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The Eagle

U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command

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SMDC/ARSTRAT winner in MLK static display contest

By Diane Schumacher
SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

As most Americans know, February has been designated “Black History Month.” All federal government agencies are required to provide events for employees to gain better knowledge and understanding of African Americans who have affected the United States’ growth and history.

And so it goes at military installations around the globe.

Redstone Arsenal, Ala., a.k.a. “Team Redstone,” held a contest in January, titled “Team Redstone’s Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Essay and Static Display Contest.”

According to Sgt. 1st Class Erika White, equal opportunity advisor, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command, there were several employees from SMDC/ARSTRAT who entered the essay contest but only one two-man team braved the odds of winning to enter the display contest — and win they did, taking third place in the competition.

Woody Patrick, a Department of the Army intern in the EO Office SMDC/ARSTRAT, and Sgt. Andre N. Powell, a



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Erika White

Woody Patrick and Sgt. Andre N. Powell show off their award-winning display celebrating the 79th birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The military community of Redstone Arsenal, Ala., conducted a contest for essays and static displays about King. Powell and Patrick took third place for the display entries. They hope to enter next year and plan to take first place.

noncommissioned officer working in the SMDC/ARSTRAT headquarters office, created an award winning display in recognition of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday. They took third place on Jan. 22.

Powell is into photography, he said. He likes it so much he’s enrolled online in the Masters of Fine Arts School at the Academy of Art in San Francisco.

“When I heard about the

contest, I thought I could do something I like [graphic art] and help out the command at the same time,” Powell said.

One of his graphics in the display was a collage of 25 photos he found online. He said he arranged them until he felt it was “right” and then he created a border for the collage.

Patrick retired from the U.S. Air Force in 2002 where he had spent half of his career as an

EOA. He said he drew upon his 10 years of EOA experience as he used data gathered from SMDC/ARSTRAT Equal Employment Opportunity historical files and made templates for his portion of the display. “I enjoyed the teamwork and dedication among the EEO and EOA staff accomplishing this mission,” he wrote in an e-mail. “Our plan is to take first place next year!”

Safety “Guard”

By Sharon L. Hartman, SMDC/
ARSTRAT Public Affairs Office

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Safety is a subject taken very seriously in the Army. Its importance is stressed repeatedly through constant safety training. Active Duty Soldiers hear about safety day in and day out, but what about the National Guard? What about these Citizen Soldiers that only wear green one weekend a month? Safety is just as important for them, and the 117th Colorado Army National

Guard Space Support Battalion is doing their part to keep safety on the forefront.

“We created a Battalion Safety Council which was a way to get information from Department of the Army safety down to the unit level,” according to 1st Lt. Angela Monday, former safety officer for the battalion.

“It’s a conglomeration of company level representatives. We have a safety officer and NCO in each company,” added Monday.

“They get together on the battalion level and ensure that we are on the same page as far as putting out safety information. We make sure that especially if we are going to do a battalion training,

See “Guard” on page 6



Photo courtesy CET

Sgt. Geoffrey Eggleston, with the 117th Colorado Army National Guard Space Support Battalion raises the Colorado flag during his deployment with the Commercial Exploitation Team.

The Command Corner



Lt. Gen. Kevin T. Campbell
Commanding General



CSM Ralph C. Borja
Command Sergeant Major

Last month, we commemorated the 50th anniversary of the launch of the first U.S. satellite into orbit, Explorer 1. That launch ushered in an era of discovery and awe for our nation. That awe was magnified a thousand-fold when America put astronauts into space the following decade. We were privileged last month to meet one of the original Mercury astronauts, retired Navy Cmdr. Scott Carpenter. Growing up in the 60's, his was a household name along with the rest of America's first astronauts.

Yet, the other day I heard about a conversation that probably takes place at many kitchen tables around the country. The discussion centered on why the nation spends money to go into space, moreover, why does the Army have an interest in space? The concern was that there might be other challenges on Earth and within our nation that could take priority. Undoubtedly, it is a very difficult task to determine the nation's fiscal priorities when there are scarce resources, especially during an era of persistent conflict. However, space is more than just a topic for sci-fi buffs. Space is a vital part of our daily lives and is vital in keeping our warfighters alive. So, why is space important to America's Army?

Today, more than 250,000 Soldiers are deployed around the world with 140,000 Soldiers supporting Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. They are one of the main reasons that the Army is in space. Their vigilance and courage against a persistent enemy threat drives us to find better ways to communicate, better ways to navigate, better ways to forecast the weather and better ways to find the enemy.

It's time to bust the low-tech myth about the Army. Space-based assets provide answers to Soldiers' most urgent questions of: where am I, where are my buddies, and where is the enemy? The Army leverages space-based capabilities in communications, positioning, environmental monitoring (space and terrestrial weather), targeting, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance, theater missile warning, and Blue Force situational awareness.

To provide these capabilities to warfighters, SMDC/ARSTRAT has as one of its two core competencies – space (missile defense is our other core competency, we will discuss that next month). SMDC/ARSTRAT has space Soldiers organized under the 1st Space Brigade at Colorado Springs who provide space-based capabilities to the combatant commanders. The space operations Soldiers deploy worldwide to deliver space capabilities, services, and expertise in support of ground forces. These are warfighters supporting warfighters!

Now, consider some of the simple applications that space brings into our daily lives. Images of sporting events beamed instantly around the world would no longer occur. Listening to satellite radio stations while driving to work would be a thing of the past. Getting an accurate weather forecast would be untenable without space-based assets. And, if you got lost and tried to rely on your vehicle's GPS navigational unit you would, again, be out of luck.

Again, consider some of those same daily applications except under extreme combat conditions. Our warfighters would face far deadlier consequences. Convoys would need to rely on outdated maps to navigate in the middle of the desert and ships would once again rely on less than optimal systems to find their position in the middle of the ocean or under the seas. Targeting long-range weapon systems without GPS would not be as accurate.

All of us, military or civilian, entered the Army with a set of personal values developed during our childhood and cultivated through years of personal experience. When we took our oath to serve this great nation as members of the United States Army, we also agreed to live and act by a new set of values – Army Values. Army Values are the principles, standards, and qualities considered essential for successful Army leaders. They provide the solid foundation that is so critical to helping Soldiers and Army civilians make the right decision in any situation.

Army Values are the moral glue that firmly binds each of us into a group of professionals dedicated to the service of the United States and the Army that protects her. Army Values apply to everyone, in every situation, anywhere in the Army. The trust Soldiers and civilians have for each other and the trust of the American people have for the members of the Army, depends upon how well we embody Army Values.

The Army recognizes seven values that must be embraced and nurtured within all Army members. It is not coincidence that when reading the first letters of the Army Values in sequence they form the acronym "**LDRSHIP**":

- Loyalty
- Duty
- Respect
- Selfless Service
- Honor
- Integrity
- Personal Courage

During this and upcoming issues of *The Eagle*, I will be using my column to discuss Army Values and to re-emphasize their importance to Army civilians, Soldiers, and Families. This month, I'll be focusing upon the Army Value loyalty. Army Field Manual 6-22 further defines loyalty:

LOYALTY - Bear True Faith and Allegiance to the U.S. Constitution, the Army, Your Unit, and Other Soldiers

Upon entering the Army, as Soldiers or government civilians, we all swore a sacred oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States. We are all expected to bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution, and to defend it against all

See **Values** on page 3

All things considered, when you review the alternatives of not having space-based assets for our warfighters, I believe there is no option but to maintain an Army presence in space. Our continued access to space will help ensure that America's Army remains the world's most dominant land force.

SECURE THE HIGH GROUND!

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What We Think

The Eagle asks:

What do you believe has been the most important contribution to society from African Americans?



Staff Sgt. Andre Scott
Human Resource Sergeant
49th Missile Defense Battalion
100th Missile Defense Brigade (GMD)
Alaska

The social and economic stimulus brought on by Black entrepreneurship that adds profit to the economy of their city, state, and nation as well as the social pride felt by ownership and prosperity of its citizens.



Stacey C. Taylor
Congressional Liaison Specialist
Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

I think it is difficult to highlight just one important contribution as there have been so many throughout our country's history; however, I do think that the drive and determination to modify the status quo has proven to every U.S. citizen that continuous change is necessary.



Astrid C. Lahiere
Contract Specialist
Contracting and Acquisition Management Office (CAMO)
Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

My first thoughts on this question bring to my mind some of those who have set the pace and given outstanding examples to follow. George Washington Carver was a botanist and chemist who discovered and developed so many uses for the peanut. Booker T. Washington was a reformer, educator, author and lecturer. The Tuskegee Airmen served this country in time of war for the good of all Americans.



Patricia James
Purchasing Agent
Contracting and Acquisition Management Office (CAMO)
Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

Most importantly African Americans have demonstrated to the rest of the country a dignity, a will to succeed against overwhelming odds, and a desire to be treated as equals. It could be argued that over the last 200 years I feel that African Americans have represented the American dream as well if not better than any other cultural or ethnic group in this country.



Barbara Griffith
General Engineer
Business and Matrix Management Directorate of The Technical Interoperability and Matrix Center
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African Americans helped to clear the path to equal rights for woman. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 originally prohibited discrimination based on color, race, religion or national origin. An amendment was added before it was enacted which also prohibited discrimination based on sex. The first African American male Supreme Court Justice was confirmed in 1967. The first woman Supreme Court Justice was not confirmed until 1980. In 1970, all women hired by TVA - including women with engineering degrees were required to take a typing test. This was not so for any man hired at TVA. I believe women were helped to find their voice for equal treatment under the law because of the perseverance of African Americans.



Kurt M. Woods
General Engineer
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The greatest contribution has been the demonstration that we are all Americans. Despite adversity, maltreatment, and attempts by some to divide us as a people, African-Americans have sacrificed and persevered to help make this country great. Despite injustice in the past, this country has made remarkably peaceful progress, and that progress has been made possible by men and women who demanded that they be treated as Americans. What could be more American than the heroism of the Tuskegee Airmen? What could be more American than to judge others "... by the content of their character?"

Values

continued from page 2

enemies. We are, in effect, swearing our loyalty to the concept of freedom spelled out within our Constitution, and to our fellow Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, and Airmen who have been entrusted with protecting these freedoms for all Americans. As a group, we are all loyal to the concept of a free America and to the men and women who keep her free.

When discussing loyalty as an Army Value, it is crucial to dispel the notion of a dedicated military professional who gives unthinking consent to all orders

issued, whose very honor is a function of unquestioning obedience. This blind obedience or "loyalty" is in no way associated with the core value of loyalty embraced by the Army. As loyal Soldiers, Army civilians, or Family members we must strive to do what's morally right and just. We must remember that we've given our loyalty to principles far greater than an individual or unit.

Bearing true faith and allegiance requires us to refuse illegal or unlawful orders. Loyalty means reporting those who demean our proud history through acts of prejudice, negligence, abuse, or plain

stupidity. Loyalty means not going along with the crowd or doing what's popular. Being loyal to the guiding principles of this great country is not always easy, but it is one of our most necessary values.

Loyalty is a powerful thing. It inspires us to overcome great obstacles and allows us to endure great hardships in the name of that which we are loyal to. As leaders we must remember that we have no prerogative to loyalty. It is hard earned, inspired by honesty and integrity, and is given in trust.

SECURE THE HIGH GROUND!

Safety

ALCOHOL

The facts involving alcohol

Alcohol affects your brain. Drinking alcohol leads to a loss of coordination, poor judgment, slowed reflexes, distorted vision, memory lapses, and even blackouts.

Alcohol affects your body. Alcohol can damage every organ in your body. It is absorbed directly into your bloodstream and can increase your risk for a variety of life-threatening diseases, including cancer.

Alcohol affects your self-control. Alcohol depresses your central nervous system, lowers your inhibitions, and impairs your judgment. Drinking can lead to risky behaviors, including having unprotected sex. This may expose you to HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases or cause unwanted pregnancy.

Alcohol can kill you. Drinking large amounts of alcohol can lead to coma or even death. Also, in 2004, 36 percent of traffic deaths of 16- to 20-year-olds were alcohol-related. That equates to the deaths of 2,115 people in this age group alone.

Alcohol can hurt you—even if you're not the one drinking. If you're around people who are drinking, you have an increased risk of being seriously injured, involved in car crashes, or affected by violence. At the very least, you may have to deal with people who are sick, out of control, or unable to take care of themselves.

Before you risk it

Know the law. It is illegal to buy or possess alcohol if you are under 21.

Get the facts. One drink can make you fail a breath test. In some states, people under the age of 21 who are found to have any amount of alcohol in their systems can lose their driver's license, be subject to a heavy fine, or have their car permanently taken away.

Stay informed. All drinking is harmful and can lead to lifelong impairments in brain function, particularly as it relates to memory, motor skills, and coordination.

Know the risks. Mixing alcohol with medications or illicit drugs is extremely dangerous and can lead to accidental death. For example, alcohol-medication interactions may be a factor in at least 25 percent of emergency room admissions.

Keep your edge. Alcohol can make you gain weight and give you bad breath. Servicemembers have weight limits to be met and maintained, don't let alcohol be your downfall for getting "flagged."

Know the signs

How can you tell if a friend has a drinking problem? Sometimes it's tough to tell. But there are signs you can look for. If your friend has one or more of the following warning signs, he or she may have a problem with alcohol:

- Problems remembering things they recently said or did
- Getting drunk on a regular basis
- Lying about how much alcohol he or she is using
- Believing that alcohol is necessary to have fun
- Having frequent hangovers
- Feeling run-down, depressed, or even suicidal
- Having "blackouts"—forgetting what he or she did while drinking
- Having problems at school or getting in trouble with the law

What can you do to help someone who has a drinking problem? **Be a real friend.** Inform your Command before it's too late, you might save a life. Stay close and encourage your friend to stop or seek professional help.

HUNTING SAFETY

It's still hunting season, here are a few tips

Treat all guns as loaded and ready to fire, and never rely on your gun's safety as a substitute for proper handling. Never cross a fence, climb a tree or jump into a ditch with a loaded gun. Never load or carry a loaded gun until you are ready to use it. Make sure guns are unloaded before transporting them.

Wear hunter orange so you can be seen. A blaze orange hat and at least 400 square inches of hunter orange above the waistline should be worn at all times during deer season.

Ensure guns and ammunition are stored separately in a locked cabinet.

Understand the range of your gun, and never shoot unless absolutely sure of your target and what is beyond it.

Tell someone where you're going and when you plan to return so someone will know where to look for you in the event you become lost or injured.

Be sure to dress accordingly for the weather, and carry a compass, maps, flashlight, and matches. Also be sure to carry a first aid kit.

Never consume alcoholic beverages while hunting.

Ensure your gun barrel and action are clear of obstructions such as laser bore sights and cleaning rods, and only carry ammunition specifically intended for the gun in use.

Tree stand safety

Before use, inspect your stand, checking for loose or rotten boards, loose nuts and bolts, and frayed ropes or cords.

Wear a safety belt to prevent falls, and don't leave much slack in the belt. With only one to two feet of slack, you'll only fall one or two feet.

Always use a cord or rope to raise and lower all equipment from the stand, keeping your hands free for climbing. Never hoist a loaded gun.

Before using manufactured stands, always read the instructions and warnings, and be sure you know how to properly set up the stand before using it. Select a mature tree with no rot on which to secure your stand.

Exit your tree stand in the event of bad weather. High winds can make your stand unstable, and rain, snow or sleet can cause you to slip. Don't fall asleep. This is a common cause of accidents. If you get drowsy, leave the stand and walk around to wake yourself up.

Remember, the higher you install your stand, the further you can fall to the ground, and the greater the risk for a serious injury.

TRAVEL

How to Travel Ergonomically

So, you have a fancy alternative computer keyboard. You have made your office environment more comfortable by

purchasing ergonomically correct office furniture and you take frequent rest breaks, yet there is something you probably have not considered: Once you head out the door, everything changes.

Traveling can be an ergonomic disaster, but there are ways you can minimize the stress on your body. The idea is to rearrange things, take some ergonomic solutions with you, and remember that you have control over your environment. Here are some tips that will look after your back and overall health:

Before the flight

Prepare for your flight. Up your water, avoid alcoholic beverages for at least 24 hours before departure and aim for a good night's sleep.

Pick the right luggage. Even if you always check your luggage, choose luggage of a size and shape that you can actually lift without someone's help.

Make sure all hand and shoulder straps are sturdy and will actually support the weight you're likely to carry. Look for well-padded and adjustable straps, and try them in various positions to be sure they're comfortable for you.

Plan your packing. Do not pack unnecessary items, which can weigh your luggage down.

During the flight

Use the pillows. Use the pillow to support your head and neck. Position them at your lower back and on your shoulder. If pillows are scarce, use a rolled up airline blanket usually found in the overhead bins.

Don't nap unsupported. Try not to sleep on the plane without supporting your neck and shoulders. A U-shaped inflatable pillow works best, and can be found at most airport gift shops.

Loosen your shoelaces. This sounds crazy, but it really works. Wear shoes you can slip off easily during flight or loosen your shoelaces after take-off. Your feet will thank you when you arrive at your destination.

Leave yourself legroom. Keep adequate space under the seat in front of you for your feet. Keep your feet in front of you at all times, and don't cross your legs. If you have a small carry-on bag, place it in the center with your feet to either side. If you have a larger carry-on, place it in the overhead bin above your seat.

Get up and walk around. Try to secure an aisle seat. There is nothing that says you can't go to the restroom once an hour.

Simply getting up and moving around will help reduce the pressure on your legs and spine.

Stay away from alcohol during the flight.

Drink water rather than alcohol, coffee, or tea. Flying dehydrates the body because of the very low humidity levels in the pressurized cabin. Alcohol, tea, and coffee are diuretics that also encourage dehydration.

Don't use your laptop. Try to plan your time so you catch up on reading instead of using your laptop during travel. Dinner tray height and the lack of adequate seating space are not conducive to proper body mechanics when typing on a laptop computer.

When You Arrive

Use the skycaps. Treat yourself after a long and tiring flight, let them carry your luggage.

Tools identify Soldiers' high-risk behavior

U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center

FORT RUCKER, Ala.— Army officials recently released two innovative tools designed to determine a Soldier's accident potential.

The Accident Risk Assessment for Individuals allows Soldiers to determine their level of risk, while the Leader's Accident Risk Assessment of Subordinates allows supervisors to assess their subordinates' level of risk. The tools promote interaction between Soldiers and their first-line leaders, the most effective risk assessment and risk mitigation tool our Army employs.

"As leaders, identifying and knowing those Soldiers who are high risk is essential in preventing accidents," said Sgt.

Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston. "Disciplined leaders engaged at all echelons immediately promote a safer operational environment." Based on extensive research, the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center reports that human error is the largest single component of Army ground, aviation and off-duty accidents, accounting for 80 percent of mishaps. The majority of findings in accidents investigated and reviewed by the USACRC include indiscipline, complacency, overconfidence and lack of training. "We know, through all the accident data processed by the USACRC, that the engagement of leaders provides a direct, positive impact in the reduction of accidents caused by human error," said Brig.

Gen. Bill Forrester, director of Army safety and commanding general of the USACRC. "Our goal is to use these assessment tools to raise awareness within our formations of who is our next accident victim." The Accident Risk Assessment for Individuals is a self-awareness tool for use by every Soldier at every level within the Army. Upon completion of the assessment, safety officials are confident that Soldiers gain an enhanced comprehension of factors responsible for accidents. "This tool will give Soldiers better awareness of previously identified high-risk events, empower them to assess their own activities and offer suggestions to adjust their actions to decrease the potential for disaster identified by the assessment," said

Forrester. "As always, the chain of command remains integral in the process and can mentor Soldiers with more difficult factors."

Using the Leader's Accident Risk Assessment of Subordinates, leaders have the knowledge to assess the risk level of their Soldiers, said Preston.

"First-line leaders know of the day-to-day events and stressors that affect the way their Soldiers perform," Preston added. "The Leader's Accident Risk Assessment of Subordinates serves as a catalyst for honest, frank discussion with individuals whom you have identified at risk for an accident."

Visit the USACRC Web site at crc.army.mil to download and learn more about the assessments.

Driving in the rain, risky behavior maims, kills

Driving in rain can be dangerous. The most important thing for drivers to remember is to SLOW DOWN! In rainy conditions pedestrians, livestock, and wildlife are extremely hard to spot and even harder to avoid. It takes longer to stop or adjust speed in wet weather.

The following are tips for safe driving in the rain.

- Before it starts to rain, replace old or brittle wiper blades.
- Stay toward the middle lanes—water tends to pool in outside lanes.
- Maintain proper following distance (3 second rule). This needs to be increased in wet weather.
- Drive in the tracks of a vehicle ahead of you.
- Don't follow large trucks or busses too closely, because the spray created by their large tires can reduce vision.
- Be more alert watching for brake lights in front of you.
- Avoid using your brakes; if possible, take your foot off the accelerator to slow down.
- Turn your headlights on in a light rain and in gloomy, foggy, or overcast conditions to help you see the road and help other drivers see you.
- Avoid off-road driving; it's hard to judge the actual depth of puddles and standing water

where you can easily become stuck.

- Never drive beyond the limits of visibility. The glare of oncoming lights, amplified by the rain on the windshield, can cause temporary loss of visibility while substantially increasing driver fatigue.
- Never drive through moving water if you can't see the ground through it; your vehicle could be swept off the road.
- Avoid driving through deep water, because it can cause serious damage to a modern vehicle's electrical system.
- If possible, stay off the road during heavy thunderstorms. Large flashes of lightning can temporarily blind and disorient drivers, and the accompanying high winds and heavy rain can create deadly driving conditions.
- When you need to stop or slow, do not brake hard or lock the wheels and risk a skid. Maintain mild pressure on the brake pedal.
- Watch the contours not only of the road, but also the fences, trees, hedges, and buildings at the side of the road ahead. If they appear to be unnaturally low, slow down at once, because the road is probably flooded.
- Watch out for places where floodwater collects, particularly low-lying roads adjacent to streams, and dips

under rail or highway bridges.

Hydroplaning

Hydroplaning happens when the water in front of the tires builds up faster than the vehicle's weight can push water out of the way. The water pressure causes the vehicle to rise up and slide in a thin layer of water between the tires and the road. At this point, the vehicle can be completely out of contact with the road, and in danger of skidding or drifting out of the lane.

If you find yourself hydroplaning or skidding:

- Do not brake or turn suddenly;
- Ease your foot off the gas until the vehicle slows and you can feel traction on the road again;
- Turn your steering wheel in the direction of the skid. As you recover control, gently straighten the wheels; and
- If you need to brake, do it gently with light pumping action. If your vehicle has anti-lock brakes, then brake normally because the vehicle's computer will mimic a pumping action.

There are three main factors that contribute to hydroplaning:

- Vehicle speed. As speed increases, wet traction is considerably

reduced. Since hydroplaning can result in a complete loss of traction and vehicle control, you should always reduce speed when driving in wet weather.

- Tire tread depth. Maintaining adequate treading on tires and replacing them when necessary can help prevent hydroplaning. Tire experts can measure tread depth with a specially designed tread depth gauge and recommend checking tire treads depth every 2-3 months.
- Water depth. The deeper the water, the sooner you will lose traction, although even thin water layers can cause a loss of traction, including at low speeds.

Check your brakes

If you successfully pass through a deep-water hazard, test your brakes. They may be saturated, and only

driving very slowly and braking lightly at the same time will generate enough heat to dry them out. Be sure they are pulling evenly on all wheels before building up speed again. Remember to practice safety. Don't learn it by accident.

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This Take 5 safety publication was published with information from the Houston Texas Parks & Recreation Department and the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI), Division of Workers' Compensation.



Courtesy Photo

Son of slaves earns Harvard Ph.D, writes black Americans into history

By SMDC/ARSTRAT Equal Employment Opportunity Office

"If a race has no history, if it has no worthwhile tradition, it becomes a negligible factor in the thought of the world, and it stands in danger of being exterminated."

Carter G. Woodson

Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as "Negro History Week" and later as "Black History Month."

What you might not know is that black history had barely begun to be studied-or even documented-when the tradition originated. Not until the 20th century did they gain a respectable presence in the history books.

We owe the celebration of Black History Month, and more importantly, the study of black history, to Dr. Carter G. Woodson.

Born to parents who were former slaves, he spent his

childhood working in the Kentucky coal mines and enrolled in high school at age twenty. He graduated within two years and later went on to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard. The scholar was disturbed to find in his studies that history books largely ignored the black American population - and when blacks did figure into the picture, it was generally in ways that reflected the inferior social position they were assigned at the time.

"When you control a man's thinking you do not have to worry about his actions," Woodson said. "You do not have to tell him not to stand here or go yonder. He will find his 'proper place' and will stay in it. You do not need to send him to the back door. He will go without being told. In fact, if there is no back door, he will cut one for his special benefit. His education makes it necessary."

Woodson, always one to act on his ambitions, decided to take on the challenge of writing black Americans into the nation's history. He established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (now called the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History) in 1915, and a year later founded the widely respected Journal of Negro



Courtesy Photo

Dr. Carter G. Woodson

History. In 1926, he launched Negro History Week as an initiative to bring national attention to the contributions of black people throughout American history.

Woodson chose the second week of February for Negro History Week because it marks the birthdays of two men who greatly influenced the black American population, Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

This year's theme, "Carter G. Woodson and the Origins of Multiculturalism" is devoted to honor Woodson for his dedication to herald the contributions of African Americans and the black tradition.

Woodson as well as other leading African Americans of the twentieth century believed that the nation's self-image had not always recognized its multicultural history, although America has always been racially and ethnically diverse. He laid the foundation for a rethinking of American identity, embracing the belief that cultural differences brought by immigrants coming to America required tolerance of all racial groups.

Today, we see America as an ideal of democracy, comprised of multicultural groups from people of all races and ethnic origins who live and work in harmony, valuing their differences.

"When you control a man's thinking you do not have to worry about his actions. You do not have to tell him not to stand here or go yonder. He will find his 'proper place' and will stay in it."

Carter G. Woodson

"Guard"

continued from page 1

that we are all on the same page for timing and making sure that we are maintaining safety training throughout the quarter that's required."

Monday acknowledged that it's not easy implementing a safety program for a Guard unit.

"It's more of a challenge because we don't have access to our Soldiers every day.

"One of the things that the executive officer was trying to enforce was that the Soldiers within each unit report any Family issues or safety issues up the chain of command to their safety officer or NCO.

"For example if someone's Family member goes to the hospital because of a car accident or has a serious injury or death in the family, to report it through the National Guard chain so that we can help on an FRG [Family Readiness Group] level and a command level."

Trying to enforce that can be difficult though. When they're not on drill time, reporting these types of incidents to the Guard is not the first thing on their minds.

They have their regular jobs and bosses to deal with, so it's a bit of a challenge for their Guard unit that only has them one weekend a month.

For recent safety training, the battalion chose to make things easier and did all their safety training in one fell swoop.

"We knocked out all of our training at December drill right before our holiday party," said Monday. "We sat everyone in the battalion down in one conference room and knocked out briefing after briefing after briefing."

"Every quarter our calendar is booked through the year ... We do our yearly training calendar a year out so with certifications for ARSS (Army Space Support) teams there's not a whole lot of time to sit people down and do safety training."

Some of the training covered at the December event was motorcycle safety, recognizing symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Suicide Prevention to name a few.

"I had a personal friend who is a motorcycle safety foundation instructor come in and give the brief. A lot of motorcycle riders found it was very helpful because there are a lot of young riders in the area but Colorado Springs is not motorcycle friendly.

"He put things out in a very blunt format, so people would get the point. He had graphic pictures and 'that smear along the road could be you' kind of stuff, so that was really good training especially



Courtesy photo

for young riders who go out and get 'crotch rockets' [racing motorcycles] and just want to speed around town."

The PTSD training was beneficial as well because the unit has Soldiers that go in an out of deployments. It's important to be able to recognize the symptoms and characteristics of PTSD or traumatic brain injuries.

The Battalion Safety Council meets once a quarter and its purpose is to make sure there is constant communication.

"It's kind of a dissemination both ways, what's coming from headquarters for safety information, what kind of training needs to take place, whether the units want to do it as a battalion or they want to do it on a company level, and then any issues that are from the company going up the chain to the command," added Monday.

Championship racing in Deutschland

By Spc. Corey Tuttle,
C Co., Unit Reporter

TRIER, Germany — Is the roar of a finely tuned 300-horsepower engine screaming by at breakneck speeds your thing? How about trying out the wines of the Mosel region or visiting one of the oldest cities in Europe? If you've said yes to both of these, then WRC (World Rally Championship) Deutschland is the place to be every August. Based in the German city of Trier, the rally stages stretch from the tank trails of Baumholder Army Base all the way to the city streets of Trier itself.

What is rally racing? Rallying is a form of auto competition that takes place on public or private roads with modified production or specially built road-legal cars.

This motor sport is distinguished by running not on a circuit or pre-built track, but instead in a point-to-point format in which participants and their co-drivers drive between set control points



Photos by Spc. Corey Tuttle

(stages), leaving at regular intervals from one or more start points, and driving in a time trial format rather than the head-to-head racing of NASCAR or Indy.

As the stages go by, each one can present its own problems and challenges. The first day's stages roll through some of the many vineyard roads which are often on steep valley walls. One mistake can send you 20 feet

downhill and force retirement for the remainder of the rally.

Lining the tank trails of the Panzerplatte and Erzweiler stages on day two are 2,000-pound hinkelsteins, or tank stones. They were originally intended to keep a tank from going off course, but a car hitting one of these can go flying end over end.

And then, of course, there's the Circus Maximus stage in Trier

on day three. Curbs, building walls and concrete barricades can all combine to end the day for an unwary driver.

The hometown hero is French driver Sebastian Loeb and his navigator Daniel Elena. Loeb has taken top honors at WRC Deutschland every year since 2002 which was coincidentally his first win in the WRC. With 36 event wins, he is one of the most successful drivers in the history of the WRC. The Loeb/Elena team has clinched the titles of FIA (Federation Internationale de l'Automobile) World Driver and Co-Driver Champions for the last four years running.

If making the trip to Germany puts too big of a hole in your pocket, there are always local

rally events in the United States.

The most famous is the Race to the Clouds, otherwise known as the Pikes Peak International Hill Climb.

Held every year since 1916, the race has traditionally taken place on the Fourth of July. The last two years have seen a break in that trend so a quick visit to the official Web site ppihc.com will explain dates, times and directions. This is a single stage event from the base of Pikes Peak all the way to the top and is run by all types of specialty cars hoping to break previous records.

To date the fastest run up the mountain has been 00:10:01.

Give rally a try. You just might enjoy it.



Two Delta Company Soldiers ride for charity

Delta Company 53rd Signal Battalion

CAMP ROBERTS, Calif. — On a beautiful California day, an estimated 3,000 motorcycle riders gathered outside the Powerhouse motorcycle shop in Paso Robles to support local charities, promote motorcycle safety, and go out for a cruise. The event would not be missed by two Soldiers from Delta Company 53rd Signal Battalion, Sgt. Justin Brock and 1st Lt. Clint Rutter.

The two were there to participate in the annual SLO (San Luis Obispo) County Cruise for Kids.

This annual charity fundraiser was organized in 2000 to raise money for charitable organizations in SLO County.

Since it's founding it has raised more than half a million dollars for several charities including SLO County Special Olympics, Make-A-Wish Foundation of the Tri-Counties, SLO County Victim Witness Program, Camp Hapitok - SLO, and Skills USA.

Many local and national companies sponsor the event every year, and the event would not have been complete without

a volunteer guest speaker from The Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF).

The day started out with a continental breakfast at Champions BBQ of Paso Robles right outside Powerhouse. There was live music as everyone showed up and registered for the ride.

Rutter and Brock did their pre-maintenance check on their motorcycles and left around 10 a.m. for Parkfield, Calif., with a group of other riders. The two were the easiest to spot out of the crowd because they were the only riders wearing military specification reflective vests.

After an hour or so of twists and turns down country roads going past local ranches, orchards and wineries, they arrived at the Parkfield Café.

At the café, the inside was dark and cool with a large assortment of branding irons hanging from the ceiling, more live music, vendors and a raffle.

The grand prize for the raffle was a customized 2005 Victory Kingpin motorcycle donated by Park Street Mini Storage. The bike was amazing and featured custom paint by Ed Whippie of Team



Photo by Joe Johnston

Riders participating in the San Luis Obispo Cruise for Kids cruise from Paso Robles to Parkfield to benefit local charities.

Custom Paint and included custom leather and a Stingray Saddle courtesy of The Leather Shop.

After a great tri-tip lunch, participants enjoyed the music and browsed at the vendors stands for deals. As the sun started to set everyone got on their bikes and headed home, vowing to come back next year.

Rutter and Brock both have completed the Motorcycle

Safety Foundation Course. With this experience under their belts they feel comfortable riding in groups large or small. Nearly 400,000 novice and experienced motorcyclists enrolled in Motorcycle Safety Foundation courses last year.

The foundation is a national, not-for-profit organization sponsored by the U.S. manufacturers and distributors of BMW, BRP, Ducati, Harley-Davidson, Honda, Kawasaki, KTM, Piaggio/Vespa, Suzuki, Triumph, Victory and Yamaha motorcycles.

The foundation coordinates with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, state governments, the military and other organizations to improve motorcyclist education, training and operator licensing.

To enhance the enjoyment of motorcycling, the Motorcycle Safety Foundation recommends that riders: get trained and licensed, wear protective gear, ride unimpaired, ride within your limits and be a lifelong learner.

Rutter and Brock took their Motorcycle Safety Foundation training seriously because they both understand the risks associated with riding a motorcycle.

Commemorating scientists' satellite success, retired Navy astronaut's, too

By Diane Schumacher, SMDC/
ARSTRAT Public Affairs Office

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala. — Jan. 31 was a rainy day here but the festivities for the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Army's successful launch of Explorer I were not dampened by the water one bit.

The morning ceremony began with a warm welcome by Master of Ceremonies, Ed Benefield, audiovisual production specialist, Public Affairs Office for Program Executive Office for Aviation and Missile Command. Next the national anthem was sung acappella by Gena Scofield, the nutritionist and assistant director of Child Development for the Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation here.

Scofield's solo wasn't an easy act to follow, but the video montage of local news anchors advertizing the Jan. 31 Davidson Center Grand Opening Evening Gala at the Space and Rocket Center further engulfed audience attention. A video of historic news reels about Sputniks I and II and America's turn to space exploration also captivated the audience. And then ... the news reel of 4-stage Jupiter-C satellite worked on by Dr. Werner von Braun and his crew and the successful launch on Jan. 31, 1958, seemed to be the icing of the cake, as the old saying goes. Following that, a thunderous roar of applause filled the Bob Jones Auditorium at the Sparkman Center.

Once the video was finished, Benefield went back on stage to introduce Maj. Gen. James Myles, commanding general, U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command. He then welcomed a myriad of VIPS which included Lt. Gen. and Mrs. Kevin T. Campbell, commanding general, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command; Michael C. Schexnayder, deputy to the commander for research, development and acquisition SMDC/ARSTRAT; Col. Douglas Wheelock, SMDC/ARSTRAT, Army astronaut; retired Navy Cmdr. Scott Carpenter and former Navy astronaut; and Huntsville Mayor Loretta Spencer amongst many others.



Explorer 1- America's first satellite

Photo courtesy of NASA

The satellite, Myles said, was an Army endeavor, not NASA's (National Aeronautical and Space Administration). This was important to note, he said. He asked former and current Army (military and civilian) workers to stand and be recognized by the audience for their work and dedication in satellite and missile defense; they did and the applause once again, was thunderous.

"Huntsville, the Tennessee Valley," said Myles, "was called upon in 1957 and '58 to respond to Sputnik, and America responded. They responded on Jan. 31, 1958, and they responded right.

"They didn't stop at 4:30 [p.m.]; they worked nine, 10, 11 hours to get the job done.

"This meeting is to remind you to be proud of what we did." He added that the employees should be proud of what they continue to do these days.

Myles moved on to introduce two astronauts in the audience, including the guest speaker.

"Scott Carpenter was back-up to John Glenn, and the second man to fly in space," said Myles as he introduced Carpenter to the audience. There was more thunderous applause. Carpenter was the second U.S. astronaut to fly a manned orbital flight aboard the one-man Mercury spacecraft.

Myles referred to Army astronaut Col. Douglas Wheelock in his introduction as standing "on the shoulders" of other astronauts as he walked in space.

Wheelock flew on the Discovery space shuttle Oct. 23 to Nov. 7 and performed three space walks.

Myles seemed to be comparing the growth America has made in space exploration, from being able to only orbit Earth as Carpenter did to walking in space as Wheelock has done.

"Where would you want to put someone to fight in space?" asked Myles.

"Probably in Huntsville. And that's where Lt. Gen. [Kevin] Campbell is, commander of SMDC[ARSTRAT]," Myles said as he introduced Campbell.

"What a wonderful set of patriots!" Campbell exclaimed to the audience, "So I want to say, GO PATRIOTS!" That set the audience into a roar of laughter and clapping as they presumed he referred to the upcoming championship football game.

"It's an honor to introduce Scott [Carpenter]," Campbell said. "He flew in May 1962. Where were you in '62?" he quipped. "I was in the sixth grade. His name was a household name, along with John Glenn and Buzz Aldrin."

Campbell gave a brief background on Carpenter, mentioning such facts as Carpenter being the first human ever to penetrate inner and outer space, thereby acquiring the dual title of astronaut-aquonaut; having orbited the earth and later spending 30 consecutive days living at 205 feet deep in the ocean in the Navy's SeaLab program in 1965.

Campbell said his message to the audience members was that they are "saving lives, they may not realize or envision they are doing so, but they are."

He went on to say, "We've got a long road ahead of us, so for those following us, like scientists, engineers and others, I hate to say it, but we expect more."

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Photo by Diane Schumacher

Huntsville Mayor Loretta Spencer and other VIPs attended the morning ceremony Jan. 31.



Photo by Diane Schumacher

Army astronaut Col. Douglas Wheelock meets retired astronaut and Navy Commander Scott Carpenter before the program begins.

Huntsville hosts nation's largest, most important celebration of the 50th anniversary of Explorer I

By Giselle Bodin, SMDC/
ARSTRAT Public Affairs
Office

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — Team Redstone, along with the U.S. Space and Rocket Center, the Chamber of Commerce of Huntsville/Madison County, the Huntsville/Madison County Convention & Visitors Bureau, and NASA hosted what they called one of the “nation’s largest and most important” celebrations of the 50th Anniversary of Explorer I.

A 10-day citywide celebration of the 50th Anniversary of America in Space began on Jan. 22 with activities such as educational sessions, newspaper special editions, museum exhibitions, receptions, and a planetarium show. The culmination of the weeklong celebration was the Grand Opening Gala for the Davidson Center for Space Exploration at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center on Jan. 31 at 7 p.m.

Retired Brig. Gen. Larry Capps, the chief executive officer of the U.S. Space and Rocket Center, was the evening’s emcee. Special guests included 14 former astronauts, including Buzz Aldrin, Jim Lovell, and Tom Stafford; author Homer Hickman; and Discovery Channel founder John Hendricks. The evening began with a four-video presentation during dinner covering the topics of Explorer I, Redstone Arsenal, various news reels and Saturn V quarterly reports.

Following the dinner, the Saturn V Executive Committee Chair William Gurley presented a “Salute to America’s Missiles and Space Pioneers,” including photographs and descriptions of the astronauts and other distinguished guests.

Although Alabama Gov. Bob Riley was unable to attend as scheduled, he did sign a proclamation celebrating the event, which was read by Capps. NASA Marshall Space Flight Center Director David King addressed the crowd early

in the evening, discussing how the belief that “great deeds are wrought at great risk” was a factor when sending people into space — and how that work was worth it as one of the greatest achievements and biggest accomplishments in U.S. history. He gave attendees a glimpse of the future and explained that the new NASA space policy is “clear, decisive and the best yet.” He reiterated how many leaders felt about the Davidson Center by conveying that the building was a “symbol of excellence and a future of promise where Huntsville can help to deliver on visions and build on example.”

Maj. Gen. James R. Myles, commanding general of the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command, presented an award to Dr. Konrad Danenburg honoring his efforts and that of his team in the contributions of space exploration and the launch of the Jupiter C Rocket with the Explorer I. Myles had the audience cheer “HOOAH” with him, explaining that its definition of “anything but no” was something exemplified by the tireless efforts of these early German scientists. Danenburg accepted the award, saying he watched the Davidson Center as it was built and was impressed with the results.

Next, Lt. Gen. Kevin T. Campbell, commanding general of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, presented a token of recognition to Dr. Julian Davidson for his role in the ballistic missile defense program and as a pioneer of technology in Huntsville.

The command presented Davidson a framed recognition three-star note surrounded by an SMDC/ARSTRAT coin and photographs of Davidson as a government employee and of projects he worked on during his time with SMDC/ARSTRAT’s predecessors. Davidson accepted the recognition with great appreciation, claiming that he



Photo by Dottie White

Lt. Gen. Kevin T. Campbell presents to Dr. Julian Davidson a unique SMDC/ARSTRAT award recognizing years of his dedicated service.

had a wonderful career and that the SMDC/ARSTRAT recognition was “an award that means a lot, perhaps more than any other.”

Following that presentation, Hendricks — a Huntsville native — spoke briefly and showed a trailer for a new Discovery Channel show coming out in June 2008 that will highlight space accomplishments. He also presented the Lifetime Achievement Award for Journalism to Walter Cronkite (in absentia). He recounted how Cronkite encouraged and inspired those involved with space exploration and brought some of those great moments to the world.

Retired Navy Cmdr. Jim Lovell, commander of Apollo 13, accepted the award on Cronkite’s behalf. Cronkite was scheduled to attend until he was instructed by his doctors not to fly due to his health. However, Cronkite left the message that he “would rather be no other place than Huntsville” that night and was present in spirit.

He provided Lovell a letter detailing his thoughts for the last 50 years in space, beginning with instructions for attendees to “close their eyes and listen, in order to remember.” He discussed how Huntsville was always on the forefront; mourned the loss of

the space pioneers not with us anymore; and claimed that the Davidson Center opening was an “exciting development and a worthy enhancement to Huntsville’s rich legacy” in space.

He said that in his role as a reporter, contributing to the space program was one of the greatest achievements of his career. In conclusion of his letter, Cronkite provided his very traditional ending, signing off as “... and that’s the way it is this January 31, 2008 ... this is Walter Cronkite. Goodnight.” With his words, the crowd was both proud and affected, tearing up like Cronkite himself did during the space landing years ago.

A video chronicling the events leading to the restoration and recapping construction of the Saturn V was next presented as the evening began to conclude. Following the video, the revealing of the Saturn V 500 D/F rocket ensued with much fanfare, including bursts of sound and indoor fireworks intending to simulate a rocket launch itself.

Overall, the event was amazing, recognizing two milestones in space history that should make any resident proud to be a part of Huntsville’s accomplishments and eager to be a part of its future and the future of space exploration.

Commemoration

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Alluding to former ABMA members in attendance, “your impact in life inspires us,” he said.

“Huntsville has been and still is the middle of the American miracle. Miracle might be a wrong description, but it is close,” said Campbell

in his closing remarks.

Carpenter was then introduced to a standing ovation and resounding applause from audience members.

“We couldn’t have gone to the moon without Pres. Kennedy’s interest and couldn’t have done it without the genius of Werner von Braun,” said Carpenter.

He continued on with one smart quip after

another, such as, “And we didn’t win the space race, but the Soviets lost it. Men and women living in suppression can’t equal accomplishments of those in a free society.” There was more rowdy applause for his words.

Audience silence (due to engrossed attention to Carpenter’s words) or laughter told of the telltale signs that

Carpenter had expressed well his feelings about his time and work efforts spent with talented scientists and astronauts.

Carpenter told a few humorous stories about von Braun that were definitely appreciated by the audience judging by the intensity of their ringing laughter.

“Thanks for the opportunity to relive

some cherished moments and keep up the good work you do,” he said. “Keep at it,” were Carpenter’s closing words.

The ceremony closed with the Army song being led by Myles and sung by the audience. Carpenter was also presented an award by Myles for his dedicated space work and exploration.

Civilian News

Enabling reduced sign-on for Common Access Card (CAC) users

OPM implemented reduced sign-on access to the Defense Civilian Personnel Data System on Feb. 6, 2008. This change affected each of the Army's 260,000+ appropriated fund, nonappropriated fund, and local national employees and their military supervisors. Now all employees must log into My Biz and My Workplace with a CAC. In addition, employees will be **UNABLE** to log into My Biz/My Workplace from home **UNLESS** they have government issued computer equipment and access to a military network.

Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance (FEGLI) and premium pay Benefits Administration Letter (BAL) 07-205

The BAL 07-205 provides information for ensuring that the appropriate pay amount is used when determining FEGLI coverage for employees who earn premium pay. In situations where the combination of salary and premium pay reaches the employee's annual salary cap, the amount of FEGLI coverage is based on the capped amount (i.e., the actual amount of earnings received by the employee). The calculation should be done on an annual basis rather than each pay period. For more detailed information about this BAL and how to calculate the pay, click on this link: opm.gov/retire/asd/pdf/2007/07-205.pdf or contact the Army Benefits Center-Civilian at (877) 276-9287 or abc.army.mil.

Department of the Army Natural Disasters Smartbook for civilian personnel

Finding time to review this 18-page online booklet will probably be a good thing to do. In it there is to be found a myriad of benefits and entitlements and "how things are done" for civilian federal employees when there are evacuations due to disasters. Per diem for employees and their dependents due to evacuation is covered; injury compensation, time and attendance/civilian pay Q's and A's; emergency disbursements; tax relief; special allowances; evacuation pay; TSP loans... just about anything one can think of is covered. This booklet can be found at cpol.army.mil, Employee Portal, Benefits (the green list), Emergency Guidance & Information (on the green list; there is no drop-down menu), look to the right on the screen at the listing for Natural Disasters Smartbook.

Army's "Stand-To!" online newsletter focuses on the Army [civilian] career intern/fellows program

What is it? The Army Career Intern/Fellows Program serves as the bench for the officer component of the civilian workforce. Like second lieutenants, Army's interns/fellows form an elite pool of trainees who represent the feeder group for future senior level professional, managerial, and executive civilian positions. These employees are provided progressive and sequential formal classroom and on-the-job developmental assignments that prepare them for placement in one or more of Army's 23 civilian professional programs. The end result of these highly structured programs are Army Civilian Corps members with the requisite skills, abilities and leadership competencies required to immediately fill critical voids in the Civilian Corps upon graduation. All interns/fellows sign a mobility agreement and their final placements are based on the priority needs of the Army. **What has the Army Done?** Army has extensively analyzed workforce trends resulting in clearly defined projections for future requirements. The Army adjusted the program to increase work year execution from 846 interns in FY03 to an average of 1,454 per year from FY04 through FY07. **What continued efforts does Army have for the future?** Forecasts have identified the need to replace approximately 3,500 skilled professional employees on an annual basis. The Intern/Fellows Program is by far the best vehicle the Army has for replacing these losses. **Why is this important to the Army?** The Army Civilian Corps is a critical part of the institution. Its members ensure that we have the best equipped, trained and ready warfighters in the world. Civilians are deploying alongside our warfighters in greater numbers every year and will continue to do so in the future. In addition to accompanying our warfighters to the field, Army Civilians support them and their families in all aspects of their life.

Military News

Understanding survivor benefits

Dealing with the death of a family member in the military is never easy, but surviving family members are entitled to certain benefits that can help ease financial difficulties. Looking into these benefits at the time a loved one dies can be difficult emotionally, but you should go through this process as soon as possible, otherwise you risk facing unexpected circumstances that may prevent you from receiving your benefits. When a servicemember dies, family members are offered several forms of compensation. These include Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, proceeds from SGLI, various basic benefits, and the Survivor Benefits Plan. Each military service branch has a Casualty Assistance branch that is dedicated to assisting you with your paperwork and applications for all of your benefits and compensation. To find extensive information, go to military.com, click on "benefits guide," look for "survivor benefits" on the right side of the screen and click on that.

Army PaYS Program

The Army's Partnership for Youth Success (PaYS) gives Soldiers from the Army and Army Reserve a leg up on civilian employment. Under the PaYS program, when a Soldier leaves their active-duty or Initial Entry Training (IET) for the Army Reserve, they will receive a guaranteed job interview with the civilian employer they chose as part of their enrollment in the program. Currently, there are 261 companies participating in the PaYS program. Any Soldier who think they may be a PaYS Soldier is encouraged to call the PaYS Help Desk at (502) 626-1222 to verify that they have enrolled in the program.

TRICARE now covers "Lap-Band" surgery

TRICARE beneficiaries whose weight poses a serious health risk now have a new surgical alternative available. For those who medically qualify, TRICARE now covers laparoscopic adjustable gastric banding, also commonly called Lap-Band surgery. Although the TRICARE policy change has only recently been made, coverage is retroactive to Feb. 1, 2007. Details of the coverage are available in the [TRICARE Policy Manual](#), which beneficiaries can view online. A search for "morbid obesity" goes directly to the correct section.

2008 "Sweethearts for Soldiers" calendar

In November a group of former NFL cheerleaders representing teams from across the country joined forces in Arizona to shoot the second annual "Sweethearts for Soldiers" calendar to support troops deployed overseas. Just in time for the New Year, the calendar was officially released through its Web site soldiersrus.org. Several NFL cheerleaders conceived the idea while conducting a United Services Organization (USO) tour in the Middle East. The models, (all former NFL cheerleaders) for this year's calendar all have a special reason for donating their time and efforts — they all have a personal connection to the military: with Family members in the Services, losing their lives during service or the models themselves once being in the Service. The funds for the 2008 calendar will go toward sending care packages and calendars overseas to raise the morale of the troops. The theme of the 2008 calendar, WWII pin-up girls, is a classic concept that expresses universal appreciation for the sacrifices of all deployed service members.

Get up to \$2,000 in education tax credits

There are two education tax credits available, the Hope Credit and the Lifetime Learning Credit. The credits are based on education expenses paid for you, your spouse, or your dependents. **Note:** During any particular year, you can claim only one of these credits for each student. The amount of the credit is determined by the amount you pay for "qualified tuition and related expenses" for each student and the amount of your modified adjusted gross income (MAGI). The Hope Credit is a tax credit of up to \$1,650 credit per eligible student. The Lifetime Learning Credit is worth up to \$2,000 credit per return. **Qualified Expenses.** Qualified expenses include tuition and fees required for enrollment or attendance at an accredited college, university, vocational school, or other postsecondary educational institution that is eligible to participate in a student aid program administered by the Department of Education. For more information go to the Web site: [military.com/education/timesaving-programs/get-up-to-\\$2000-in-education-tax-credits](http://military.com/education/timesaving-programs/get-up-to-$2000-in-education-tax-credits), then click the "enter" key, this will pull up the full article.

Army sets wear-out date for uniform items

By Michelle Tan, Army Times

Soldiers will no longer be allowed to wear the battle dress uniform, the desert battle dress uniform and eight other uniform items beginning April 30, the Army announced Jan. 8 in a worldwide message to all commands.

The April 30 wear-out date applies to soldiers in the active Army, Army National Guard and Army Reserve. The wear-out date for the Reserve Officers' Training Corps is April 2009.

This is the first time the Army has announced a wear-out date for the BDU and desert BDU, Army spokesman Dan Baggio said.

The BDU and desert BDU were replaced by the Army Combat Uniform in 2004, and virtually all soldiers now wear the ACU. The transition to the ACUs was not seamless, when soldiers complained almost immediately after the uniform's debut in combat that the

ACU wasn't sturdy enough for the harsh conditions on the battlefield.

The Army is now re-stitching 1 million pairs of ACU trousers in an attempt to fix the problem of crotch seams ripping open in theater. The work, which began in the spring, likely will cost \$3 million to \$5 million and take about 18 months to complete.

In addition to the BDU and desert BDU, these items also have an April 30 wear-out date:

- Brown T-shirt
- Black leather combat boots
- Woodland and desert camouflage pattern caps
- Olive drab green name tape and U.S. Army tape
- Subdued olive green shoulder sleeve insignia and subdued combat patches
- Black rigger belt
- Web belt with open-faced black buckle
- Green and black jungle boots

Beginning Sept. 30, 2009, active, Guard and Reserve soldiers also must stop wearing the black knit cap and black micro fleece knit cap. The woodland camouflage field jacket will have a wear-out date of Sept. 30, 2010.

The announcement was made in an All Army Activities message, which is issued periodically and between formal revisions of AR 670-1, "Wear and Appearance of Army Uniforms and Insignia."

The next formal revision of AR 670-1 isn't expected until after Army Chief of Staff Gen. George Casey announces his decisions on pending uniform issues such as how wartime service is displayed on the new Army Service Uniform.

The Army has announced the move to ditch the dress greens in favor of the dress blues, but the official change will not take place until Casey signs off on all the details.

Hometown news release – it's really for the Family

SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

Soldiers and federal civil servants are reminded of the availability of DD Form 2266 (Hometown News Release Information) to complete when they are promoted or receive recognition for length of service, awards or community recognition. This form is also available for those in-processing to U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command.

It's in the "Event" box on DD Form 2266 that service members and civilian employees

write what they want their hometown to know about. Visit or call your Public Affairs Office if assistance is needed.

After completing the form, turn it in to the PAO, which then forwards it to the appropriate agency, which in turn forwards to the appropriate hometown newspaper.

The great thing about a hometown news release is it lets Family members in the hometown keep neighbors and friends up to date on your whereabouts and what's happening in your life. Family members and friends are proud of those who serve this nation

and one of the best ways to help share in their good news/your good news is through the use of the Hometown News Release. Yes, your good news is their good news!

DD Form 2266 can be obtained by visiting PAO or can be found online at usapa.army.mil. Going online is easiest; that will put you on the Army Publications Welcome page; scroll down to the Eforms section, click on DD Forms, scroll down to forms 2000-2499 and click on that, then scroll down to 2266, click on it, scroll to PDF, click on it and print. Fill out the form and submit to PAO.

Military mail allows for e-mail inquiry on lost parcels

U.S. Army Human Resources Command, Public Affairs Office

Are you a military member who has deployed or redeployed overseas, and are still waiting on your footlocker, duffle bag, or parcel to arrive? There is now an e-mail address to inquire or claim mail that has yet to arrive and was sent more than 60 days from the date of mailing. Military members and their Families can now contact the Military Postal Service Agency (MPSA) at the following e-mail address: MPSA-MRC@conus.army.mil.

There is also a link on the MPSA Web site (<http://hqdainet.army.mil/mpsa/index.htm>) that automatically brings up this e-mail address.

Go under "MPSA Took Kit" and click on "Lost Military Parcel Procedures."

Please include the following details in your e-mail to MPSA: contact phone number, e-mail address, rank, first and last name, mailing address, return address, any insured, certified, registered or confirmation number (if applicable), date of mailing, type of container used for mailing, a detailed description of the container contents, and any additional information that could be used to help identify your item such as distinctive marking. Once the information is received, MPSA will contact the service member to positively identify the owner and ship the item to the recipient should it be found.

Travel charge card contract changed, awarded to CITIBANK

SMDC/ARSTRAT G-8 Accounting Division

Starting Nov. 29, Bank of America will no longer be the contractor for the Department of Defense Government Travel Charge Card. The following procedures will be implemented for a

smooth transition to the new contractor – Citibank.

On Jan. 28, Bank of America deactivated accounts with no activity for the last 12-24 months. If your account was deactivated, and you need to travel, please

contact Katrina Hale, (256) 955-3192; Yvonne Dublin, (256) 955-5076; or Tyrus Edwards, (256) 955-5929 to re-activate your account.

Cardholders must verify their personal information is up-to-date. Personal information consists of

phone numbers, e-mail address, mailing address and name. If your personal information has changed, you may contact one of the individuals above. Bank of America must be contacted directly for all name changes. The customer service

number is on the back of the credit card, (800) 472-1424.

Cardholders with a credit balance on their account must also contact Bank of America to request a refund.

Any other questions may be directed to those listed in this notice.

Bravo Company uses DIMS to perform DSCS trend analysis

By Sgt. Matthew Davidson
Bravo Company, 53rd Signal
Battalion

FORT MEADE, Md. — In the ever-changing world of high-tech communications, technological prowess can be a perishable skill. In no area of expertise is this truer than in the field of military satellite communications, where technology is continuously evolving. To maintain existing skills and hone new ones, a fortunate group of satellite

network controllers from Bravo Company, 53rd Signal Battalion, spent the week of Jan. 7-11 receiving in-depth, firsthand training on the Defense Satellite Communications System (DSCS) Integrated Management System (DIMS) from Ken Gillus of ITT Corporation.

The function of DIMS is to simplify network management tasks, manage database distribution and collect data from all subsystems for analysis. The software interface allows users to filter

data according to specified criteria and even create detailed charts for visual troubleshooting assistance and trend analysis. Collecting data enables controllers to troubleshoot anomalies and analyze data trends for previously unnoticed anomalies to ultimately ensure that military communications customers get the best quality signal possible.

Furthermore, all satellite network controllers have an additional responsibility of paramount importance:

safeguarding the communications capabilities of all DSCS III satellites they control. The DIMS allows Bravo Company Soldiers to determine activity detrimental to a satellite, such as a specific terminal transmitting too much signal strength to a satellite transponder.

The course curriculum even included a "field trip" of sorts to the Fort Meade Wideband Satellite Operations Center's adjacent earth terminal to get a closer view of how fixed satellite communications facilities operate. The controllers saw communication equipment they had only managed remotely.

"Instead of just having someone read off PowerPoint slides verbatim, Mr. Gillus gave us practical experience using DIMS to analyze and troubleshoot real world military satellite problems. I got a lot out of this course," said Spc. Leon Kennedy.

From Navy ships in the Atlantic Ocean to tactical operators in the thick of Operation Iraqi Freedom, quality communications are imperative to operational success for the entire Department of Defense.

The DIMS is one of many useful analytical tools satellite network controllers have at their disposal. These controllers can now assist users with a whole new level of confidence and power.



Photo by Sgt. Matthew Davidson

Spc. Sean Beverly accesses the Cornet Multiplexer as Spc. Abigail Keller and instructor Ken Gillus watch during a Defense Satellite Communications System (DSCS) Integrated Management System training.

HHC, 1st Space Brigade bids farewell to commander

By DJ Montoya, 1st Space Brigade

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. —

Members of the 1st Space Brigade and U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command bid farewell to one commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company and said welcome to another the morning of Jan. 11.

Maj. Thomas M. Wiktorek Jr. relinquished command and control of the company to Capt. Robert G. Rhodes with the passing of the unit guidon during a ceremony at the Peterson Air and Space Museum Airpark Hanger here.

"We are saddened at this occasion, but yet we celebrate what this time of command has meant for our people, our Soldiers and for you Major Wiktorek and Holle (Wiktorek)," said Col. Timothy R. Coffin, commander of the 1st Space Brigade.

"Thank you so very much from the bottom of our hearts for all you have done as a command team.

"Captain Rhodes and Summer (Rhodes), as you come in this new area I sense an excitement and an energy that we welcome. We open our arms to you as a team.

"We are so excited to have you on board and look forward to the time we share

together. You have our absolute support as you move into this new endeavor and we thank you very much for stepping up to this challenge."

In a special tribute to his father, a Vietnam veteran who was in attendance in the audience, Wiktorek said, "Dad, you are an incredible man.

"You have done an incredible job. It's unfortunate that the time period (in which) you came back to, your welcome was the way it was. But I guarantee you that the Army you left, is now the greatest Army in the history of mankind.

"We've learned a lot of lessons from that war and a lot of lessons from individuals like you. And one of the greatest lessons we've learned is that Soldiers are people. They are married to people and have Families. And sometimes when we break a leg we have to see doctors. And back then PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder) battle fatigue was a topic we didn't discuss, but now we've learned that people do break. They break emotionally and physically.

"And our Army has done a good job learning from those lessons and they are fixing the Soldiers as well as their families. So what you did back then a long time ago wasn't for vain — we learned a lot. I'd like to say Dad here is your welcome home."

Resounding applause from the audience rose to give the senior Wiktorek a much belated homecoming.

As part of the ceremony Coffin presented Wiktorek with the Meritorious Service Medal for his service as commander of HHC from April 2006 through January of this year. Afterwards Coffin presented the Commander's Award to Mrs. Wiktorek for her contributions as the Family Readiness Group leader for HHC from July 2006 through January of this year.



Photo by Robb Lingley, U.S. Air Force

Maj. Thomas Wiktorek, Col. Timothy Coffin and Capt. Robert G. Rhodes stand at attention during a change of command ceremony for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Space Brigade. During the ceremony, Wiktorek relinquished command of the company to Rhodes.

Technology boosts training for Soldiers

By Sgt. Michael Cost
100th GMD Public Affairs

FORT CARSON, Colo. — Recreating a war zone for training purposes takes a lot of effort. In this day and age, it would require the construction of an entire city to effectively mimic modern-day urban combat situations. But with the Virtual Convoy Trainer, a complex simulator the size of an 18-wheeler, Soldiers can ride through “hot zones,” come under attack and have to react in very close to real-life scenarios.

Soldiers from the 100th Missile Defense Brigade (Ground-based Midcourse Defense) did just that during an Army Warrior Training session here in December.

The VCOT focuses on many different scenarios and locations, some of which are actual battlefields of today in Iraq.

Soldiers put together battle plans using this state-of-the-art technology before ever taking to the virtual road, just as they would in a real-life situation.

Reacting to Improvised Explosive Devices is one of the more common experiences trained on with this equipment; however, all of the scenarios are equally important to the warfighter.



Staff Sgt. Heath Taglione, Intelligence NCO, 100th Missile Defense Brigade (Ground-based Midcourse Defense), drives the vehicle using the Virtual Convoy Trainer as another Soldier from the Brigade protects the vehicle from enemy assault.

Mechanical failure, blocked routes, vehicle identification, ambushes from enemy personnel, among others can be simulated with a realistic depiction of what almost every Soldier could encounter when deployed to any combat zone. City scenes are displayed on individual and large screens and are seen through visors connected to the system, engulfing the “convoy riders” in a “virtual” hazardous duty zone.

“We were going through Baghdad doing different scenarios,” said Sgt. 1st Class Harold Bollinger, Motor Sergeant for the 100th MDB, who organized the training and also experienced it.

“It was excellent training because all of the Soldiers attending had to become the

platoon sergeants and plan the routes their Soldiers would take using intelligence provided by the program,” he said.

“We were doing so well that the facilitator of the training on-site programmed additional insurgents with more high-speed weapons to shoot at us ... ‘only shoot the ones with weapons’ the guy told me ... everyone attending learned a lot and had a good time,” said Bollinger.

The VCOT is located in a 53-foot trailer which can be moved from site to site in order to give deploying troops training before leaving for a combat zone. This ensures Soldiers have as close to real knowledge as possible when they step off the plane and into the reality of combat.



Sgt. Paula Davie, Paralegal NCO, 100th MDB (GMD) looks down the sites of her weapon on the Virtual Convoy Trainer. When rotating in the gunner station a virtual world moves with it through the supplied goggles.

Photos by Maj. Laura Kenney



Staff Sgt. Russel Bonham (left) and Sgt. Michael Loper brief other Soldiers before heading out on the convoy. Bonham and Loper were acting OIC and NCOIC of this particular convoy operation using the Virtual Convoy Trainer at FortCarson, Colo.



Soldiers from the 100th Missile Defense Brigade (Ground-based Midcourse Defense) practice their Soldier skills on the Virtual Convoy Trainer (VCOT) at Fort Carson, Colo. The VCOT simulates convoy operations down to letting the Soldiers plan the route they are going to take through a city, village or rural village alike. It is an immersive virtual trainer with a driver and gunners stations.

SMDC/ARSTRAT exceeds goal for CFC funds



U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command Commanding General/ Tennessee Valley Combined Federal Campaign Chairman Maj. Gen. James R. Myles presents a framed award to Yvonne S. Dublin (systems accountant, accounting division, G-8 and CFC financial chair, SMDC/ARSTRAT) and Michael C. Schexnayder (deputy to the commander for research, development and acquisition, SMDC/ARSTRAT) on Jan. 22 for the extraordinary amount of monies collected from military and civilian members of SMDC/ARSTRAT for the TV CFC. SMDC/ARSTRAT’s goal was to raise \$65,813; however the generous donations of Command employees brought in \$77,261.18.

Photo by Bob Blankenship, Alutiq, Multimedia Specialist

JTAGS Misawa sees “launch”

By Master Sgt. Allison Day
35th Fighter Wing Public
Affairs Office

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan – In a history-making event Jan. 22 at 2:30 p.m., the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command deputy commanding general of opera-

tions cut a red ribbon at the wing’s newest facility, as the Joint Tactical Ground Station marked its official opening here.

The ceremony, led by Army Brig. Gen. John Seward from SMDC/ARSTRAT on Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, Colo., gave attendees

an opportunity to find out exactly what JTAGS is all about.

“The presence of JTAGS in Japan provides a more robust theater ballistic missile defense and ballistic warning capability and joins three other JTAGS units located around the world,” said Seward. “Misawa was chosen for the location of the unit because it provides the best location for this mission as well as a good quality-of-life for our Soldiers. The Japanese community is a welcoming and supportive civilian environment for our Soldiers and their Families.”

Although this JTAGS is the second system to be located in the Pacific Command, it is the first to be located in Japan.

Guests at the ceremony included civic leaders from Misawa, Tokyo and surrounding areas and Japan Air Self Defense leaders. Masses of Japanese and American reporters were on hand to capture the event.

“JTAGS receives infrared data directly from the Defense Support Program satellites and Soldiers operating the JTAGS

receive and process the data from the satellite sensors to warn and alert U.S. and Allied commanders,” said Army Sgt. 1st Class Steven Adams, 1st Space Brigade training and evaluations noncommissioned officer to the crowd.

System operators were also on hand to provide a simulation of what occurs when they detect the launch of a theater ballistic missile.

“Once a missile launch is detected, it is verified and all allied and U.S. forces are notified of an incoming threat,” said Sgt. 1st Class Cody Dorman, JTAGS operations crew chief.

“We’re also able to determine the impact time of the missile.”

JTAGS is an around-the-clock operation.

“I trust with the activation of this detachment, we will not only develop a stronger partnership, but will also increase the trust and friendship of our Japanese allies,” said Seward. “This unit stands as a symbol of our two nations’ long-standing security cooperation and commitment to peace and stability in this region.”



U.S. Air Force photos by Airman 1st Class Eric Harris

Koji Haneda, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tokyo, and Brig. Gen. John E. Seward cut the ribbon for the official opening of the Joint Tactical Ground Station Misawa on Jan. 22. Misawa Air Base was selected for its ability to support operations, Soldiers and their Families.



Brig. Gen. John E. Seward introduces the Joint Tactical Ground Station to local civic leaders during the official opening of the JTAGS-Misawa on Jan. 22, 2008. JTAGS is an early warning system to detect missile launches.



Army Spc. John Dempsey, Sgt. 1st Class Cody Dorman and Staff Sgt. Greg Irvine demonstrate a response to a simulated missile launch at the Joint Tactical Ground Station here Jan. 22. JTAGS is operated by approximately 24 people, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

JTAGS, an essential link, moves to Misawa

By Master Sgt. Allison Day, 35th Fighter
Wing Public Affairs

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan – At the beginning of the year, Misawa became the host to approximately 24 Soldiers assigned to a Joint Tactical Ground Station system as well as their Families.

The Army tenant unit is Charlie Detachment and C/2nd Section and is part of 1st Space Company headquartered at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. They are better known as JTAGS.

“The unit, the first of its kind here in Japan, is a space-based system providing early warning, alerting and cueing capability for the detection of theater ballistic missile threats,” said Army Capt. Stephen Jennison, JTAGS commander. “Once we receive information that a TBM (theater ballistic missile) has launched, we’re able to provide the information identifying the missile launch point and time and approximate impact point and time to the appropriate theater commander and allied forces.”

The Army contingent tasked to do this job may be small, but it is an essential link for theater commanders.

“Having JTAGS here in Japan is an

agreement between our two governments that supports our mutual efforts to counter missile threats,” said Army Brig. Gen. John E. Seward, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/ U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command deputy commanding general in a speech earlier this week.

Any missiles launched are tracked by JTAGS operators who work out of a small, hardened, highly secure facility within the JTAGS compound.

“It is rewarding to do a high-priority job like this,” said Army Staff Sgt. Gregory Irvine, a JTAGS operator from Loveland, Colo.

“Providing theater ballistic missile warning to the warfighter is the most important aspect of my job.”

And his crew chief, Sgt. 1st Class Cody Dorman, agrees with him.

“The mission of providing theater missile defense and accurately providing timely information on real-world events is extremely important,” said Dorman. “I know the significance of the mission. I feel it is an honor and a privilege to be able to participate in this mission 365 days a year.”

The 12-year Army veteran from Flagstaff,

Ariz., said there is a significant degree of pressure associated with the job because of the magnitude of the mission, but it’s something he learned how to deal with in school.

“The certification process to become a JTAGS operator is very stressful and very intense,” said Dorman. “This process and the added pressure ensure that each crew member will be able to provide the required mission with no failures even under the most extreme pressure.”

The commander, Jennison, said he’s very proud of his Soldiers. Jennison had been in the Army for a little more than four years when he was chosen to lead this JTAGS detachment.

“When I was given this opportunity of command I was so humbled,” said Jennison. “As a young officer, I am proud to lead such an extremely sharp group of Soldiers. This is a mission that contributes to the well-established partnership between the U.S. government and the government of Japan. Each day I report to work knowing that what my Soldiers do here add to the safety and security of the United States and our allies.”

The JTAGS unit officially “opened” its doors in Misawa Jan. 22.

Commentary: WGS — a Soldier's perspective

By Pfc. Kevin Wright, Unit Reporter

CAMP ROBERTS, Calif. – It is a very exciting time for military satellite communications here at the Camp Roberts Wideband Satellite Operations Center. The center is about to start running operations on the Wideband Global Satellite (WGS), the new operating systems that are needed for managing the satellite such as Wideband Global Spectrum Monitoring System, Common Network Planning Software, Global Satellite Control and Configuration Element, and the new equipment needed for these systems.

Civilian and military personnel visit the Camp Roberts Operation Center testing the new systems, making sure they are ready for operational use, others review how operators manage and run things on the operations floor. With the extra personnel on the floor, and all the enthusiasm they and the operators have for the WGS, visitors might begin to picture how exciting it is to actually work there.

There's a lot to learn at any Wideband Satellite Operations



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Plale

Spc. Andrew Knife tests out the simulated Wideband Global Spectrum Monitoring System for operating bugs or errors.

Center just by managing the current Defense Satellite Communications System constellation alone. There are the six positions, with each position having its own daily operations, and then there are different theories of operation between all of the equipment for these positions. That's just a small portion of subject matter to know, so there is a lot

to learn and fast. On top of that, add the entirely new equipment and procedures for running a new satellite.

Given all of this, it may be a good thing workers switched to a 12-hour shift which promotes training. It seems now there's more time to be productive on shift and there is double the amount of time dedicated to training. This new schedule

keeps everyone knowledgeable on the current equipment and allows time for new equipment and operations too.

There's also new up-to-date Site on-the-job training and over-the-shoulder programs that help accelerate the learning process.

Everyone is looking forward to the changes that the WGS has to offer in the near future.

Just one WGS has more bandwidth than the entire DSCS constellation. Plus the multiple band types it uses with their inherent strengths and weaknesses leaves lots of room for growth and adaptations for all satellite communications users.

All the new capabilities of the WGS will lead users to develop new and better ways to utilize them. This additional freedom will bring about even more advanced satellite innovations for the military. This successful launch of the WGS is exactly what's needed at this time to lead the way for further and faster satellite communication advancement. It really is an exciting period in time to be in Army Satellite Communications.

Bravo Company Soldier reenlists in recently rebuilt WTC building

By Sgt. Luis De La Hoz, Unit reporter

NEW YORK, N.Y. — On Dec. 27, Spc. Amy L. Richards took the oath of reenlistment on the 52nd floor of the World Trade Center's Building 7, the first building that was rebuilt after 9-11. Richards is the first Soldier in U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command to reenlist in

the new tower. She was sworn in by Capt. Carlos E. Rivera, who is the Operations Officer for the New York Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS) located on Fort Hamilton.

Richards' first experience in the Army began here at the New York MEPS over three years ago. On Dec. 27, she was back at the station ready to make an oath that would continue the military

journey that began there. Richards, a native of Brooklyn, chose to reenlist at Ground Zero because she experienced the tragic events of 9-11 first hand.

The event began with a military police escort, led by Fort Hamilton Staff Sgt. Colin Bridges, to Ground Zero. After everyone had paid their respects, the assembly continued on to WTC Building 7.

From the 52nd floor there was an obscure view of Ground Zero as a blanket of clouds surrounded the city that day. The magnitude of destruction was still apparent and overwhelming when viewed from there.

Rivera and Richards stood in a corner on the 52nd floor where the American flag could be viewed waving over Ground Zero and commenced the reenlistment ceremony that would allow Richards to continue in her military career.

Richards thanked Bridges and Rivera for their help in coordinating the special event and going above and beyond to take care of Soldiers.



Photo by Sgt. Luis De La Hoz

Capt. Carlos Rivera presents Spc. Amy L. Richards with her certificate of reenlistment. The reenlistment ceremony was conducted on the 52nd floor of World Trade Center Building 7, New York, New York. It is the first World Trade Center building rebuilt after 9-11.

Monday makes switch on Friday

By Sharon L. Hartman, SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs Office

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — A member of the U.S. Army National Guard resigned her Guard commission to join U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command's G3 as a Reservist. 1st Lt. Angela Monday was sworn into the U.S. Army Reserves by Col. Michael Maloney at a ceremony on Friday, Jan. 18. Monday chose to take this route for her career after completing two space courses last year — the Space Operator's Course and the Space Operations Officer Qualification Course.

She mentioned to several people she knew within SMDC/ARSTRAT that with her new space training, she was interested in leaving her civilian job to work in the space arena.

"I was so excited about being a space officer I really wanted to use that knowledge full-time," said Monday.

Based on a word of mouth recommendation, Monday was given an interview with the G3 and a subsequent job offer. The only hitch was that Monday would have to resign from the Guard and become a Reservist to take the position. Without hesitation, Monday did exactly that and has hit the ground running.

"I'm really happy I did (this), because I love my job and am learning a lot about the space field on a 'big picture' level, which will help me in everything I do in space from now on."



Photo by Michael Kahl

SMDC/ARSTRAT HHC Soldiers sweat it out with civilians on RSA

By Diane Schumacher, SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs Office

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala. — The Soldiers of HHC [Headquarters and Headquarters Company] U.S. Army Space and Missile Defence Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command and the civilians [of SMDC/ARSTRAT] here are meeting together to exercise during lunchtime. So Maj. Pamela Tingle, HHC company commander was asked why.

“HHC organized a bi-monthly (soon to be once a week once the weather permits for group exercises outdoors) team-building fitness class to begin an organized PT program for Soldiers and civilians after the new year,” Tingle wrote in an e-mail response.

“For many folks it is his/her new year’s resolution to lose weight, tone up, get healthy, or just to gain energy. It’s very hard to begin a focused training program — it takes time to do so — it takes a month to make something a positive life-changing habit. The other reason [for the exercise program] is to keep my Soldiers fit to fight so they are ‘ready’ Soldiers. As for civilians, it helps them feel they are part of the Army team and also encourages better health. Healthy people are more productive workers!”



Warming up the muscle groups with instructor Angie Smith at the head of the class.

Photos by Diane Schumacher



Instructor Angie Smith shows Soldiers and civilians the proper method of lifting weights.



Leg lifts with iron: HHC Commander Maj. Pamela Tingle



Instructor Angie Smith shows the class how to do a crunch while holding the ball between the ankles. Turned out to be a killer for the class!



1st Sgt. Petey Smith, is that a grimace or is that fun?



Maj. Seamus Smallwood lifts iron with his leg, too, looks like a killer.



Maj. Steve Murphy crunches.



Elbows back: Sue Randles (pink shirt) and Lt. Col. Bobbi Davis (white shirt)



Extend the arm: Lt. Col. Bobbi Davis (white shirt) and Lt. Col. Jim Barnett (yellow shorts)



No, they aren’t really dead, just dead tired after an hour-long workout with civilian instructor, Angie Smith.