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# The Eagle

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

Volume 15, Number 5, May 2008

## First Wideband Global SATCOM satellite finally goes operational

By Andy Roake,  
SMDC/ARSTRAT Public  
Affairs, and Ed White,  
Air Force Space Command  
Public Affairs

A new satellite is circling the Earth. The Wideband Global SATCOM (Satellite Communications) satellite is a reality. This is the most powerful communications satellite in the Department of Defense inventory. It is the first of six satellites that will take over long-haul communications from the legacy constellation, the Defense Satellite Communications System. WGS went operational April 15.

Many years ago, when a new communications satellite was needed, the Air Force would build it, launch it and then other services could use the capabilities it provided. Today it is a joint effort. The war fighting community, including the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command at Redstone Arsenal, Ala., get together and define the requirements for today and into the future and then the engineers go to work to design a capability that will support the warfighter for the estimated life expectancy of the satellite.

WGS is an example of such cooperation. Originally planned as a gap filler between the DSCS system and a more capable system, it evolved to become the new system. Each WGS is more capable than the entire nine-satellite DSCS constellation now in operation. The six-satellite WGS constellation will be operational sometime in 2012.

The joint aspect of this satellite constellation is similar to the way the DSCS constellation operates. Air Force Space Command is charged with "flying" the WGS satellite through the 3rd Space Operations Squadron located at Schriever Air Force Base, Colo. The 3rd SOPS continuously monitors and maintains satellite health by performing daily telemetry, tracking and commanding functions.

SMDC/ARSTRAT's 53rd Signal Battalion, headquartered in Colorado Springs, Colo., operates the payload from global locations in direct support of the war fighting community and other government agencies throughout the Department of Defense. The battalion is the Army's only satellite control unit and manages, plans and controls payloads to assure the reliability of the communica-



U.S. Air Force photo by Duncan Wood

Air Force Gen. C. Robert Kehler, commander, Air Force Space Command, and Lt. Gen. Kevin T. Campbell, commander, Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, Redstone Arsenal, Ala., sign a memorandum April 11 at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., recommending early USSTRATCOM acceptance of command and control of the first Wideband Global SATCOM satellite.

tions they provide to tactical and strategic warfighters.

Peter Stauffer, director of the Wideband SATCOM Division at SMDC/ARSTRAT, spoke about the difference WGS payload capabilities will make to the warfighter.

"WGS provides a quantum leap in capabilities — not only in throughput but in operational flexibility," he said. "The ability

for the warfighter to exchange information faster using higher data rates, and more efficiently, with the ability to reach different locations simultaneously is part of the inherent capability of WGS. Data, full motion video, maps, voice and

See **WGS** on page 11

## 1st Space Battalion make safety a top priority

By DJ Montoya  
Public Affairs, 1st Space Brigade

**PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo.** — Soldiers from the 1st Space Battalion recently took an afternoon off from their busy mission to attend a battalion Safety Day Training session conducted at the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command Operational Headquarters in Building 3 here.

According to 1st Lt. Christopher Chojnacki from the battalion's S3 section and coordinator for the event, the purpose of the training was to maintain safety awareness in the areas of outdoor and

motorcycle safety during the spring and summer months in Colorado.

"This is an important day for me," said Lt. Col. Thomas James, 1st Space Battalion commander, as he opened the session.

"Sometimes the areas of safety we talk about seem a little mundane, but just a review of these things will cause someone to think before they act."

James stressed the training was not only to focus on hazards found in Colorado Springs and the surrounding area, but those safety concerns which are paramount to the command.

"The people we have sitting in these chairs today — the Soldiers — are the most

important assets we have in this battalion."

He pointed to the fact that the battalion in the past year has had a good track record where safety is concerned.

"We are doing things right."

However, James was quick to state that, "If you continue to do things right to the point that maybe 'we've got it figured out,' you may be letting your guard down. And you cannot to do that because accidents will happen before you know it."

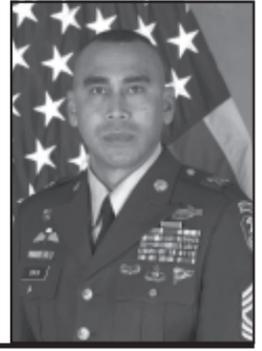
"You are a Soldier in the U.S. Army when you are here on duty. You are a Soldier in the U.S. Army when you are at home. You still have a responsibility to

See **Safety** on page 11

# The Command Corner



**Lt. Gen. Kevin T. Campbell**  
Commanding General



**CSM Ralph C. Borja**  
Command Sergeant Major

*"This is a tough time for the Army. But our Soldiers and Families are extraordinarily selfless, mission-focused folks. It is an honor to be around them, and it's our responsibility to take care of them." — Pete Geren, Secretary of the Army.*

**P**resident Ronald Reagan proclaimed in 1984 that the Friday before Mother's Day would be designated Military Spouse Day. Since then, that day is set aside to commemorate the many contributions made by military spouses throughout our nation's history.

The contributions by military spouses arguably can be traced back to Molly Pitcher when she assisted her wounded husband at the battle at Fort Mifflin, New York, on Nov. 16, 1776 – 231 years ago. Today, military spouses continue to support our Soldiers unflinchingly as they deploy around the world. There is no question that military spouses personify the values enumerated in the acronym, LDRSHIP. Command Sgt. Maj. Ralph Borja has been writing columns each month on specific aspects of LDRSHIP, so most should be aware that the acronym represents the seven Army values. However, let me add additional definitions to the LDRSHIP acronym that I believe highlight the attributes embodied by military spouses.

- L: Love**
- D: Devotion**
- R: Right-in-the-bull's-eye truth**
- S: Strength**
- H: Home**
- I: Inspiration**
- P: Perseverance**

**Love.** Arguably, this is the most powerful of all attributes and emotions. This attribute links all other attributes and epitomizes the military spouse. It is the military spouse that helps bind a military family together when moving from post to post or when he or she becomes a single parent in a two-parent home while the Soldier is deployed.

**Devotion.** When it seems like the world is stacked against a Soldier, no one stands steadier by his or her side, and sometimes out in front, than the military spouse. That devotion carries on even after death. Brigit Smith, wife of Sgt. 1st Class Paul Ray Smith, Medal of Honor recipient, reportedly remarked after the White House ceremony to honor posthumously Sgt. 1st Class Smith, that she was still proud to be an Army wife.

**Right-in-the-bull's-eye truth.** Military spouses have a great propensity to 'tell it like it is.' They wear no rank and fear no rank. If a leader wants to know what is happening in the unit, he or she needs to look no further than the Family Readiness Group. That is why the Army Family Action Plan, or AFAP, is so successful at making positive changes. The volunteer spouses contribute a lot of time and energy raising awareness about issues that affect Soldiers, civilians, and their Families and effecting change.

**Strength.** Military spouses exhibit a quiet resilience that sometimes bends but never breaks. It is a strength that protects and leads the family through thick and through thin; through deployments and through promotion boards; never wavering.

"Army life is not for the faint of heart. It is for those who are proud, determined and dedicated to the ideals we hold dear.

See **CG's column** on page 3

**T**his month I've decided to use my column to focus on the overall accomplishments during our annual Senior Enlisted Leaders Training Conference (SELTC) conducted March 23-26, 2008, at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. We'll continue discussing "Selfless Service" as our next subject on Army Values next month.

I would like to express my appreciation for the outstanding contributions put forward by Sgt. Maj. Randall Williams (G-3 Operations Sgt. Maj.), brigades and battalion command sergeants major, primary staff, first sergeants and other senior noncommissioned officers. It's their efforts during the numerous in-progress reviews via video teleconference, site surveys, and intense coordination that this year's SELTC was an overwhelming success.

The purpose of the conference was to provide a forum for senior enlisted leaders to meet in order to enhance their professional development through interaction with one another by sharing experiences, exchanging ideas, and discussing lessons learned. The SELTC was attended by former SMDC/ARSTRAT Command Sgts. Maj., National Guard and Reserve Component Sgts. Maj. of the Army, senior enlisted leaders of the National Guard Bureau, Air Defense Artillery, Signal and Intelligence Regimental Command Sgts. Maj., Joint Functional Component Command senior enlisted leaders, and SMDC/ARSTRAT senior noncommissioned officers.

The conference kicked off with a golf scramble followed by an icebreaker hosted at the Pacific Coast Club on Vandenberg, Air Force Base. Lt. Gen. Kevin T. Campbell attended these events and was "quite impressed with the overall turn-out and outstanding support by our senior enlisted leaders and distinguished guests," he said.

Gen. Campbell also provided opening remarks on the first day of the conference. He thanked our senior enlisted leaders for giving him the honor of opening their conference and thanked them for their excellent turn out. Gen. Campbell quickly noted the SELTC belongs to the senior enlisted leaders and it provides an excellent opportunity for us to join together to discuss professionally relevant topics and to grow professionally. He stressed that our active participation in the conference is important to the future of the command and to the Army, as we continue to fight an adaptive enemy during an era of persistent conflict.

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston, who was also impressed by the attendance at the SELTC, spoke next. As the keynote speaker, he discussed the Army's Transformation, plans to increase personnel in our Army by 70,000 Soldiers by 2010, efforts to provide stability and predictability to deployments, and the ongoing recruiting and retention efforts. SMA Preston concluded his speech by expressing his thanks and appreciation for all we do for our Army and nation.

Overall, the conference was a resounding success! This is due to the hard work, professionalism, commitment to excellence and selfless service of our entire SMDC/ARSTRAT team. I want to express my thanks and appreciation to our G-Staff, DOD civilians and contractors, keynote speakers, senior enlisted leadership and many others who contributed, assisted and supported this year's SELTC.

Special thanks to the 14th Air Force (Air Force Strategic-Space), 30th Space Wing and the entire installation staff for their

See **CSM's column** on page 3

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## CG DIRECT

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# What We Think

Now that warm weather and Spring are here, what outdoor activities do you have planned with friends or family and safety in mind?



I intend to participate in a lot of outdoor activities including sports, hiking and camping. In doing these things, it's important to always be aware of the weather, to maintain your body by drinking water, exercise regularly and know the environment you are in.

Brian Martinez  
1st Space Battalion  
Colorado Springs, Colo.



Well, as I make my kids work in the yard this summer for their vacation (!) I'll ensure they wear a good SPF sunscreen; they're red-headed and fairskinned as I am. We do plan on going to the beach and, again, we'll be wearing lots of sunscreen. I'll make sure they drink lot's of water to stay hydrated ... it's the mean ol' sergeant major in me!

Rick Judy  
Retired Command Sgt. Maj.  
Space Systems Analyst  
Redstone Arsenal, Ala.



Sarah Trial  
Military Personnel Technician  
Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

We will have barbeques, maybe go fishing and have friends over. I'd love to go fishing. And I'd love to have our AFAP here at work to be a total success in June. Did I say I'd love to go fishing? I'll be observing boating safety rules when we fish and I'll be wearing sunscreen when I'm outside.



When we go outside, we always put the maximum SPF sunscreen on our 17-month old son. That's what we will do, spend time outdoors, otherwise I'm at work.

Mike Lee  
Chief, Force Enhancement Branch  
Space Division, Technical Center  
Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

## CG's Column

continued from page 2

Freedom, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are the building blocks of humanity," said David G. White, deputy chief, Army Well-Being Division.

**Home.** There really is no better vision of home than when we see our spouses

waiting on the tarmac after a long deployment or field exercise. Home is where the heart is, and it starts with a strong military spouse.

**Inspiration.** They inspire us to be better than we are, and they fill the chinks in our armor to make us stronger. They also inspire all those around them as they volunteer

in the local communities.

**Perseverance.** Never give up and never surrender is part of the Warrior ethos and applies equally to military spouses as it does to warfighters. Military spouses are the bedrock of the military Family.

The attributes listed above are just one person's opinion. Each of you could come up with

other attributes that would fit equally as well. What is important is that we take time to thank our military spouses for their selfless service to our nation.

Celebrate each day as if it was Military Spouse Day!

**SECURE THE HIGH GROUND!**

## CSM's Column

continued from page 2

generous support and hospitality in hosting their facilities during our conference.

I'll close by providing quotes from senior enlisted leaders who attended the conference.

"Outstanding conference, very informative, offsite was excellent, transportation and housing was well planned out and functioned very well. Value added knowledge base for the senior leadership at SMDC; recommend we continue to promote this type of conference." 1st Sgt. Usef Simmons, HHC, 53rd Signal Battalion.

"Vandenberg served as an excellent venue for the Conference. It's great that the command emphasizes the need to have the senior enlisted leaders to come together. The ever-changing Army requires leaders to share more information and experiences so that we can provide Soldiers with current information and the most relevant leaders." Sgt. 1st Class Robert Lewis, HHC, 53rd Signal Battalion.

"I was thoroughly impressed by the list of briefings provided at the SMDC Senior

Enlisted Leaders Training Conference. I came away from the conference with a wealth of knowledge and was able to pass on some great information to the unit. It was obvious that an enormous amount of preparation went into this event. The accommodations at Vandenberg were great and my only regret was that we couldn't spend more time on the coast. I especially enjoyed the off-site tour at the Boeing Satellite Facility. SMDC will surely have a hard time topping this event next year." Master Sgt. Keese E. Pond, HHC, 1st Space Battalion.

"The Senior Enlisted Training Conference at Vandenberg Air Force Base was a great opportunity for us to break away from the daily grind. The Information regarding Defense Integrated Military Human Resources System (DIMHRS) will help leaders at all levels manage training and Soldier information." Sgt. 1st Class Mike Queen, HHC, 1st Space Brigade.

"I think the 2008 SMDC Senior NCO Conference was a complete success. It was the perfect forum to meet fellow senior NCOs throughout the command and discuss missions, training and common challenges that we all face.

The briefings were top-notch and two of the highlights for me were SMA Preston's presentation of the Army's force structure/timeline and Command Sgt. Maj. Capel's 82nd Airborne Division war fighter briefing. I hope this is an annual event and I look forward to the 2009 conference." 1st Sgt. Douglas Bram, 4th Space Company.

"The 2008 SMDC Senior NCO Conference was a first class event. The facilities at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., were excellent and the presentations were relevant, interesting, and professionally rewarding. I hope that it becomes an annual event." Command Sgt. Maj. James Ross, 1st Space Battalion.

"The Senior NCO conference was very informative because it allowed Senior NCOs to increase their situational awareness of the Space and Missile Defense Command's mission, learn from past and present Army and organizational leaders, and share common experiences with personnel within the SMDC community. This conference is a "must have" for Senior NCO development." 1st Sgt. Kenneth Mackey, United States Army Kwajalein Atoll.

**SECURE THE HIGH GROUND!**

# Safety

## Tips for extended walking or hiking

Each year, more and more Americans load up their gear and head for the mountains. Those venturing into rugged Southwestern mountains find deserts, forests, and high alpine country overshadowed by snow-covered peaks. Here one may travel miles and find few signs of humans. Above timberline, there is a whole new world of challenges for the most experienced.

Certain safety procedures should be followed by all visitors. Failure to observe safety rules leads to accidents and sometimes death. Changes of becoming a statistic in the records of search and rescue teams will be greatly reduced by following these safety rules.

### DO NOT GO ALONE

Unless you are experienced and prefer solitude, a party of at least four people is recommended. If a person is injured, one can remain with the victim, while the others go for help. Try never to leave an injured person alone. He or she may wander off while in shock.

### PLAN CAREFULLY

Plan a route ahead of time using Geological Survey or Forest Service maps. When traveling on foot, allow about one hour for each two miles covered, plus an additional hour for each 1,000 feet of altitude gained. At all times, know where you are on the map and the best way out to civilization.

### GET A WEATHER REPORT

Fast-moving frontal systems can bring sudden and violent changes in mountain weather, during both summer and winter. It is recommended that you obtain an extended forecast before setting out.

### CHECK WITH AUTHORITIES

Much of the mountain country lies within National Forests. Forest Rangers know their districts and can offer valuable advice on trails, campsites, and potential problems. Game and Fish Conservation Officers will also be glad to help.

### GO PROPERLY EQUIPPED

As a rule, the most serious dangers are extreme heat, wind, cold, and wetness. Even during July it sometimes snows in the high country, and hard summer rains occur almost daily throughout the mountain ranges. It is quite possible to die from exposure (technically hypothermia) at any time of the year. Having proper clothing is very important. A shirt, sweater, socks, mittens, and cap (all of wool) should always be carried. Even when wet, wool is warm against the skin. For protection against wind and wetness, carry a weatherproof outer parka. Sun protection and adequate water are essential in desert areas.

Bright clothing is appropriate from a safety standpoint during the big game hunts. A booklet from the Departments of Game and Fish describes areas open to hunters and season dates. This is a useful publication for individuals wishing to avoid the hunting areas.

Always carry these items when going into the mountains:

Map, compass, flashlight, candle, waterproof matches, whistle, pocket knife, protective clothing, sunglasses, minimum First Aid, extra food. Helmets are recommended for rock climbers. Firewood is scarce almost everywhere, therefore, use a fuel-powered stove to conserve wood. Water sources are almost always polluted and you should be able to purify the water you need if you use water from natural sources so bring purification tablets; otherwise, carry plenty of purchased water or brought from home.

### GET ACCLIMATED

Persons coming into the mountains from low altitudes should beware of trying to climb high peaks until they have had a few days to acclimatize. Many people who go too high too fast suffer "mountain sickness." The symptoms are vomiting, diarrhea, and the feeling of being very ill. Pulmonary edema, a major medical emergency, also can occur above the 9,000-foot level. The symptoms include extreme fatigue or collapse, shortness of breath, a racking cough, bubbling noises in the chest, and bloody sputum. Unless transportation to a much lower altitude is available immediately, the victim may die within a matter of hours. If available, administer oxygen.

The following lists the approximate length of time one should spend at various altitudes in order to become acclimatized:

Day 1: 0 ft-7,000 feet; Day 2: 7,000 - 10,000 feet; Day 3: 10,000 - 12,000 feet; Day 4: 12,000 - 14,000 feet.

There are several other procedures which, if followed, may also help prevent the "mountain miseries": Arrive in good physical condition, get plenty of rest and sleep and avoid alcohol and smoking.

Returning to sea level at the end of a high mountain expedition presents no adjustment problems.

### MOUNTAINEERING

There is a vast difference between hiking across high country in July and in January.

Every summit party should take along emergency gear in case someone is injured. A plastic tube tent, sleeping bag, extra food and water, small gas stove and cook pot, and first aid kit spread among the members will ensure the victim of an accident receives the necessary care until a rescue can be carried out.

Most southwestern mountains are considered "walkups" from a technical standpoint during the summer months. Nonetheless they are above timberline, and they are remote. On long climbs or scrambles above timberline, the safe policy is to start from the summit at dawn and turn back about noon, before summer storms begin to form.

### LEAVE INFORMATION WITH FAMILY OR FRIENDS

A complete itinerary of your trip, along with the name and address of each member, description and license numbers of vehicles used, and expected time of

return should be left with a reliable person. Once under way, stick to your planned route and schedule. Anytime a group is seriously overdue, the State Police, County Sheriff, or Forest Service should be called.

### LEARN EACH MEMBERS LIMITATIONS

Assess the strengths and weaknesses of each member of the party. Do not try anything beyond the ability of the weakest person. Set the pace to that of the slowest person. Never be too proud to turn back in the face of overwhelming odds. Use good judgment and return another day.

### KEEP THE PARTY TOGETHER

Individual members of a group should not be allowed to fall behind the main party or go ahead of it. Many fatalities have resulted from disregarding this rule. If the group is large, select one person to set the pace, another to bring up the rear. If hiking in the dark for some reason, assign each person a number and count-off periodically.

### USE CAUTION CROSSING RIVERS

Most mountain streams are shallow and present few fording problems. However, when crossing any stream where there is the slightest chance of being carried away, always release the waist strap and one shoulder strap of your pack, so that it can be jettisoned if necessary. Flash floods occur in the steep, arid canyons and arroyos around the perimeter of the mountains. Avoid camping in these hazardous areas or leaving vehicles parked there.

### BEWARE OF LOOSE ROCK

In some areas loose rock can be a serious hazard. Keep your group bunched together when going up or down this type of terrain. Never roll rocks down a mountainside as another party may be below.

### GET OFF EXPOSED RIDGES DURING STORMS

Summer storms move fast and may be accompanied by rain, high winds, low visibility and lightning. Do not get caught on a peak or exposed ridge. If you are unable to get down in a lightning storm, stay away from lone trees or rocks. Avoid shallow caves or depressions. Ground currents may jump up from the edge of your body. Insulate yourself from the ground if possible (pack, rope, clothing) and squat down, allowing only your two feet to touch the ground. Do not abandon metal equipment. It may be needed later on.

### EMERGENCY SIGNALS

Some signals are considered standard by most search and rescue groups.

Distress — three evenly spaced signals given within 30 seconds. Repeat as required.

Acknowledgment — two signals given in quick succession.

Return to Camp — four evenly spaced signals given within 30 seconds. Repeat as required.

## Largest office complex on the Arsenal

# Von Braun Complex project aiming toward completion

By Diane Schumacher  
SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

**REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala.** — Lt. Gen. Henry “Trey” Obering Jr., director of the Missile Defense Agency, welcomed VIPs to the Von Braun III groundbreaking ceremony on the sunny and blustery morning of April 25. The ceremony was a major milestone and the beginning of a critical step of expanding effectiveness of MDA’s mission, Obering said.

MDA is working closely in planning the complex with a number of organizations including the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, the Congressional delegation, the Mayor’s office, the Huntsville Chamber of Commerce and others, Obering said.

He said that building the complex should be a sign to the nation’s adversaries “of our unwavering desire to protect ourselves, a sign to our nation of our dedication to our mission and respect that we have for our people, and a sign to the people of Alabama of the tremendous partners they have” in MDA.

Building the Von Braun Complex is a major undertaking, and its completion will “establish Alabama as the largest center of gravity for America’s missile defense program,” Obering said.

After Obering’s opening remarks seven other VIPs presented comments.

Alabama State Lt. Gov. Jim Folsom Jr. said that it was a “historic occasion.” He applauded the congressional representatives and senators for “working so hard in making this happen.” He said that more than \$260 million in aerospace industry products were exported in the last year, and there were more than 1,800 aerospace jobs in the last year — the greatness of the Von Braun legacy throughout the Tennessee valley. Folsom also said that if he were 21 or 22 years old again, he would be here in this area working.

“This is a great day,” said Sen. Richard Shelby. “Dr. Von Braun is no longer with us but his spirit is with us today; his vision is here. So, what’s all this about at the end of the day? It’s about the security of this nation. It’s about the honored memory of Von Braun. I couldn’t think of a better legacy than what we’re doing here. It [national missile defense, the Von Braun complex] should be here in Huntsville, I always thought it should be here.”

Sen. Jeff Sessions said, “Von Braun III represents a phenomenal expansion and growth in this area and in your participation, national missile defense in our nation and our allies around the world. I could not be more excited. Senator Shelby and I have talked about this a lot of times, about our vision for the Huntsville/Madison County area and what we wanted to see happen. Some things have come together and the nation has come to see missile defense really does work. General Obering was saying how taking down that satellite, that dangerous satellite, sort of electrified the entire world to the fact that national missile defense is a reality that works. We did it before the whole world in a test that the world watched. I’m thrilled to be a part of this day. Thank you all for what



Photos by Diane Schumacher

Groundbreaking after the speakers’ remarks April 25, left to right: Dr. Lester Dixon, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Huntsville Mayor Loretta Spencer; Rep. Robert A. Aderholt; Sen. Jeff Sessions; Lt. Gov. Jim Folsom Jr.; Lt. Gen. Henry “Trey” Obering; Sen. Richard Shelby; Rep. Robert E. “Bud” Cramer; Lt. Gen. Kevin T. Campbell; Maj. Gen. James Myles, commanding general, U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command; and Dave Marchiori, vice president of Archer Western Contractors, the builders of the Von Braun III building.

you’ve done to make it a success.”

“General Obering, we need to keep meeting like this, it keeps getting better and better, every time you’re here!” said Robert “Bud” Cramer, Congressman for the 5th district of Alabama. “We are an aggressive delegation,” Cramer said. The delegation has helped to garner more than \$211 million for the complex.

He said he was proud to represent missile defense and was proud to be able to attend the dedications of VBI and VBII, and now VBIII, recognizing the importance and need of the buildings.

Robert A. Aderholt, Congressman from the 4th Congressional district of Alabama said it was a “real pleasure and honor” to attend the ceremony. He said Mayor Loretta Spencer was “a real key” to what goes on in the United States Senate for what gets taken care of in Huntsville. The work done in MDA is significant to the entire world, he said.

Aderholt also said he has been very impressed with the tireless work. “Let me say that what goes on here is absolutely critical that we keep funding in the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate,” he said. “I don’t believe there is a better investment of our defense dollars than we can spend in defense technology. We look forward to working on that. I know that the gentlemen behind me [attending VIPs] will certainly do everything they can to make that happen; I look forward to working with this area as we move forward.”

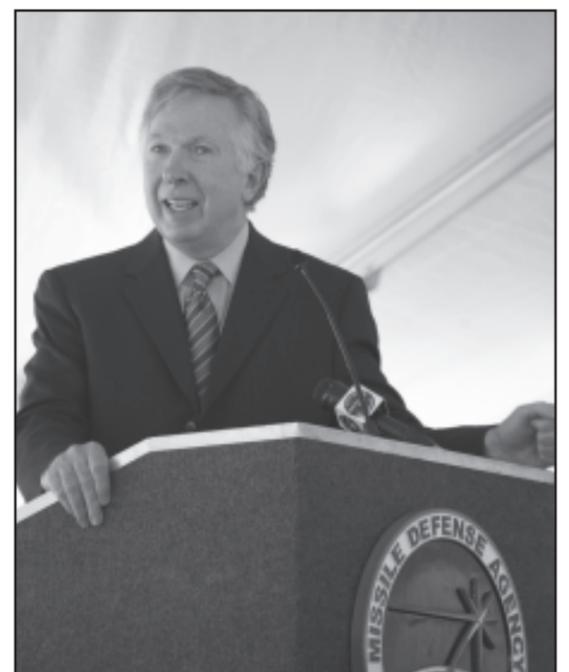
“General Obering, I want to say a big ‘thank-you’ to you,” said Huntsville Mayor Loretta Spencer. “We communicate and that’s one of the most wonderful things you can have, whether it’s General Myles, General Campbell or the Delegation — the communication lines are open. But I want to thank General Obering for the job he has done nation-wide in trying to retrieve the best-of-the-best.”

Lt. Gen. Kevin T. Campbell, commanding general, SMDC/ARSTRAT, closed the VIPs remarks by congratulating the MDA

director.

“Hooah!” Campbell exclaimed. “In the Army, our Chief of Staff and Secretary of the Army often say the quality of our infrastructure should match the quality of service our men and women provide to this nation. And I think the congressional delegation has been delivering quality buildings for the men and women occupying them. So thanks to all of you for this world class structure.”

VBIII will cover about 839,873 square feet, making it larger than both VBI and II combined and will accommodate more than 4,500 employees. Those employees will occupy about 2,700 office spaces. It will include an auditorium, cafeteria and fitness center. The construction is scheduled to be completed by early 2010. The entire complex, consisting of the three buildings, will be a combination of about 1.3 million square feet, making it the largest office complex on the Arsenal.



Rep. Robert “Bud” Cramer speaks at the groundbreaking ceremony April 25.

# Military Spouse Day – finally some recognition

***“As military spouses, we have a responsibility that we are humanitarians. ... We are people who want to be able to bring and instill peace around the world. We want to show people that our hearts are made of gold.”***

Michelle McIntyre-Brewer,  
2008 Military Spouse of the Year

Military Spouse Day (this year it was May 9) is a day set aside each year to recognize the commitment and sacrifices military spouses make every day.

## What has the Army done?

- To better assist military spouses, particularly during deployments, the Army has doubled its investment in Family programs. Among the major programs supported are Army Community Service, Child Care Services, and Youth Services.
- The Army funded 1,029 Family readiness support assistants down to battalion level to assist military spouses with leading Family readiness groups and increased hourly child care funding for family readiness groups.
- An Integrated Family Support Network is being created to provide access to services and programs regardless of a military spouse's proximity to a military installation.
- The Army is increasing accessibility and quality of health care by focusing on support for military spouses and Families through Soldier and Family assistance centers (SFAC). SFAC's provide one-stop assistance for resources and services that include administrative and financial counseling. The Army has also developed realistic pre- and post- deployment training focused on educating spouses on the stresses and strains of deployment on Soldiers.
- At the end of this year, through privatization, 83,080 homes at 38 locations will have undergone significant improvements. By the end of 2009, this number will increase to 88,026 homes at 45 locations.

- The Army has eliminated registration fees and reduced program fees for child and youth programs and services. The Army has also extended operating hours beyond the normal duty day and increased respite child care from five to 16 hours per month per child.

- We have expanded education and employment opportunities for military spouses and Family members. We have 31 corporate partners in the Army Spouse Employment Program, have launched the military spouse job search database, and helped more than 23,000 military spouses find jobs.

## What efforts does the Army plan to continue in the future?

- The Army will continue its commitment to providing military spouses and Families a quality of life that is commensurate with their service.
- The Army will continue to provide military spouses and Families a strong, supportive environment where they can thrive.
- The Army will continue building partnerships with military spouses and their Families that will enhance their strength and resilience.

## Why is this important to the Army?

The Army enlists Soldiers; they re-enlist Army Families. It is the military spouse who supports the Family that supports the Soldier, who supports the Army that defends the nation.

SOURCE: “Stand-To!” May 9, 2008

# Military spouses – supporting their Soldiers

By Diane Schumacher  
SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

**REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala.** — Kathleen Campbell has been a military wife since July 27, 1974. Her husband is Lt. Gen. Kevin T. Campbell, commanding general, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command. Officer Manager, Karen Butler, in G-1, SMDC/ARSTRAT, has been a military wife for 21 years. Her husband is a Marine Corps 1st. Sgt. who just returned from 12 months of mobilization, seven of which were spent in Fallujah, Iraq.

Both women know what it takes to be a supportive military spouse. There's a certain mindset a successful military spouse needs to possess so her Soldier, or Marine, can accomplish his military duties.

The Campbell's first duty station was Germany. For Kathy, it was her first move away from a loving, large family, she wrote in an e-mail interview. She stated she wondered how she would survive without her parents, her twin sister, other siblings, and childhood friends. She could never have guessed they would move 18 times in 34 years or that their children would each attend 10 schools before moving on to college. “I had no idea that I would be left behind so often due to deployments and temporary duty assignments,” Kathy wrote. “But along the way I was blessed because the Army became my other family.” She became a supportive military spouse.

“I think that military spouses who are able to manage the household, children, pets, cars, etc. are helpmates to their Soldier, wrote Kathy. “The Soldier who knows that his or her family is well taken care of is better able to focus on the military mission.”

Karen just finished serving as the key volunteer, looking after and updating the spouses and Family members of the deployed Marines in her husband's unit. “A KV is the same thing as the Army's FRG [Family Readiness Group] leader,” she said. Karen also knows what it takes to be a supportive military spouse.

“FRG's are set up by each command in order to help military spouses when their Soldier is away,” wrote Kathy in her response. “I recommend that spouses become active with their FRG as soon as they move to their new duty station. There are many volunteer opportunities whether it is with FRG, chapel, spouses' clubs or schools.

“I recommend that spouses who are new to the military life learn as much as they can about this wonderful lifestyle,” Kathy further wrote. “There are many ways to accomplish this. One way would be to visit Army Community Service, or ACS, and utilize the many great programs for military Families. Army Family Team Building offers classes for spouses whether they are new or seasoned. ACS has many programs, such as financial readiness programs, relocation assistance programs, Family employment readiness programs and many more. Chapels are another

great resource for spouses and Families.”

Karen recommended military spouses use ACS for help as well. She also recommended military spouses visit the Web site, [militaryonesource.com](http://militaryonesource.com).

“I went to that Web site myself,” she said. “I wanted to see if it was really as good as I heard it was. And it is!” Karen suggested military spouses register on the site and use its many resources to help themselves, whether it's to order books or learning how to set up appointments for counseling. “It's really good stuff,” she said.

“Military spouses need to know that they are not alone,” Kathy wrote in her e-mail. “There are many opportunities for spouses to plug in with other spouses who are going through similar experiences.

“Today young military spouses can assume that their Soldier will be deployed. Spouses have many more resources today than they did 30 years ago.”

Karen said, “The secret to supporting the Soldier [in her case, the Marine] is understanding that we – spouses and the servicemember – control very little. It's part of the deal that we sign up for [in marrying a servicemember].”

Military life can place extreme hardship on relationships, so it might help a military spouse to be supportive by understanding that being in the military is a Family commitment.

The payoff being in the military is to the Family because the servicemember is protecting the nation, Karen said.

Or in other words, supporting and protecting Families, military or not.

# Army Community Covenant: supporting those who serve

In October 2007, the secretary of the Army initiated the Army Family Covenant which is a formal commitment of support by states and local communities to Soldiers and their Families – active, Guard and Reserve.

The Army Community Covenant is designed to develop and foster effective state and community partnerships with the Army working to improve Soldier and Family quality of life, while at their current duty stations and as they transfer from state to state.

*"We've doubled the funding in the budget for Family programs over the last year and we're continuing to have that funding, but there's no substitute for neighbors helping neighbors,"* Pete Geren, Secretary of the Army.

Together, we are committed to building strong communities.

We, the Community, recognize...

...The commitment Soldiers and Families are making every day.

...The strength of Soldiers comes from the strength of their Families.

...The strength of Families is supported by the strength of the Community.

...The strength of the Community comes from the support of Employers, Educators, Civic and Business Leaders and its Citizens.

We, the Community, are committed to...

...Building partnerships that support the strength, resilience and readiness of Soldiers and their Families.

...Assisting in the implementation of the Army Family Covenant.

## What has the Army done?

The Family Covenant symbolizes the Army's commitment to Soldiers and their Families, a national treasure. The

commitment is a formal recognition of their sacrifices, and the fact that they are shouldering the burden of war for our nation. The senior leaders substantively backed up their commitment through funding a number of quality of life programs. The Army continues to find ways to improve the quality of life of our Soldiers and their Families, thus improving readiness.

The Army has now launched the Community Covenant to reach out to local communities all across America. Response by communities has been tremendous. The first official signing of the Community Covenant took place at Fort Benning, Ga., on April 17, 2008. Many more are planned in the upcoming months.

For more information and a schedule on upcoming events, go to the Web site: [acsim.army.mil/community\\_covenant](http://acsim.army.mil/community_covenant).

**SOURCE: "Stand-To!" April 21, 2008**

## Bravo Company honors military spouses

By Sgt. Nick Murja, Unit Reporter  
Bravo Company, 53rd Signal Battalion

**FORT MEADE, Md.** — Throughout recent wars, the United States has given thanks to its Soldiers on many occasions. There are bumper stickers, ribbons, handshakes and even the simple "thank you."

But there is an often overlooked individual, the Soldier's spouse. On March 4, the Bravo Company Family Readiness Group honored those who secure the home while their Soldier secures freedom, during a ceremony at the Potomac Place Community Center here.

The event centered on honoring the spouses by those who truly understand – other military spouses. It began with simple mingling around food ... a way to relate, share frustrations and encourage each other. Then the ceremony took a more formal arena as couples gathered to watch the emotional Army Family Strong Campaign video, "Behind each Soldier is an Army of Husbands and Wives." The video began with the voice of an Army Wife discussing the difficulties of deployment, the invaluable need of military friendships, and the price each Family has to endure all for the common goal of peace.

When the video ended there was a speech by the Bravo Company FRG Leader Stacy Howe. Tony Frink, assistant FRG

leader then introduced Charlotte Hazelwood, an Army Volunteer Corps Coordinator. Hazelwood spoke from experience, both as an officer and as a military spouse; she discussed the changing view the Army has for its spouses.

The Army Family Covenant recognizes that while Soldiers may be the strength of the nation, their strength is in their Families. To provide support for the Families, commanders are placing priority on funding and support for Family programs, physical and mental healthcare, housing, education and childcare and employment opportunities for spouses. Overall, the Covenant represents a \$1.4 billion commitment in 2008 to improve quality of life for Army Families.

Throughout time the nation has never given spouses the same praise as its Soldiers, and with just cause perhaps. It's the Soldiers who realize their motivation for the support, and understand at the end of every long day, pressed uniform, house turned into a home, change of plans, relocation, missed births and anniversaries. No one will understand the life of an Army Spouse but another Army Spouse – however, Soldiers have no question of their importance.

Hazelwood left the spouses with a feeling of empowerment from each

other and now the Army. As the night continued the spouses each received a poem, a gift bag, and a red rose — a tradition symbolizing the acknowledgment of shared emotions, struggles and pride. The poem the spouses received read as follows.

*The Tradition of the Rose:* "A single red rose handed from Army wife to Army wife, woman to woman, friend to friend for a welcome, or a thank you, or even a sad goodbye but always as a reminder that we all strive for the same goal ... a peaceful world." — Anonymous



Photo by Spc. Charles Nicosia, U. S. Army

**Wives from Bravo Company, 53rd Signal Battalion, are recognized for their contributions and support at a ceremony sponsored by the Company Family Readiness Group. The event was held on Fort Meade, Md., at the Potomac Place community center March 4, 2008.**

## SMDC/ARSTRAT raises \$15K+ for AER

By Diane Schumacher  
SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

**REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala.** — As of May 13, 2008, Sarah Trial, Army Emergency Relief campaign chairwoman for U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, said SMDC/ARSTRAT world-

wide had brought in \$15,793.06 worth of donations for AER – with more money on the way.

Through various events, but mostly bake sales, hot dog and pizza sales in SMDC/ARSTRAT's organizations, AER will receive an exceptionally large donation of dollars that may go for things such as food, rent or utility payments for

Soldiers in emergency financial need.

AER also helps active duty Soldiers and their Family members, Army national Guard and Army Reserve Soldiers (on continuous active duty for more than 30 days and their Family members) with a myriad of other type emergency needs.

When contemplating

donating to AER, it might be helpful look at the situation this way: you may be helping a loved one at some later date.

For more information, visit the Web site at [aerhq.org](http://aerhq.org) or call (866) 878-6378. The address is AER National Headquarters, 200 Stovall Street, Alexandria, VA 22332-0600.

See related photos, page 10



**2008 SMDC/ARSTRAT  
Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) Conference**

**We need your Issues!**

If you were king for a day, how would you improve the Army way of life?

**AFAP is a mechanism for the Army's Total Family (Soldiers, their Families, retirees, surviving spouses and DA civilians) to identify concerns within the Army and suggest improvements to Army leadership**

Submit your issue to Regina Taylor at [regina.taylor@smdc.army.mil](mailto:regina.taylor@smdc.army.mil), **by May 27, 2008** in the following format:

- 1) **ISSUE** - Identify the concern
- 2) **SCOPE** - Explain the issue in detail
- 3) **RECOMMENDATION** - Tell Army Leadership how to correct your issue

For more information, contact:  
 Karen Butler (256) 955-4209, [karen.butler@smdc.army.mil](mailto:karen.butler@smdc.army.mil)  
 Regina Taylor (256) 955-4082, [regina.taylor@smdc.army.mil](mailto:regina.taylor@smdc.army.mil)  
 Sarah Trial (256) 955-3352, [sarah.trial@smdc.army.mil](mailto:sarah.trial@smdc.army.mil)





# Army Family Action Plan Conference, June 16 - 20

***Employees should submit issues, recommendations by May 27, 2008***

**REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala.** — The U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command is scheduled to conduct its 2008 AFAP (Army Family Action Plan) Conference June 16-20, 2008, in Colorado Springs, Colo.

AFAP identifies issues of concern that affect SMDC/ARSTRAT and the Army community. It provides a way for Soldiers and Family members to let Army leadership know what works, what doesn't — and what they think will fix it.

"This Conference is conducted so spouses, Soldiers, civilians, retirees and Family members can voice their opinion to Army leadership about changes that need to take place in order for them to have a better quality of life in their living areas," said Regina Taylor, SMDC/ARSTRAT

AFAP coordinator.

Numerous Soldier, Family member and civilian command representatives will participate in this conference as delegates, facilitators, recorders, transcribers, issue support personnel and workgroup coordinators.

"This year's conference will include teen delegates," said Taylor. "SMDC would like to get their opinions about the various changes in their lives such as constantly moving, transitioning to new schools, leaving old friends and meeting new friends.

To make this conference as successful as possible, SMDC/ARSTRAT is accepting issues and recommendations for review by the delegates attending the conference.

Issue papers should be submitted to Regina Taylor at [regina.taylor@smdc.army.mil](mailto:regina.taylor@smdc.army.mil) no later than May 27, 2008.

When submitting issue papers to be reviewed at the

conference, authors should remember the following guidelines:

- Submit only one issue per form. There are no limitations to the number of issues you may submit for consideration.
- The document should be no more than one typewritten page in length.
- Write a brief statement summarizing the issue.
- Describe the problem or concern in paragraph form. Include enough information to ensure people unfamiliar with the issue will understand.
- Reference any laws, regulations or policies that impact an issue.
- Make recommendations clear and specific.
- Prioritize recommendations if

you are submitting more than one per issue paper.

• Answer the following questions:

1. What am I trying to change?
2. What can be done to improve the issue?
3. What is the best possible method to improve the issue?
4. What are some alternative methods to improve the issue?
5. Can someone contact me to clarify the issue and recommendation?

For more information, please contact Karen Butler at 256-955-4209; Regina Taylor, 256-955-4082; Sarah Trial, 256-955-3352. E-mail for each is addressed to: first name.last name@smdc.army.mil

# Having a ball, celebrating Pioneers

By DJ Montoya  
Public Affairs, 1st Space Brigade

**COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.** — The theme of “Celebrating Pioneers in Space” along with the recent accomplishments of the Wideband Global SATCOM (Satellite Communications) satellite served as the backdrop for this year’s U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command Ball at the Antlers Hilton Hotel in downtown Colorado Springs, Colo. on April 11.

Col. Michael Yowell, commander of the 100th Missile Defense Brigade, Ground-Based Midcourse Defense, welcomed a gathering of close to 500 by saying, “When you think about it we just celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Command last year. This year it has been 50 years since the Army put a satellite into Space on Explorer 1. Nearly a decade after that man walked on the moon. After that we had Army Astronauts in Space. So tonight we have the distinguished guest speaker [retired Army Col. Ronan Ellis] whose vision and foresight laid the ground work for many of the things we enjoy today throughout the entire Command. So 17, 18, 50, years from now we are going to be reaping the benefits of the work from our Soldiers, civilians and contractors throughout (today’s) Command.”

The highlight of the evening came with the introduction of retired Army Col. Ronan I. Ellis. Ellis served as the first commandant of the Army Space Institute at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., from January 1987 through April 1989. He also became the second commander of U.S. Army Space Command in Colorado Springs, Colo., from May 1989 through April 1991.

“His vision of Army Space operations was almost prophetic,” said Maj. Kyle Zablocki, master of ceremonies for the evening’s events. Ellis laid the groundwork for almost all of the Army’s current use and dependence on Space-based capabilities and products, which immeasurably impacted the way today’s Army, and the Army of the future, will shoot, move and communicate.”

At the Army Space Institute, Ellis aggressively pursued providing Space support at the small unit level. Before the creation of the Institute, most military Space systems were dedicated to supporting strategic missions. In 1987 he predicted that advance positioning systems would be available to battalion commanders with continuous information on the location of subordinate units. He also saw that Space-borne communications would overcome the line-of-sight limitations of ground-based systems and that the battalions would have immediate access to satellite imagery and weather data. All of these capabilities and



Photo by Michael L. Howard

Maj. Kyle Zablocki and his wife (left), from the 100th Missile Defense Brigade (GMD) Colorado Army National Guard, listen intently as Army Astronaut Col. Douglas Wheelock (right) gives a lively accounting of an incident during his recent mission on board the Space Shuttle at the April 11 SMDC/ARSTRAT Ball.

more are now available and are considered essential to modern ground combat operations.

While commanding ARSPACE, the service component command of U.S. Space Command, Ellis saw much of his Space vision come to fruition during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Even before Iraqi forces rolled into Kuwait, his Soldiers were demonstrating the small lightweight Global Positioning System receiver and then training trainers for deploying units from Fort Bragg, N.C., Fort Campbell, Ky., and Fort Stewart, Ga. ARSPACE eventually provided 800 slugs to deployed units and orchestrated the urgent purchase of 10,000 commercial GPS receivers.

“The groundwork laid by Ellis’ keen foresight, makes this a truly historic occasion for SMDC/ARSTRAT,” said Zablocki.

Ellis recalled those early days at the Army Space Institute saying, “I suddenly started to realize there were Space things that we could use as Soldiers. Out of that came a concept. The bottom line back then was that we as the Army went back into Space and had to utilize what was already there. By getting receivers and receiving the information that was coming down (all the assets were pretty much in either the test phase or operation) came a small lightweight GPS receiver called a slugger.

“That put the revolution of GPS in the tactical arena. And then we said well after receivers we need to do a better job in a few years on processing that data so it is not just raw data, rather its data we can use as Soldiers. The best example of where that went is the Joint Tactical Ground Station. Now we process that information to support theater use. Before all that information was just for strategic use.

“And then finally, we said back then in 1987, that the Army had to be involved in the design of satellites specifically to support what we need them to do.”

SMDC/ARSTRAT has taken Ellis’ advice to heart as the WGS SATCOM system expert. The Command is about to activate the first WGS satellite supporting war fighting operations in the Pacific Theater. Members of SMDC/ARSTRAT have been involved in the WGS program from the very beginning — from the 1997 briefing to a Senior Warfighters Forum, to requirements development, testing and the first launch on Oct. 10, 2007. WGS-1 is the first of six WGS satellites planned, initiating the transformation of DoD’s communications architecture to support future war fighting technologies.

Ellis concluded by saying, “The message of all of this is you have got to start with an idea. And make sure it is a good idea. And then you have got to press on. You and your predecessors here at SMDC/ARSTRAT have pressed on and we truly are Space users for the Army and for the nation.”

Before the closing of the official portion of the ball, more than 25 individuals made up of Soldiers, civilians and Family members were honored.

The lion’s share received the Honorable Order of Saint Barbara — patroness of artillerymen — medallion.

Members from both the 100th Missile Defense Brigade (GMD) and the 1st Space Brigade received the award from Lt. Gen. Kevin T. Campbell, commanding general, SMDC/ARSTRAT.

The honor recognizes those individuals who have demonstrated the highest standards of integrity and moral character, displayed an outstanding degree of competence and served the U.S. Army with selflessness.

The Honorable Order of Molly Pitcher was presented to five spouses for their significant contributions to the U.S. Army through their volunteer efforts and their many years of unwavering support to the Army.



Photo by Michael L. Howard

Awardees toasted from the grog bowl during the 2008 SMDC/ARSTRAT Ball.

# SATCON Warrior — a decorated hero

By Staff Sgt.  
Matthew Blumer,  
Delta Company,  
53rd Signal Battalion  
Unit Reporter

**CAMP ROBERTS, Calif.** — A Soldier from Delta Company, 53rd Signal Battalion, having voluntarily served on a year long deployment to Iraq, has returned as an Iraq War Veteran.

Sgt. Jamie Sanders, already a well seasoned senior DSCS [Defense Satellite Communications System] III satellite controller, having been with U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command since 2000, decided it was his time to volunteer for service in Iraq. His original tasking there was as a Satellite Communications radio transmission operator for the Multi-National Division Central-South (MND-CS) under management of the Polish Army. The division, located at Camp Echo near Diwaniah in the southern region of Iraq, is a predominantly Shia Muslim region. During his year at Camp Echo, Sanders played an integral role in providing communications and overseeing the video teleconferencing between the Polish General at Camp Echo and the Multi-National Corps Iraq Commander, Lt. Gen. Ray Odierno.

Additionally, Sanders established video teleconferences for numerous commanders from many countries including the United States, Romania, Armenia, Denmark, Mongolia, Lithuania, Latvia, El Salvador, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Ukraine and Iraq. In addition to being charged with video teleconferences, he performed duties as the assistant to the Combined Staff

Command, Control and Communications (C6) liaison officer, C6 NCOIC, Intelligence (C3) Analyst and Intelligence (C2) Operations NCO and was known as the tactical operations command post subject matter expert for intelligence and operations.

Sanders' bravery during deployment was recognized by several awards and medals he received.

One medal, the Combat Action Badge, is only awarded to those who have exhibited exceptional bravery while engaged in combat with enemy forces. His CAB was awarded following an attack on Camp Echo. Though Camp Echo is a 2.7 wide mile camp, it is not large enough to avoid frequent mortar and Iraqi insurgent attacks. From February to July 2007, while working in the TOC [Tactical Operations Center], 120 mm and 240 mm mortars targeted Camp Echo's key infrastructures and created severe damage in several areas. During one attack, two mortars struck within 25 feet of where Sanders was working. Sanders played an active part in coordinating for air quick reaction forces to aid in isolating the source of the mortar attacks as well as assisted in conducting ground quick reaction forces to secure the perimeter of the camp.

Sanders also showed

exceptional bravery while deployed to Iraq when he decided to provide driving assistance to MND-CS. His scope of duties did not include driving, however he made a choice to put himself in harms way behind the wheel of a HUMVEE on numerous occasions to support personnel movements to and from Camp Echo. In doing so, he earned the drivers badge.

Other accomplishments during his Iraq deployment include duties that went outside of Sanders realm of SATCOM expertise to include

improvements to tactical operations center, and for his versatility and ability to adapt beyond his duty scope. For example, when the Command and Control and the Command, Control and Communications Intelligence sections needed assistance, Sanders stepped up to the plate and learned the job. Sanders contributed immeasurably to the MND-CS needs and would not hesitate to take on new duties.

His contribution to the intelligence section assisted in providing tactical operational support to Military Transition Teams, Border Transition Teams, and Operational Detachment Alpha Teams. His list of U.S Army awards culminates with a well-deserved, end-of-tour Joint Service Commendation Medal.

Sanders received other prestigious awards during his deployment including the Bust of Abraham Lincoln, a Danish Medal, and the Warriors Medal of Valor.

The Bust of Abraham Lincoln is an achievement award given to only one Soldier per year for providing outstanding support; it was given to Sanders by the Illinois National Guard commander Col. David Leckrone, the Deputy Commander for the area of operation.

Another most prized possession Sanders brought back from his deployment was a Danish Medal for completing a Danish-contingent 25-kilometer forced march. The five-hour march was completed in desert heat conditions. The Warrior Medal of Valor was presented to Sanders by the Native American Congress of America.



Courtesy Photo

Multination Division-Central South Commander, Col. David E. Leckrone, pinned the Combat Action Badge on Sgt. Jamie Sanders, a member of Delta Company, 53rd Signal Battalion, who volunteered to deploy to Iraq. Sanders received the Badge for actions he took while his camp was under mortar attack. Sanders played an active part in coordinating for air quick reaction forces to aid in isolating the source of the mortar attacks as well as assisted in conducting ground quick reaction forces to secure the perimeter of the camp.

establishing and maintaining internet access to Soldiers on the entire camp for which he was awarded an Army Achievement Medal. In addition, Sanders received a Joint Service Achievement Medal for his exceptional performance and making

## SMDC/ARSTRAT at Arsenal donates more than \$7,000 to AER



Photos by Diane Schumacher

Soldiers and civilians as they make the ever important decisions on which delicious breakfast goodies to purchase during the SMDC/ARSTRAT (Redstone Arsenal) AER bake sale on April 8.



Late lunchers (RSA) buy their turkey sandwiches during the April 23 AER lunch sale. Staff Sgt. Jerry DeLeon and Sgt. 1st Class Erika White stand by as 1st Sgt. Petey Smith dishes out the sandwich meat.

# Alpha Company Soldier redeploy

By Sgt. Justin Tjernlund  
Alpha Company  
53rd Signal Battalion  
Unit Reporter

**FORT DETRICK, Md.** — Recently, Alpha Company welcomed the return of Staff Sgt. William Strong from a 16-month deployment to Afghanistan. Although he changed stations shortly after arriving to become an instructor at Fort Gordon, Ga., Strong had a little time to relate his experience to his fellow Soldiers at Alpha Company.

“Being [in Afghanistan] allowed me to better appreciate the work that Soldiers across the [53rd Signal] Battalion are doing,” related Strong. “Having that experience myself gave me a better concept of the operation as a whole and the part that I had been playing.”

Strong insisted that while his job wasn’t exactly the same as it had been with Alpha Company; that he benefited from his prior training and experience. “Normally, a regular 25S would have been performing my job, which would have been sufficient, but they generally lack the training to see the interplay and impact that their communications have with others. Having the training and experience with [ASI - 1C], was beneficial to all deployed signal units.”

During time in Afghanistan, Strong participated in satellite anomaly resolution, interference geolocation, and worked with global positioning systems with the 82nd Airborne Division Headquarters. Working with the GPS systems was a departure from what Strong normally works within the 53rd, but he said his experience at an operations center helped him adjust to the new task. While performing his mission, Strong worked closely with the Landstuhl Operations Center (Charlie Company, 53rd Signal Battalion) in order to coordinate communications.

During his time deployed, Strong also stressed the importance of the new WGS satellites being introduced to the military community. “While deployed, we relied on commercial satellites for nearly 90 percent of our communications,” explained Strong. “This was mostly due to the current limitations of bandwidth on the (DSCS [Defense Satellite Communications System] III’s). The problem with this is that with commercial satellites, we did not receive the same commitment to support as we have from the military satellites.”

The reason for the difference, explained Strong, was that the bandwidth that we purchased on the commercial satellites has been at a low budget value, so we did not receive the same level of committed support that higher paying customers received. “In contrast, the level of support on the DSCS satellites was outstanding, due largely to the expertise and commitment of Soldiers of the [53rd Signal Battalion],” said Strong.

Of his time spent away from the unit, one of his past Soldiers, Sgt. Jason Sachinger, had this to say about Strong: “I really missed him during his deployment; he was a great squad leader and an asset to our unit ... I know that he definitely represented the best of the battalion. I wouldn’t be surprised to see more of us being sent over there because of his success.”



Courtesy Photo  
Staff Sgt. William Strong reflects on his time in Afghanistan on the beginning leg of his journey home.

## WGS

continued from page 1

voice and imagery will be received and transmitted by war fighters at all levels — tactical, operational and strategic.”

Stauffer also addressed the difference in operations for the Army units operating the payload.

“Network planning and payload operations for WGS are more complicated than with the DSCS system,”

Stauffer added. “The expertise and dedication of our people in the SATCOM Support Centers and 53rd Signal Battalion is going to make the difference. They understand the importance of this mission and they will make it happen.”

The Joint operation of this satellite is a pure example of Army and Air Force war fighting commands supporting the entire war fighter community.



Photo by Gregg Cauthen, United Launch Alliance

Members of Headquarters and Headquarters Company at Redstone Arsenal, Ala., were able to tour and see the next Delta IV scheduled to be used to take up the WGS-3 satellite in 2008.

## HHC visits Delta IV plant in Decatur

On April 16 members of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command paid a visit to United Launch Alliance in Decatur, Ala., to see how Delta rockets are made.

Taking a quick two-hour tour, they were able view shaving, rounding and smoothing of metal that would become a Delta rocket. After workers treated the metal it was washed down in a special bay. “It reminded me of a car wash,” said Maj. Pamela Tingle, commander of HHC. After that, several pieces are bent and molded into rocket shape.

After being turned into the shape of a rocket, the empty shell is loaded with fuel lines, computers, and all the things needed to turn the shell into a full-fledged Delta rocket, Tingle said.

It was a good tour, she said. Nearly everyone had questions to ask, even the non-space operations personnel, said Tingle. A question posed to the tour guide, Gregg Cauthen, Metallics IPT - Decatur, ULA, was about funding — do they sell the rocket?

According to Tingle, Cauthen’s reply was “no.” Rather, transportation is sold. ULA will transport a satellite for a corporation or a country on their [ULA] rocket, but they will not sell the rocket.

What made trip really special though was that the platform where they had their picture taken is the platform that will be used to launch the WGS-3 satellite.

## Safety

continued from page 1

take care of those around you — Family, civilians and those Soldiers in your midst.

James stressed several key points to be covered throughout the session beginning with how the battalion integrates risk assessment both at work and at home to make sure Soldiers are kept safe.

The first involved the number one identified safety issue within SMDC/ARSTRAT which is alcohol related incidents.

He also touched upon areas Brig. Gen. John Seward, SMDC/ARSTRAT deputy commanding general for operations, brought up during a Command Safety Conference conducted earlier in the year.

“They resonate with me, and they will resonate with you. They are very simple sounding things that we can do to help protect ourselves and our Soldiers — the members of our unit. Make sure we get to know the people that are around us, those who work with us at the

peer, subordinate, and superior levels so that we are better able to identify potential risk.”

Along those lines James emphasized that if a Soldier sees what could potentially spell trouble ahead for another Soldier, or any individual for that matter, in the form of an accident waiting to happen, “that is probably a cue that you ought to talk to that Soldier or person.”

“These individuals may have just lost sight of what is safe. They need your help reeling them back in.”

The afternoon’s program consisted of Sgt. Burch Parshall and Sgt. Nicholas Carpenter giving a presentation on sun safety while Staff Sgt. Chase Givens provided a presentation on lighting safety — areas of extreme importance for those living in the Colorado region.

James closed the training session by presenting safety award certificates to each of the battalion’s companies for 12 consecutive months of accident-free duty.

# Sec Def lectures graduating class at USMA

Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates, delivered this speech Monday evening, April 21, 2008

**WEST POINT, N. Y.** — No doubt many of you have studied Eisenhower in your time here. Last year I read *Partners in Command*, a book by Mark Perry. It is an account of the unique relationship between Eisenhower and General George Marshall, and how they played a significant role in the American victory in World War II and laid the foundations for future success in the earliest years of the Cold War. Eisenhower and Marshall are, of course, icons, legends etched in granite. Their portraits hang in my office. But one of the things I found compelling in *Partners in Command* is how they were both influenced by another senior Army officer who is not nearly as well-known and in fact, as a reader of history, I had never heard of.

His name is Fox Conner, a tutor and mentor to both Eisenhower and Marshall. Conner and Marshall first became friends when they served together on the staff of General "Black Jack" Pershing during World War I. And in the 1920s, Eisenhower served as staff assistant under Brigadier General Conner in the Panama Canal Zone.

From Conner, Marshall and Eisenhower learned much about leadership and the conduct of war. Conner had three principles of war for a democracy that he imparted to Eisenhower and Marshall. They were:

- Never fight unless you have to;
- Never fight alone;
- And never fight for long.

All things being equal, these principles are pretty straightforward and strategically sound. We've heard variants of them in the decades since, perhaps most recently in the Powell doctrine.

But of course, all things are not equal, particularly when you think about the range and complexity of the threats facing America today, from the wars we are in to the conflicts we are most likely to fight. So tonight I'd like to discuss with you how you should think about applying Fox Conner's three axioms to the security challenges of the 21st century, the challenges where you will be on the front lines.

*"Never go to war unless you have to."*

That one should only go to war as a last resort has long been a principle of civilized people. We know its horrors and costs. War is, by its nature, unpredictable and uncontrollable. Winston Churchill wrote in January 1942: "Let us learn our lessons. Never, never believe that any war will be smooth and easy, or that anyone who embarks on the strange voyage can measure the tides and hurricanes he will encounter...Once the signal is given, the statesman is no longer the master of policy but the slave of unforeseeable and uncontrollable events."

In a dictatorship, the government can force the population to fall in behind the war effort, at least for a time. The nature of democracy, however, limits a country's ability to wage war – and that's not necessarily a bad thing. Indeed with perhaps the exception of World War II, every conflict in America's history has been divisive and controversial here at home. Contrary to what General Patton said in his pep talks, most real Americans do NOT like to fight.

Consider the conflicts today. Afghanistan is widely viewed as a war of necessity – striking back at the staging ground of the perpetrators of the September 11th attack. The Iraq campaign, while justified in my view, is seen differently by many people. Two weeks ago I testified, in front of the



Defense Dept. photo by Cherie Cullen

U.S. Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates speaks to students of the Air War College and the Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., April 21, 2008, before speaking to the 2008 graduating class of the U.S. Military Academy that evening.

Congress on the Iraq War. I observed that we were attacked, at home in 2001, from Afghanistan. And we are at war in Afghanistan today, in no small measure, because we mistakenly turned our backs on Afghanistan after the Soviet troops left in the late 1980s.

We made a strategic mistake in the endgame of that war. If we get the endgame wrong in Iraq, I told the Congress, the consequences will be far worse.

Truth to tell, it's a hard sell to say we must sustain the fight in Iraq right now and continue to absorb the high financial and human cost of the struggle, in order to avoid an even uglier fight or even greater danger to our country in the future. But we have Afghanistan to remind us that these are not just hypothetical risks.

Conner's axiom – never fight unless you have to – looms over policy discussions today over rogue nations like Iran that support terrorism; that is a destabilizing force throughout the Middle East and Southwest Asia and, in my judgment, is hellbent on acquiring nuclear weapons.

Another war in the Middle East is the last thing we need. And in fact, I believe it would be disastrous on a number of levels. But the military option must be kept on the table, given the destabilizing policies of the regime and the risks inherent in a future Iranian nuclear threat – either directly or through nuclear proliferation.

And then there's the threat posed by violent jihadist networks. The doctrine of preemption has been criticized in many quarters, but it is an answer to legitimate questions. With the possibility of proliferation of nuclear, biological and chemical materials, and the willingness of terrorists to use them without warning, can we wait to respond until after a catastrophic attack is either imminent or has already occurred? Given the importance of public opinion and public support, how does one justify military action to prevent something that *might* happen tomorrow or several years down the road? While "never fight unless you have to" does not preclude preemption, after our experience with flawed information regarding Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, how high must the threshold of confidence in our intelligence have to be to justify at home and abroad a preemptive or preventive war?

Conner's second axiom was "Never fight alone."

He recognized from the onset that the way World War I ended – and particularly the terms of the Versailles Treaty – made another major conflict with Germany almost inevitable. Victory would require a strong partnership of the Anglo-American democracies, and the most successful Army officers would have to adapt to working with allies and partners. Eisenhower and Marshall executed this concept brilliantly in World War II, despite the fact that, as one historian wrote about Allied generals, Eisenhower had to deal with, "as fractious and dysfunctional a group of egomaniacs as any war had ever seen."

Nonetheless, as Perry writes, "Eisenhower was a commander who believed that building and maintaining an international coalition of democracies was not a political nicety...but a matter of national survival."

And he brought this concept to the founding of NATO.

But what do you do when, as is the case today with NATO in Afghanistan, some of your allies don't want to fight; or they impose caveats on where, when and how their forces may be used; or their defense budgets are too small as a share of national wealth to provide a substantial contribution?

Not counting the United States, NATO has more than two million men and women under arms, and yet we struggle to sustain a deployment of less than 30,000 non-U.S. troops in Afghanistan, and we are forced to scrounge, hat in hand, for a handful of helicopters.

In August 1998, after the terrorist bombings of our embassies in Tanzania and Kenya, I wrote an op-ed in *The New York Times* about terrorism and national priorities, and I noted that taking a more aggressive approach to terrorism would, in virtually all cases, require America "to act violently and alone." And even after September 11th and a string of attacks in Europe and elsewhere, the publics of many of our democratic allies view the terror threat in a fundamentally different way than we do – and this continues to be a real obstacle with respect to Afghanistan and other issues.

But as Churchill said, the only thing worse than having allies is not having them at all. They provide balance,

See Lecture next page

**Lecture**

continued from page 12

credibility and legitimacy in the eyes of much of the world. And in the case of Afghanistan, one should never discount the power of the world's wealthiest and most powerful democracies coming together – as they did in Bucharest three weeks ago – to reaffirm publicly their commitment to this mission. Nor, above all, should we forget the superb performance in combat and the sacrifices of allies like the British, Canadians, the Australians, the Danes, the Dutch and others. And I would note with sympathy that last Friday, the same day that the general took command of the Dutch forces, his son, a lieutenant, age 23, was killed in Afghanistan.

Just about every threat to our security in the years ahead will require working with or through other nations. Success in the war on terror will depend less on the fighting we do ourselves and more on how well we support our allies and partners in the modern Muslim world — moderate Muslim world and elsewhere.

In fact, from the standpoint of America's national security, the most important assignment in your military career may not necessarily be commanding U.S. soldiers, but advising or mentoring the troops of other nations as they battle the forces of terror and instability within their own borders.

Finally, Fox Connor said, "Never fight for long."

According to Perry, General Connor believed that "American lives were precious, and no democracy, no matter how pressed, could afford to try the patience of its people."

Early on, Connor instilled the idea in both Eisenhower and Marshall, on finding the enemy, fighting the enemy, and defeating the enemy all within a short period of time.

In World War II, the American people had already begun to lose patience by the fall of 1944, when the lightning dash across the plains of France following D-Day gave way to a soggy, bloody stalemate along Germany's western border. And that was only 2 1-2 years after Pearl Harbor.

Eisenhower no doubt had this in mind when he became president during the third year of the Korean War. He believed that the United States – and the American people – could not tolerate being bogged down in a bloody, interminable stalemate in Northeast Asia while the Soviets menaced elsewhere, especially in Europe. Eisenhower was even willing to threaten the nuclear option to bring that conflict to a close.

**Part two of this speech will be printed in the June issue of *The Eagle*.**

**FGI = Foreign Government Information, what is it?**

**By Will Dennis  
Command Alternate  
Foreign Disclosure  
Officer**

Under Executive over 12958, as amended, FGI is defined as:

- Information provided to the United States by a foreign government or governments, an international organization of governments, or any element with the expectation that the information, the source of the information, or both, are to be held in confidence.
- Information produced by the United States pursuant to or as a result of a joint arrangement with a foreign government or governments, or an international organization of governments or any element requiring that the information, the arrangement, or both are to be held in confidence.
- Information received and treated as "FGI" under the terms of a predecessor order.



All FGI must be segregated in its own paragraph or portion of a document where U.S. classified information is contained. The two types of information will not be co-mingled in the same paragraph/portion of a document.

Documents containing FGI from more than one country and/or international organization shall keep the FGI from each individual country segregated in separate portions.

Examples of FGI markings:

- (//DEU S) - Only German Secret in this portion.
- (//GBR S) - Only British Secret in this portion.
- (//FGI S) - Country is concealed.
- (TS//FGI GBR) - INCORRECT marking. U.S. Classified must be separate from FGI.

**2 SMDC/ARSTRAT employees receive awards from industry**

By Diane Schumacher, SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

**HUNTSVILLE, Ala.**— On April 25 two members of U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command of Redstone Arsenal, Ala., received awards from NDIA (National Defense Industry Association) at a banquet dinner the NDIA conducted in their honor (and for many others as well throughout local defense) here.

Camilla Gean, a supervisor general engineer in the Technical Interoperability and Matrix Center and Dr. Larry Altgilbers, a general engineer in the Advanced Technology Division, Technical Center, were those two employees.

Gean, who is manager of advanced hypersonic weapons technology demonstrations and director of Global Strike, was nominated to receive the National Defense Management Award, and Altgilbers was nominated to receive the National Defense Technology Award.

Alan B. "Al" Goldstain, Gean's supervisor and also associate director for Air Force-Army Program Integration within Research, Development and Acquisition, SMDC/ARSTRAT, said, "I nominated Ms. Gean for the NDIA award because she demonstrates both the integrity and tenacity that it takes to be a successful program manager. Cam has very effectively represented her program, and the Army position regarding prompt global strike, at all levels of Congress, OSD, other Services and agencies, and all echelons of the Army. Also, in these activities she has been relentless in making sure that her position has been understood and accepted as evidenced by the substantial funding her program has received and will potentially receive in the future."

"Dr. Altgilbers led a team consisting of AMRDEC, NRL, and contractors to develop, build and test the Electromagnetic Pulse Grenade, which are used to defeat Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs)," wrote Dale Perry, Altgilbers' supervisor and also chief of the Advanced Technologies Division, Technology Directorate, within Technology Center, SMDC/ARSTRAT, in an e-mail. Perry further wrote, "This work is critical in the ongoing effort to support our war fighters. Dr. Altgilbers' leadership and professionalism are recognized internationally, and he is a credit to the command."

It was noted by NDIA that Gean and Altgilbers received these awards for their dedicated contributions toward the defense posture of the United States.



NDIA courtesy photo  
**Camilla Gean receives her National Defense Management Award from Bob Darnell, NDIA Tennessee Valley Chapter president April 25.**



Photo courtesy of Dr. Altgilbers  
**Dr. Larry Altgilbers receives the National Defense Technology Award on April 25 from Bob Darnell, Tennessee Valley Chapter president for NDIA.**

## Civilian News

### Thrift Savings Plan trading (civilian & military)

In case you missed it, in December interim regulations were developed regarding TSP trading. Here's what you can read at [www.tsp.gov](http://www.tsp.gov) regarding trading:

It has become clear that a small number of TSP investors are engaging in frequent trading. This activity leads to substantially increased transaction costs, greater risk of performance deviations from the TSP Funds' benchmarks, and affects everyone invested in the Funds. For example, in 2006, transaction costs caused all long-term investors in the I Fund to earn 0.08% less than they otherwise would have.

The Agency desires to stop this excessive trading immediately and also, after continued analysis, to design an interfund transfer policy that provides for administrative efficiency, investment flexibility, and retirement security, as well as reduced trading costs.

To that end, the Agency has proposed an interim regulation [see the *Federal Register*, Vol. 72, No. 247, dated Dec. 27, 2007, titled "Rules and Regulations"] granting the Executive Director the authority to notify the small group of participants that they are driving up costs through their excessive trading and to request that they cease their practices. Otherwise, these participants will be required to request interfund transfers by mail only.

Further, upon continued review and discussion with the employee unions and organizations representing Federal and Postal employees as well as the Uniformed Services, the Agency likely will amend its regulations (via a separate publication in the *Federal Register*) to permit two interfund transfers (account rebalancings) per calendar month with subsequent unlimited interfund transfers into the G Fund. The Agency believes this policy, when compared to others adopted in the private sector, provides the desired level of investment flexibility, administrative simplicity, and control over excessive trading.

The Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board allowed opportunities by all TSP members to comment on the proposed regulation that would limit interfund transfers ended on April 9, 2008. The FRTIB is currently evaluating the comments received. Once the Board reaches a final decision on the approach to be taken, they will announce it to all participants via the Web site [[www.tsp.gov](http://www.tsp.gov)] and ThriftLine.

### Did you know ...?

If you are an active employee, you can't update your mailing address on the TSP (Thrift Savings Plan) Web site. The only way to change your mailing address is through myPay, at <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>. Once you have logged into myPay, select "Correspondence Address" under the **Pay Changes** section. When your address has updated at DFAS, the new address will be forwarded to TSP.

### RetireEZ is coming!

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has initiated the rollout of their modernization of the Federal retirement systems. This new system, called RetireEZ, will provide information on your projected retirement earnings, your health and life insurance, Thrift Savings Plan (TSP), and Social Security benefits. It will allow you to get a good idea of what income you will receive as a retiree, as well as the cost at retirement of benefits such as life and health insurance. Department of Defense agencies are currently scheduled to "go live" with RetireEZ in February 2009.

RetireEZ is a "What If?" tool that can be used for retirement planning purposes throughout your entire Federal career. It is designed to give you the ability to plan ahead and make changes if needed to your TSP or other investments. If you are FERS, it is important that you understand that there are several components to your retirement, and TSP is a very important part. You can compare and track your benefits during your career, so when the day comes, you are prepared for retirement.

### Are you in the ballpark?

Are you on track to meet your retirement savings goal? The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) developed the Federal Ballpark Estimate - a savings goal worksheet - found at the Web site: [www.opm.gov/benefits/ballpark/menu.asp](http://www.opm.gov/benefits/ballpark/menu.asp).

You may use it to automatically calculate estimates of future CSRS [Civil Service Retirement System], CSRS Offset, or FERS [Federal Employees Retirement System] retirement benefits and TSP [Thrift Savings Plan] account balances. This is for employees who plan to retire under the voluntary age and service rules. The current version doesn't perform estimates for employees planning to retire under the Minimum Retirement Age (MRA) + 10 rules. It can help you approximate how much you need to save.

## Military News

### GI Bill license and certification program

Did you know that you can use your GI Bill benefits to get reimbursed for licensing and certification tests? Reimbursement for licensing and certification tests that have been specifically approved for the GI Bill is provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). VA can pay only for the cost of the tests, not any other fees connected with obtaining a license or certification. The following is a brief summary of the GI Bill License and Certification Program.

In today's business and federal workforce, having a license or certification can open doors. A license is required for most professions, and for jobs that are subject to state or other government regulations. Certification is voluntary, but frequently sought after. That's because getting a certification can help obtain, keep, or advance in a job.

NOTE: This is the type of certification obtained by taking a specific test for a field of employment, not a certificate received for completion of training. However, VA benefits can be used for many school courses and programs needed to obtain a license or certification.

You may receive this benefit if you're eligible for: The Montgomery G.I. Bill - Active Duty (this benefit isn't available for the MGIB for reservists), VEAP or Dependents' Educational Assistance.

A VA Form 22-1990 must be completed by veterans or active duty servicemembers and eligible family members must fill out VA Form 22-5490. The application forms must be mailed in with test information to the VA office of the state you live in. Check the Internet site: [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov), there you will find a link to the Licensing and Certification page. You can send e-mail inquiries to the VA Regional Processing Office near you also by going to that Web site and clicking on "Ask a Question," or call 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551), or for the hearing-impaired, 1-800-829-4833. However, the phone lines are often very busy, especially when school enrollments are heavy. You may have more success through the Internet.

### Combat stress treatment exempted from security clearance question

Veterans who seek treatment for combat-related mental health problems no longer have to disclose the fact they sought help when applying for government security clearances, Defense Secretary Robert Gates said May 1. Gates announced revisions to Question 21 on the Office of Personnel Management's Standard Form 86 - *Questionnaire for National Security Positions*. The question was changed to provide an exemption that allows those who sought post-combat mental health treatment to answer "No" to the question and keep the details to themselves. The exemption is also offered to those who sought counseling for marital or family grief. Previously, those applying for the clearance who had sought treatment for problems such as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder or combat stress had to answer "Yes" and provide details of who conducted the treatment. Gates said steps were taken to change the question in an effort to remove the stigma of mental health care. An Army inspector general report found Soldiers were hesitant to seek treatment because they worried about losing their security clearances. DoD wants to "be clear to Soldiers filling out that form that any counseling that they had sought, associated with their combat stress, was not going to count against them in terms of getting their security clearance," Gates said. To see more, go to: [www.defenselink.mil/transcripts/transcript.aspx?transcriptid=4220](http://www.defenselink.mil/transcripts/transcript.aspx?transcriptid=4220).

### Don't forget the MyArmyLifeToo Web site

MyArmyLifeToo (MALT) provides single portal access for Family members and is a web site that highlights programs and services of the Army Community Service (ACS), Army National Guard, and Army Reserve Family Programs with links to important Army and community services. Information on the site is provided in language natural to Family members as opposed to Army terms, acronyms, and program names. Site navigation is easy, new articles are added daily as most information is available for the user within four clicks. The site is populated with articles that provide key information for Soldiers, their Families, civilians, and service providers of military Families. Users may register and subscribe to receive the monthly newsletter, *Family News*. The site is publicly accessible, on a .com server, not behind an Army Knowledge On-Line (AKO) address or military firewall, so it is available to all Soldiers, immediate and extended Family members, friends, employers and anyone who has in interest or need to know more about Army Family support and services. Registration to the site is voluntary. Visit the Web site: [www.myarmylifetoo.com](http://www.myarmylifetoo.com).

# Chief of Staff's son follows family legacy

By Giselle N. Bodin  
SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

**HUNTSVILLE, Ala.** — Every father is proud of his son. Many parents share experiences with their children that create a life-long bond for that family. But for one SMDC/ARSTRAT employee, the three-generation bond he shares with his father and his son reflects a truly unique experience.

On Friday, May 2, 2nd Lt. Christopher Hamilton graduated from the Army's Ranger School at Fort Benning, Ga. Hamilton is the son of SMDC/ARSTRAT's Chief of Staff, Col. John C. Hamilton, who is a 1980 graduate of Ranger School.

While this is a unique experience for the family of course, the history of this particular accomplishment goes back further. Col. Hamilton's father, Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) John Hamilton, completed the same course in 1953. Ranger School is not just an achievement that each of these gentlemen is proud of, but it is also a legacy that they have created as a family bond.

"I would be honored to believe that I am starting down a path that would allow me to be half the man or Soldier that my father and grandfather are," the youngest Hamilton said.

It seems he is well on his way — he graduated without recycling, a rarity in Ranger School. Most Soldiers who start the program leave at some point and complete the course at a later date, when they are more fully prepared for the rigorous trials of the course. This is known as "recycling."

The spring 2008 Ranger class began with approximately 430 Soldiers; 246 graduated, most of whom were already recycled. The first time pass rate for this class was a mere 32 percent. 2nd Lt. Hamilton was one of the rare few who finished the course on his first try.

U.S. Army Ranger School is a three-phase intense course that is meant to test Soldiers emotionally, physically and mentally; to break them down, put them in stressful environments, and allow their leadership potential to expand. The first phase, conducted at Fort Benning, contains two parts. The first is an initial assessment of fitness, combat survival, navigation, obstacle courses, demolitions training and airborne instruction. The second part focuses on patrolling, combat, mission planning and troop leading. Overall, this phase assures mental and physical endurance and instills confidence and commitment in its participants.

The second phase is the Mountain Phase, in which Soldiers learn about military mountaineering, techniques for employing a squad and platoon for combat patrol operations in a mountainous environment, knots, ropes, climbing, and rappelling.

The third phase is the Florida Phase. Here Soldiers are put in adverse conditions

with extreme stress, testing their combat and leadership skills and allowing them to plan and lead small units in a jungle/swamp environment.

While Col. Hamilton explained that his time during Ranger School was grueling and challenging, he also conceded that the course today is different — perhaps more rigorous but also smarter, particularly in the perspective of safety. Either way, he was extremely proud of his son and excited about the unique legacy that they were creating.

"As a result of his completion of this course, I see more potential for Chris than I have ever seen before," Col. Hamilton said. "He has definitely made me proud, and I was happy to be a part of his pinning ceremony like my father was a part of mine."



Photos courtesy of Hamilton Family

Col. John C. Hamilton, chief of staff at SMDC/ARSTRAT, pins the Ranger Tab on his son, 2nd Lt. Christopher Hamilton, during his graduation from Army Ranger School at Fort Benning, Ga., on May 2, 2008. By completing the course, 2nd Lt. Hamilton was continuing in a legacy built by his father and grandfather, who are also both Ranger School graduates.

Col. Hamilton traveled to Fort Benning, Ga., for the ceremony along with his wife and daughter. He pinned the Ranger Tab on his son as a symbol of his graduation, just like his own father had done for him 28 years before.

In discussing his own Ranger School experiences, Col. Hamilton said that while he knew his father had completed the course, it was initially more a sense of duty for him than following in his father's footsteps.

"I wanted to do the hardest thing I could and this [Ranger School] was the premier military school," Col. Hamilton said. "It's only more special now because of the legacy we have created and the three generations that can now speak about our experiences."

2nd Lt. Hamilton had similar feelings going into his course as well, believing initially that Ranger School was just one more pre-requisite to leading a platoon.

"I remember hearing stories about this course and feeling proud to know that my father and grandfather were able to perform and maintain standards despite the rigorous conditions imposed by the course requirements, Ranger instructors and Mother Nature," 2nd Lt. Hamilton explained. "The course taught me that no matter the external factors ... the mission

***"I would be honored to believe that I am starting down a path that would allow me to be half the man or Soldier that my father and grandfather are."***

2nd Lt. Christopher Hamilton

must be successfully completed and standards will not be compromised."

Col. Hamilton's father, Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Hamilton, was ecstatic to learn that his grandson was going to Ranger School. Being an infantry Soldier himself, he

already had a close bond with his grandson, who is also infantry. Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Hamilton was also the first non-commissioned officer that 2nd Lt. Hamilton saluted. One of the first things the family did upon 2nd Lt. Hamilton's graduation was to send photos of the event to his grandfather.

"I know he is proud of Chris as well and is excited about all of us being able to share our stories," Col. Hamilton stated.

Those stories will undoubtedly grow as 2nd Lt. Hamilton continues along in his Army experiences and continues to follow the values of his family members before him. "The values my family passed down to me have shown the importance of service

and understanding that through courses such as Ranger School, the military develops character and leadership ability. Not just the legacy of attending and graduating Ranger School without recycling, but the values associated with military service, is the legacy that my father and grandfather have shown me and those are the values I intend to pass on."

2nd Lt. Hamilton's next assignment is with the 82nd Airborne at Ft. Bragg, N.C. He is currently finishing Airborne school, another experience he shares with both his mother and father.

Rangers Lead the Way! Hooah!



Col. John C. Hamilton has Ranger Tab pinned on by his father, Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) John Hamilton, during his graduation from Ranger School in March of 1980. Sgt. Maj. Hamilton completed the course himself in 1953.

# SMDC/ARSTRAT Colo. Springs observes Asian Pacific-American Heritage Month with activities, Tae Kwon Do Grand Master



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Mike Queen, U.S. Army

SMDC/ARSTRAT Soldiers hold boards steady as Brig. Gen. Brig. John Seward, deputy commanding general for SMDC/ARSTRAT Operations, prepares to break both boards as part of a martial arts demonstration during the 2008 SMDC/ARSTRAT Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Observance on May 8.



U.S. Air Force Photo by Roberta McDonald

Brig. Gen. John Seward, deputy commanding general for SMDC/ARSTRAT Operations, successfully breaks a board as part of a martial arts demonstration.



U.S. Air Force Photo by Roberta McDonald

Grand Master Jhoon Rhee addresses a group of more than 200 Soldiers and civilians during the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command Asian Pacific-American Heritage Month Observation at Operational Headquarters, Building 3, Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., the afternoon of May 8. World-renowned 10th Degree Black Belt, Rhee is known as the Father of American Tae Kwon Do.

## SMDC/ARSTRAT HQ's APFT caught on camera



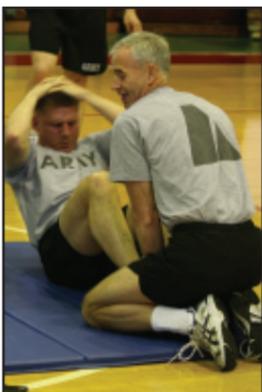
Photos by Dottie White

Plenty of dripping sweat on April 25 at Redstone Arsenal, Ala., during the Army Physical Fitness Test ...



... and pushing it to the limit as well.

Lt. Gen. Kevin T. Campbell, commanding general, acts as the holder for Maj. Brian Adams as he does his sit-ups.



Headquarters and Headquarters Company, SMDC/ARSTRAT, followed push-ups and sit-ups with a two-mile run.



Look carefully, there's a smile on Maj. "Seamus" Smallwood's face and everyone else is smiling, too ...

Lt. Col. Edward Pfeffer finishes with enthusiasm. Hooah!



Maj. Pamela Tingle, commander, HHC, SMDC/ARSTRAT leads the way during the entire run.