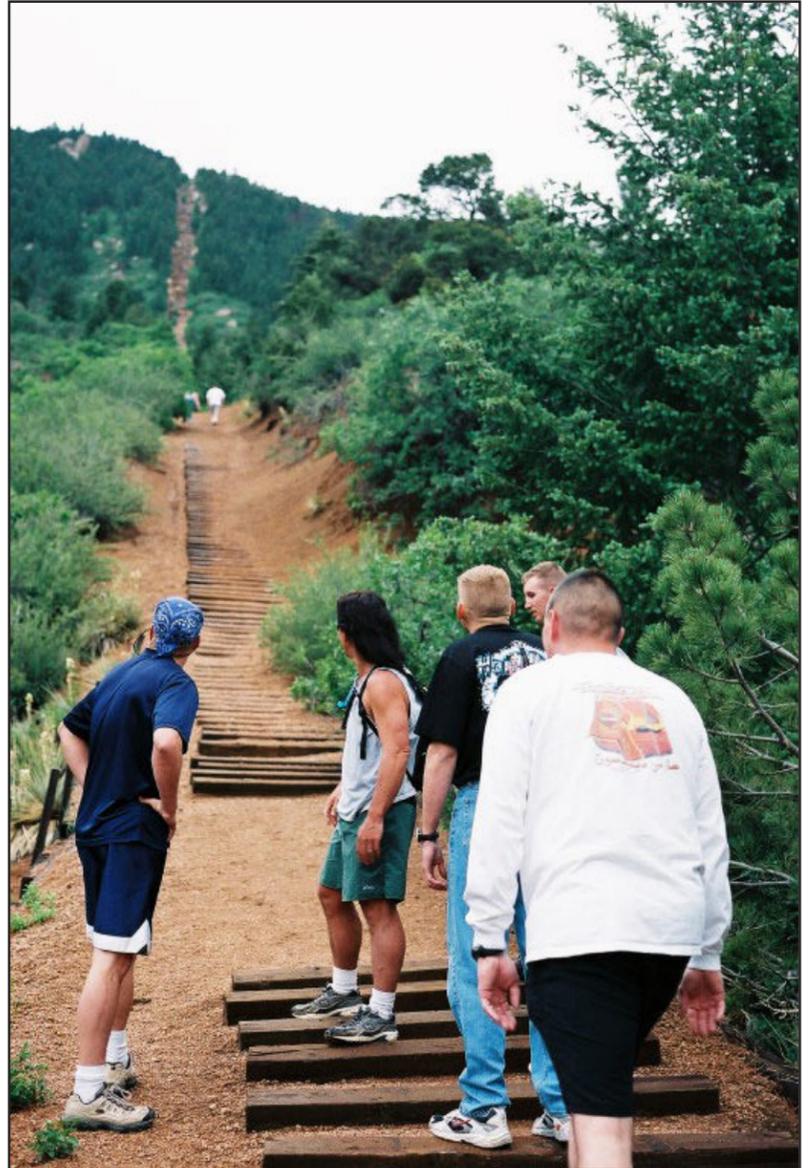


Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Dennis Beebe

During an SMDC-sponsored climb of the fabled Pikes Peak Incline, a group of participants assess the daunting path ahead.

After completing the journey, all returned to work, having accomplished the personal goal of making the Incline and seeing the view from “almost the top.”

Of course, the degree of challenge differed for some. Mike Cornett, a 1st Space Battalion civilian employee, regularly runs marathons, including the Pikes Peak Marathon. For him, the Incline was just a fraction of what he’s done in the past, and in fact, he actually made the entire round trip in the time it took the majority of the group to reach the one-fourth mark.

He, however, denied it was a walk in the park.

“All I can say is that, every time you pit your body against a mountain, the mountain extracts its toll,” said Cornett.



## SMDC celebrates Army’s 228th Birthday

Cutting a cake to celebrate the Army’s 228<sup>th</sup> Birthday is LTG Joseph M. Cosumano Jr., commanding general of SMDC, during a command video teleconference June 13. The cake cutting was one of several celebrations observed across the command that week. Helping Cosumano cut the cake are Michael Falk, left, a summer hire at SMDC Headquarters, and Sgt. Jessica Walker, who works for Command Sgt. Maj. David Lady.

U.S. Army photo

# Veterans and retirees honored with cookout

By Joyce Duff  
Fort Greely, Alaska

The Fort Greely Commissary hosted a Veteran Retiree Appreciation Day cookout, May 30.

Hotdogs, hamburgers, salads, cakes and cold drinks were served up to more than 100 retirees and family members on a warm sunny day.

The Defense Commissary Agency (DECA) encouraged its store managers to sponsor an event for the patrons during Commissary Awareness Month in May. Richard Stillie, Fort Greely Commissary manager, chose a cookout to honor veterans and retirees for their support.

"The retirees are the ones who kept the store open," said Stillie.

As Fort Greely downsized in 2000 and 2001 under the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) there were few military personnel on post to shop in the store.

"We had a drawing for two \$50 shopping spree certificates," Stillie said. "Also, vendors donated merchandise such as boxes of candy, T-shirts and 12-packs of sodas. There was enough merchandise so that all who entered the drawing won a prize."

The retirees who attended really appreciated the effort Stillie and other store workers put into the cookout. They also acknowledged the care the employees put into the everyday details of stocking the shelves and displays in the store.

"This was so much fun, and the retirees

really appreciated being recognized," said Stillie. "I'd like to make it an annual event."

"The guys from the Fire Department were a great help," he said. "They transported and set up tables and also did the cooking."



Photo by Velma Wager

Richard Stillie, standing, takes a short break from preparing and serving food to visit with the retirees who stopped by to have lunch during the Veteran Retiree Appreciation Day cookout, which was sponsored by the Fort Greely Commissary.

# SMDC major golfs for charity, achieves personal goals

By Majors Laura Kenney  
and Stephen Elle

**COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.** — Imagine combining a lifelong sporting goal with the satisfaction of knowing that at the same time, you were contributing to a charity you believed in. Maj. Stephen Elle, executive officer for the 1st Satellite Control Battalion, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command, recently achieved that dual accomplishment.

Elle, an avid competitive golfer, completed the second leg of a golfing dream triad when he played in a tournament this spring at the exclusive Pebble Beach Golf Links in California. The sporting goal partnered the fact that the event — the Cadillac Kidney Foundation's National 4-Man Scramble — benefited a worthy cause.

Over the past 10 years, the competition, billed as the nation's premier golf event for charity, has raised more than \$35 million for the National Kidney Foundation and attracted the participation of more than 100,000 golfers nationwide. Last year, 130 tournaments were held across the country, attracting 20,000 golfers and guests and raising approximately \$7 million for the NKF.

"Tournaments such as this are important to charitable organizations because they depend on the money these types of events generate. I was just happy I could take part in an event where I could help others while also enjoying good times with friends playing the game I love," said Elle.

While taking leave last summer in his home state of South Dakota, Elle and three

golfing buddies from college qualified for the 4-man scramble by winning the South Dakota qualifier. Knowing that it was played in Pebble Beach, Elle exulted in furthering a long-held golfing dream.

Ask anyone who plays golf which courses they would like to play the most if they had the chance, and three immediately jump to the top of the list: the Augusta National, The Old Course at St. Andrews, Scotland, and Pebble Beach Golf Links, said Elle.

Few get the opportunity to play any of these exclusive courses during their lifetime, let alone all of them. Elle has already had the unique experience of playing at the birthplace of golf — The Old Course at St. Andrews, so the Pebble Beach tournament made leg two of his dream. Unfortunately, he has not had a chance to play at Augusta National in Augusta, Ga., although he said he was close one time.

"While I was stationed at Fort Gordon in Augusta, I met a guy who got my name on the volunteer list for the Masters Tournament," he said. "Once I volunteered my time during the week of the tournament, I would be able to play the course in May. Unfortunately, I PCS'd the year my name finally made it to the top of the volunteer list. I am not giving up though!"

The four friends spent the California leg of Elle's dream triad — as Elle describes it — "in a dream week of beautiful weather and unbelievable golf." The foursome enjoyed playing three days of practice rounds before competing on four

premier courses in the area: Spanish Bay, Delmonte Golf Club, the Bayonet Course (at old Fort Ord) and historic Pebble Beach Golf Links. Although they did not win the tournament, Elle felt satisfied with his team's 37th place finish out of 89 that were entered.

"Most of the top tier teams were from Southern states where they golf all year round," Elle said. "My team was pretty much in mothballs all winter and didn't really have much of an opportunity to play until we reached California, which really put us at a disadvantage. Playing the Bayonet Course at Fort Ord was a humbling experience. I had always heard the course was long and tough and can certainly vouch for that now."

Elle has been playing golf for nearly 15 years. He took up the game while stationed at Fort Riley, Kan., as a young sergeant. His unit commander provided limited instruction and a set of used clubs that served as the springboard to his obsession. Since then, he has played at nearly every Army post golf course in existence, and somewhere in that golfing journey, conceived his dream triad.

"Many people talk about the places they want to go and the things they want to do," Elle said, "but not everyone gets lucky enough to see those dreams materialize. Not only have I been to some of those places, but this time I was with great friends and contributed to a good cause. Add unbelievable weather and my favorite sport — this trip was an experience that will be hard to top."

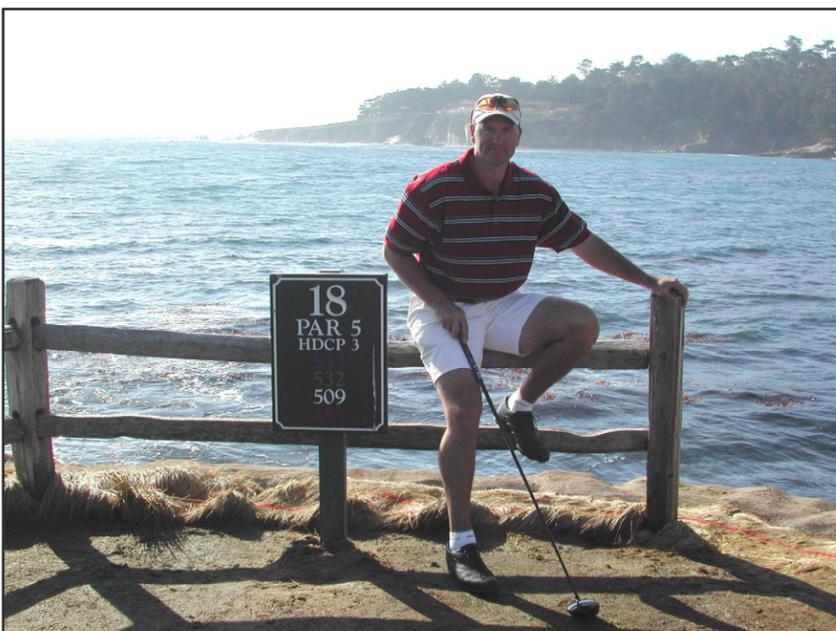


Photo by Ron Trimble

Maj. Stephen Elle, executive officer, 1st Satellite Control Battalion, takes a break to enjoy the breathtaking scenery of Monterey, Calif., where he competed in a golf tournament for charity.

# Athletes, volunteers benefit through Special Olympics

By Sgt. Brandon Rennirt and 1st Lt. Derotha Johnson  
Unit Reporters

**ENKENBACH, Germany** — One of the unique aspects of volunteering for a good cause is that everyone involved comes away richer ... both the person needing help and those doing the helping.

Soldiers from Charlie Company, 1st Satellite Control Battalion, recently

rediscovered the truth of that when they participated in the 20<sup>th</sup> annual rendition of the German-American Special Olympics held here.

Special Olympics athletes from the Kaiserslautern military community and surrounding area gathered May 14 for the opening ceremony. More than 1,400 volunteers showed up to help more than 800 Special Olympics athletes compete.

Areas of competition included track and

field, T-ball, basketball, softball, tennis, soccer and other games. Younger athletes participated in noncompetitive games such as a sponge toss, tricycle rides and an obstacle course. At every event, athletes were overcome with excitement and eager to begin the challenge.

The soldiers of C Co. volunteered for tennis, badminton, volleyball and other events. They began the day by signing in, setting up for their events and collecting award ribbons for the athletes. Upon setup completion, the soldiers mingled with other military service branch members until the start of the events.

"Volunteering is a personally fulfilling experience," said Spc. Matthew Goddard, C Co., Operations Platoon. "You arrive, set up your event and meet new people within your joint-military community in which you establish new friendships. You are also doing the right thing for the right reasons to make people happy."

"Getting the opportunity to speak with various adults and children, each unique and special, really opens your perspective on life," he said. "They come here to have a good time, and that's what they deserve."

Together the unit gave a team effort to create a memorable experience and ensure that Special Olympics athletes enjoyed their day.

"I enjoyed the day at Special Olympics because I feel good about giving back to the community," said Spc. John Payne, C Co., Operations Platoon. "I was so inspired by the athletes' effort and courage."

As the day drew to a close, Special Olympics athletes virtually gleamed with confidence, honest perspiration and self-satisfaction. Many wore their ribbons proudly.

The soldiers of C Co. congratulated each other for a job well done. Although they walked away with no ribbons on their chests, they too had the feeling of self-satisfaction inside.



Photo by 1st Lt. Derotha Johnson

Pfc. Joseph Kelly from C Company, 1st Satellite Control Battalion, challenges a Special Olympics athlete with the timed volleyball toss.

## SMDC summer hire works on student project with NASA

By William E. Hughes  
Huntsville, Ala.

**N**ASA recently held a workshop and training session in Boulder, Colo., for the express purpose of getting more students interested in projects related to advanced technology and space.

Jimmy Pleasant Jr., a summer hire with the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command Research, Development and Acquisition staff in Huntsville, Ala., participated in this workshop and was selected to aid NASA in the building of a small-scale satellite.

The project goal was to launch the satellite, via balloon, an estimated height of 85,000 feet, Pleasant said. The satellite could then be used to take photographs of the earth's atmosphere and measure temperature, height, pressure and voltage.

Pleasant said the balloon and satellite package that he constructed went to a workshop-record height of 100,000 feet, taking photographs not possible from other satellites launched during the workshop.

In his spare time, Pleasant is also working on another student project with NASA. It involves the construction of a Level 3 rocket to be launched in November. A Level 3 rocket, which is 12 feet in height and six inches in diameter, is able to exceed the height of two miles.

In this project, Alabama A&M and the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) are in a race to see which team can launch a rocket carrying a scientific payload that is beneficial to NASA to a height of 10,560 feet (two miles).



Courtesy photo

With the satellite package attached, the balloon makes its way up to a workshop-record height of 100,000 feet and takes photographs of the earth's atmosphere.



Courtesy photo

Jimmy Pleasant Jr., right, spends time in the workshop to get the exact measurements for the installation that goes in the small-scale satellite. The NASA workshop and training session was held in Boulder, Colo.

Pleasant, a Birmingham, Ala., native, is currently a senior at Alabama A&M working on a double major in computer science and mathematics.

# SATCON warriors defeat post MPs in tug-of-war

By Spc. Kevin Hand and  
Pfc. Brandi Ferguson  
Unit Reporters

**FORT DETRICK, Md.** — “Olympic games” held on post to celebrate the Army’s birthday provided A Company, 1st Satellite Control Battalion, soldiers a welcome forum to prove their might to those who doubt that watchers of the skies can duel on equal terms with the formidable traditional forces.

June 13 will long live in the memories of those who witnessed the titanic struggle of a tug-of-war between the SATCON rangers and the trained protectors of the peace (post military police).

For the soldiers of A Company, this competition was not simply about a game for the entertainment of the masses. This struggle was about the glory of battle — warrior vs. warrior. As Daniel triumphed in the lion’s den and as David felled Goliath, so too did the clear underdogs — those fierce yet frail watchers of the metal birds in the sky — reach deep inside and through sheer grit found the strength to overcome adversity.

The image of 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Christopher Robert’s countenance as he grimaced in pain and determination will forever be burned into the minds of those witnessing this spectacle. In those few short moments many were reminded of childhood dreams of glory ... scoring the touchdown to seize the game in the last minute, winning the game with a home run in the bottom of the ninth inning, or even, for the particularly hooah, overcoming the enemy on the battlefield.

These thoughts, as pleasurable as they were, quickly dimmed in comparison to the battle royal that was taking place before them. Cries of excitement from the crowd rose to the skies, “The ‘SATCONners’ are going to win. I don’t believe it!”

The battle was not won yet, however, as the Herculean wards of the post commander’s wrath were not ready to give up without a fight. The cries from the crowd only strengthened their fury as they



Photos by Doug Valentine

A Company, 1st Satellite Control Battalion, soldiers strain as they compete against Fort Detrick, Md., military police in a tug-of-war. The post held Olympic style games to celebrate the Army’s 228th Birthday.

brought their chairborne foes to the brink of elimination time after time.

As the battle seemed to be decided, and as the hopes of the SATCON soldiers seemed to be all but gone, the tides

mysteriously turned as divine intervention from above seemed to strengthen the weary global guardians.

Slowly, inexplicably, but inexorably, the rope that tied the two forces together moved in the other direction and would not be deterred again.

A few moments later, after one last valiant struggle between the shocked and bewildered security force and the austere team of satellite controllers, the rope cleared its finishing mark and the spirited SATCON warriors were victorious.

Without preamble, the crowd erupted with cheers and enthusiasm for the conquering heroes. Amidst the pandemonium, a calm could be felt as the overset force quietly acknowledged the victory of their opponents and went on to thoughts of barbecue and good fellowship.

For the winners, however, there was the glory of the day, the pride of a job well done, and of course thoughts of barbecue and “Na na na na na.” All victories are fleeting, but bragging rights last forever.

So the day was done, fun was had by all, and everyone will look forward to next year’s festivities.

But, as for this year, the tug-of-war event will always beg the question of how did the SATCON rangers actually win? Was it great teamwork, sheer determination, or divine intervention? Maybe a little of all three, but one thing is certain, the satellite controllers that are so rarely seen as they hide out in the corner of Fort Detrick will never be taken lightly again.



The mighty MPs of Fort Detrick, despite their gargantuan strength, struggle against the SATCON rangers of A Company, 1st SATCON Battalion, falling short of a victory as they competed in a tug-of-war held during Army birthday celebrations.