



In Memoriam Command, community mourn death of former commanding general

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala. — This special edition of *The Eagle* is designed to honor the memory of retired Lt. Gen. Larry J. Dodgen (June 12, 1949 – Feb. 20, 2010), former commanding general of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command. Dodgen apparently succumbed to a heart attack Feb. 20, while playing the game he loved most – tennis.

Born in New Orleans, Dodgen graduated from Louisiana State University in 1972 with a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering and began his military career as section leader and later platoon leader, Battery A, 1st Battalion, 68th Air Defense Artillery, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

During his career, Dodgen served in operational and staff assignments throughout the U.S., Korea, Germany and Saudi Arabia. He commanded at the battery, battalion, and brigade level, as well as served as deputy assistant secretary of defense for Policy and Missions.

Dodgen epitomized the consummate leader – one who led with equal parts skill, passion and compassion. He was a successful and dedicated leader who always focused on putting the Warfighter first.

Lt. Gen. Kevin T. Campbell, current commanding general of USASMDC/ARSTRAT, agreed.

“He had a knack for seeing what was coming next and what we needed in our force,” Campbell said. “I was always very impressed with his ability to be looking ahead and planning not for tomorrow but for five or 10 years down the road.”

During Operation Desert Storm, he commanded the first Air Defense Artillery battalion to be fielded, deployed and fought in combat with the (then) new Patriot Air Defense system in Desert Shield and Desert Storm (8th Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery).

He arrived at Redstone Arsenal with his wife, Leslie, in the fall of 2001 and took command of the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command, Sept. 10. Like all new commanders, Dodgen looked forward to taking time to get to know the people and the surroundings of the Tennessee Valley.

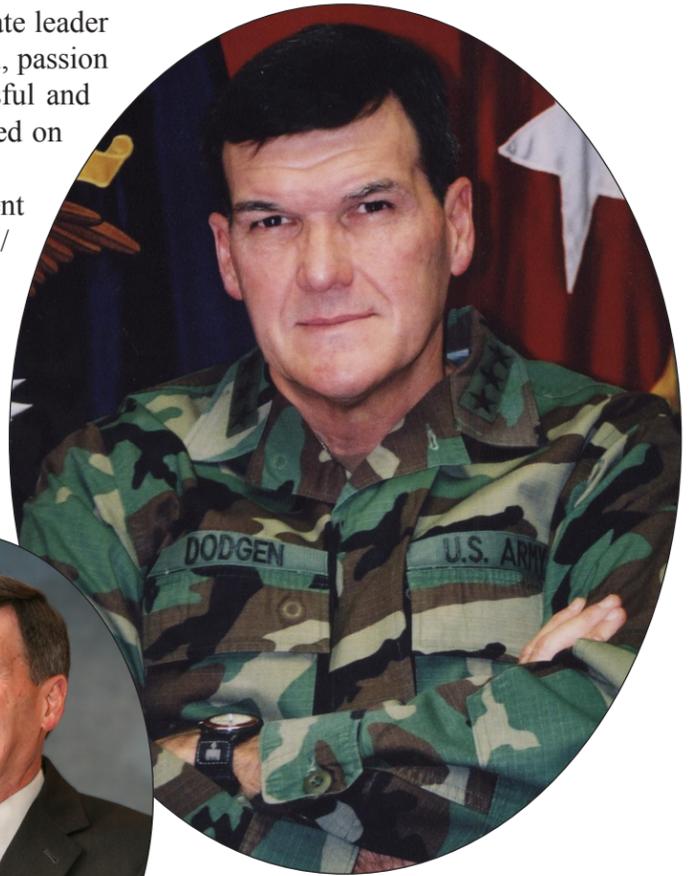
Unfortunately, life for the nation and Redstone Arsenal would change the very next day when terrorists attacked the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, Sept. 11.

As the commanding general of AMCOM, Dodgen instituted cultural change in the way the command conducted business. He encouraged his leaders to “make the call – not take the call.”

This proactive approach to customer service led to significant improvements in Army aviation and missile readiness and operations throughout the world.

Dodgen's time at USASMDC/ARSTRAT, at AMCOM, and throughout his career was about, “making the call – not taking the call.”

Dodgen was more than just about work; he was also about family and his beloved Loui-



Left: Courtesy Northrop Grumman Corp.

Retired Lt. Gen. Larry J. Dodgen, worked for Northrop Grumman in Huntsville, Ala., as the corporate lead executive following his retirement from the Army Feb. 1, 2007.

siana State University *Tigers*. He was often heard to refer to himself as, “Dodgen household's DOIM-6” – responsible for keeping the computer up and running.

He used to say that Mrs. Dodgen did not care how the computer worked or what the latest software updates available were, she just wanted it to work when she turns it on and if anything went wrong, it was his – Larry Dodgen's – fault.

“He had a knack for seeing what was coming next and what we needed in our force.”

~ Lt. Gen. Kevin T. Campbell
Commanding General
USASMDC/ARSTRAT

Dodgen commanded the USASMDC/ARSTRAT from Dec. 16, 2003, to Dec. 18, 2006, but he did not retire from the Army until Feb. 1, 2007. He was a mainstay in both the space and missile defense and the Tennessee Valley communities. Just before relinquishing command, Dodgen was asked what he was most proud of during his command of USASMDC/ARSTRAT. He listed several accomplishments:

- Providing a capability not available before – ground-based interceptors in silos at Fort Greely, Alaska, and Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., with Army Soldiers (trained and confident) manning the system and serving on the front line of defense for our nation
- “Standing up” U.S. Strategic Command's Joint Functional Component Command for Integrated Missile Defense (JFCC IMD) within one year of concept
- Helping the Army “speak with one voice” in articulating needed space-based capabilities
- Ensuring the Warfighter's requirements were met using space-based capabilities

*Two roads diverged in a wood,
and I, I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.*

~ Robert Frost

Dodgen's life was one of dedication to Soldiers, of selfless service to the nation, and of making a difference in everything he did. Lt. Gen. Larry J. Dodgen made all the difference – to our nation, to the joint military community, to our Army, and to countless people's lives.

We are saddened by his untimely death and dedicate this special edition of *The Eagle* to his memory.

Community dedicates complex to Von Braun

By Debra Valine
Editor, *The Eagle*
February 2004

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — Well, it is official. The U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command on Jan. 20 (2004) dedicated its new building in the Wernher Von Braun Complex to honor the man who brought space and missile development here some 50 years ago.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony at Bldg. 5220 on Redstone Arsenal paves the way for SMDC's employees to begin the exodus in February from the leased building on Wynn Drive which has been home to SMDC for 35 years.

"By cutting the ribbon today, we will accomplish several things," said Maj. Gen. Larry J. Dodgen, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command. "We are moving our Huntsville headquarters onto a secure military facility.

"It will save the Department of Defense millions of dollars. This \$39 million state-of-the-art building will pay for itself in just a few years and it will improve the quality of life for all of us," he said.

"This is the first phase of a multi-phase project that we are going to build," said Senator Richard C. Shelby, (R-AL). "I cannot think of a better person to name it for. They will soon start the second phase and we will be looking at the third.

"It is a tribute to Wernher Von Braun and his team that came here 50 years ago and put Huntsville on the map big time," Shelby said. "Redstone Arsenal is a jewel for the Army, NASA and others. This is another big step in the right direction to strengthen what we do at Redstone Arsenal and national security and the nation. I am proud to have played a small part in honoring that great scientist, Wernher Von Braun."



Photo by Debra Valine

James Makemson, left, vice president and general manager, Turner Universal Construction Company; Loretta Spencer, mayor of Huntsville, Ala.; Congressman Robert (Bud) Cramer Jr. (D-AL); Maj. Gen. Larry J. Dodgen, commanding general, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command; Senator Richard C. Shelby (R-AL); Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL); Congressman Robert B. Aderholt (R-AL); Jan Wells, mayor of Madison, Ala.; Col. Robert Devlin, garrison commander, Redstone Arsenal; and Col. Robert Keyser, commander, Mobile District Corps of Engineers, cut the ribbon on Building 5220 to mark the opening of the new Wernher Von Braun Complex on Redstone Arsenal Jan. 20, 2004.

Past helps present define future



Photo by Dottie White

Past commanders meet with then Commanding General Lt. Gen. Larry J. Dodgen (in uniform), U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, in a late-October (2006) conference at command headquarters in Arlington, Va., to discuss the command's transformation. Attendees included incoming commanding general, Maj. Gen. (P) Kevin T. Campbell (far right), and former commanding generals who are now retired (from left) Lt. Gen. John Costello; Lt. Gen. John F. Wall; Lt. Gen. Donald M. Lionetti; Dodgen; Lt. Gen. Joseph M. Cosumano Jr.; Lt. Gen. Robert D. Hammond; Maj. Gen. Eugene Fox.

SMDC's first priority 'to support Warfighter'

By Debra Valine
Editor, *The Eagle*
February 2004

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — He took command of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command Dec. 16 and literally hit the ground running.

Lt. Gen. Larry J. Dodgen, who was promoted to three-star general in a ceremony Jan. 30 in the office of the Chief of Staff of the Army at the Pentagon, has hardly had a chance to sit in his new office in Arlington since he became commanding general of SMDC.

The December and New Year holidays notwithstanding, Dodgen has been busy. He made opening remarks at the Martin Luther King Jr. presentation in Huntsville Jan. 14 and was guest speaker at the Army Space and Missile Defense Association's annual membership luncheon the same day. He attended the activation ceremony for the Alaska National Guard Missile Defense and Space Battalion at Fort Greely, Alaska, Jan. 22 and a ceremony inducting Army Astronaut retired Brig. Gen. Robert L. Stewart into the Pioneer Hall of Fame Jan. 27 in Colorado Springs, Colo. And these



Larry J. Dodgen receives his third star from his wife, Leslie, and Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomacher, at the CSA's office, Jan. 30, 2004.

were just Dodgen's special appearances. He also had the usual bevy of staff briefings — in several geographic locations — and other meetings any new commander attends to learn all he can about his new organization. But he likes it that way.

Alaska National Guard activates GMD battalion

The Washington Times
Jan. 23, 2004

FORT GREELY, Alaska — An Alaska National Guard battalion was activated as the United States' first ground-based missile defense unit Thursday.

The unit, which will eventually boast 110 Soldiers, will man ground-based interceptors that are designed to shoot down incoming ballistic missiles and give the military a deterrent and a defensive capability it currently does not have.

Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen, commander of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command, took part in Thursday's activation ceremony at Fort Greely, Alaska.

The Alaskans will be attached to the Colorado-based 100th Missile Defense Brigade.

"With the creation of the Installation Management Agency (IMA) at the beginning of the current fiscal year, supervisory oversight of the garrison commander and staff at Fort Greely became an IMA responsibility," wrote Dodgen to servicemembers and civilians of SMDC.

"Although no longer directly responsible for the garrison at Fort Greely, I do retain responsibility as the senior mission commander of the forces assigned to Fort Greely," Dodgen continued. "Effective April 15, 2004, SMDC administrative staff augmentation/support to the Fort Greely garrison staff transfers from the Test and Evaluation Center to the SMDC DCG-O. Additionally, the SMDC DCG-O will exercise daily oversight for all SMDC GMD operations conducted at Fort Greely."

Daily snapshot of a general



Photo by Dottie White

Lt. Gen. Larry J. Dodgen, commanding general, USASMDC/ARSTRAT, second from right, meets with Soldiers stationed at Landstuhl, Germany.

Eulogy for a veteran

Author Unknown

*Do not stand at my grave
and weep.
I am not there,
I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds
that blow.
I am the diamond glints
on snow.
I am the sunlight
on ripened grain.
I am the gentle autumn
rain.
When you awaken in the
morning's hush,
I am the swift uplifting rush
of quiet birds
in circled flight,
I am the soft stars
that shine at night.
Do not stand at my grave
and cry,
I am not there, I did not die.*



Photo by Dottie White

Lt. Gen. Larry J. Dodgen, commanding general, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command discusses mission topics with Army Astronaut Col. Patrick Forrester at the October 2004 Association of the United States Army annual meeting.



Photo by Mark Ramierz, Army Protocol, Pentagon

Sgt. Kofi F. Antwi (left), a Soldier assigned to the 1/7 Armored Cavalry, exchanges conversation with Lt. Gen. Larry J. Dodgen, commanding general, USASMDC/ARSTRAT, during a luncheon Dec. 3, 2004, at the Pentagon's executive dining room in honor of Operation Iraqi Freedom Wounded Warriors from Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Joan Jett, of the rock band Joan Jett and the Blackhearts, attended the event. Dodgen presented command coins to Antwi and other Wounded Warriors.



Photo by John Upp

Lt. Gen. Larry J. Dodgen, commanding general, USASMDC/ARSTRAT, poses with Command Sgt. Maj. David Lady before the Army 10-Miler in October 2004.



Photo by Marco Morales

Lt. Gen. Larry J. Dodgen, commanding general, USASMDC/ARSTRAT, meets with at-risk children at Martha's Table in Washington, D.C., December 2004.



Testifying before Congress; televised by C-SPAN, April 2005.



Photo by Debra Valine

Lt. Gen. Larry J. Dodgen, commanding general, USASMDC/ARSTRAT, presents Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld a Rockets and Spacecraft book during the 2004 Space and Missile Defense Conference in Huntsville.

Laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery



Photos by Darrell Hudson, U.S. Army Photo Support - Pentagon

Top: Caisson carrying retired Lt. Gen. Larry J. Dodgen's casket draped with the American flag proceed to his interment site, while Soldiers from the 3rd Infantry Regiment, "The Old Guard," carry Dodgen's three-star flag officer guidon. Dodgen was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery March 11.



Above: Soldiers from the 3rd Infantry Regiment, "The Old Guard," present a 21-gun salute in honor of retired Lt. Gen. Larry J. Dodgen at his interment.

Left: Arlington National Cemetery at sunset.

Key Command events during Lt. Gen. Dodgen's tenure as Commanding General ...

Dec. 16, 2003 - Assumes command of SMDC

Jan. 1, 2004 - SMDC reaches full operational capability as the Army Service Component Command to the U.S. Strategic Command

Jan. 20, 2004 - Ribbon-cutting ceremony dedicates the first of three buildings to Wernher Von Braun (part of a three-building complex), Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

Jan. 22, 2004 - Activation of 49th Missile Defense Battalion (Ground-based Midcourse Defense), Fort Greely, Alaska

Jan. 30, 2004 - Promotion to rank of lieutenant general (effective date Feb. 1), Army Chief of Staff's office, the Pentagon

Feb. 12, 2004 - SMDC Hall of Fame induction ceremony for Lt. Gen. (r) C.J. LeVan, Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

March 17, 2004 - New SMDC Operations Center opens at Peterson AFB

July 22, 2004 - First Ground Based Interceptor (GBI) emplaced at Fort Greely

Dec. 9, 2004 - Lt. Gen. Dodgen is inducted into the Air Defense Artillery's Wall of Honor at Fort Bliss, Texas

Dec. 15, 2004 - DOD announces SMDC to be one of the first organizations to participate in initial implementation of NSPS

Jan. 10, 2005 - Appointed to commander of the Joint Functional Component Command for Integrated Missile Defense

March 10, 2005 - SMDC dedicates Distinguished Civilians Wall of Honor in Von Braun 1 bldg., Redstone Arsenal

Sept. 30, 2005 - SMDC assumes MASINT/AGI mission

Oct. 11, 2005 - Phase 2 of the Von Braun Complex construction begins

Oct. 16, 2005 - 1st Space Brigade is activated

Oct. 26, 2005 - 1st SATCON Battalion retires colors – redesignated as 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON), Peterson AFB

Oct. 28, 2005 - Secretary of the Army thanks Army astronauts for their service via satellite downlink from the Pentagon

Dec. 13, 2005 - Future Warfare Center opens Space One Semi-Automated Forces Co-Development Lab

Feb. 22, 2006 - JFCC IMD Operations Center opens at Schriever AFB, Colo.

July 4, 2006 - 100th MD Bde (GMD) goes on alert during Korean missile launches

Sept. 1, 2006 - 100th MD Bde (GMD) Alpha crew takes part in successful flight test

Oct. 23, 2006 - Commander is appointed designated approving authority for the Wideband Global SATCOM and the Global Broadcast System

Dec. 18, 2006 Relinquishes command of SMDC to Lt. Gen. Kevin T. Campbell