

Inside The Eagle



FRG receives
phone cards
page 3



NCO, SoY
article and
photos
continued
pages 8, 9



Command
lawyer
becomes
Pres. of FBA
page 11

The Eagle

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

Volume 15, Number 8, August 2008

Noncommissioned Officer of the Year
and Soldier of the Year ...

SMDC/ARSTRAT announces Best Warriors for CY 2008

By Sharon L. Hartman
Public Affairs
Colorado Springs, Colo.

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Eight candidates — one Noncommissioned Officer and one Soldier from four different regions — arrived in Colorado aspiring to be the Best of the Best. Each had his or her own motivation, but in the end only two would walk away with the titles. After an exhausting weeklong competition, Staff Sgt. Christopher L. Barber and Spc. Michael R. Moore were selected as U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command's 2008 Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Year respectively.

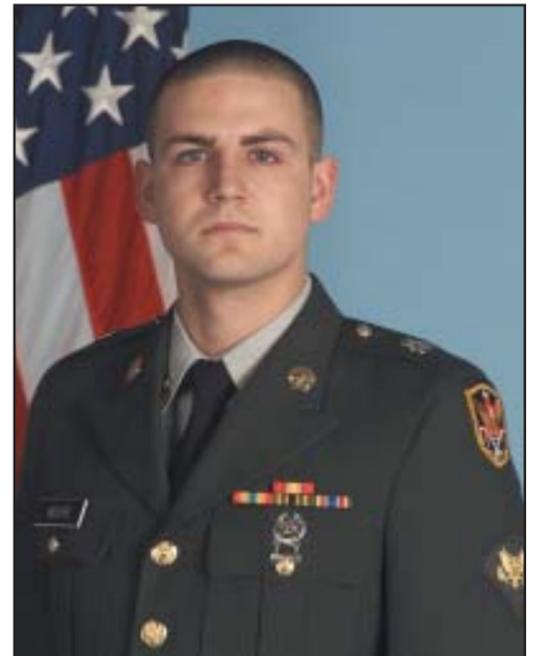
Barber and Moore both serve in Joint Tactical Ground Station Detachments with 1st Space Company, 1st Space Battalion. Barber is a member of Charlie Detachment, which recently relocated to Misawa, Japan, and provides Theater Missile Warning in the Pacific Area of Operations. Alpha Detachment in Stuttgart, Germany provides Theater Missile Warning to the European Area of Operations and is where Moore is currently stationed.

"I chose to participate in this competition to be a good example for all



Official Army photo

2008 Noncommissioned Officer of the Year,
Staff Sgt. Christopher L. Barber



Official Army photo

2008 Soldier of the Year
Spc. Michael R. Moore

Soldiers under my leadership," said Barber, who met his objective.

Moore decided to participate to "represent Alpha detachment and show the high standards of this unit." He too was

successful in achieving his goal.

The competition, conducted from July 20-25, began with an Army Physical Fitness

See *Best Warriors* on page 8

Recognize symptoms, prevent heat injury

By Vicki Arneson-Baker
U.S. Army Combat Readiness/
Safety Center, Fort Rucker, Ala.

We are more than half way through the 101 Critical Days of Summer and with July, August and September traditionally the hottest months of the year. Each year, heat illness and injury pose a significant threat to Army personnel, both on and off duty. Soldiers are exposed to hot environments during deployments and training events and, when off duty, they and their Families are exposed to the summer heat during outdoor activities.

"There were more than 2,500 heat injuries, including more than 300 heat strokes, among our

Soldiers during 2007," according to Brig. Gen. Michael B. Cates, commander of the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine and the Army's Functional Proponent for Preventive Medicine. "Heat injury casualties represent a serious threat to the medical readiness and fitness of our military personnel, both in garrison and during deployments, and they are all definitely preventable."

It is especially important for Soldiers to remember how to protect themselves, their Battle Buddies and their Families from heat-related injuries.

Heat cramps are painful muscle spasms that occur in the abdomen, arms, or legs. They affect those who sweat profusely

in the heat and drink large quantities of water, but fail to adequately replace the body's salt loss.

Heat exhaustion is the most common heat injury and occurs when the body fatigue and strain on an individual's heart due to overwhelming heat stress. A person suffering from heat exhaustion still sweats but experiences extreme weakness or fatigue, nausea, or headache. An individual suffering from heat exhaustion may have clammy and moist skin, pale or flushed complexion with a normal or slightly elevated body temperature. Other warning signs may include heavy sweating, unsteady walk, dizziness, giddiness, rapid pulse and shortness of breath.

Heat stroke is the most serious heat injury associated with hot environments. A heat stroke victim's skin is hot, usually dry with no sweating, red or spotted and their body temperature is usually 104 degrees F or higher. Other warning signs include rapid, strong pulse, mental confusion, throbbing headache, dizziness, nausea, and can progress to loss of consciousness, coma, or seizures. Heat stroke is a medical emergency and can lead to death.

"Leaders and Soldiers must do more than just have water available," said Campbell. "Heat injury prevention is a command and leadership as well as a personal responsibility. Learn to recognize the signs and symptoms ... to protect yourself and your family."

The Command Corner



Lt. Gen. Kevin T. Campbell
Commanding General



CSM Ralph C. Borja
Command Sergeant Major

The more I meet and greet those who work for or who are associated with the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, the more I am amazed at the ingenuity and expertise that is resident within this command. We are indeed fortunate to have Soldiers, civilians and contractors who are constantly "thinking outside the box". This type of thinking helps solve complex problems associated with space-based projects or missile defense technologies. This type of holistic thinking also helps explain why sometimes we work on projects that may not appear related to "space and missile defense."

Undoubtedly, our core competencies are to develop and operate space and missile defense technologies in support of the warfighter. However, within each of these critical areas are technologies that sometimes have applications in other disciplines and can help other researchers within the Army. In most instances, when we apply space or missile defense technologies in another arena, it is in a military construct with direct support to the warfighter. However, there are times when our technologies may have an application in other parts of the Army and possibly the civilian sectors.

A good example is the unique application that comes from our work in missile defense. To the untrained eye it may appear that a missile streaking after another missile to intercept it in space is merely an extension of shooting a bullet out of a gun; albeit a very tall gun. However, it is much more than, "windage and elevation," as John Wayne coaches Katherine Hepburn in the 1975 movie, "Rooster Cogburn." The missile must not only get to a point in space; it must be able to discern an incoming warhead from a decoy or other space debris.

It takes people thinking outside the box to visualize how the algorithms needed to help identify one mass from another in space may also help determine a benign mass from a cancerous mass in a mammography. SMDC/ARSTRAT is working with Clinical Breast Care Project surgeons and researchers at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center to find out if there is potential for utilizing the unclassified missile defense algorithms that differentiate between warheads, decoys, and other countermeasures as a reliable method for detecting small changes in mammograms.

The progress made so far has been steady, but there is still much to do. Our researchers demonstrated an image-processing algorithm, the "Anomaly Detection Algorithm" (ADA), which appears to detect masses well and may help the radiologist find the true margins of the mass. The discrimination of masses still needs significant effort. Additionally, the researchers developed a technique to register a woman's mammograms from different years as well as software to compare the relative regional densities of the breast images to each other — basically, charting any changes. This work is still in the development stage, but looks very promising.

Applying military technologies to civilian applications is not new. There are many examples of military applications that were converted to civilian use: microwave ovens are an outgrowth from work on radar systems, the global positioning system that we enjoy in our vehicles was developed to guide our military formations on land and sea. We weren't first, the Romans built elaborate and effective roadways in order for the Roman legions to move easily across the vast empire, those roads also had civilian uses with many of the roadways still used today more than 2,450 years later.

I have decided to put my discourse on Army Values on hold this month in order to discuss our SMDC/ARSTRAT Soldiers who best embody our Values. I'm referring to the men and women who competed for the honor of being the 2008 SMDC/ARSTRAT Noncommissioned Officer of the Year and Soldier of the Year

Staff Sgt. Charles L. Robinson III (European Command, or EUCOM), Spc. Michael R. Moore (EUCOM), Sgt. Matthew S. Davidson (eastern Continental United States, or CONUS), Spc. Abigail H. Keller (eastern CONUS), Staff Sgt. Randolph R. Brown (western Continental United States), Spc. Matthew S. Caple (western CONUS), Staff Sgt. Christopher L. Barber (Pacific Command, or PACOM) and Sgt. Joseph B. Knece (PACOM) are Regional winners who met in Colorado Springs, Colo. from July 18-25 to compete for the honor of being named 2008 SMDC/ARSTRAT Noncommissioned officer and Soldier of the Year.

Thanks largely to the herculean efforts of Lorronica Hamil, Master Sgt. John Telgenhof and 1st Sgt. Petey Smith from headquarters SMDC/ARSTRAT plus excellent support provided by members of the 100th Missile Defense Brigade, the 1st Space Brigade staff and the Operations Center, we had an extremely competitive and outstanding competition this year. Our NCO and Soldier candidates were subjected to rigorous tests of their physical, mental, and leadership skills. They were also evaluated on their ability to effectively communicate orally and in writing.

During the Urban Orienteering Course lead by Sgt. 1st Class Rene Saiz and his observers and controllers (O/Cs) of the 100th Missile Defense Brigade, our Soldiers were introduced to and tested on the Army's Defense Advanced GPS Receiver (DAGR). For many, this was their first experience with the device. After hands-on training all of the contestants were able to successfully complete the day and night land navigation tests using the DAGR as well as the traditional compass and protractor.

Weapons zero/qualification also presented a new challenge for many of our Soldiers because most had never fired the M-4 Carbine. 1st Sgt. Steve Adams and his Safeties of 1st Space Company coordinated, arranged and executed this event exceptionally and provided extra range time for our Soldiers to allow them to familiarize themselves with the M-4 prior to weapons qualification.

Kudos also to Sgt. 1st Class Marcus Kent and his O/C's of the 100th Missile Defense Brigade for setting up an excellent situational training exercise using sim-munitions and a 2K course that really tested the leadership and warfighting skills of our NCO's and Soldiers. Watching our warrior's successfully work their way through a field medical evacuation, ambush, and hostage rescue was as rewarding for us senior NCOs as I'm sure it was for them.

See **CSM Column** on page 5

Whether our technologies will last two millennia is for history to document. Our focus continues to be on providing dominant space and missile defense capabilities to the warfighter. Sometimes our dominance in one area may help our country and its citizens in other areas as well.

So, when people ask why we are in programs that don't sound like "space" or "missile defense," the answer is simple: because we have the right people who can see beyond the realm of possibility.

SECURE THE HIGH GROUND!

The Eagle ... is an authorized unofficial newspaper published for military and civilian members of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command published under the authority of AR 360-1. The editorial style applies the industry standard Associated Press Stylebook. Contents of *The Eagle* are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, or SMDC/ARSTRAT. This monthly newspaper uses offset reproduction and has a circulation of 2,250. Reader input is solicited and welcomed; however, no payment will be made for such contributions. For more information about SMDC/ARSTRAT or to view *The Eagle* on-line, visit our Web site at www.smdc.army.mil.

SMDC/ARSTRAT, ATTN: Editor, **The Eagle**,
P.O. Box 1500, Huntsville, AL 35807-3801
Phone (256) 955-3887 (DSN 645) FAX: 645-1214
e-mail: EagleEditor@smdc.army.mil

Publisher.....Lt. Gen. Kevin T. Campbell
Director, Public Affairs.....William M. Congo
Editor.....Diane Schumacher

CG DIRECT

Want to communicate
directly with the CG?
Call (866) 243-4732



What We Think

The Eagle asks: What is the most pressing issue facing Army Families today and why?



In my opinion the most pressing issue facing Army Families today is the stress and hardship that's caused by the constant moving from place to place. This is felt by the kids who are forced to change schools every few years and leave childhood friends and spouses who are forced to leave jobs they enjoyed and then search for new positions which also makes it hard to progress in their careers.

Sgt. Kenneth Seymore, Sr.
Senior Communications Systems Installer Maintainer
49th Missile Defense Battalion
Fort Greely, Alaska



Cost of living going up but pay staying the same.

Sgt. Justin B. Bollay
Human Resources, G-1
Headquarters and
Headquarters Company
Redstone Arsenal, Ala.



PCS Moves and lack of support on educational benefits for family members because you always have to change colleges.

Sgt. Jesus A. Rodriguez
Postal Clerk
SMDC/ARSTRAT
U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll



Frequent deployments — with the separation that children have to endure from their parents and the stress of never knowing if a spouse will ever come home; frequent deployments make having a solid foundation very difficult to achieve.

1st Lt. Angela Monday
G-3 Current Operations
Space Operations Officer
Colorado Springs, Colo.



Employment for spouses is a concern. Seems to be a lack of support for spouses getting employment and PCS [permanent change of station] moves make it difficult.

Staff Sgt. Jimmy Ayala
Communications NCOIC
Headquarters and
Headquarters Company
Redstone Arsenal, Ala.



Increased deployments with short at-home times create hardships on our family members.

Sgt. 1st Class Calvin Stafford,
Provost Sergeant
U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll



To me it would be good quality time. Even the smallest of activities like a board game or dinner with the family are important. Providing quality time for Soldiers and Families is the most pressing issue facing the Army Family.

Spc. John Sorrells
Military Police Officer
GBI Security Company
49th Missile Defense Battalion
Fort Greely, Alaska



The Global War on Terrorism is making Families separate from their Soldier on 12-15 month deployments and Army spouses must maintain their households alone. The issue is growing with many Army Families having to face multiple deployments of the spouses. I have had two tours in Iraq and transitioning back into my family has caused a great amount of stress for my children and me.

Sgt. 1st Class Erika D. White
Equal Opportunity Advisor
Headquarters and
Headquarters Company
Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

FRG receives phone cards from local church members

By Josh Voight
Public Affairs
SMDC/ARSTRAT

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala. – On Aug. 7 U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command (SMDC/ARSTRAT) welcomed a special guest.

Martha Mosley, a member of Lakewood Baptist Church in Huntsville, visited SMDC/ARSTRAT headquarters here to

donate 40 550-minute phone cards to the Family Readiness Group for deployed SMDC/ARSTRAT Soldiers.

Accepting the phone cards on behalf of SMDC/ARSTRAT were Maj. Pamela Tingle and 1st Sgt. Petey Smith from Headquarters and Headquarters Company.

“I read an article (about troop donations) and decided that this was something our church could do to help our service men and women,” said Mosley. “My husband was

in the military and my son is in the Air Force, so the military is in my blood.”

Jimmy Norles, program manager for access control at SMDC/ARSTRAT, attends Lakewood Baptist Church and helped arrange for the special delivery by Mosley.

In addition to the donation of the phone cards, each card is inside a sealed envelope and contains a special handwritten message from individual members of the Lakewood Baptist Church congregation.



Photo by Josh Voight

Maj. Pamela Tingle (left) and 1st Sgt. Petey Smith (right) accept gifts of telephone cards on behalf of HHC's FRG from Martha Mosley (representing her fellow church members) at SMDC/ARSTRAT headquarters.

Safety

Top 10 ways to preserve your vision

By Jessica Norris, O.D.
Chief of Optometry
Fox Army Health Center
Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

Number 10. Stop Smoking. Did you know that it is true that a person can go blind from smoking? Current smokers are twice as likely to develop macular degeneration than non-smokers and smoking has been linked to an increase in cataract formation. The good news is that those of you who have quit smoking more than 20 years ago, you are not likely to develop macular degeneration causing vision loss.

Number 9. Maintain good nutrition and not just from eating carrots. While carrots are a good choice as part of a healthy diet, they have not proven to improve vision. Good nutrition, especially involving vitamins C, E, lutein and zeaxanthin, may prevent macular degeneration and delay the onset of cataracts. The recommended daily doses of eye protective vitamins are vitamin C (250 mg/day), vitamin E (100 IU/day) and lutein and zeaxanthin (6 mg per day). Some good food sources are anything green (kale, collard greens, spinach etc) and fruits like oranges, strawberries and tomatoes.

Number 8. Protect your eyes at work. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health report that about 2,000 workers in the U.S. every day require medical treatment for eye injuries. The major reasons these injuries happen are that workers are not wearing eye protection or wearing the wrong type of eye protection. Your safety glasses should have safety frames with polycarbonate lenses. They should provide full coverage of your eyes.

Number 7. Protect your eyes when playing sports. Many parents allow their children to wear their "normal" dress glasses to play sports, not knowing the danger. Thousands of children incur sports related injuries every year and most could be prevented simply by wearing sports goggles. The frames in your dress glasses may not withstand an impact and can break and damage the eye. Only sports goggles with polycarbonate lenses should be worn.

Number 6. Know what to do in an eye emergency. You are working on your car one Saturday and you splash battery acid in your eye. What do you do? Most people would splash water in their eye to wash it out. Although this is a good answer, most people only wash the eye for 1-2 minutes. At least 15 minutes of flushing the eye is actually needed. Place the eye under a faucet or shower or use a garden hose. Then seek immediate medical attention.

Number 5. Monitor your computer...computer that is. Many people believe that looking at a computer for long hours can damage their eyes. While complaints of eyestrain and discomfort are common with computer users, these symptoms are not caused by the computer itself. Computer screens do not emit harmful radiation. You can prevent eyestrain by placing the computer screen 20-26 inches away from your eyes and a little bit below eye level. Also, the 20/20/20 rule is helpful. Every 20 minutes look 20 feet away for 20 seconds. This allows your eyes to relax.

Number 4. Wear U.V. protection. Even small amounts of U.V. radiation over many years can increase your risk of cataracts and damage the retina. Make sure your

sunglasses block 99-100% of both UV-A and UV-B radiation. Also, check your reflection in the mirror when wearing sunglasses. If you can see your eyes through your glasses, then they are not dark enough. Don't forget protection for children and teenagers.

Number 3. Start early. Children should have an eye exam within the first 6 months of life to rule out eye diseases or a large prescription. Many eye problems, such as cataracts, can be found in children and must be addressed early to prevent vision loss. Eye screenings at school or at the pediatrician's office are not adequate.

Number 2. Monitor your overall health. Systemic diseases such as diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol and thyroid disease can greatly affect your vision. It is extremely important, if you have any of these conditions, that you have your eyes checked yearly.

Number 1. Get an eye exam. Every person should have an eye exam at least every 2 years or sooner if you have a condition that is followed. You should be dilated every 2 years. This gives your eye doctor the best look into your eyes. There are many ways that we can give our eyes the best chance for a lifetime of good vision. Prevention is the key.

Office Safety — Ergonomics

by Dr. Isabel Perry
thesafetydoctor.com

The word "ergonomics" has become a buzzword over the last decade. What does it really mean? "Ergonomics" is a fancy term for the science of workplace safety. Traditionally, when you moved into a new office you received a desk, chair and office equipment, and you had to fit into them. However, improper positioning while performing repeated procedures such as typing and using the telephone causes physical injuries such as carpal tunnel syndrome caused by strain on wrist muscles and tendons, pinched nerves and muscle spasms. Ergonomics is the science of adjusting equipment to fit you, so that you aren't straining any muscles, joints or nerves. This makes it easier and safer to do your work. Manufacturers now market ergonomic chairs, desks, wrist rests, keyboards and lighting. It is wonderful equipment, but if you really want to benefit from it, you must use it correctly. Let's create the safest environment we can.

If it hurts, stop doing it! As soon as you notice that there is some discomfort in anything you are doing, stop for a moment and look at how you are sitting, moving, and at what hurts. Look for another way to do your task. Examine the equipment you are using. If it has been marketed as ergonomic, it is probably adjustable. Learn how to adjust it to better fit you.

Here are some adjustments that will make you more comfortable, more productive and healthier!

For your back:

- Your chair should be lined up straight with the desk or table area on which you are working. Do not sit at an angle. It requires twisting the back or head and neck, which will throw your body out of alignment and causes strain.
- Sit up straight. It is very tempting to bend over or slouch, but you will tire more quickly.
- Avoid twisting around to get things. Let the chair do that for you.

- Avoid placing items you use frequently above your head or behind your back. Try to organize your space so that these are readily available or put them out of reach so you have to get up to get them.

For your shoulders, arms and forearms:

- Shoulders should be relaxed. Avoid pulling your shoulders up. Try rolling them in a circle. Begin moving them forward then around and up and back down towards the back. It will position them correctly and it is a good exercise to do when you get tired.

- Arms should hang straight down from your shoulders.

- Keep your elbows close to the body – avoid lifting them above chest height.

- Forearms can be in a variety of positions comfortably depending on what you are doing:

- For handwork like typing and light assembly, your forearms should be at a 90-degree angle to your upper arms.

- For work involving close inspection or viewing like threading a needle, bend the forearms to bring work into closer view, instead of leaning forward.

- For work requiring the use of force, like packing or pushing, the arms should be almost in a straight line.

For your head, neck and eyes:

- Face your work head-on; don't sit sideways or work with your head twisted to the side. If you spend a lot of time at a computer, get a stand that will hold your paperwork up next to the screen. It will keep you from constantly having to turn your neck back and forth as you look from the screen to the paper.

- Don't stick your neck out (forward) – it weighs about 15 pounds.

- Don't stick your head back – most of the time you should be looking straight ahead or slightly down. If you have a computer screen that sits low on a desk surface, put something under it to raise it to the right height.

- Don't hold the telephone between your shoulder and cheek. Either hold it with your hand or use a headset, which will free you to talk on the phone and write comfortably at the same time.

- Avoid eyestrain - keep your workplace evenly lit. There should be overhead lighting as well as task-specific lighting on the desk or work surface. Never work in the dark on a computer or at a task with only one light over the work surface. Never put your computer in front of a window. Adjusting to the differences in light levels between your computer screen and the area around you will cause significant eyestrain.

For your hands and wrist:

- Keep your wrists straight. The normal position for a handshake is a straight wrist position. It's all right to rotate your hand, but avoid bending your wrist.

- When working on the computer, don't let your wrists drop. Keep your hands floating above the keyboard.

- Don't prop your hands on wrists rests or other supports.

- Don't reach for your mouse; place it in a comfortable position so your arm and forearm stay at about a 90-degree angle.

For your hips, legs, knees and feet:

- Hips should be fully supported by the chair seat.

- Knees should be at the same height or slightly higher than your hips when you're seated. A footrest will help raise the knees into a comfortable position.

See **Office Safety** next page

Security clearance process to be automated

**By Rosemary Moore
Command Personnel
Security Officer, G-2**

Plans are underway to automate most aspects of the security clearance process. Currently, periodic reinvestigations are submitted to the Office of Personnel Management every five years on individuals who have Top Secret access. For individuals who require Secret access, the reinvestigation is submitted every ten

years. Reinvestigations are completed by the individual through the Electronic Questionnaires for Investigations Process (e-QIP).

The G-2 security officer notifies individuals when it is time for their periodic reinvestigation to be submitted, and grants individuals access to e-QIP to complete the application. The e-QIP application is then submitted electronically through the Joint

Personnel Adjudication System.

According to the Office of Management and Budget, future automation plans for the personnel security clearance process, include a system that will not only accept online applications, but will perform automated records checks, approve or deny some clearances using automated tools, and will use automation to find "red flags" in any applicant's background.

All these techniques will help investigators narrow their focus on true problem areas.

A major part of the system is that computers will regularly check government and commercial databases plus review records such as criminal, financial and other of all individuals who have a security clearance. Individuals having Top Secret access will be automatically reviewed annually.

Those individuals with Secret access will be reviewed every five years.

Bush administration officials hope to have a new system in place by the time a new administration arrives. The intent of the new system is to improve the current system to produce better investigative results in a more efficient and timely manner while still protecting our nation's security.

Hot days of summer in full swing – stay safe

**By Sgt. Eric Lineberry
Alpha Co., 53rd Signal Battalion**

FORT DETRICK, Md. — Summer is in full swing, and many Soldiers and their Families still want to take advantage of the warm weather by relaxing at the pool, playing in the ocean, or cruising the local lakes and rivers in a boat. These activities are all a good way to unwind after a long week at work. It is important, however, to remember a few simple safety precautions to ensure your weekend is completely stress-free.

When planning for a day in the sun, don't forget to pack the sunscreen. It will help protect against harmful UV rays that cause sunburn and can lead to skin cancer. Sun-glasses are also essential for protecting eyes from the sun.

Floatation devices are a must to help

children or inexperienced swimmers stay out of harms way. And, as always, be sure to drink plenty of water to avoid dehydration.

Now that those measures have been taken care of, it's time to scope out the right spot for a swim. Find an area with lifeguards if possible. Check for rocks or other hazards in the water before jumping in. Only jump headfirst into areas that are marked for diving to avoid possible injuries. When at the beach, take care not to venture too far from shore, and keep an eye out for wildlife such as jellyfish. It is also a good idea to go swimming in groups, especially if there is no lifeguard on duty.

A few additional safety concerns should be noted when an outing takes place on a boat. Boating safety courses are available and should be taken by anyone who plans on operating the boat. Links to online

courses can be found on the U.S. Coast Guard's (USCG) Office of Boating Safety Web site. Many of these links also offer online certification for several states. Wearing a lifejacket is one of the best and easiest ways to prevent drowning should an accident occur. According to the USCG's Boating Statistics for 2006, 90 percent of drowning victims were not wearing a lifejacket, and more than half of the boats involved did not even have lifejackets on board. Mixing alcohol and boating can also be a deadly combination. In nearly 20 percent of all reported boating related deaths in 2006, alcohol was listed as the leading contributing factor.

By following a few simple guidelines, this summer season can be safe and enjoyable. With proper planning and a little common sense, the next outing should be a fun and relaxing break.

CSM Column

continued from page 2

As stated at the beginning, this year's competition was extremely close. Thanks to 1st Sgt. Carl Torkelson and his evaluators from HHC 1st Space Brigade who started this event by administering the Army Physical Fitness Test, by the end it came down to performance on the

written test, written essays, and performance before the formal evaluation board. Selecting the NCO and Soldier of the Year was tough.

In the end, Staff Sgt. Christopher L. Barber from Charlie Detachment, 1st Space Company, 1st Space Battalion, based in Japan was selected as the SMDC/ARSTRAT NCO of the Year and Spc. Michael R. Moore

from Alpha Detachment, 1st Space Company, 1st Space Battalion based in Germany won the honor of being selected as SMDC/ARSTRAT Soldier of the Year.

These two Early Missile Warning Operators truly represent the best qualities of today's professional warrior. They, like all of the competitors this year, have fully embraced Army Values and I'm proud to have them as

members of SMDC/ARSTRAT. We wish Staff Sgt. Barber and Spc. Moore the best of luck as they represent SMDC/ARSTRAT during competition in the Department of the Army's "Best Warrior Competition" for NCO and Soldier of the Year.

I also want to congratulate all of our Regional competitors for being selected as the best Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier from

within their respective AORs [areas of responsibility].

Special thanks to all sponsors, commanders, leaders and staff who assisted and supported our competitors. Each of you has proven to be a winner and outstanding Soldier and extremely valuable member of our Command. I salute each of you!

SECURE THE HIGH GROUND!

Office Safety

continued from page 4

- The edge of the chair should not cut into the back of your knees.
- Feet should be flat on the floor or other support. Do not sit with your knees crossed. It will throw your back out of alignment and cause significant strain.
- Wearing very high heels while seated may cause ankle and leg strain.

For standing work:

If your work involves standing for long periods, in addition to the other tips do the following:

- Wear comfortable footwear

- Consider using fatigue mats
- If work involves standing in one spot, try using a "bar rail" support. If you prop a foot up while standing, it eases a lot of the stress on your lower back.

For heavy loads:

- Carts are essential if you must carry heavy loads.
- Use the elevator instead of the stairs when carrying heavy objects.
- Automatic staplers and postage machines may also be used to reduce wrist and hand strain.

Break up your day:

- Break up long tasks into smaller time

segments. Example: Don't save all your filing till the end of the day and spend 3-4 hours standing.

- Vary the work during the day
- Move from seated to standing work or from work requiring lots of hand motion to work requiring little hand motion.

Last but just as important – let people know if there is a problem or potential problem. Your supervisors can't help make the workplace a safer place to work if you don't let them know what your needs are.

Know your safety officer and report problems!

Civilian News

New DTS mileage rate for POV's

A new mileage rate for privately owned vehicles (POV) used for official travel is effective Aug. 1. The General Services Administration (GSA) increased the mileage allowance to \$0.585 per mile when operating a POV during official travel. This increase affects all private auto expense types - In/around, TDY/TAD, and Terminal for travel on or after Aug. 1.

If you travel on or after Aug. 1 by POV please ensure the expenses on your document reflect the updated mileage rate for travel. If you have any questions please contact your Organizational Defense Travel Agent (ODTA) or the Help Desk (256) 876-2291. A list of SMDC/ARSTRAT ODTA's is located on the Commandnet at: <https://commandnet.smdc.army.mil/pubsdrive/orgs/smdc-rm/RM-A/DTS/ODTA.xls>

Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) maximum contributions

For 2008, the Internal Revenue Service annual limit on elective deferrals for TSP contributions is \$15,500. You are strongly encouraged to check your TSP year-to-date contributions under the "Deductions" section of your Leave and Earnings Statement to ensure that your contributions do not exceed the limit prior to the end of the pay year. When the maximum contribution limit is reached, your employee contributions will be suspended for the remainder of the year. If you are a FERS employee, your agency matching contributions will also be suspended. (Employees 50 years or older will still be able to continue participation in the TSP Catch-up (TSP-C) program even if the regular employee contributions exceed \$15,500. There are no agency matching contributions on TSP-C contributions.)

If you are under FERS, it is very important for you to ensure that you are making regular employee contributions throughout the entire year in order to avoid losing agency matching contributions. You may change your contribution election at any time via the ABC-C systems.

The TSP Fact Sheet entitled "Annual Limits on Elective Deferrals," describes in detail the elective deferral limits and especially how it affects TSP contributions of FERS employees. You may view this fact sheet at the following link at: <http://www.tsp.gov/forms/oc91-13.pdf>

Additional information is available on line at: <https://www.abc.army.mil/>. If you have questions, please contact a counselor at the Army Benefits Center - Civilian toll-free at (877) 276-9287. Numbers for our overseas and/or hearing impaired customers can be found at: <https://www.abc.army.mil/ABCCMenu.htm>

Loans available from Federal government

Loans are available from the Federal government but finding them is often the challenge. Covering a broad range of loan categories including education, housing, small business, veterans and disaster relief, GovLoans.gov provides a detailed description, eligibility requirements and contact information for each program. In addition, the site offers users the ability to compare loan terms such as interest rates, maximum loan amounts and annual fees.

Getting started is FREE and EASY.

The Web site GovLoans.gov is designed to simplify the process of identifying and evaluating loans that may meet individual needs.

Step 1: On the homepage, choose a category from the Loan Quick Search that matches the area of interest, such as small business loans.

Step 2: A list of loan programs will appear with several options. You can read more by clicking on the program name. Or check one or more programs and click on "View Loan Details." You can print program descriptions at any time.

Step 3: Click on "View Loan Terms" for a look at maximum loan amounts and length of time, interest rates, payment frequency and fees.

Step 4: When you see a loan program that fits your needs, click on "Determine Eligibility" and complete the short questionnaire.

Did you know?

If you are enrolled, Long Term Care Insurance (LTCI) continues when you enter LWOP as long as you continue to pay the premiums. If your premiums are being deducted through payroll deduction, you must contact LTC (Long Term Care) Partners to select a different payment option, such as direct billing or automatic bank withdrawal. Upon your return to a pay and duty status, contact LTC Partners again if you wish to go back to payroll deduction. Contact LTC Partners at (800) 582-3337 or via the Web at: www.ltcfeds.com

Military News

Online TRICARE enrollment

TRICARE offers a convenient Beneficiary Web Enrollment (BWE) tool where beneficiaries can manage enrollment and DEERS information online 24/7. Log on to the Beneficiary Web Enrollment at the Web site: <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/bwe/> to enroll in Prime, update personal information and request enrollment cards. Prime Remote active-duty servicemembers and Families can also choose primary care managers (PCM) through BWE. Log on through the common access card (CAC), Defense Finance and Accounting Service "myPay" personal identification number (PIN), or family member account PIN, which is now called DoD Self-service Logon Pin.

TRICARE options during PCS

Many military families plan permanent change of station (PCS) moves during the summer. For customized information about moving with TRICARE, visit the benefit information portal at www.tricare.mil and select status, country, zip code and TRICARE plan. Here are some tips: (1) investigate TRICARE options in your new location prior to a PCS; (2) refill prescriptions and obtain routine medical care before the move if possible; (3) download, print and keep handy "Traveling with TRICARE Prime" flyer (at: www.tricare.mil/tricaresmart/product); and (4) active duty servicemembers need to coordinate their Prime or Prime Remote enrollment with their new duty station.

Wounded Soldier and Family hotline

The purpose of the hotline is two-fold:

- To offer wounded, injured, or ill Soldiers and their Family members a way to share concerns on the quality of patient care.
- To provide senior Army leaders with visibility on medically-related issues so they can properly allocate resources to better serve Soldiers and Families.

The hotline is an avenue to gather information about medical care as well as suggest ways we can improve our medical support systems.

The hotline has not been established to circumvent the chain of command, but rather to give Soldiers and Family members an additional means to resolve medical-related issues. Any type of retribution directed towards those who use the hotline will not be tolerated.

Call: (800) 984-8523. Stateside DSN 328-0002. Overseas DSN (312) 328-0002. E-mail: wfsupport@conus.army.mil

Travel (TDY) card switch coming

Defense Department travelers should be gearing up for Nov. 30 when the bank issuing their travel charge cards will switch from Bank of America® to Citibank. When federal employees (military and civilians) receive the new card in August or September they need to call and verify receipt of the new card because the Defense Travel Management Office will track delivery of the cards. DoD said travelers should continue using their Bank of America cards until 11:59 p.m. Nov. 29. New cards issued by Citi®, will be ready for use beginning Nov. 30, at 12 a.m., EST. Personal identification numbers for the new Citibank cards will arrive on or around Nov. 1st. If you don't receive your Citibank card by Oct. 31 notify your APC (Agency Program Coordinator) for further assistance. If you are scheduled for a permanent change of station move, please make sure that your address and date of move is on file with Bank of America® or updated in EAGLS (Electronic Account Government Ledger System). APCs will not have the option to forward the mail to your new address. Please contact the APC at your new permanent duty station upon arrival. For more information visit the Defense Travel Management Office's Web site at www.defensetravel.dod.mil for detailed information, there are key facts to know and archived Transition Newsletters to read at the Web site.

Gifts to the Army Web site

The "Gifts to Army" Web site (<http://giftstoarmy.army.mil>), launched in July, is an online resource developed to streamline and process gifts to the Army that benefit Soldiers and their Families. This Web site will provide the public an online resource to answer the question: "How can we help?" This Web site is not intended as a solicitation, but merely as a way to provide information on the options and programs available to those who have expressed a desire to make a contribution. The Army Gift Program has existed for many years under the authority of Title 10 United States Code, Section 2601. On Jan. 28, President Bush signed into law, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110-181, Section 593), which expanded the Army's gift acceptance authority to include acceptance of gifts on behalf of wounded Soldiers, wounded civilian employees, and their Families.

20 top FAQs about the new GI Bill

military.com

As you read this remember the Department of Veterans Affairs is the only resource that can answer your personal and specific GI Bill entitlement questions. Call 1-888-GIBILL-1 if these Q&A's do not meet your needs.

1. Question: When does this new benefit go into effect? **Answer:** The Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33) goes into effect on Aug. 1, 2009.

2. Question: Is this benefit retroactive? **Answer:** No. The Post 9/11 GI Bill will only cover classes and programs completed after July 31, 2009.

3. Question: Am I eligible for this new benefit? **Answer:** You are eligible if you served a minimum of 90 days on active duty after September 10, 2001. This covers active duty served as a member of the Armed Forces or as a result of a call or order to active duty from a reserve component (National Guard and Reserve) under certain sections of title 10.

However, some periods of active duty service are excluded. Periods of service under the following do not count toward qualification for the Post 9/11 GI Bill: NOAA, PHS, or Active Guard Reserve; ROTC under 10 U.S.C. 2107(b); Service academy contract period; Service terminated due to defective enlistment agreement; Service used for loan repayment; and Selected reserve service used to establish eligibility under the Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB chapter 30), MGIB for Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR Chapter 1606), or the Reserve Education Assistance Program (REAP chapter 1607).

4. Question: Does the length of time served after 9/11 effect my level of benefits? **Answer:** Yes, the amount of tuition and stipends paid under the Post 9/11 GI Bill will vary depending on your state of residence, number of units taken, and amount of post Sept. 11, 2001 active-duty service. Here is a quick reference showing the percentage of total combined benefit eligibility based on the following periods of post 9/11 service:

100 percent - 36 or more total months; 100 percent - 30 or more consecutive days with Disability related Discharge. 90 percent - 30 total months; 80 percent - 24 total months; 70 percent - 18 total months; 60 percent - 12 total months; 50 percent - six total months; 40 percent - 90 or more consecutive days.

5. Question: What are the benefits of this new educational assistance program? **Answer:** The Post 9/11 GI Bill offers several education assistance benefits. The three major benefits include up to 100 percent paid tuition, a monthly housing stipend, and a stipend of up to \$1,000 a year for books and supplies. If you attend less than full-time you will receive a portion of the payment based on the number of units of study. These payment rates are paid according to the length of your period of service as listed in the previous question.

Tuition and fee payments will be made to the school (of your choice) for all established charges. This payment is capped at the tuition and fees rate for the most expensive in-State undergraduate (Associates or Bachelors level courses) public college for the state of enrollment - this does not mean that you must attend a public school. The amount of established charges payable for the entire quarter, semester, or term will be sent directly to the school as a lump sum payment. Individuals will receive the applicable

percentage of the lesser of (1) established charges or (2) highest amount of established charges regularly charged undergraduate in-State students for full-time pursuit at a college or university.

The monthly housing stipend will be paid based on the monthly basic allowance for housing (BAH) payable for a military member with dependents in pay grade E-5 residing in the same ZIP code for the school where the individual is enrolled. Active duty members, individuals training at half-time time or less, and individuals pursuing distance learning are not eligible for a housing stipend.

You may receive a stipend of up to \$1,000 a year for books, supplies, etc. The individual will receive a lump sum payment in the first month of each quarter, semester, or term. The amount of the stipend payable is an amount equal to the fraction of the whole academic year that the quarter, semester, or term represents. **NOTE:** The amount of the monthly housing and book stipends will be prorated based on the percentage of maximum benefit payable as noted in a previous question.

Here are two examples of how this works:

EXAMPLE 1: Individuals attending Public Money University (PMU) in Florida are charged \$2,500 for full-time training each quarter. The highest in-State undergraduate tuition in Florida is \$5,000 per quarter and the monthly housing allowance for the zip code that PMU resides in is \$1,500.

Individuals who served at least 36 months on active duty (eligible for 100% of benefit) and who attend PMU full-time would receive — \$2,500 for tuition and fees (paid directly to PMU); A monthly housing allowance of \$1,500 per month (while pursuing training); and \$250 book stipend for each quarter that the individual is enrolled.

Individuals who served at least 24 months on active duty (eligible for 80% of benefit) and who attend PMU full-time would receive — \$2,000 for tuition and fees (paid directly to PMU); a monthly housing allowance of \$1,200 per month (while pursuing training); and \$200 book stipend for each quarter that the individual is enrolled.

EXAMPLE 2: Individuals attending Private Benefits University (PBU) in Texas are charged \$5,000 for full-time training each quarter. The highest in-State undergraduate tuition in Texas is \$4,000 per quarter and the monthly housing allowance for the zip code that PBU resides in is \$1,000.

Individuals who served at least 36 months on active duty (eligible for 100% of benefit) and who attend PBU full-time would receive — \$4,000 for tuition and fees (paid directly to PBU); a monthly housing allowance of \$1,000 per month (while pursuing training); and \$250 book stipend for each quarter that the individual is enrolled.

Individuals who served at least 24 months on active duty (eligible for 80% of benefit) and who attend PBU full-time would receive — \$3,200 for tuition and fees (paid directly to PBU); a monthly housing allowance of \$800 per month (while pursuing training); and \$200 book stipend for each quarter the individual is enrolled.

6. Question: Are there additional benefits? **Answer:** Yes, the additional benefits include the following, which are not charged against your 36-month entitlement:

Tutorial assistance may be paid up to \$100 per month, not to exceed a total of \$1,200; One licensing and certification test may be reimbursed, not to exceed the cost of the test up to a maximum of \$2,000; and work-study is authorized for individuals training at three-fourths time or higher.

A one-time payment of \$500 for veterans using the Post 9/11 GI Bill to pursue a program of education if the claimant — resides in a county with six persons or less per square mile (as determined by most recent decennial Census); and either physically relocates at least 500 miles; or travels by air to physically attend an IHL if no other land-based transportation exists.

7. Question: Is there a limit to the benefits if I go to school half-time?

Answer: Yes, there is a limitation on Educational Assistance for Training Pursued at half-time or less and for Active Duty members. If you attend training at one-half time or less you are not eligible for the monthly housing stipend. You are eligible for an appropriately reduced stipend for books. The amount of educational assistance payable is the applicable percentage mentioned in an earlier question at a rate the lesser of: established charges or highest amount of established charges regularly charged in-State undergraduate students for full-time pursuit at an in-State public college or university.

8. Question: I am on active duty, is there a limit to my benefits? **Answer:** Yes, Active Duty members are not eligible for the monthly housing stipend or for the book stipend. The amount of educational assistance payable is the lesser of the: established charges, or the Top-up amount not covered by military tuition assistance.

9. Question: I was promised the College Fund when I joined, will I still get that extra benefit? **Answer:** Yes, individuals eligible for a kicker (College Fund, Reserve Kicker) will remain eligible for such kicker under the Post 9/11 GI Bill. If eligible, you will be paid the kicker each month as an increase to your housing stipend, even on active duty. Although as an active duty service member, or a veterans training at ½ time or less, or you are pursuing distance learning, you will receive your monthly kicker payment.

10. Question: I elected to make additional contributions under the "Buy-Up" program, will I get the additional benefit? **Answer:** No, you will not receive an increased amount for additional contributions (\$600 buy-up) paid under chapters 30 or 1607 and you will not be refunded this amount under the Post 9/11 GI Bill.

11. Question: Will my \$1,200 enrollment fee be refunded? **Answer:** Yes, MGIB (chapter 30) contributions (excluding \$600 buy-up) will be refunded at a proportional amount [based on the number of months remaining under MGIB at time of Post 9/11 GI Bill (chapter 33) election] of the basic \$1,200 contribution. This refund will be included in the last monthly stipend payment when chapter 33 entitlement exhausts. Individuals who do not exhaust entitlement under chapter 33 will not receive a refund of contributions paid under MGIB.

12. Question: Does the Post 9/11 GI Bill have an expiration date? **Answer:** Yes, your eligibility to use the Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits expires 15 years from the date of the last discharge or release from active duty of at least 90 consecutive days.

Best warriors

continued from page 1

Test consisting of sit-ups, pushups and a two-mile run at an altitude of more than 6,000 feet above sea level. The elevation gave some of the competitors a bit of a struggle, but each of them pushed through to the end. The candidates were then weighed and taped, and given time to clean up before heading to the Building 3 training rooms for a written exam. Later in the afternoon, the candidates and their sponsors gathered at Iron Horse Park, on Fort Carson, for training on the Defense Advanced GPS Receiver before heading out for daytime and nighttime urban orienteering courses.

On the second day, the competitors and sponsors were brought to a Fort Carson range to zero their M4s and then attempt to qualify by firing on pop-up targets ranging from 50 – 300 meters downrange.

“I’m excited about being out in the field, going out and being able to qualify and shoot weapons, doing urban orienteering and land (navigation) and doing some of the ‘hooah, hooah’ Army things that we typically do,” said Barber. “In space we don’t get enough opportunities to do that, so we really take advantage of it when we can.”

The highlight of day three was the Situational Training Exercise. In this event, the competitors maneuvered with their team through vast, rugged terrain and were graded on how they handled various combat-like scenarios. In the final phase of the exercise, the Soldiers had to lead their team through a MOUT (military operations on urban terrain) site in search of a U.S. “Soldier” who was being held hostage. As the teams navigated their way through the city, they encountered an occasional Iraqi civilian, but it was not long before they were exchanging gunfire with “enemy combatants” as they worked to free their comrade.

“Having the ability to have our Space Soldiers involved in this competition, as well as any other NCO or Soldier throughout the Army, just shows that our Space Soldiers here at SMDC/ARSTRAT definitely have the ability, the confidence, the physical stamina and the mental discipline to compete and hopefully be selected as this year’s DA level NCO or Soldier of the Year,” said SMDC/ARSTRAT Command Sgt. Maj. Ralph C. Borja.

Borja chaired the administrative board, the final event of the competition and for some, the most nerve-racking event.

“I’m nervous and excited about the administrative board,” Moore said. “That’s one of the things that I’m looking forward to but also where I’m not so sure about, so I’m looking forward to the challenge.”

Moore obviously had nothing to be nervous about. He and Barber will return to Colorado in mid-September to train for the Department of the Army Best Warrior Competition, which will be at Fort Lee, Va., Sept. 28 – Oct. 3.

The candidates who participated in the SMDC/ARSTRAT challenge were: Selectees: Staff Sgt. Christopher L. Barber, SMDC/ARSTRAT Pacific Region NCO of the Year and Spc. Michael Moore, SMDC/ARSTRAT European Region Soldier of the Year. 1st Runners-up: Staff Sgt. Charles Robinson III, SMDC/ARSTRAT European Region NCO of the Year and Sgt. Joseph B. Knece, SMDC/ARSTRAT Pacific Region Soldier of the Year (also the 2007 Soldier of the Year runner-up). 2nd Runners-up: Staff Sgt. Randolph Brown, SMDC/ARSTRAT Western Region NCO of the Year and Spc. Matthew Caple, SMDC/ARSTRAT Western Region Soldier of the Year. 3rd Runners-up: Sgt. Matthew Davidson, SMDC/ARSTRAT Eastern Region NCO of the Year and Spc. Abigail Keller, SMDC/ARSTRAT Eastern Region Soldier of the Year.



Photo by Sharon L. Hartman

Sgt. Joseph Knece focuses on his form during the Physical Fitness test.

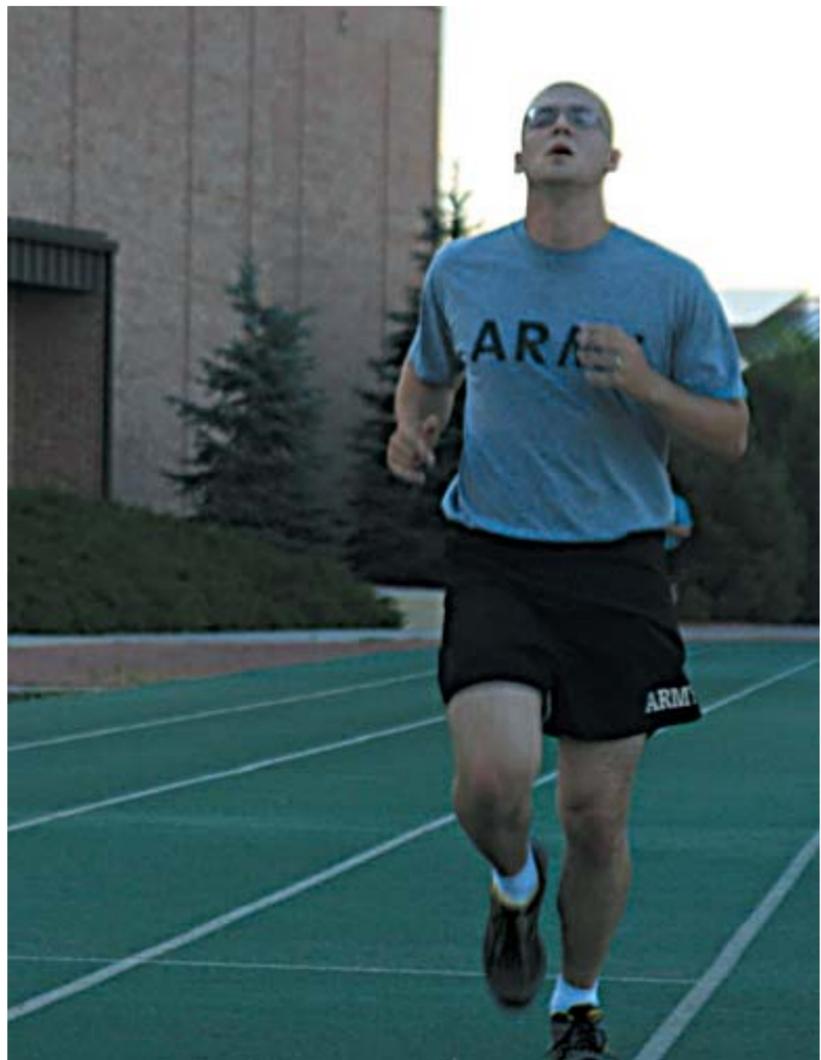


Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Mike Queen

Spc. Michael Moore pushes through the run portion of the Physical Fitness Test.



Photo by Sharon L. Hartman

Left: Staff Sgt. Christopher Barber shows his form during the 2008 U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command’s Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Year competition. The weeklong competition was conducted July 20-25 and in the end Barber took the title of SMDC/ARSTRAT Noncommissioned Officer of the Year while Spc. Michael Moore was named the SMDC/ARSTRAT Soldier of the Year.

The rest of the competition



Photo by Sharon L. Hartman

Staff Sgt. Randolph Brown takes aim at a target during the weapons qualification portion of the competition.



Photo by Michael Kahl

Sgt. Joseph Knece, second from left, cautiously guides his team as they go through a "village" where a "hostage" is being held.



Photo by Sharon L. Hartman

Staff Sgt. Charles Robinson III, right, is assisted by one of his Soldiers in the rescue of another "Soldier" who was taken "hostage."



Photo by Michael Kahl

During the competition, Spc. Matthew Caple calls in a Medevac for an "injured" Soldier.



Photo by Sharon L. Hartman

Above, Spc. Abigail Keller locks and loads.



Photo by Sharon L. Hartman

A range safety looks on as sponsor, Staff Sgt. Chaun Frink (center) coaches Sgt. Matthew Davidson during the weapons qualification.



Photo by Sharon L. Hartman

Left, Staff Sgt. Charles Robinson III studies his map before he heads out to find his first point during the urban orienteering event.

Army's 1st Space Brigade gets their new commander

By DJ Montoya
Public Affairs
1st Space Brigade

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo.— Col. Jeffrey A. Farnsworth assumed command of the 1st Space Brigade from the unit's outgoing commander, Col. Timothy R. Coffin during a Change of Command ceremony conducted on the morning of July 10 at Patriot Park.

Lt. Gen. Kevin T. Campbell, commanding general, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command (SMDC/ARSTRAT) hosted the ceremony for the 1st Space Brigade, which is the operational element of SMDC/ARSTRAT.

After passing the brigade's colors to the new commander, Campbell in his remarks said, "Tim's Soldiers certainly allowed him to be an exceptional commander and that's because Tim gave everything he had to this brigade.

"He led them with a passion and he extended compassion to them. His tactical proficiency is unparalleled in the Army in this business of space operations."

Commenting on the brigade's new commander Campbell stated, "He [Farnsworth] is imminently qualified for the job. He has had all the right positions leading up to this. He was a former 1st Space Battalion commander. He has done all the right things up in Washington, D.C., on the staff and knows the business inside and out. I expect great things out of him.

"This is a high performing unit, Jeff. You have some tough challenges ahead, but again, you have got the right skills. And I challenge you to care for this unit's Soldiers, Families and civilians as you would your own family."

Afterward, Coffin expressed his gratitude to the audience by saying, "These Soldiers here in front of you only represent a small part of the 850 Soldiers we have spread around the world, that are doing operations on a day-to-day basis supporting our Soldiers, our civilians, the president, secretary of defense and others in operations and missions around the world.

"This brigade operates 10 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week operation centers



Photo by Craig Denton, United States Air Force civilian

U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command's Commanding General, Lt. Gen. Kevin T. Campbell (left), charges Col. Jeffrey A. Farnsworth with responsibility of the 1st Space Brigade during Farnsworth's Change of Command ceremony July 10.

that provide that kind of support to the warfighter.

"It has been a bit of a marathon, not only for this brigade, but for the entire U.S. military. We don't necessarily plan, organize or equip ourselves for long-duration wars. Ever since 9/11 though, members of this brigade have been forward deployed doing the nation's bidding. When one team comes back before they can return we send another team out in their place.

"It is a bittersweet moment to leave command, but I leave it knowing that I put in what I can and you have a great team that will support you, Jeff, as you go forward," Coffin said.

Upon taking command of the brigade Farnsworth stated, "General Campbell, I pledge my loyalty to this mission, this chain of command and I can't think of a better command climate to be part of.

"Members of the Space Brigade, I pledge to you that I will leave no stone unturned

in the service of our Soldiers, our Families, our mission, our readiness. Together, with your support, strong teamwork and leadership we will write the next chapter in this Space Brigade."

Prior to the official portion of the morning's activities a short awards presentation was made to Coffin and his wife, Cheryl. Campbell presented the Legion of Merit Award to Coffin for exceptionally meritorious service from July 27, 2006 through July 1, 2008, as commander of the 1st Space Brigade. Coffin was also presented with the Honorable Order of Saint Dominic Silver Award.

Campbell then awarded Cheryl the Outstanding Civilian Service Medal for her contributions and efforts to the Soldiers and Families of the 1st Space Brigade.

Coffin's next duty assignment is as the J3 with the 14th Air Force, Joint Forces Component Command for Space.

Echo Company's 48-hour Ops exercise

By Spc. Jared A. Ellerbe
Unit Reporter
Echo Company
53rd Signal Battalion

FORT BUCKNER, OKINAWA, Japan— Echo Company, 53rd Signal Battalion performed an Operational Training Exercise June 24-29. The OTX was a 48-hour operation consisting of two of the four squads at a time. Each squad worked eight-hour shifts on the operations floor.

During the shifts, observers/evaluators would insert anomalies for Soldiers to troubleshoot to gauge the

Soldier's knowledge, understand how squads should work together and understand the use of proper procedure. Most of the anomalies simulated equipment component failures such as bad radio frequencies modules in a down-converter, or a failed 5MHz module on the distribution amplifier.

However, there were "bugs" of the kind that simulated complete power outages at a sister operations center which called for taking their network without any prior notice. Also situations such as controlled handovers of networks were performed to make sure Soldiers followed proper

procedures such as notifying their Senior Wideband Controller of events going on at their station. A half-hour prior to the end of shift another squad would come in to receive a round-robin brief and relieve the squad that was working.

Soldiers received about a 10-minute break and would then perform 2 to 2 1/2 hours of Sergeants Time Training conducted by the Soldiers Noncommissioned Officer or Position Noncommissioned Officer. The training consisted of mission essential task list, and warrior task and drills. Soldiers were instructed on things such as basic rifle

marksmanship, DSCS Frequency Division Multiple Access Control Subsystem signal flow, DFCS network topology, and how Replacement Frequency Modulation Order Wire subnet works. The training was planned around the Soldier's weak areas and also upcoming events like going to the range days later after the exercise.

After Sergeants Time Training, the Soldier's were allotted 30 minutes of personal hygiene, and it was time for lights out. Soldiers slept in the Primary Load List room on cots

See **OTX** on page 15

Command lawyer is FBA president-elect

By Diane Schumacher
Public Affairs
SMDC/ARSTRAT

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala. – Juanita Sales Lee is a federal employee working for the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command here.

She's one of the Command staff lawyers and nearly everyone in the command here knows her. If there's any type of office or work social with music, you'll find Sales Lee dancing and encouraging everyone else around her to do the same many employees have been witness to that. Ask her about the 2007 headquarters organization day – better yet, for evidence see the pictures of that event on the CommandNet.

Sales Lee can usually be found with a smile on her face and joking around, but that isn't to say she isn't serious minded, for indeed she is.

A busy woman at work and during her time away from the office, she is heavily involved with the Federal Bar Association [of attorneys] during off-duty time and is the past president of the North Alabama Chapter of the FBA.

Sales Lee went on to brag a bit about the Chapter she no longer presides over. "It's a wonderful organization, it encourages leadership just as does the national organization," she said with a broad smile. "The local chapter has been in existence for 50 years and the attorneys work for the good of the community. It's all about public service.

"We invite federal and administrative

judges and lawyers to speak at [FBA-hosted] luncheons as a service to the community. It's current education for the community and it helps everyone in the performance of his or her job."

President-Elect Sales Lee will be officially recognized and installed as president of the Federal Bar Association on Sept. 20 at a formal evening banquet which starts with a reception at 6:30 p.m. at the Von Braun Center in downtown Huntsville, Ala.

"I couldn't have done this without the help of my supervisors or without my colleagues," Sales Lee said. "It was a team effort."

It took six years for her to reach the level of president for the FBA, she said. First she campaigned for the deputy secretary position. Sales Lee put her heart into the effort creating a brochure selling her qualifications and background – she won. She climbed the ladder of different positions through the years. Fast forward six years, now she's the president-elect.

Sales Lee intimated she hoped all who have participated in helping her along the way will be able to find the time to celebrate with her in this important life event of hers.

"I would like the entire command to attend," she said. "It would be an honor if they would attend. A band is coming from Atlanta and after all the awards and other formalities conclude, around 10:30 p.m. there will be a CELEBRATION!"

For information on registration, fees and attire, visit the Web site www.fedbar.org or call Erin Liberatore, (571) 481-9100 or e-mail: eliberatore@fedbar.org with questions.



Juanita Sales Lee

Photo by Dottie White

New commander arrives at HHC, 53rd Signal Battalion, Peterson AFB, Colo.

By Sgt. Matthew Funk
Unit Reporter
HHC, 53rd Signal Battalion

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — The afternoon sun shone brightly across the grass and buildings on Peterson Air Force Base on July 8. Outside the massive dark glass structure of Building 3, a sharp corner pointed ominously toward the dark reaches of space, beyond the light blue skies, declaring the building's true purpose.

Inside the steel and glass structure of U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command's operational headquarters, the Space Soldiers of the United States Army were hard at work – ensuring space superiority on a constant basis. It was only too fitting that the change of leadership for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 53rd Signal Battalion, would occur at such a location.

Capt. Michael Euperio, with fiancée Kelly O'Boyle present and representing his family, passed the responsibility, leadership and mission of

company commander to Capt. Jonathan Gendron. A signal orange guidon bearing the letters "HQ" was passed to Gendron from Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Patrick Kerr, another leader representing the exciting new changes yet to be seen in the 53rd Signal Battalion.

Though the pride of the unit was passed from one set of hands to the next, the memories shared with Euperio will continue to remain with the Soldiers of this command. A handful of early morning trips up the Incline, Barr Trail, and even Pikes Peak are still talked about on the operations floor.

The hail and farewell dinners for at least two dozen incoming and outgoing personnel, all organized by the commander, allowed the unit to properly recognize Families and the contributions made by individual Soldiers during their tenure with the unit. The jokes and roasts shared by the Soldiers and commander at the dining out in 2007 still bring laughs almost nine months later.

Photos from Army Physical Fitness Tests, Sergeants' Time



Photo by Dennis Howk, United States Air Force civilian

Outgoing Company Commander, Capt. Michael Euperio (left), Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Patrick Kerr (center), and Incoming Company Commander, Capt. Jonathan Gendron (right), stand at attention during Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 53rd Signal Battalion's Change of Command ceremony.

Training, Army Warrior Training, the unit ski trip, unit organizational day, reflexive fire range, and many other events of the past two years under the command of Euperio, remain posted around the unit and on the unit's hard

drive – remnants of the command that Soldiers several years from now will look at and respect the history of the company.

The Soldiers of HHC, 53rd Signal Battalion look forward to continuing this legacy with their new commander.

Defense Integrated Military Human Resources System implementation countdown continues

By Steven R. Davis
SMDC/ARSTRAT Deputy G-1
Military Personnel Division

The Defense Integrated Military Human Resources System commonly referred to as DIMHRS, has been rescheduled for implementation to March 1, 2009. As you recall from the April issue of *The Eagle*, this system was programmed to be implemented on Oct. 1. Due to updates in software, system compatibilities as well as feedback from the field, the date was slipped to March 1, 2009.

DIMHRS will integrate over 160 stand alone systems into one real-time Web-based system that will capture both personnel as well as finance information on military personnel.

Department of the Army is

encouraging all Soldiers, their supervisors, civilians/contractors and persons of interest (POI) who require DIMHRS access obtain an AKO account and ensure it stays active. DIMHRS will subsume personnel and finance systems for all Active military components (Army, Navy, Marines, and Air Force) as well as Army National Guard, and the United States Army Reserve.

Soldiers and Civilians who supervise Soldiers are highly encouraged to visit the DIMHRS web sites to view/gain information concerning this new State of The Art automated system.

The following pay and personnel services will be accomplished under DIMHRS: accessions; permanent and temporary assignments; compensation; separations/retirements; family status change; leave processing; personnel records maintenance (e.g., apply for record

corrections); career planning (e.g., assignment preference statements); transfers (e.g., mobilization); promotions/demotions; honors and awards.

The SMDC/ARSTRAT "Change Champions" are Robert Kyniston and Norberto Soto-Fuentes. They may be reached by e-mail: robert.kyniston@smdc-cs.army.mil in Colorado Springs, Colo. or, norberto.soto-fuentes@smdc.army.mil in Huntsville, Ala. In addition, our SMDC/ARSTRAT DIMHRS administrators are Sgt. 1st Class Willie Kelly, e-mail: Willie.Kelly@smdc.army.mil and Sgt. Justin Bollay, e-mail: Justin.Bollay@smdc.army.mil

For full details on this new system visit the DIMHRS Web site at: <https://www.hrc.army.mil/SITE/ArmyDIMHRS/index.html>.

GI Bill

continued from page 6

13. Question: Are there stipulations to my eligibility?
Answer: Yes, in order to retain eligibility, after meeting the previously listed service requirements, you must: be honorably discharged from Armed Forces; or be released from Armed Forces with service characterized as honorable and placed on the retired list, temporary disability retired list, or transferred to the Fleet Reserve or the Fleet Marine Corps Reserve; or be released from Armed Forces with service characterized as honorable for further service in a reserve component; or be discharged or released from Armed Forces for — a medical condition which existed prior to service (EPTS); hardship (HDSF), or a condition which interfered with duty (CIWD); or continue on active duty.

14. Question: The MGIB was limited to 36 months of benefits, is there similar limit for the Post 9/11 GI Bill?
Answer: Yes, like the MGIB you are generally entitled to 36 months of educational assistance. You may not receive benefits under more than one VA education program at the same time. If you are entitled to more than one GI Bill program you may be eligible for a maximum of 48 months of entitlement when using benefits under two or more GI Bill programs. **NOTE:** Individuals eligible under MGIB (Chapter 30) who elect to receive benefits under the Post 9/11 GI Bill are only entitled to the number of months they had remaining under MGIB (Chapter 30) (including any revoked months of transferred entitlement) up to a maximum of 36 months.

15. Question: What types of education programs are

approved for the new Post 9/11 GI Bill? **Answer:** The Post 9/11 GI Bill differs in some ways from the MGIB when it comes to the types of programs that can be used. Under the Post 9/11 GI Bill you may receive educational and training assistance for any program of education that is approved under MGIB (chapter 30) and offered by a college or university. This includes vocational training programs that are offered by accredited colleges and universities only.

However, if you were previously eligible for the MGIB, MGIB-SR (1606), or REAP (1607), you may continue to receive educational assistance for MGIB-approved programs not offered by colleges and universities (i.e. flight, correspondence, APP/OJT, preparatory courses, and national tests).

16. Question: Will I be able to switch back and forth between the MGIB and Post 9/11 GI Bill?
Answer: No, in simple terms, you will no longer be eligible under the MGIB or other programs, after you elect to switch to the Post 9/11 GI Bill (chapter 33). **NOTE:** If you elect to participate in the Post 9/11 GI Bill, you may use benefits under the MGIB, MGIB-SR, or REAP, if the type of educational assistance [flight, correspondence, APP/OJT, preparatory courses, and national tests] you wish to pursue is not available under chapter 33.

17. Question: Can I transfer my GI Bill benefit to family members? **Answer:** Yes, but the details for doing so have not been completely clarified yet.

Transferring Post 9/11 GI Bill Benefits: The Department of Defense (DoD) is authorized to allow individuals who, on or after Aug. 1, 2009, have served at least six years in the Armed

Forces and who agree to serve at least another four years in the Armed Forces to transfer unused entitlement to their dependents (spouse, children). The Department of Defense may, by regulation, impose additional eligibility requirements and limit the number of months transferable to not less than 18 months.

Transfer of Unused Education Benefits Under MGIB (Chapter 30), 1606, or 1607 to Family Members: The Department of Defense is authorized to allow individuals who have served at least six years in the Armed Forces and who agree to serve at least another four years in the Armed Forces to transfer unused entitlement to their dependents (spouse, children) under chapters 30, 1606, and 1607. The Department of Defense may, by regulation, impose additional eligibility requirements and limit the number of months transferable to not less than 18 months. **NOTE:** Although the transfer of entitlement provisions are effective as of June 30, 2008, DoD must develop regulations and provide VA with eligibility information before we can make payments under this provision. The ability to transfer benefits is limited to those currently serving in the military.

18. Question: I am a member of the Selected Reserve, has the expiration on my MGIB-SR benefit been extended? **Answer:** Yes, effective as of June 30, 2008, the 14-year period of eligibility for members of the Selected Reserve has been rescinded.

If you are a member of the Selected Reserve with remaining entitlement under MGIB-SR (chapter 1606), you will remain eligible until the date you separate from the Selected Reserve. If you had remaining

MGIB-SR entitlement and reached a delimiting date, you may receive benefits for training pursued on or after June 30, 2008. However, you may not receive benefits for training pursued between their original delimiting date and June 30, 2008 - in other words no retroactive payments will be made.

19. Question: What if the new Post 9/11 GI Bill isn't enough to cover my online post-graduate studies? **Answer:** Under the new Post 9/11 GI Bill, you will have two options. First is to decline the Post 9/11 benefits and continue to use the MGIB. The other option is called the "Yellow Ribbon Program." Under the program, colleges and universities may voluntarily enter into an agreement with the VA Department to fund up to 50 percent of the established charges not already covered under chapter 33. VA will match each additional dollar funded by the school. Only individuals entitled to the 100 percent benefit rate based on service requirements (see Question 4) may receive this funding. Many veterans may face a difficult choice next year (2009). You will need to carefully weigh your options. *You may find that declining the Post 9/11 GI Bill and sticking to the MGIB will best serve your needs.* Ultimately the choice is up to you, take your time and be sure to consider all the facts before making your decision. Remember, you have a year, and a lot can change between now and Aug. 1, 2009.

20. Question: Has the current MGIB payment rate been increased? **Answer:** Yes, effective Aug. 1, 2008, the MGIB payment rate will be increased to \$1,321 for full-time enrollment, a 20 percent increase over the 2007 rate.

Born to be wild — on steel horses

By Denny Skiles
Chief Force Protection
SMDC/ARSTRAT G-3

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Mounted up on “steel horses,” members of U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command and their Family members rode across the beautiful Colorado countryside as part of the 10th Annual Motorcycle Run to Turkey Creek.

The event began at 7 a.m., June 20, with nearly two dozen participants making their way to the Newport Building rally point. After quick introductions and a safety brief, the thunder could be heard all across the flatlands.

“The sun climbing the massive eastern side of the Rocky Mountains is something to be seen, it



Photos by Russ Robinson, Future Warfare Center
SMDC/ARSTRAT

Jim Bearce, one of the Building 3 engineers, takes a quick break to refuel during U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command's 10th Annual Motorcycle Run to Turkey Creek.

makes getting up this early well worth it,” reflected one of the riders.

Considered “the high ground” back in the day, the bikers basked in the beautiful scenery that enveloped the Pikes

Peak region. Though the air on this particular morning was a little brisk, a stop in Cripple Creek for a warm cup of Joe kept the riders going as they covered a hundred miles of Colorado's out-west

beauty. Several miles and hours later, the travelers found themselves in the southwest region of the state, and realized it was time to shed some unwanted heavier garments to finish the trip in lighter clothing.

After a pre-planned fuel stop for riders and

machines alike, the group rolled into Turkey Creek, home of the 2008 SMDC/ARSTRAT Organization Day. It was a wonderful addition to an already perfect day.

Webster defines camaraderie as a “spirit of good fellowship.” I wonder if he had a Harley?



Members of U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command prepare to head out again after a break.

Blizzard Worldwide Invitational 2008

By Sgt. Jonathan Maxwell
Charlie Company
53rd Signal Battalion
and Christina Maxwell

LANDSTUHL, Germany — The Blizzard Worldwide Invitational was held during June in Paris, France, at the Paris Convention Center and that event leads to the question: Have you been on vacation lately? Have you traveled to the far off lands of Azertoth or the Outlands? Did you make sure to pack your imbued Netherweave bag as full as you could with your epic goods? ... You probably did if you are in the World of Warcraft.

Taurens, Night Elves, StarCraft and Diablo III are not necessarily the attractions of Paris as are the Eiffel Tower, Louvre Museum, or Notre Dame, but the weekend of June 27-28 was something different — the first Blizzard Conference in Europe.

The first morning of the conference the line was more than three blocks long. People started lining up at 3 a.m., five hours before the doors opened. Why would people attend a gaming conference? For one, the information flow is unimaginable at a conference like this. Second, a gamer gains advantage by attending a conference because he (or she) can meet with different companies that are gaming-oriented and test products or new versions of some of these games. Attending this conference was not only entertaining but also informational to Blizzard fans and gamers.

The conference allowed attendees to test the upcoming expansion of World of Warcraft, play the trading card and board game, witness the announcement of Diablo III, and check out vendors that cater to the gaming world. Attendees also had a chance to participate in question and answer panels with the creators of World of Warcraft and StarCraft. Gamers

were able hear about new ideas being implemented to keep players interested in their virtual worlds. There were also competitions between players in the games. Different teams from all over the world came to play and compete at this conference. The awards given out to gamers totaled over \$100,000.

Fans also had an opportunity to get dressed in costumes and make-up and appear in front of a green screen. Their images were transferred into a photo that placed them in a game. There was also a silent auction that sold fan art to help raise money for the French equivalent of the Red Cross. Three stage areas were set up so attendees could watch different events no matter where they were. Both



Photo: pc.ign.com (from WCG)

“A shot from 2007 World CyberGames StarCraft Grand Final. What you can't see is the speed at which [the gamer's] fingers are moving across the keyboard.” Quote from pc.ign.com.

floors of the event hall were set up with Blizzard Stores so game fans could purchase souvenirs from the conference.

Blizzard gave attendees a “goody bag” filled with all kinds of items that are unattainable by most people. The bag was actually a nice shoulder bag with a large “Blizzard Worldwide Invitational 2008 Paris” emblem on it. The bag contained a

package of the trade card game, a limited edition miniature Orc figure for the tabletop game, a Diablo notebook, bookmarks, advertising, and a loot card. This card has a pass code to access a special World of Warcraft in-game pet and a beta code to test a future Blizzard game release. Only those who attended this conference have the privilege of using the card. That means there are less than 10,000 of these special cards floating around the world.

The closing ceremony was the perfect ending to a gamers' weekend. The Blizzard-created band, L70ETC (Level 70 Elite Tauren Chieftain) made a special appearance and made its way to level 80 as they played their game-related, catchy

lyric rock songs. The ceremony ended with the soothing music of Video Games Live. This musical group came in with a choir and symphony, and played the theme music from the Blizzard games.

As the conference disbanded, two days of a real gaming world came apart piece by piece. It took gamers more than an hour to clear out the facility when the conference closed; they lingered at the door and seemed to hate leaving. Conference attendees were everywhere; they searched for restaurants serving a late night dinner or a place to grab a quick drink and almost all restaurants in the area were flooded with conversation about gaming.

“Have you traveled to the far off lands of Azertoth or the Outlands?”

Jonathan and Christina Maxwell

A brief look at one man's career in the military and federal government

50 years ... but who's counting?

By Wilfred H. "Will" Dennis Jr.

The following is a look back on my 50 years of federal service, both in the U. S. Air Force and as a federal civilian involving the security of missiles and the platforms that delivered them. I will retire Aug. 22 and return home to Niceville in the panhandle of Florida.

Who would think that a young boy from North Philadelphia, Pa. would enter the federal government and complete 50 years of honorable service?

I enlisted in the U.S Air Force two days after my graduation from Thomas A. Edison High School, on June 20, 1958. I was called to active duty and sent to Lackland Air Force Base, Texas on Aug. 6, 1958, and was assigned to the Air Police career field. After completing 10 weeks of basic training, and 10 weeks at the Air Police Technical School, I was assigned in December 1958 to the 801st Air Police Squadron, 380th Bombardment Wing, a B-47 Stratojet and KC-97 Stratotanker aircraft wing for the Strategic Air Command (SAC) at Plattsburgh Air Force Base, N.Y., just 20 miles south of the Canadian border.

Next, in October 1960, I was assigned a 15-month remote tour (which equated to two months of Sundays) at Goose Bay Air Base, Labrador to the 4082nd Combat Defense Squadron (a new name change from Air Police). This was a SAC resource with KC-97 Stratotankers. It was here that I was selected to be the Point-Guard on President Kennedy's aircraft, Air Force One, while the plane was down for refueling.

When the 556th Strategic Missile Squadron became operational in October 1961 it had the first Atlas Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) ever deployed east of the Mississippi River. Nuclear laden B-47 and KC-97 aircraft were deployed to various bases within the United Kingdom and also at Sondstrom Air Base in Greenland and so I deployed to both countries.

In January 1962, I was transferred to the 301st Bombardment Wing, 301st Combat Defense Squadron at Lockbourne AFB, Ohio (SAC), near Columbus, Ohio. It was here that SAC turned all of its airborne alert aircraft fleet to a permanent ground based "alert force" and we maintained one of the largest alert forces in SAC comprised of B-47 and KC 135 aircraft. On Feb. 20, 1962 Col. John Glenn became the third American in space and the first to orbit the Earth, aboard "Friendship 7" on the Mercury Atlas 6 mission, circling the earth three times. When his heat shield failed on re-entry he was still able to make his splash down safely, was deemed a hero and received a ticker-tape parade, reminiscent of Lindberg. I was selected to provide security and walk along side of his vehicle in that motorcade. It was in December 1965 that I was assigned to the 804th Combat Defense Squadron of the 319th Bombardment Wing (SAC), at Grand Forks AFB, N.D. I was among 900 Combat Defense Force members awaiting the organization of the 321st Strategic Missile Wing (SMW) and the first buy-and-activation of the three-stage solid propellant rocket powered Minuteman II ICBM. I was assigned as the admin NCO-In-Charge, Operations and Training Branch and was mainly involved in balancing and accounting for our security policemen who were being assigned to bases in Thailand and Vietnam.

In October 1968, I was assigned to the United States Air Force Security Service (USAFSS) and to the overseas base of the 6931st Security Group, Iraklion Air Station in Crete, Greece. No aircraft, no missiles - just security for the large antenna arrays which provided self-protection early warning of impending fighter or missile response by a target nation's air defense system. I witnessed Apollo 12's moon landing on July 20, 1969 and all Americans at Iraklion AS were constantly congratulated about the event.

Returning to SAC and Malmstrom AFB, Great Falls, Mont. in November 1970, I was assigned to the 341st Strategic Missile Wing and the 341st Security Police Squadron. The 200 Minuteman II missiles were again afforded the best security protection by my airmen.

January 1972 found me at stationed Hellenikon AB, Athens, Greece assigned to the 6916th Security Group (USAFSS), a SAC RC135 (Hog Nose) Strategic Reconnaissance Unit as Chief of Security Police. This unit provided electronic aerial surveillance of the eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East. For the next four years I was responsible for security arrangements during the crucial phase of the United States-Greek Bilateral negotiations of U.S. bases in Greece, and insured the security of all SAC aircraft. It was a turbulent time.

In August 1973, after a family excursion to the local airport (we were just driving away) two Palestinian gunman claiming to represent the Black September Group fired on Israeli travelers in a crowded TWA passenger lounge, killing five and wounding 55. On Sept. 8, 1974, TWA Flight 841 from Hellenikon en route Rome crashed 18 minutes after take-off; the crash was later determined to be sabotage. The Nov. 25, 1974 overthrow of Junta strongman Col. George Papadopoulos caused the entire U.S. Air Force installation to revert to the wearing of civilian clothes for weeks after the event to prevent attacks upon Americans. On June 27, 1976 Air France Flight 139 from Hellenikon en route Paris was hijacked to Benghazi and Entebbe.

When July rolled around I was assigned as Chief, Security Police at the 6944th Security Wing (USAFSS) at Offutt AFB, Neb. and back to the SAC RC135s. We were the only cops assigned to Offutt AFB that didn't belong to the SAC.

I was reassigned to northern Greece in September 1978 to the 7061st Munitions Support Group (MUNSS), at Araxos Air Base as the NCOIC, Custodial Branch.

In October 1979 I returned to SAC this time to the 379th Security Police Squadron, Wurtsmith AFB, in Oscoda, Mich. and to the first of SAC's deployment of the Air Launched Cruise Missile (ALCM). In August 1980, I was selected as the "Base Sergeant Major" (later renamed "Group Executive Support Superintendent") serving as the base commander's enlisted advisor and was co-chairman of the 1st Sgts. Council; also named as the first Correctional Custody Facility (CCF) Superintendent and responsible for minimum security prisoner control of Air Force violators. Assigned in November 1983 to the 381st Security Police squadron, at McConnell AFB in Wichita, Kan. as Ops Superintendent, I helped in the security planning for the deactivation of the aging Titan II, liquid fueled strategic ICBMs deployed throughout the state and the soon-to-be-deployed B1-B bomber.

After I made Chief Master Sergeant (April 1, 1985) I was offered a position as a member of the Headquarters Air Force Systems Command's Inspector General Team based at Eglin AFB, Fort Walton Beach, Fl. I served on the IG Team until my retirement on Aug. 31, 1988.

On Sept. 1, 1988 I was a civilian and selected to work for the VITRO Corporation performing physical and information security within the 96th Air Base Group's Mathematical Laboratory, at Eglin AFB for the CRAY Supercomputer System (CRAY-3). January 1989 was the initial activation of the only CRAY-3 ever delivered as operational.

During May 1991, I was hired by the Office of Personnel Management, within the Acquisition Security Directorate, at Eglin AFB as a security specialist and throughout the years held varied positions such as Chief, Information and Industrial Security and Chief, Security Education and Operations Security (OPSEC) for the AAC and was directly involved in the aftermath of the Khobar Towers bombing in Saudi Arabia on the June 25, 1996, where nine of our Air Force warriors from Eglin's 33rd Fighter Wing (ACC) were killed. We were also involved with the follow-on visit by President Clinton. In May 1999, while still assigned to the Acquisition Security Directorate, I was appointed as the Foreign Disclosure Officer (FDO) and Security Manager for the Counter Air Joint Security Program Office (JSPO), managing the foreign military sales program involving 25 foreign countries for the sales of Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles. Following the 9/11 terrorist attacks, these weapons were mounted on aircraft protecting the Capitol. Second to none in the Iraq war, their only failure was in the "war against the alien spacecraft," in the movie "Independence Day."

On March 3, 2003, I was accepted for employment at U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command (USASMDC) as the Alternate Foreign Disclosure Officer (AFDO) for the command. During my initial assignment, I was responsible a myriad of responsibilities.

But back to the missiles...do the PATRIOT (Phased Array Tracking Radar Intercept on Target), ARROW (Israel's anti-missile), and THAAD (Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense) missile systems sound familiar? From the ATLAS in 1958 to the THAAD in 2008, involvement with the military missile scene has virtually been my life's mission!

My federal career has spanned six decades serving ten Presidents (Dwight D. Eisenhower to George W. Bush), eight SAC Commanders-in-Chief (including favorites Gen. Thomas S. Power and Gen. Bennie L. Davis), watching Fidel Castro's rise to power in January 1959 and his retirement in February 2008 and I've managed accounting for airmen sent to Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. With the rest of the world, I have witnessed Shuttle failures and successes. It has all been spectacular and being able to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of USASMDC/ARSTRAT this year has culminated a successful federal career.

I wouldn't trade a day of this military/civilian 50-year career. I'll always remember the myriad of American and foreign friends I've met along the way and the great times we had together ... but as the singer Chris Daughtry says in his recent hit song, "... these places and these faces are getting old ... so I'm going home."

Alpha Company not superstitious!

By Sgt. Erik-Jon Martinez,
Alpha Company
53rd Signal Battalion

FORT DETRICK, Md. — On Friday, June 13, Alpha Company 53rd Signal Battalion had their annual organization day. Superstition says nothing on this day turns out well but rather, leads to certain disaster. This day has spawned one of the most influential horror movie series of our time and is synonymous with bad luck, so it was only natural to think that something bad was bound to happen at the company event.

To ensure that certain “doom” would not occur, the planning for the event started early with the first meeting taking place more than eight weeks in advance. Sgt. 1st Class Jared Roy was the Noncommissioned Officer in Charge and 1st Lt.

Elijah Kang was the Officer in Charge. The main thing they were in charge of was making sure that the organization day went off without a glitch.

The events that would need to take place were centered on three basic things; games, sound and food. If these tasks could be accomplished without any strange happenings, the day would be considered a success. The staff did a recon to ensure that everything would be readily available. The sound system was working and available for pickup. The grill was available and all of the proper towing necessities were accessible. The games would be football, horseshoes and volleyball. The food shopping would be done the day prior.

The shopping began at 9:30 a.m., June 12 and the staff section wreaked havoc (so to speak) on the local Sam’s Club.



Photo courtesy Alpha Company, 53rd Signal Battalion

1st Lt. Elijah Kang serves as the grill master during the Alpha Company organization day.



Photo courtesy Alpha Company, 53rd Signal Battalion

Alpha Company Soldiers tried to “beat the heat” while playing football.

Three jumbo carts and \$262 later the majority of the food was purchased. A cake was purchased from the commissary commemorating the day that was ahead. Other random necessities were purchased to ensure the day would go as planned.

After weeks of planning, Friday the 13th finally arrived. Nalin Pond was the site where everything was scheduled to take place — all going according to plan. The sound system was picked up on time. The grill was at the location and ready. The food was loaded and ready to be taken to the site. Everything was good to go, or so it seemed.

Although the sound system was there, nothing was coming out of the right speaker. The grill was fired up but there was no aluminum foil onsite. The baked beans were there in tremendous quantities but

there was not a can opener anywhere to be found. It seemed to look like Friday the 13th was starting to get the best of the day. Fortunately the problems were only minor setbacks and by the time everyone started to arrive, the issues were resolved and the organization day went off without a hitch.

Attendance was in the upper sixties consisting of service-members and their Families. The horseshoe and football events were executed without injury. No one was hit in the eye with a horseshoe and no one broke any bones due to a “horse collar” tackle while playing football. The food was excellent and in large supply and it seemed that everyone had a good time.

At the end of the day, Friday the 13th was just like any other Friday.

Org Day for HHC, 53rd Signal Battalion

By Spc. Ryan M. Shea
Headquarters and
Headquarters Co.
53rd Signal Battalion

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — With temperatures warming up after a long cold winter it was time to explore the outdoors in Colorado. So for the Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 53rd Signal Battalion, that was done during the company’s annual Organization Day, June 22. The day started out early with the temperature just right and a few clouds in the sky. By about 10 a.m. the majority of participants had arrived and the party began.

There were a variety of activities happening throughout the day. Most people went off to start up a few games of basketball. The rest stayed around the main area to chat among each other or dig into the food; namely the sugar cookies with frosting, which seemed to disappear quickly.

While waiting for the grill to get hot, the basketball crew returned and gathered people up for some games of softball. It was a game of mismatched players, those who could and those who couldn’t ... hit the ball. The game began with the wind being the largest opponent of everyone. Another concern was the storm clouds building over the mountains and threatening the

day. Luckily, the game went on and continued until it was time to eat.

With everyone fed it was time for the hails and farewell. Three new Soldiers to the unit, Sgt. Shawn Hoch, Sgt. Thomas Hernandez, and Maj. Samuel Patton were welcomed and a farewell was given to Sgt. 1st Class Michelle Waychoff. With the storm finally making its way over the mountains, the day came to an end and fun was had by all.



Google image

OTX

continued from page 10

in their sleep systems. Sgt. Anthony Iglesias said, “It felt like a camping trip, the squad really bonded.” Some Soldiers could sleep and some couldn’t. Soldiers were awakened four hours later for 30 minutes of personal hygiene and whatever else they could get done in that time. After that they were back on the operations floor for another eight-hour shift. This rotation lasted for two days leaving Soldiers exhausted but with a sense of accomplishment. After the first two squads completed their 48 hours the other two squads came in to take part in the same exercise as those before them.

The reason the schedule was planned this way was to place the Soldiers in somewhat stressful environment, so they could learn to perform to standard no matter how tired or stressed they are because a time may come where their lives and others will depend upon being able to perform up to standard despite such hardship. The Echo Company Soldiers gained a lot of good training from the experience.

Huge success for Summer Solstice Climb '08

By Sgt. Jack W. Carlson III
Unit Reporter
49th Missile Defense Battalion

FORT GREELY, Alaska — More than 100 people gathered together to celebrate the longest day of the year and climb Donnelly Dome during the Third Annual 49th Missile Defense Battalion Summer Solstice Climb held on June 21.

At 64 degrees latitude, Fort Greely gets a total of 21 hours and 2 minutes of sunlight on Summer Solstice. While the sun does go down for three hours, darkness never completely falls.

Located just 20 miles north of the Alaska Mountain Range, Donnelly Dome sits 3,900 feet above sea level making it a great adventure any time. While most often the weather at the summit is breezy at best, the weather proved better than that of any climb thus far for the climbers.

Children have always been welcome on the climb; and typically make it to the top well before the adults. This year more than 20 children from the Delta Junction and Fort Greely communities participated in the event.

Once at the top, the picture frenzy began with picture snapping and calls to loved ones celebrating the wonderful accomplishment and sharing the view at the top.

Without fail, a group photo is taken to hold in history the growing popularity of this favored motivational climb. Once at the top, Chaplain Vince Cepeda, Fort Greely Chaplain, led the group in prayer and wished everyone a safe descent into the 'setting' sun.

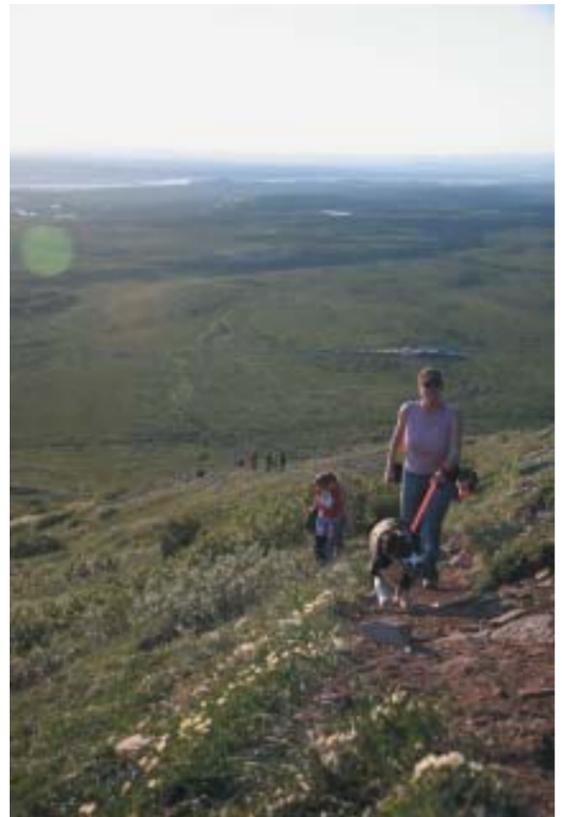


Photos by Sgt. Jack W. Carlson III, 49th MDB

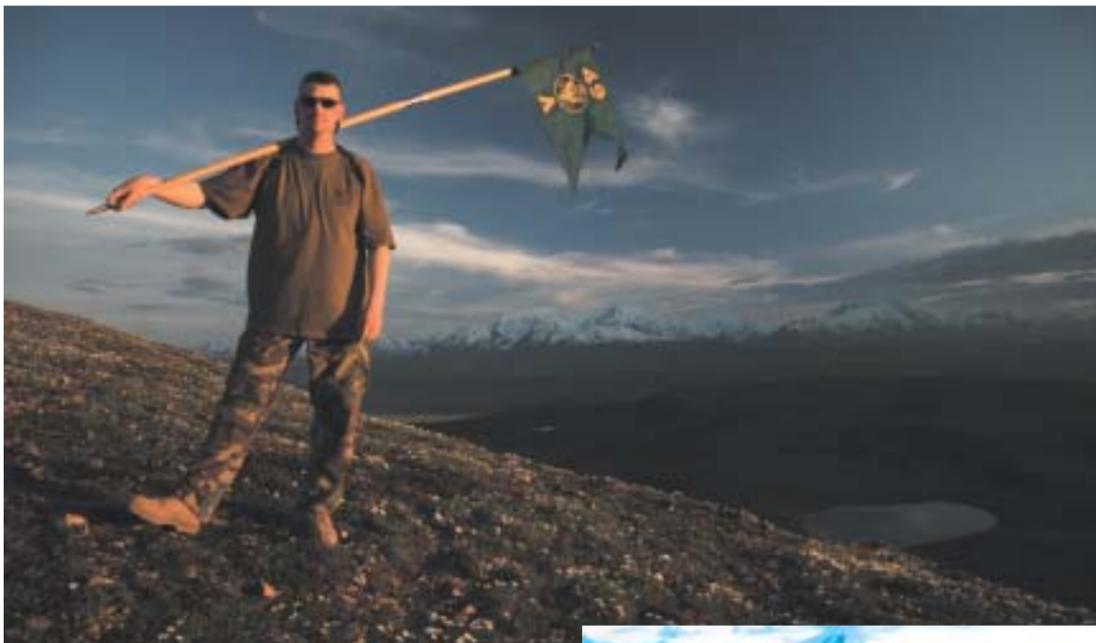
Soldiers, Family members and friends of the 49th Missile Defense Battalion pause for a photo just before setting off for the summit of Donnelly Dome.



Above: After reaching the summit Sgt. Scotty Brown, 49th Missile Defense Battalion takes photos to commemorate the adventure to the top.



Above: Treva Slaughter, Fort Greely Garrison, and her dog make the steady trek to the top during the Third Annual 49th Missile Defense Battalion Summer Solstice Climb.



Left: Staff Sgt. Steven Mich, GBI Security Co., escorted the colors for the Military Police Company of the 49th Missile Defense Battalion to the summit of Donnelly Dome during the battalions annual solstice climb.



Above: Great weather complimented a wonderful view of the Alaska Mountain Range during the Summer Solstice.

Left: Michael and Linda Dugger of Delta Junction enjoy the view from about midway up the north side of Donnelly Dome.

