

## Inside The Eagle



National  
opportunity  
to celebrate  
freedom,  
page 3



The  
adventures  
of training:  
brains and  
brawn,  
pages 8, 9



The Army's  
new blue  
Class A & B  
uniforms,  
page 16

# The Eagle

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

Volume 15, Number 9, October 2008

## New chapter for Col. Story

By Sharon L. Hartman  
Colorado Springs, Colo.

**PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo.** — A familiar face is once again being seen around U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command. Col. Kurt S. Story - former Chief of Staff for Army Space Command, G3 Chief of Operations for SMDC/ARSTRAT, and 1st Space Brigade commander - has returned to the command, this time as the Deputy Commander for Operations. SMDC/ARSTRAT Commanding General, Lt. Gen. Kevin T. Campbell welcomed Story back at a ceremony September 4 in Building Three, the command's operational headquarters.

"I don't think I know anybody with a history of space who is more qualified to fully take on this job," praised Campbell during his remarks on Story.

"He has a great reputation, leadership skills and background. He knows what the troops need in Iraq and has already been providing it.

"The Army could not have done a better job in picking a brigadier general to be in the space business."

Story, who is slated to be promoted to brigadier general, returned to the command from his most recent assignment as the Director of Operations (J3), Joint Forces Component Command - Space at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif.

"Space operations and integrated missile defense are joint by nature," Story said. "I am looking forward to working with the other services looking for ways to take advantage of our various capabilities and to build a mutually supportive synergy that will ensure that our systems and our processes are indeed joint and that



Photo by DJ Montoya

Col. Kurt S. Story, front row, far right, sits with his family during a welcome reception for him on September 4 at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. upon his return to U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command as the Deputy Commander for Operations.

together we provide the most economical and efficient world-class support to the joint warfighter and national security space team."

"I am very excited about being back in Colorado Springs," Story said. "From my foxhole, there is no better town in America than Colorado Springs."

## CRC advises 'Prepare Strong'

By Paula Allman  
U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety  
Center

**A**dverse weather comes in many different forms. Thunderstorms, tornados and hurricanes are nature's most violent storms and can damage or destroy entire neighborhoods within minutes. Are you and your family ready for an emergency? Failure to prepare can put Families and property in jeopardy. It's up to you to Prepare Strong!

So far this year, 2008 has been an active weather year. Severe storms and tornadoes have struck all across the nation. It has been a record-breaking year in the number of twisters and the number of fatalities. From January through April, there were 547 tornadoes reported, 179 more than the 3-year average. Even more alarming, these tornadoes caused 70 deaths, exceeding the 3-year average of 38.

Are Soldiers and Army Families prepared for this type of an emergency? The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is increasing public awareness of the importance of preparing for emergencies while encouraging people to take action during September's National Preparedness Month.

National Preparedness Month (ready.gov) provides Families with detailed lists of items to include in emergency supply and first-aid kits, as well as comprehensive emergency planning recommendations. There are three main steps to follow to prepare your Family:

1. Get a kit—Purchase a ready collection of first-aid supplies, food, water, medicines and important papers that can sustain you and your family until a crisis passes. Consider the needs of your Family and pets, and assemble emergency supply kits in your home, car and workplace.

2. Make a plan—Family members may not be together when an emergency strikes. Planning ahead for various emergencies will improve your chances of keeping in touch, staying safe and quickly reuniting.

3. Be informed—Emergencies can arise from weather and other natural hazards, industrial and transportation accidents, disease epidemics and terrorist acts. Anticipate the emergencies most likely to affect you and your family.

With the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) prediction of another active hurricane season this August through October, the

See **Prepare Strong** on page 12

## The Eagle will land with last paper copy in December

The Eagle will move into the 21st Century changing from printed copy to internet January 2009, therefore the final paper issue will be December 2008.

However, going electronic will start out as a test with our readers in mind.

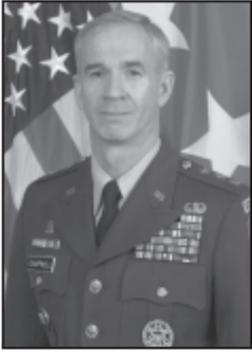
The electronic version of articles can be viewed now on the home page at [www.army.mil/smdc](http://www.army.mil/smdc). Even past articles can be viewed by clicking on "news articles" in the column on the left of the screen.

Articles and photos will be updated daily, making news and information real-time or near-real-time for your edification. Additionally, stories are automatically sent to the Army.mil Web site and other commands and publications as appropriate.

Another bonus of the electronic version is that articles and photos can be saved or e-mailed to Family members and friends using the URL, or Web address.

So tell us what you think during the trial period. E-mail The Eagle editor at: [EagleEditor@smdc.army.mil](mailto:EagleEditor@smdc.army.mil).

# The Command Corner



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



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

**A** rmy Aviation can trace its roots back to September 1908 when Orville Wright conducted a test flight of the Wright Flyer at Fort Myers, Va. The Wright Flyer reportedly flew about 100 feet in the air and stayed aloft for less than two minutes. A year later, the Army purchased its first airplane and Army Aviation was born.

The Army looked at the Wright Flyer 99 years ago and envisioned capabilities and possibilities. In similar fashion the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command looks at space and sees capabilities and possibilities to support warfighters, and we look at missile defense and see an integrated global system.

Today, SMDC/ARSTRAT is experimenting with our own version of "flyers" that can reach altitudes greater than 60,000 feet and stay aloft for several days, providing warfighters with enhanced capabilities. High altitude flyers are but one of many space and missile defense capabilities that SMDC/ARSTRAT is working on to support the warfighter.

SMDC/ARSTRAT is the Army proponent for space, high altitude, and ground-based midcourse defense (GMD), that develops, transitions technology, and provides acquisition support to assigned fields. We are uniquely organized to develop the technologies necessary in each of those areas and to deliver those capabilities to the Army and to the nation.

One example of space-based capability that I believe will have significant impact is the Wideband Global SATCOM (WGS) satellite. WGS increases communications capability by tenfold over existing satellites. The system helps close one of the largest capability gaps identified: limited high-throughput, protected military satellite communications. WGS is a collaborative effort between the Army, Air Force, and industry.

The first WGS satellite was launched October 2007 and became operational earlier this year. The satellite is "piloted" by the Air Force and SMDC/ARSTRAT Soldiers control its onboard communications capabilities.

Another area with great potential is small satellites. We have an initiative underway to determine if low-cost small satellites will satisfy warfighter needs for Beyond-Line-of-Sight communications as well as other capabilities. One of the objectives of the SMDC/ARSTRAT initiative is to demonstrate and validate that a level of persistence over a specific region for a specific purpose is feasible using small-satellite formations.

A key aspect of space-based capabilities is the professionals working in the arena. Army Space Operations professionals are the space experts who integrate space-based capabilities at the tactical and operational levels of command. They also ensure Army space requirements are understood and addressed in decision and developmental locations within and outside the Army at locations such as the National Security Space Office, the Air Force Space and Missile Center, the National Reconnaissance Office as well as working to expand our presence inside Air Force Space Command.

As critical as our space role is, of equal importance is our continuing development and fielding of global integrated missile defense capabilities. To see first, decide first and act first when responding to a missile threat requires a global focus – regional missile defenses operating alone are no longer adequate. The evolution of an integrated command and control, battle

**T**his month, we continue our discussion of Army values and their importance to the men and women who serve as members of the United States Army, and to the civilians who support them. As we come to the letter "I," we've almost reached the end of the acronym "**LDRSHIP**."

"**I**" reminds us of the importance of integrity as a core Army Value. "Integrity is not a 90 percent thing, not a 95 percent thing; either you have it or you don't." — Peter Scotese.

Army Field Manual 6-22 defines integrity: Do what's right – legally and morally.

As noted in FM 6-22, the Army expects us to "consistently act according to clear principles, not just what works now." This means clearly understanding the difference between right and wrong and always choosing to do the right thing – not only the easy thing, the popular thing, or the less painful thing. Integrity is a critical Army Value because it is the cornerstone, the foundation upon which trust and respect are built. Without trust and respect, the Army cannot effectively function as a unit and it definitely cannot honorably represent our great Nation.

Think about it, as an individual do you do business with or socialize with people you do not trust and respect? No one is comfortable around people or establishments of questionable integrity. No one wants to deal with people or companies they do not trust or respect. This fact is especially true in the Army, where we must routinely place our well-being into the hands of our fellow Soldiers and civilians, and where other countries continually measure the integrity of the United States of America based upon our actions. Unit morale and unit effectiveness require trust and respect, without them the unit is doomed to failure.

As Warren Buffett once said, "It takes 20 years to build a reputation and five minutes to ruin it." As a command we cannot function effectively with a tarnished reputation. As an individual, you will find it extremely difficult to be an effective member of the Army or a respected member of the community if you have a bad reputation. I can guarantee you that a person of questionable integrity is going to have a poor reputation. You cannot deviate from the path of "doing what's right" and maintain your integrity.

The words situation or context or circumstance have nothing to do with "doing what's right," there are no shades of gray. Your actions are both legally and morally right or they are not. For a person of integrity the situation, context, or circumstance surrounding an event will not influence the correct response. If your unit is "almost" up to standards, you won't report that it meets the required operational readiness. If most of your personnel have completed required training and you think you can slip the rest in at a later date, you won't report 100 percent compliance. A person of integrity reports the situation as it is, and proposes a plan to meet the required level when he or she is not in compliance.

In order to maintain trust and respect and to develop and maintain a good reputation, we must have integrity. The integrity of each individual within the Army helps shape the trust and respect people feel toward our Army, and ultimately toward our nation. Men and women of integrity will always respond honestly, no matter the personal cost. Our Army demands it and our nation depends upon it.

See **CG's column** on page 2

**SECURE THE HIGH GROUND!**

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# What We Think

## The Eagle asks:

**It's been seven years since the terrorist attack on the United States (9-11-01). As you read or view media, do you feel Americans have become complacent regarding the terrorist attack or do you feel Americans still see a need for continued safety efforts against terrorism against this nation? Why?**



I believe the media is pushing complacency. We all have a tendency to try to desensitize ourselves to painful thoughts to a certain degree so many Americans have pushed 9/11 to the back of their minds. I can even see a future where people try to deny it happened in the way it did. But, maybe because I'm military, it's made me more aware. I think almost everyone has an extra worry when they fly these days — I know my wife tells me to sit on the aisle so I can take out the bad guys, just in case.

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I would definitely say we are too complacent. I can't imagine most people are even aware of the current elevated threat level. I think that has to do largely with fear. Obviously no one wants another attack, and many people are afraid of the terrorism spreading into a larger war, so it's easier to not think of it. Because I'm in the military and have always been a political person, the events of Sept. 11 definitely made me more aware of the need for security and measures to protect ourselves. I came back on active duty after the attacks.



Americans in the overall have not become complacent, and they understand the necessity for multilateral engagement between the United States and other countries in dealing with global threats. Counterterrorism should be proportionate to the threat, and we must remain vigilant. Terrorism is not a noun, it is a verb (an action). We cannot bomb our way out of terrorism. Although I was located only three short blocks from the Pentagon on 9-11-01, several other acts of terrorism have occurred during my lifetime, namely, the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing, Oklahoma City Bombing, and the Centennial Olympic Park Bombing. This is America — the land of the free and the home of the brave. If we live in fear, the terrorists win.

LaJeannia J. Lacey, SMDC/ARSTRAT Forms Officer  
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## CG's Column

continued from page 2

management communications (C2BMC) architecture for integrated missile defense and its ability to contribute to situational awareness will be of critical importance to the warfighter.

Enhanced real-time command and control through net-centric interoperability of sensor, C2BMC, and

"shooter" systems will increase the effectiveness of air, space, and missile defense systems. These enhancements will promote mobile, modular, mission tailored forces, integrated fire control; and joint systems interoperability — all distinct attributes of our transforming Army.

Our missile defense SMDC/ARSTRAT Soldiers are deployed

around the world supporting the missile defense mission and stand ready to protect our nation and our allies from a missile attack.

I continue to be very proud of our Soldiers and civilians who deploy into harms way. SMDC/ARSTRAT Soldiers have deployed in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom since the beginning of combat

operations. I am also proud of the Soldiers, civilians and contractors who work tirelessly behind the scenes researching, developing, and acquiring the space and missile defense systems needed to maintain our dominance in space and our dominance on the ground.

I invite those who will be in Washington, D.C. in October to visit the

SMDC/ARSTRAT exhibit at the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) National Meeting, Oct. 6-11.

Our Soldiers, civilians and Army astronauts supporting the display will provide excellent information about the many SMDC/ARSTRAT projects and capabilities.

**SECURE THE HIGH GROUND!**

# A national opportunity to celebrate freedom

By Col. Cheryl Lewis  
Staff Judge Advocate  
SMDC/ARSTRAT

Every year we take time throughout the year to commemorate our nation's freedom and the sacrifices of others who secured the rights we enjoy. Dates that readily come to mind for most people include Memorial Day (the last Monday of each May), June 14 (Flag Day), July 4 (Independence Day) and Nov. 11 (Veteran's Day).

This year the month of September focused our attention toward diverse local and national political events leading up to what is becoming known as the "main event" in November: presidential voting on Nov. 4.

For just a few moments I encourage you to set aside those events and focus on events that occur every

September. For students of all ages, September marks the end of summer vacation and the start of school. For adults, the month of September marks national observances for Labor Day and Patriots Day.

However, we often do not remember that September is also the month in which Americans celebrate our heritage as free citizens governed by a Constitution.

Sept. 17 of every year is also known as Constitution Day in honor of the fortitude and courage of 39 men who signed the United States Constitution on Sept. 17, 1787. Additionally the week surrounding Sept. 17 is known for educational and celebratory events to focus on citizenship.

Governmental and non-governmental organizations alike join in the celebratory events.

Many educational organiza-

tions provide free copies of the Constitution. The annual national celebration of Constitution Day since 1952 has been to encourage discussions and debates regarding the overall meaning of our Constitution. How important was the balance of power to our founding fathers? Is the concept of separation of powers still really needed? What is the meaning of the Preamble to the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and can the principles encompassed within those important words be severed from our Constitution? How important are the subsequent amendments to the original document?

We take for granted the basic rights we enjoy which are protected by our Constitution. It would only take the briefest of moments in reflection upon current world events to make

us cherish what freedoms we have and should desire to fight to protect against loss of any of them. Take time to celebrate and understand the freedoms you enjoy as United States citizens because of our Constitution and laws based on it, such as, free speech, right to peaceably assemble, freedom of religion, equal treatment under the law, right to vote, privacy, education, and protection against unlawful search and seizure.



# Safety

## Suicide prevention and awareness

**N**early everyone in the Army, military and civilian, by now should be aware of the training that's been taking place Army-wide to teach of the signs of suicidal thinking and how to try to prevent someone from taking his or her life. The obvious goal for the Army is to reduce Soldier suicides. This goal is based on the belief that many suicides are preventable. The following information is taken from the 2008 ACE (Peer) Training presentation and from the 2008 U.S. Army Suicide Prevention Resource Manual. Both can be found by linking through the [cra.army.mil](http://cra.army.mil) Web site.

Soldiers will respect a leader who cares about subordinates much more than a leader who only cares about self. Leaders must recognize the importance of team, and that a team is only as valuable as its weakest link. When a Soldier is perceived by leadership to be weak, it is that leader's responsibility to strengthen that Soldier. If the injury is physical, then it is appropriate to send that Soldier to receive medical care. If the injury is mental, then **it is still** the leader's responsibility to send that Soldier to receive medical care.

Stigma refers to a cluster of negative attitudes and beliefs that motivate, inadvertently, Soldiers and leaders to fear, reject, avoid, and discriminate against military and 15 civilian personnel with mental illnesses. Stigma is widespread in the Army. Stigma leads to Soldiers and leaders to avoid and often discriminate against Soldiers who are experiencing personnel emotional problems. It leads to low self-esteem, isolation, and hopelessness for the Soldier who has a mental illness. It deters the Soldier from seeking care. Responding to stigma, Soldiers with mental health problems internalize others attitudes and become so embarrassed or ashamed that they often conceal symptoms and fail to seek treatment. When Soldiers fail to seek help when it is necessary, the general outcome is emotional degeneration leading to poor work performance and suicidal behavior.

As more Soldiers seek help and share their stories with buddies and relatives, compassion will be the response, not ridicule.

Again, the stigma associated with mental health care take on significance in the Army. Not only do Soldiers worry about embarrassment and their careers, they are also concerned that their commander will discover that they received mental health treatment.

Commanders have a legitimate "need to know" about the mental and physical capabilities of their soldiers in order to safely and efficiently carry out their mission, but many Soldiers feel they cannot acknowledge depression in their lives without risking detriment to their careers. So they will delay or never seek help; they feel the Army culture demands a "No Fear," "Suck it up!" "Bite the Bullet" mentality. In reality, not getting help is much more likely to damage a Soldier's career.

Commanders should always reinforce the personal courage it takes to seek behavioral health help, and that seeking "treatment" will not affect a Soldier's military career. "Early care protects careers and marriages"(Battlemind). Leaders must reduce the actual and perceived stigma of

seeking mental health counseling.

Soldiers are learning that they have a vested interest in helping their fellow Soldier. Unit cohesion can be negatively affected by suicide of a unit member. A suicide can demoralize and seriously disrupt the unit's ability to sustain its mission. Given this perspective, Soldiers and leaders have a vested interest in helping battle buddies who are thinking of taking their own life.

Objectives of training about suicide awareness and preventions are enabling Soldiers, leaders and civilian counterparts to understand that "no one stands alone."

Suicide is caused by mental illness or depression, but these are not necessarily one and the same.

Depression can be caused by a chemical imbalance, it is not always due to a psychological state caused by personal loss or heredity. For the depressed, hopeless person, life may seem unbearable and the person loses interest in all activities and "withdraws from life." Depressed Soldiers see things in a very negative way and have a difficult time generating effective ways of dealing with problems.

**Signs of clinical depression:** Persistent sad mood, feelings of hopelessness, feelings of guilt, difficulty concentrating, sudden change in appetite or weight (gain or loss), difficulty sleeping (too little or too much), loss of interest in pleasurable activities, irritability, persistent fatigue and/or loss of energy.

When people feel depressed and sad, they can become trapped in a cycle of negative thoughts and beliefs. They may experience a variety of cognitive distortions such as:

**Negative filter:** A Soldier views all of his/her life including daily activities through a negative filter. He or she might attribute a benign glance from a fellow Soldier as a look of anger or view a simple mistake such as misplacing keys as a sign that he/she is truly a failure in life. "I'm just a loser, why bother?"

**All-or-nothing thinking:** A Soldier sees things in black and white categories. If the relationship fails, the Soldier sees himself/herself as a failure and as the sole reason for the break-up. "Life isn't worth living."

**Overgeneralization:** The Soldier sees a single negative event as a never-ending pattern of defeat. If the Soldier's relationship ends, he/she may think that all future relationships will fail, too. "Life isn't worth living."

**Disqualifying the positive:** The Soldier disregards any positive experience, and maintains negative beliefs even if they are contradicted by everyday experiences. A Soldier may fail to find any positive about his/her relationship or about his/her current status, if newly single even if several members of the opposite sex express interest in a relationship. "What's the use in trying? I'll just fail again."

**Catastrophizing:** The Soldier exaggerates the importance of negative events. If a relationship fails, the Soldier might assume that the failure will now affect all aspects of life, it will affect his ability to be promoted, and will cause a loss of friends. "What's the use in trying?"

**Suicide Warning Signs:** talking or hinting of suicide or of killing someone

else, formulating a plan to include acquiring the means to kill oneself, having a desire to die, finalizing personal affairs, giving away property or disregard for what happened to one's property, withdrawal from friends and activities, obsession with death (through music, poetry, artwork), themes of death (in letters and notes), problems with girlfriend (boyfriend) or spouse, acting bizarre or unusual (based on your knowledge of the person), Soldiers in trouble for misconduct (Art. 15, UCMJ, etc.), Soldiers experiencing financial problems, Soldiers who have lost their job at home (reservists), Soldiers leaving the service (retirements, ETSs, etc.), terminal illness, significant loss, previous suicide attempts.

**Suicide intervention** training using the acronym "ACE" focuses on equipping Soldiers with skills necessary to help a suicidal buddy. But the ACE system is not for Soldiers only, civilians can use the training information in their lives as well, thus wherever "battle buddy" is used, "friend" is applied as well.

The acronym, **ACE**, promotes actions to take with a battle buddy/friend to prevent suicide. ACE stands for "ask", "care", and "escort".

**ASK** your battle buddy/friend, directly, about his or her suicidal thoughts. You've got to know the warning signs you might see in yourself or battle buddy/friend if he or she is suicidal. Look for any outward sign that shows a deviation from his or her usual self. When the warning signs (some listed above) are present, it is imperative to ask your battle buddy/friend directly: "Are you thinking about killing yourself?"

Ask directly about thoughts or plans of suicide. Say something like, "I can see that you feel stressed out. Have you thought about hurting yourself or someone?" Or, "Do you wish you were dead?" If your friend answers yes, the next question to ask is, "Have you thought of how you could kill yourself?"

You've got to ask direct questions about thoughts or plans for suicide, this isn't the time to beat around the bush. Talk openly. Be willing to listen and allow your battle buddy to express his or her feelings.

**LISTEN actively** to what is being said. Stop what you are doing, look your friend in the eyes. Don't just hear the words, but feel the content of what's being said. Be sincerely interested in what your battle buddy is talking about. Talk to your battle buddy/friend alone in a private setting.

It is maintained that clues or warning signs are missed because a potential helper either lacks the time or interest that causes the message not to be heard. Sometimes the helper is just too busy to actually listen or comprehend. This communication mishap occurs far too often and can lead to disastrous results (e.g., suicide). Active listening requires patience. The patient listener will learn the reasons why his or her battle buddy/friend wants to die and eventually your battle buddy/friend will see that death is not a solution. Soldiers are taught why it is important to listen long enough so that their battle buddy feels understood and the reasons for living are found.

See **Prevention** on page 5

# Chaplain preaches suicide prevention

By Maj. Laura Kenney  
Public Affairs  
100th Missile Defense Brigade  
(GMD)

**COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.** — "I need your help. This problem is too big to handle by myself."

With that plea, Chap. (Lt. Col.) Andrew Meverden, state chaplain of the Colorado National Guard, began a moving presentation on suicide prevention in a class held Sept. 18. The audience was mixed — Soldiers from the 100th Missile Defense Brigade (Ground-based Midcourse Defense) and the 117th Space Battalion — both Colorado National Guard units assigned to U.S. Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command — and civilian contractors.

"It has to be a team effort," said Meverden. "The new theme is 'shoulder to shoulder.' That's the only way we can combat this sad and tragic thing. The alarm has been sounded — this year, suicides in the Army are on track to eclipse last year's record-breaking numbers. Previously, we've always been able to state that, terrible as the numbers are, our rate of suicides was still less than that of the general population. We can no longer say that."

Published facts and figures display the following numbers: in 2004, 67 suicides; in 2005, 85; in 2006, 102 suicides and in 2007, 115. In a suicide prevention guide recently

printed by the Army which is available to units and installations, the following statement summed it up:

"This (suicide) ranks as the fourth leading manner of death for Soldiers, exceeded only by hostile fire, accidents and illnesses. Even more startling is that during this same period, 10 to 20 times as many soldiers have thought to harm themselves or attempted suicide."

Meverden, tall, rangy, normally cheerful and expressive, taught the day's class with a sober and solemn mien.

"There has been such a huge stigma about mental illness, and this has contributed to a culture of warriors not seeking help," he said. "But that culture is changing — now Air Force pilots can even ground themselves from flying, something unheard of 'back in the day.'

"We are working hard to establish a climate in which seeking help is not a character flaw but instead a sign of strength. The military overall is reviewing policies and procedures that would prevent Soldiers from asking for and getting the help that they need."

The chaplain graphically demonstrated how issues such as depression often have physical roots. Interlacing his fingers and holding them up to the audience, he explained how trauma can affect the synapses between nerve endings,

causing them to literally misfire. A *physical* reason for what is still viewed largely as "only" a mental problem.

Medication and therapy can create new pathways in the brain — findings increasingly born out by medical science and research.

He also gave his own personal best advice for dealing with people who appear depressed.

"Believe it or not, low blood sugar can tremendously influence your mood," said Meverden. "One of the first things I do when counseling someone who is really down is feed them. Stock 'em up on sugar, calcium, protein — you'd be amazed at how different the world can look, short-term, after a healthy meal."

Meverden quoted research that shows that most familial arguments occur *before* dinner. His advice? Eat first, maybe do the dishes to give the food time to settle, *then* discuss major issues.

In another visual depiction of how Soldiers can intervene to prevent suicide, the chaplain briefly displayed a short video clip of actor Gary Sinise playing a guitar. He asked the audience, "Does anyone know who that is?"

A southern-drawled "Lieutenant Da-an!" came in a chorus back from the audience. Sinise played the depressed and suicidal lieutenant in the famous movie, "Forrest Gump." Lt. Dan is rescued physically and then spiritually by the character Forrest Gump played

by Tom Hanks. Brief vignettes from the movie refreshed the audience's memories.

"How *did* Forrest help Lt. Dan?" Meverden questioned the audience. "By helping him get back a purpose in life. Research has shown that one's self-image actually affects the level of neuroepinephrines in a person's brain. People need to be treated with dignity and respect. Removing the stigma from mental health problems is a huge step towards giving our Soldiers, many of whom have experienced horrific things while serving their country, that dignity and respect."

Getting to the nitty-gritty of how the Army in particular is planning to combat the rising tide of suicides, Meverden described how each Soldier can be "an ACE in the hole."

[ACE information can be found in the suicide prevention and awareness article on page 4 and below of this publication.]

Meverden has seen first hand the increasing rate of suicides.

"Prior to Sept. 11, I probably was called in an effort to help five to six times a year. Since that terrible day, it's 10 to 15 times a year."

"Suicide is a permanent solution to a temporary problem. If you can help your buddy get through that temporary time of sorrow and anxiety, help him or her through that time of crisis, you will have done a wonderful thing."

## Prevention

continued from page 4

Therefore, allow your battle buddy/your friend, to talk freely. When talking, give him and yourself plenty of time to think, to find words, and to listen. Be aware of your own feelings and strong opinions but don't criticize or argue with your battle buddy's thoughts and feelings. Stay calm and objective. Restate what he or she has said in their words, to indicate you "get it," but do ask for clarification once in a while. When there's silence, don't feel compelled to fill in the silence — let there be silence. Ask questions, again however, don't criticize or argue.

**CARE.** Soldiers need to take care of each other and remove any thoughts of survival of the fittest. Almost all religions adhere to some form of Christianity's Golden Rule of "do unto others as you would have done unto you."

Judaism states, "What is hateful to you, do not do to your fellowman. This is the entire Law; all the rest is commentary."

Islam states, "No one of you is a believer until he desires for his brother that which he desires for himself."

Emphasize the sentence, "The difficulties and dangers that you face are so abnormal that they're more than a human being is designed to handle." Discuss the importance of talking to other Soldiers about what he/she is feeling. It is likely that the Soldier's buddies are feeling the same way and are experiencing the same difficulties and struggles. Talking to each other strengthens bonds and shows that you care.

**Care** for your battle buddy/friend by understanding that he or she may be in emotional pain or even physical pain. Active listening may produce relief.

Calmly control the situation: do not use force.

Take action by removing any lethal means to suicide accomplishment, such as weapons or pills.

It's important to understand with what, where, and when your battle buddy or friend plans to kill him (her)-self. The fact your friend acknowledges his or her plans generally suggests that he/she is accepting help. Emphasize that helping a buddy takes courage and that accepting help is a sign of strength and indicates a desire to feel better.

If your battle buddy tells you his plan, try to determine what steps he/she planned to take in order to carry out the event. This is in case he/she makes a future attempt. What were his or her preparations for dying (e.g., giving away person possessions)?

Find out the timing and location of the suicidal

plan and the lethality of method. Ask about rehearsal behaviors (e.g. tying a noose, loading a gun).

Explore ambivalence; ask your friend/battle buddy, specifically, about his or her reasons to die versus the reasons to live. Determine his or her access to lethal methods, including firearms. Disarm your battle buddy if he or she has weapons. If he/she is armed, say, "Let me unload your weapon and keep it safe for you while we talk."

Now it's time to take your battle buddy/friend for help.

You've been talking to your battle buddy/friend and you've no doubt been encouraging him or her to see a helping professional, so now it's time to identify support systems that can help.

**Escort** your battle buddy/friend immediately to your behavioral health professional, Chaplain

or chain of command.

Do NOT keep your battle buddy's suicidal behavior a secret. Adopting an attitude that you alone will save his or her life doesn't work. Adopting the attitude that with others you can save his or her life does and can work to save your battle buddy's life.

Stay with your friend/battle buddy until he or she receives appropriate help. Do NOT leave him/her alone. Being "there" for your friend will make the difference.

Be available and supportive, do what you would need if you were in the situation.

Reassure your battle buddy, your friend, you will be by his or her side no matter what.

Locate help for your battle buddy. Know where to get professional help from resources in the military and civilian community. Whatever you do, be sure to secure help and support for your battle buddy/your friend.

## Civilian News

### Change to Priority Placement Program

The Department of Defense Civilian Assistance and Re-Employment (CARE) Division of the DoD Civilian Personnel Management Service has issued a change (OM FY2008-04) to the DoD Priority Placement Program (PPP) Operations Manual. This change, which significantly revises PPP procedures for registering NSPS employees and requisitioning NSPS positions, became effective July 24. It provides implementing instructions for new and existing registrations and requisitions, including a 45-day deadline for updating current NSPS registrations. NSPS employees will now be registered at their equivalent general schedule grades. Similarly, NSPS positions will be cleared through PPP at their equivalent general schedule grades.

As of June 30, the Army had 793 PPP registrants, including military spouses. The replacement Chapter 19, referenced in the transmittal memorandum, can be reviewed on the Automated Stopper and Referral System (ASARS) webpage by accessing the "MANUAL" left-menu button or by going to the PPP Operations Manual located on the CARE Division Homepage at <http://www.cpms.osd.mil/care/>.

**Voluntary Separation Programs.** The Civilian Personnel Manual Subchapter (CPM SC) 1702, Voluntary Separation Programs, was recently approved by the Principal Deputy under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness and it is effective immediately. It is available for review on the DoD CARE new Voluntary Separation Incentive Pay (VSIP)/Voluntary Early Retirement Authority (VERA) webpage at <http://www.cpms.osd.mil/care/vsipvera.aspx>. On the Web page, please note the introductory paragraph, it should help readers make a clear distinction between the Department's and the Office of Personnel Management's VSIP Programs. Previous DoD policy guidance on VSIP/VERA is superseded by the CPM SC 1702. In addition to VSIP/VERA, CPM SC 1702 provides DoD policy on VSIP Phase II, which now includes new policy for Outside the Continental United States application; policy on offering an outplacement subsidy; and policy for Voluntary Reduction in Force.

**Priority Placement Program clearance process.** In November 2007, the Department of the Army requested an exception from the DoD CARE Division to expedite the PPP clearance process for the standup of its Soldiers and Family Assistance Centers (SFACs) and Warrior Transitions Units (WTUs). CARE approved the request to simplify and expedite the standup by allowing the Army's Human Resources Offices (HROs) to clear PPP requisitions on a one-time basis. The requirement to continuously clear PPP requisitions created considerable delays in completing the recruitment process for these positions given the wartime circumstances. Significant increases in wounded warriors and the need to provide quality care for Soldiers and their families caused the Army to seek an extension to this authority. On July 21, CARE approved Army's request for an extension to the exception of the PPP clearance process. Army HROs may continue to clear PPP requisitions on a one-time basis for recruiting positions in support of the SFACs and WTUs. This authority will expire on July 21, 2009.

### Review: Absence due to a serious health condition

The Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) of 1993 made available to Federal employees an entitlement to a total of 12 weeks of unpaid leave to care for the employee's spouse, child or parent with a serious health condition and a serious health condition that makes the employee unable to work. Upon returning from leave, an employee is entitled to be restored to the same or an equivalent position he/she held when the leave began. Under certain conditions, FMLA leave may be taken intermittently, or the employee may work under a work schedule that is reduced by the number of hours of leave taken as family and medical leave.

**Certification:** The employer may require that an employee's request for leave to care for a sick family member, or for the employee's own serious health condition, be supported by medical certification issued by a health care provider of the employee or the employee's ill family member. Local policy dictates the requirements. An employee may not retroactively invoke his or her entitlement to Family and Medical leave except where the employee and his/her personal representative are physically and mentally incapable of invoking entitlement during the entire period of absence from work for an FMLA-qualifying purpose. An employee may then retroactively invoke entitlement within two workdays after returning to work. Incapacity must be documented by written medical certification from a health care provider. An employee must also provide documentation acceptable to the agency of why his/her representative was unable to contact the agency on the employee's behalf. Supervisors or employees interested in this special leave provision should contact the CPAC for further guidance. More detailed information can be found at: [cpol.army.mil/library/permis](http://cpol.army.mil/library/permis).

## Military News

### DA says all Soldiers must have ASU by 2014

**ARMY NEWS SERVICE** — Out with the old, in with the blue. The Army has made it official; the green service uniform, which has defined the service since the mid-1950s, is on the outs.

In place of the green uniform will be a variation of the blue uniform, something many Soldiers already own. Official word on the new "Army Service Uniform," or ASU, was released Aug. 20 in a message to all Army activities. The message defines the wear policy and the "bridging" strategy for transition to the new uniform.

"It's a culmination of transformation efforts that started in 2004," said Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston of the new ASU. "We had three 'Class A' style uniforms, all the same style jacket, with just a different color — the policies on how we wore accoutrements on them were different. We asked the question — if we wear one only, which would it be? And the blue uniform was the most popular of the three."

The new ASU coat, similar to the existing blue coat, will be made of a wrinkle-resistant material and will have a more "athletic" cut.

Other changes to the uniform include authorization of a combat service identification badge to recognize combat service, overseas service bars authorized on the jacket sleeve for both enlisted Soldiers and officers, the wear of distinctive unit insignia on the shoulder loops of the blue coat for enlisted Soldiers, authorizing paratroopers to wear the black jump boots with the blue ASU, and the decision to transition to a new short sleeve and long sleeve white shirt with shoulder loops.

It is also permissible for enlisted Soldiers to wear both overseas service bars and service stripes on the new blue ASU coat. Officers and Soldiers in the grade of corporal and above will additionally wear a gold braid on their slacks to indicate leadership roles.

"That is kind of a right of passage as you transition from being a (junior) enlisted soldier to a noncommissioned officer," Preston said of the gold braid.

New items for the ASU will be available in military clothing sales after July 2009.

Soldiers will be expected to possess the entire uniform by July 2014. The two key components of the uniform, the coat and slacks, are expected to cost around \$140, with modifications bringing the total cost to \$200. Enlisted Soldiers will receive an increase in their annual uniform allowance to help offset the cost of the uniform.

### AAFES gas stations extend discount to drivers using Military Star<sup>SM</sup> Card

**DALLAS** — Army & Air Force Exchange Service gas stations in CONUS, Alaska and Puerto Rico are being programmed to reflect a discount of three cents a gallon for drivers who pay with a Military Star<sup>SM</sup> Card.

"Anytime a customer uses a bank issued debit or credit card, the retailer pays a portion of the transaction to a third party financial institution," said AAFES' Chief of Corporate Communications Lt. Col. Dean Thurmond "Because the Military Star<sup>SM</sup> Card is administered by the Exchange Credit Program, AAFES is not subject to the additional fees incurred through other 'pay at the pump' options. As a result, we're able to pass savings on to authorized exchange shoppers."

The three cent a gallon discount is currently being applied to transactions at 13 installations (**Redstone Arsenal**, Minneapolis-St. Paul JARS, Columbus AFB, Ft. Indiantown Gap, Fort Gordon, Patrick AFB, Robins AFB, USMA, Laughlin AFB, Yuma Proving Ground, Mountain Home AFB and Nellis AFB, MacDill, Scott, JRB Carswell). All remaining facilities in CONUS, Alaska and Puerto Rico\* (177 facilities) received software upgrades in August and began applying the three cent a gallon discount.

Officials hope to extend the Military Star<sup>SM</sup> Card three cent a gallon discount at all AAFES facilities, but do not have a time table for worldwide implementation at this time.

### President signs Sole Survivor Benefits Law "Hubbard Act"

[If a servicemember left the military (because he/she became a sole survivor) before completing his/her original commitment and had to repay any of his enlistment bonus and/or was also denied standard education and other benefits] the bill restores pay and benefits for members of the military who lose a sibling or parent as a result of military service. Sole survivors will receive 120 days of transitional health coverage, access to commissaries and standard veteran's benefits, including school and home loans.

# Espionage's changing face, nature

By David Pederson,  
Security Specialist, G-2  
Colorado Springs, Colo.

**S**pying today is quite different from 50 years ago. A new study, released in March by the Pentagon's little-known Defense Personnel Security Research Center, examined the changing nature of espionage from 1947 to 2007. According to the study, which compared 173 espionage cases after separating them into three groups based on when they started spying, the profile of today's spy is far more nuanced and harder to stereotype. Still overwhelmingly male, he is more likely to be nonwhite and married, in his 40s with college and graduate degrees, and also with business friends or relatives overseas.

During much of the Cold War, the typical American traitor (spy for the enemy), was a single, native-born, high-school-educated white male in his 20s, employed by a branch of the military and with top-secret security clearance. Today's spies, it turns out, are different. The spies of the 1990s and the 21st century are more politically

motivated and they have turned the Internet, the newest tool in espionage tradecraft, to their advantage. And they have "grayed" and are twice as likely to be a civilian as a member of the armed forces. The modern spy will use much more ingenuity in acquiring the information, including conning others to get it for him.

The risky days of walking into an embassy to volunteer as a spy are also over. According to the Pentagon study, the volunteer is far more likely to use the Internet to contact foreign governments or terrorists and volunteer his services, as if signing up for Facebook.

"Since 1990, the use of embassies has decreased," the study says, "while more individuals have chosen a new communications innovation: 13 percent of volunteers since 1990 turned to the Internet, including seven of the 11 most recent cases since 2000 that used the Internet to initiate offers of espionage."

The country of choice for 87 percent of American spies during the Cold War was the Soviet Union, but by the 1990s that figure had dropped to just 15 percent.

The focus of spies has now mostly shifted east. The percentage who work on behalf of Asian and Southeast Asian countries has risen from 5 percent in the 1950s and 1960s to 12 percent in the 1970s and 1980s, and to 26 percent since 1990. Cuba, with so many exiles in Florida, has also become a key recipient of American secrets. Al Qaeda has made significant inroads as well — with one American having stolen and passed classified documents and other materials to aides of Osama bin Laden, and four others known to have tried to spy for the organization or other terrorist groups since the mid-1980s.

The biggest change in espionage is in the motivation to commit the act in the first place. The multinational, globalized spy of 2008 is less tempted by money than by ideology and "divided loyalty" — loyalty to both the United States and another country.

"Spying for divided loyalties is the motive that demonstrates the most significant change of all motives since 1990," the study notes, "with 57 percent spying solely as a result of divided loyalties."

## Home repair scam appears to target military

By Donna Miles  
American Forces Press  
Service

**WASHINGTON** — The letter that appeared in a soldier's mailbox promised an offer almost too good to be true: a home improvement loan approved by Congress and backed up by a government agency.

Officials at the Federal Citizen Information Center fear it's a scam targeting military members that uses the center's credibility to lure victims in.

An eagle-eyed soldier notified the Federal Citizen Information Center after receiving the ad from the "Home Information Center" linked to post office boxes in Dallas and in Owasso, Okla. The letter included a reference to FCIC's Web site in an apparent attempt to show a federal endorsement.

"The thing that immediately sends up a red flag is the fact that [the advertisement] says these loans are approved by the U.S. Congress," said Mary Levy, director of consumer education and outreach in the FCIC's Office of Citizen Services. "Congress would absolutely never approve any particular home improvement loan."

In addition, she said, the Federal Citizen Information Center has no association with the Home Information Center. Levy emphasized that home improvement services are regulated at the state and local level.

Levy expressed concern that

the letter might be one of many floating around that are targeting military homeowners who, like many of their civilian neighbors, are struggling with financial concerns.

Unscrupulous people have long focused their schemes on servicemembers and their families. Last year, the Federal Trade Commission and American Red Cross warned consumers about an identity-theft scam targeting families of deployed troops.

That scam involved someone calling a military spouse, identifying herself as a representative of the Red Cross, and notifying the woman that her husband was hurt in Iraq and had been medically evacuated to Germany. The caller then said doctors could not start treatment until paperwork including the husband's Social Security number and birth date was completed.

The FTC called this scheme a variation of "phishing" — a technique identity thieves use to get personal or financial information from unwary consumers. The identity thief claims to represent a trusted source — a bank, a government agency, or in this case, the American Red Cross — to get someone to divulge personal information.

"Military families can become targets of scams, especially when the soldier is deployed thousands of miles away and the family is here," Levy said. "That's why it's so important

that they have the information they need to protect themselves."

The Federal Citizen Information Center offers consumers tips for selecting a contractor to make home improvements and repairs:

- Get recommendations and references. Talk to friends, family and others who have used the contractor for similar work.
- Get at least three written estimates. Insist the contractors come to your home to evaluate what needs to be done. Be sure the estimates are based on the same work so that you can make meaningful comparisons.
- Check contractor complaint records. Your state or local consumer protection agency or Better Business Bureau can provide this information.
- Make sure the contractor meets licensing and registration requirements. Your state or local consumer protection agency can help you find out what these requirements are.
- Get the names of suppliers and ask if the contractor makes timely payments.
- Contact your local building inspection department to check for permit and inspection requirements. Be wary if the contractor asks you to get the permit; it could mean the firm is not licensed.
- Be sure your contractor is insured. They should have personal liability, property damage and worker's compensation insurance for workers and subcontractors. Also check with your insurance company to

find out if you are covered for any injury or damage that might occur.

- Insist on a written contract that states exactly what work will be done, the quality of materials that will be used, warranties, timetables, the names of any subcontractors, the total price of the job and the schedule of payments.
- Try to limit your down payment. Some states have laws limiting the amount of down payment required.
- Understand your payment options. Compare the cost of getting your own loan vs. contractor financing.
- Don't make a final payment or sign a final release until you are satisfied with the work and know that subcontractors and suppliers have been paid. Some state laws allow unpaid subcontractors and suppliers to put a lien on your home for bills the contractor failed to pay.
- Pay by credit card when you can. You may have the right to withhold payment to the credit card company until problems are corrected.

The FCIC warns consumers of red flags that could indicate a fraudulent operator, including soliciting door-to-door, offering a quote out of line with other estimates, using pressure tactics or asking for the entire payment up front.

The Consumer Action Handbook, published annually by the FCIC, offers additional information covering a wide range of topics. See [www.pueblo.gsa.gov](http://www.pueblo.gsa.gov).

### **SMDC/ARSRAT FY09 training conference scheduled Oct. 27-31**

**REDSTONE ARSENAL Ala.** — The five-day conference is for all senior leaders and will take place at the Von Braun Complex here. Guest briefers will cover

topics such as: accelerated rapid development process; Department of the Army G-3/5/7 update; civilian education system/civilian leader development; the

Defense Senior Leadership Development Program and Senior Service School; AKO Portal training opportunities; a Space Commission update and much more.

# The adventures of tra



Photos by DJ Montoya

Spc. Michael Moore, SMDC/ARSTRAT's Soldier of the Year, puts an unidentified Soldier in an uncomfortable position during combatives training. Moore is training to compete in the Department of the Army Best Warrior Competition later this month.



An unidentified Soldier gives SMDC/ARSTRAT Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, Staff Sgt. Christopher Barber (in ACUs) a difficult time during combatives training. Barber is training to compete in the Department of the Army Best Warrior Competition later this month.



Staff Sgt. Christopher Barber prepares to start an intravenous line on Spc. Michael Moore during first aid training. Barber is assigned to Charlie Detachment, Joint tactical Ground Station, Misawa, Japan with the 1st Space Company, 1st Space Battalion.



An unidentified Soldier demonstrates on Staff Sgt. Christopher Barber the proper way to put in an intravenous line as Spc. Michael Moore watches.



Staff Sgt. Christopher L. Barber (left) and Spc. Michael R. Moore (right) practice assembly and disassembly of an M-240B machine gun blindfolded as part of weapons training on the afternoon of Sept. 17, at Fort Carson, Colo. The exercise was part of an intense 17-day schedule designed to prepare the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Year for the Department of Army Best Warrior Competition, which will be held at Fort Lee, Va., Sept. 28 – Oct. 3. Barber and Moore both serve in Joint Tactical Ground Station Detachments with the 1st Space Company, 1st Space Battalion.



Staff Sgt. Christopher L. Barber places a buffer spring into the assembly of an M-240B machine gun as part of a timed weapons training exercise on the afternoon of Sept. 17, at Fort Carson, Colo.

# ining: brains, brawn

## Phoenix in flight

**Spc. Daniel Rohrbaugh  
Unit Reporter  
Bravo Company  
53rd Signal Battalion**

**FORT MEADE, Md.** — Bravo Company Black Dragons are always eager and willing to take on new training opportunities. Their most recent opportunity was anything but normal.

Selected Black Dragons of Bravo Company, 53rd Signal Battalion here learned the nuances of new tactical Phoenix satellite communications terminals.

A Phoenix terminal is normally used to establish a satellite link to provide the warfighter, and other users, long-haul voice and data communications.

However, at Fort Meade the Wideband Satellite Operations

Center will be using the Phoenix equipment to augment the new Wideband Global SATCOM constellation. Six Soldiers underwent the three-week course and received hands-on and classroom training.

Course curriculum included signal flow and equipment familiarization. Because the Fort Meade Wideband Satellite Operations Center will be using the Phoenix equipment in a non-traditional manner, the training was site-specific. Members of the course even got to conduct an actual mission using an existing Defense Satellite Communications System III satellite.

Training was thorough and many of the Soldiers were nervous. Instructors' tales of stories of failure only compounded the anxious feeling emanating throughout



Photo courtesy of Bravo Company, 53rd Signal Battalion

A crew of experts installs a Phoenix Satellite Communication Terminal on Fort Meade, Md.

the classroom. When all was said and done, however, all members of the class passed.

The graduation ceremony included remarks from the Bravo Company commander about how much he

looked forward to adding to the Black Dragons' 24-hour mission of monitoring global satellite communications to worldwide military users and the training these Soldiers could provide to their

peers in the months ahead.

Training on the Phoenix terminal equipment is another indication of Bravo Company Soldiers being able to adapt and overcome.

## Delta Company teaches self discipline

**Spc. Christopher Lovett  
Unit reporter  
Delta Company  
53rd Signal Battalion**

**CAMP ROBERTS, Calif.** — A Soldier is swept from his feet by another Soldier, violently tossed into the air and landing with a thud. The grass and dirt fuses to their perspiring bodies

as they grapple with fading strength, relying solely on skill to overcome their challenger.

This was the scene as Soldiers of Delta Company, 53rd Signal Battalion, drilled on hand-to-hand combative skills Aug. 9. The training exercise was led by level 1-certified Staff Sgt. Jason Avila and was part of the company annual training.

A Combat Lifesaver was on the scene as the temperature neared 90 degrees and Soldiers were exposed to risks of dehydration and muscle cramps throughout the five-hour block of instruction. During breaks, between gulps of air and water, Soldiers recited epics of their scuffles.

The pride in the way they

spoke hinted that not only did the Soldiers enjoy the physical training, but they understood how it can save their lives in a real-world situation.

"The training is necessary for the type of combat our Soldiers are seeing," said Sgt. David A. Day, a Delta Company Soldier trained during the exercise. Sgt. Jamie Sanders, who deployed to Iraq in 2007 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, acknowledged the training was beneficial both to Soldiers who have already deployed and especially for those who have not.

The Soldiers learned on a crawl, walk, run basis; with the instructor breaking every position down step by step. Soldiers then practiced the newly-acquired techniques on each other to get an idea of what confrontation is, said Sgt. Andrew Barron, the Delta Company 4th Squad Leader.

The training provided a foundation for troops to be successful in unarmed confrontations.

It is encouraged that after this training, Soldiers seek certification in unarmed combatives, so they in turn can become more knowledgeable and effective Soldiers for the Army.



Photo courtesy of Delta Company, 53rd Signal Battalion

Members of Delta Company, 53rd Signal Battalion, wrestle during hand-to-hand combatives training Aug. 9.

## “More arrows in the quiver”

# New class of GMD system operators graduate

By Maj. Laura D. Kenney  
Public Affairs Officer  
100th Missile Defense  
Brigade (GMD)

**COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.** — Six new missile defense system operators graduated Sept. 5 in a ceremony held at the headquarters of the 100th Missile Defense Brigade (Ground-based Midcourse Defense) located here. Each of the six will constitute “another arrow in the quiver” for the nation’s defense, according to Brigade Commander, Col. Michael Yowell. The graduation cere-

mony marks the culmination of seven weeks of training, in which students are held to a strict academic standard allowing no grades below 90 percent, compared to an acceptable 70 percent for most other military classes. The nature of their mission, defense of the homeland, requires that high standard. Two from the class far exceeded even that requirement, and achieved 100 percent, earning twin status as Distinguished Graduates.

Lt. Col. Tracy Patton from Joint Functional

Component Command for Integrated Missile Defense, and Capt. Dennis Clancey of the 100th, were the top graduates.

Guest speaker Michael Ragoza, director of Logistics and Support for the GMD system in Huntsville, Ala., put heavy emphasis on the importance of mission training.

“We as a nation were caught by surprise with the terrible attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. We didn’t expect it. We don’t know what not to expect in the future, but we know we need to be ready against the very

real, very significant danger out there. This system enables us to be ready, which is why it’s manned 24/7/365.”

Ragoza stressed that the system is in constant development, improving continually due to the feedback from operators such as those who were graduating shortly after his speech.

“We have very smart people in industry, government and the military who are providing coverage for our nation.

“Feedback from all aspects of that team, but especially the operators, allows us to make the

system even more effective.”

The new operators, who also include Lt. Col. Ross Parker, U.S. Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, Maj. Albert Gorman of North American Aerospace Defense Command/Northern Command and 1st Lt. William Palermo and 2nd Lt. William Smith of the 100th, take their newly learned skills into futures serving as crewmen on the system or as liaison/watch officers in the broader ballistic missile defense field of operations.



Photo by Maj. Laura Kenney

Capt. Dennis Clancey accepts his framed diploma from Col. Michael Yowell, commander, 100th Missile Defense Bde. (Ground-based Midcourse Defense). Clancey, also of the 100th, was a Distinguished Graduate of the GMD Operators Course, achieving a perfect score of 100 for the class.



Photo courtesy Missile Defense Agency

Graduates of the GMD Operators Course. From left to right, top row: Lt. Col. Tracy Patton, Maj. Albert Gorman, 1st Lt. William Palermo. Bottom row: Lt. Col. Ross Parker, 2nd Lt. William Smith and Capt. Dennis Clancy.

## FTX: Certainly not a normal duty day

By Spc. Kenneth Ehrhardt  
Unit Reporter  
Alpha Company  
53rd Signal Battalion

**FORT DETRICK, Md.** — It was a crisp August morning when the Soldiers of Alpha Company, 53rd Signal Battalion, came to work. This was not a normal duty day for Alpha Company.

It was the start of a company Force Protection Exercise, that took place Aug. 20 — 22, and it was the first time in a year that all the Soldiers were in the same place at the same time.

The new company commander Capt. Torrence D. Moore took advantage of the situation by assessing how well the entire company interacted together.

The exercise started out with a group photo followed by a day of training.

The junior enlisted refreshed their knowledge and experience on their warrior tasks and drills. The senior

enlisted used their personal experience and superior knowledge to instruct the masses. The Soldiers practiced clearing buildings, searching vehicles, searching detainees and performing first aid. This training was tested during the following two days as the Soldiers went through various scenarios. The schedule was set for six-hour shifts; one squad would work six hours on the operations floor, while one squad did six hours quick response force, one squad on six hours of guard duty and the other squad got six hours of sleep.

With the cooperation of the Provost Marshal’s Office, scenarios got even more realistic when the police offered handcuffs to the company to be used when apprehending “enemy forces.”

Training was to such a high standard that a local citizen called the police to report, “a man dressed in black running

around the fence with a gun in hand.”

The guards were on high alert as the FPCON (Force Protection Condition) was changed to CHARLIE; there were reports of possible terrorist attacks on Fort Detrick, Md.

When the scenarios kicked off, the real fun started. When a vehicle rolled up to the gate, five people from the “opposition forces” jumped out wanting to gain access to the secure compound, but the U.S. Army’s finest jumped into action.

The sergeant of the guard maintained control of the situation at all times and effectively used all the resources at his disposal, including the Quick Reaction Force. The sergeant of the guard had his forces cover and neutralize the enemy.

This scenario went immaculately, but not all the scenarios panned out. One of the mission failures resulted in several opposition forces

gaining access to the compound and strategically placing an improvised explosive device on one of the antennas.

Not all scenarios were jam packed with action, and some were implemented to put operational security to the test.

The OPFOR (Opposing Force) played the role of curious reporters just wanting to know more about what the company does and how they do it. The “reporters,” however, left the compound with very little information. One reporter did pull a fast one and drew a Geraldo Rivera-esque map of the compound only to be confiscated upon departing.

As the activities drew down and the opposition forces began to tire, 1st Sgt. Phillip Rivera decided to incorporate a field board into the mix.

Since the entire company was on lockdown and on “high

See *FTX* on page 12

# CG hosts RSA Town Hall meeting

By Giselle Bodin  
SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

**REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala.** — On Thursday, Aug. 21, Lt. Gen. Kevin T. Campbell, the commanding general of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command (SMDC/ARSTRAT), hosted a town hall meeting at the Bob Jones Auditorium at the Sparkman Center here from 10 - 11 a.m. His constant message throughout the presentation had an emphasis on people — supporting, awarding, and recognizing the hard work and innovative ideas of SMDC/ARSTRAT employees.

Campbell began the event by recognizing civilians with Length of Service awards. There were 18 members of the command who were acknowledged for 30 years of government employment, including eight who were in the audience. Three more employees were recognized for 35 years of service. Samuel T. Uptain was listed in the program for 40 years of service, while Wilfred H. Dennis and Leon H. Riley both received recognition in the program for 45 years of service with the government.

Next, Campbell introduced 12 new members of the command's leadership, including many who will work here and were present in the audience. One of the leaders he introduced was Sgt. Maj. Patrick A. Kutac, the senior enlisted advisor for the U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll Reagan Test Site. This is significant because he is the first sergeant major at

Kwajalein. Command Sgt. Maj. Ralph Borja negotiated for his presence, and he was successful in securing that position.

Campbell discussed many important aspects of the command as a whole throughout his speech, particularly concerning the well-being of employees. He reminded employees to keep perspective and act as a team, since keeping one another informed and acting as a unit is the best way to reach solutions, accomplish goals, and support the Warfighter. He also focused on the dignity and respect that should be present throughout the command.

"I expect both dignity and respect from everyone in the command. You should as well," Campbell said. "Supervisors should be setting a standard, and everyone should expect a healthy work environment."

The commanding general also spoke on many topics associated with the daily operations of SMDC/ARSTRAT as a command. He addressed the merger of the Aviation Missile Command (AMCOM) and SMDC Contracting Operations, which is expected to take place on Oct. 1. The transition is expected to take 12 months, with the intention that the same great service, flexibility, and responsiveness can be preserved with a phased approach. He also spoke about the command's relationship with the Missile Defense Agency (MDA) and how Army money has been designated for employee salaries that were previously paid for by MDA. SMDC will continue to provide program-wide support to MDA until 2010. Campbell also

mentioned that the command is working on the Advanced Hypersonic Weapon-Technology Demonstration with the U.S. Air Force Space and Missile Center.

Campbell spent a significant amount of time during the Town Hall honoring employees who had made outstanding contributions to the command recently. He recognized many programs — such as the ORTHON-Sensor Fusion Program, the Deployable Satellite Communication Terminal, and the SMDC-ONE nano-satellite — and particularly commended those working on such projects.

"[Our employees are] working on important ideas, devising creative concepts and using innovative ideas to get the new equipment and technology into the battlefield directly," Campbell stated. "This is truly tremendous work that is making a difference in people's lives."

Campbell concluded his speech with a few logistics notes. First, he asked everyone to treat the building [Bldg. 5220] with respect and especially to turn out office lights at the end of the day. He also asked "Big Hand — a presumably tall man who apparently eats pizza daily" to cease his habit of leaving handprints above the elevators' doors.

The town hall meeting ended with questions from the audience on topics such as non-competitive hiring, cyber operations, and streamlining key processes in the command. Campbell was pleased with the thoughtful questions and reinforced that employee input is important for everything the command does.

## Delta Company battles then paddles

By Sgt. Josh Hoffman  
Unit Reporter  
Delta Company  
53rd Signal Battalion

**CAMP ROBERTS, Calif.** — Members of Delta Company, 53rd Signal Battalion partook in Organization days Aug. 18 and 21.

The idea and plan for the two days were to provide fun and entertaining events through a squad-based competition and a relaxing get together for the company.

The squad competition started at 6:30 a.m. with the squads mustering up at site to start the proceedings. The first event was a pull-up competition. Each member of the squads contributed in trying to achieve the most pull-ups in four minutes for the glory of the sore arm award. Second squad beat out the other squads with an impressive 75 pull-ups in four minutes with Sgt. Nathan Crandell leading the way. When asked what the secret to victory was, Crandell replied, "Well, I started by pulling myself up and lowering myself down and then repeating the whole process. I think that was the key to victory."

The next event was 1st Sgt. David Redenbaugh's basketball skills test that involved three



Photo by Spc. Steven Miller

Squad Leader, Sgt. Parker Maddox, enjoys taking a ride down the Paso Robles "Toilet Bowl" at the Ravine Water Park.

individuals shooting baskets from the free-throw line. Many were hoping that an NBA talent scout was around to pick them up for a nice contract, but unfortunately most, if not all, NBA talent scouts do not have security clearances, so would not have been able to attend the highly classified event. Third Squad walked away with first place in the hoops event boasting an outstanding 19 baskets in two minutes, and dwarfing the other squads thanks to the efforts of Sgt. Nathaniel Hoekje.

First squad pulled off a timely win with their quick pace and razor sharp skills at the Land

Navigation event. The ruck march included a 30-pound ruck, three land navigation points, and around five to six miles of fine Camp Roberts' rolling hills to move through. Although it was done early in the morning, the Soldiers who competed in the event looked like they had just gone swimming as they walked up to the finish line.

The next test was a series of tasks set up to measure job related operational skills, including an HPA gain adjustment, a series of mind picking questions designed to flex the brain, and finally a test on a cable to show Test,

Measurement, & Diagnostic Equipment based knowledge.

When the dust and ionized air settled, third squad stood over the bodies of the fallen.

Points were assessed for placing in each event, and at the end, third squad took the gold and was crowned kings of Satellite Control and Soldier Skills.

With the competition over, Delta Company took a peaceful trip to the Ravine Water Park in Paso Robles, Calif., to relax in some nice cool water and take refuge from the hot Paso Robles sun.

Families were also present to partake in the fun and relaxation.

# Army Family Action Plan celebrates 25th anniversary

The Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) was created in 1983, and developed fully in 1984, the Year of the Army Family, to help the Army address the needs and concerns of Family members. The program highlights the importance of Army Families and uses Family representatives from around the world to improve the standard of living for Soldiers and Families. AFAP provides a way for policy changes to become tangible end-products for members of the Army Family. It addresses quality-of-life issues for Soldiers, Family members, retirees and Department of Army civilian employees.

It was on Aug. 15, 1983 that then-Chief of Staff, Gen. John A. Wickham signed a groundbreaking "white paper" titled *The Army Family* which identified the need to increase support to its Families. Gen. Wickham, by acknowledging the radical transformation of the Army from an organization composed mostly of draftees

and short-term enlistees, to an all-volunteer, professional force with more than 50 percent married personnel, set a new vision and course for Army Families that continues today.

The Army remains committed to AFAP, as a means to let Army leadership know what works, what doesn't — and how to solve problems. AFAP was the impetus behind the following initiatives:

- From 1983 - 2006, 132 child care facilities were built or renovated.
- Family Readiness Groups are currently funded, staffed and a unit requirement.
- The Family Advocacy Program provided training and support to more than 164,000 Soldiers or Families in fiscal year 2006.
- Financial Readiness Program managers conducted 110,041 financial readiness courses
- More than 50,000 spouses have found employment through the Army Spouse Employment Program.

• Army garrisons now provide more than 50 different support programs/activities AFAP activities will occur at installations and garrisons across the Army in the coming months with a national level meeting in January of 2009 with representatives from around the world. Through AFAP and the Army Family Covenant, quality of life and support of Soldiers and Family members will remain a primary focus for the Army. Current actions include:

- Twenty-two new child development centers in FY07, with 92 new projects programmed for FY08-13.
- One new youth center in FY07; 24 new projects for FY08-12.

More information about Army Families can be found at these Army-affiliated Web sites: [www.myarmylifetoo.com](http://www.myarmylifetoo.com), [www.armyfamiliesonline.org](http://www.armyfamiliesonline.org), and [www.armymwr.com](http://www.armymwr.com).

The official AFAP Web site is [www.army.mil/family/2008](http://www.army.mil/family/2008). (Source: **Stand-To**, Aug. 15)

## Defense Department, Services launch new 'e-library'

By Barbara A. Goodno  
Department of Defense  
Office of Family Policy and  
Office of Children and Youth

WASHINGTON – Who goes to the library at 2 a.m.? Anyone can now, thanks to an initiative that makes Defense Department library materials available online.

The new initiative, soft-launched in July and formally announced Sept. 18, expands DoD's library program beyond the 197 libraries located on military installations.

Officials said the new endeavor will bring library materials to military members and their Families, including those in the National Guard and Reserve, wherever they live and whenever they want – at no charge.

The new library initiative is the result of a Lean Six Sigma study that showed DoD could provide more high-quality library materials with joint procurement, said Leslye A. Arsht, deputy undersecretary of

defense for military community and family policy. Lean Six Sigma is a widely used business management strategy.

"We were able to not only enhance the services' online library portals, but also to create an entirely new resource on Military OneSource," Arsht said. Military OneSource is a DoD initiative that provides a consolidated starting point for a wide variety of life issues for service-members and their Families.

The new online library will offer resources and services in electronic and hard-copy versions. The Military OneSource Online Library Resources are links to electronic databases, e-books and audio books, including:

- EBSCO's Do-it-Yourself guides for auto repair;
- EBSCO's small engine repair reference center;
- EBSCO's home improvement reference center including decorating, home and garden;
- Peterson's Educational Life Long Learning Resource, in which

service and Family members can practice Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery tests and tests used for college entrance and course credits, and search through a lists of two- and four-year accredited schools;

- Career Library access for comprehensive information for career and college research;
- NetLibrary, with full-text electronic versions of published books such as the "ASVAB Core Review," computer books, resume books and 213 CliffsNotes;
- MyILibrary, which includes more than 400 e-books, including Encyclopedia Britannica, 95 books covering legal issues, 24 foreign language guides and 169 "For Dummies" books;
- Safari Books Online;
- Tumblebook Library e-books for children ages 4 to 12, Tumblebook Readables and Tumble Talking Books, which are unabridged, high-quality audio versions of classic literature, nonfiction and fiction books and books for children and teens; and

- Playaway talking books, which are pocket-sized current and popular titles in audio book format, complete with head-set and battery, and paperback books, both of which soon will be available upon request from Military OneSource.

## Prepare Strong

continued from page 1

call for families to take action couldn't come sooner. Hurricanes are known to produce a deadly combination of storm hazards, to include extreme wind, rain, floods and tornadoes from along the coastline and up to hundreds of miles inland.

Floods are one of the most common hazards in the United States. Flood effects can be local, impacting a neighborhood or community, or very large, affecting entire river basins and multiple states. Individuals should take precautions and know their risk. Even very small streams, gullies, creeks, culverts, dry streambeds or low-lying ground that appear harmless in dry weather can flood.

NOAA's seasonal outlook cannot specify

where or when tropical storms, hurricanes and other severe weather might strike, so preparedness becomes increasingly important.

Knowing what to do can make all the difference when seconds count. Learn about the emergency plans that have been established in your area by your state and local government. In any emergency, always listen to the instructions given by local emergency management officials.

For further information on how to plan and prepare for adverse weather and other emergencies, including useful links and checklists, visit: [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov), [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov), [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org), [www.noaawatch.gov](http://www.noaawatch.gov).

## FTX

continued from page 10

alert," the two Soldiers going up for Soldier of the Quarter, Spc. Jacob Hackenberg and Spc. Joshua Bemis, took on several tasks pertaining to the force protection exercise.

There were three events lined up to decide who would become the Soldier of the Quarter. After only two events, searching an abandoned vehicle and searching a rowdy detainee, it was decided by the leadership that Hackenberg had won.

The force protection exercise was concluded with a mix of basic Soldier skills and a combatives tournament, which went off successfully.

If anything was proven during the entire exercise, it was that Alpha Company is fully capable of defending itself in a worst case scenario.

The Global Guardians have been tested and certified to handle any situations and are fully prepared and capable of defending their personnel, equipment and the mission.

# Three SMDC/ARSTRAT interns receive scholarships

By Garth Bloxham  
ASMDA 2008 Treasurer

**HUNTSVILLE, Ala.** – As a part of the opening reception for the 11th Annual Space and Missile Defense Conference held at the Von Braun Center here Aug. 11, the Air, Space, and Missile Defense Association presented five academic scholarships valued at \$4,000 each.

Each year in August, ASMDA awards the “Loretta Spencer” (the current mayor of Huntsville) Scholarships to undergraduate or postgraduate students studying in engineering or a hard science relating to space and missile defense. The ASMDA “Loretta Spencer” Scholarship was named after Spencer in recognition of her life-long effort to encourage the education of our youth in science and engineering.

Six years ago Spencer endowed ASMDA with a scholarship program which enables our most precious resource — our children — to continue their education in the sciences and engineering which are critical to air, space, and missile defense. Since then, the Association has established a trust fund increasing the number and dollar amount of the awards.

The ASMDA “Loretta Spencer” Scholarship is available to ASMDA members, ASMDA corporate members, employees of U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, the Missile Defense Agency, the Missiles and

Space Intelligence Center, and PEO-Missiles and Space and their immediate family members.

To be eligible, the applicants must be a U.S. Citizen; an undergraduate student (junior or senior in the fall of the current school year); currently enrolled in a “hard” science (engineering, biology, chemistry, physics or a related field) at an accredited college or university; a graduate student - pursuing a graduate degree in a “hard” science and be in good academic standing at an accredited college or university.

This year’s five scholarship winners were selected from among a large number of scholarship applicants, all of whom are model students and outstanding citizens. As in years past, Mayor Spencer was on hand to present the scholarship awards. Tom Newberry, the ASMDA “Loretta Spencer” Scholarship Committee Chairman, assisted in the presentations.

Three of the awardees work as interns or summer hires for SMDC/ARSTRAT. An ASMDA spokesperson said, “ASMDA is pleased to assist in [the students] pursuit of excellence and to support them in their continuing studies by awarding these scholarships. ASMDA predicts these scholarship recipients will make significant contributions to space and missile defense in the years to come.”



Photos by Sigma Services of America, Inc

William Travis Souder (center), a \$4,000 Air, Space and Missile Defense scholarship recipient, poses for photos with Mayor Loretta Spencer (left) and ASMDA Scholarship Committee Chariman, Tom Newberry (right). Souder is a graduate student pursuing a masters in electrical engineering at Auburn University. He is a recurring summer hire at USASMDC/ARSTRAT (Redstone Arsenal), helping to develop application-specific integrated circuits for the all-digital radar.



Above, left to right: Mayor Loretta Spencer, ASMDA \$4,000 scholarship recipient Mark E. Ray, and ASMDA Scholarship Committee Chariman, Tom Newberry. Ray is a graduate student pursuing a masters in electrical engineering at Auburn University and works for USASMDC/ARSTRAT as a cooperative education student in the SMD Technical Center’s Concepts Analysis Lab.

Mayor Loretta Spencer (left) stands with ASMDA scholarship recipient James Andrew Ballance (center) and ASMDA Scholarship Committee Chariman, Tom Newberry (right) upon Balance’s receiving a \$4,000 scholarship. Balance is curently a senior at Auburn University and a cooperative education student working in the Innovative Ventures Office in the Future Warfare Center, USASMDC/ARSTRAT.



## Daughter like father

Newly commissioned 2nd Lt. Kenneth Lewter takes his oath as an officer, accompanied by his 2-year-old daughter, Jayda, who apparently wants to “support and defend” as well. Maj. Porter Grant administers the oath to the eager Lewters. All three are members of the 100th Missile Defense Brigade, (Ground-based Midcourse Defense.) The senior Lewter, previously a sergeant first class, earned his new gold bar through Officer Candidate School.



Photo by Sgt. Michael Cost, 100th Missile Defense Battalion (GMD)

# Successful target tracking and radar exercise completed

## Missile Defense Agency Press Release

**COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.** — A successful radar and tracking exercise for the Ground-based Midcourse Defense system occurred here July 18 — with a twist. The systems test took place under the interested gaze of a Czechoslovakian contingent, headed by the Czech Minister of Defense, Vlasta Parkanova.

Madam Parkanova, accompanied by other government officials and a large number of her country's media representatives, visited the secure site of the 100th Missile Defense Brigade (Ground-based Midcourse Defense) headquartered here, just in time to witness the test. The next day, she and her entourage traveled to Fort Greely, Alaska, where the interceptors for the system are stored, and she viewed one up close in its silo, as well as seeing other pertinent aspects of the system, run by the 49th Missile Defense Battalion (GMD) stationed there.

Lt. Gen. Henry A. "Trey" Obering, Missile Defense Agency director, announced the successful execution of the intricate systems test soon after its completion. In the test, a long-range ballistic missile was tracked by radars of the missile defense system.

The threat-representative target, which was accompanied by countermeasures, was launched from the Kodiak Launch Complex, Alaska, at 1:47 p.m. Alaska Time (5:47 p.m. EDT). The target was acquired and tracked by several space, ground and sea-based sensors which provided data to the missile defense system's Command, Control, Battle Management, and Communications (C2BMC) system, and also to the Ground-based Midcourse Defense fire control system in Colorado Springs, Colo., to support a simulated interceptor missile engagement. Participating sensors included a transportable AN/TPY-2 X-band radar temporarily located in Juneau, Alaska; a U.S. Navy Aegis destroyer equipped with the SPY-1 radar; an upgraded early warning radar at Beale Air Force Base, Calif., and the Sea-Based X-band radar mounted on a floating platform and positioned in the Pacific Ocean.

This was the most challenging flight test of the missile defense system's command and control software to date. It required the system to process complex data from multiple sources simultaneously and develop an engagement solution necessary to intercept a threat-representative long-range ballistic missile target.

During the test, target tracking data from the radars was transmitted to the command and control system and the Ground-based Midcourse Defense fire control system at the Missile Defense Integration and Operations Center in Colorado Springs, Colo. Although the target missile's entry into the planned intercept area in space was shorter than expected, a weapon task plan (intercept solution) was successfully generated and operational crews simulated the launch of a long-range ground-based interceptor from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. Similarly, data was sent to the U.S. Navy Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command where operators developed an engagement solution for a simulated intercept using a sea-based Standard Missile-3 (SM-3) interceptor missile after successfully receiving a target launch cue from the AN/TPY-2 radar in Alaska.

Participants from the ballistic missile defense operational community included the Operational Test Agencies, U.S. Northern Command, U.S. Pacific Command and U.S. Strategic Command. The test provided a significant opportunity for warfighters to practice and refine tactics, techniques and procedures to defend the United States, our deployed forces and our allies and friends.

Program officials will spend the next several weeks sorting, cataloging and evaluating a huge amount of data obtained by the radars and command and control system based upon telemetry and other data obtained during the test. Flight test results will help to further improve and refine the performance of the missile defense technology that provides a defense against the type of long-range ballistic missile that could be used to attack an American city with a weapon of mass destruction.

The Ground-based Midcourse Defense system currently has interceptor missiles deployed at Fort Greely and Vandenberg AFB. The Aegis SM-3 interceptor system is the sea-based, midcourse defense component of the missile defense system and is cooperatively managed by the joint service Missile Defense Agency and the U.S. Navy. The overall missile defense architecture provides an integrated, layered defense of the United States, our

deployed forces, allies and friends against ballistic missile threats of all ranges, in all phases of flight — boost, midcourse and terminal. Since September 2005, successful target missile intercepts have occurred 35 times in 43 tests.



Photos by Sgt. Jack W. Carlson III

Above, Vlasta Parkanova, Czech Defense Minister, peers from inside a Silo Interface Vault past an operational ground-based interceptor during her recent tour to the Missile Defense Complex at Fort Greely, Alaska. The defense minister and several other high ranking Czech officials visited the remote Alaskan site which is home to Alaska Army National Guard's 49th Missile Defense Battalion.



Col. George Bond, above, assistant to the Director, Missile Defense Agency-Alaska Region, stands in front of a scale mock-up of the exo-atmospheric kill vehicle that collides with an incoming warhead targeting the United States. The EKV is designed with no explosives on board and uses hit-to-kill technology to destroy the threat warhead in the mid-course phase of flight.



Left, sitting at a console Czech Defense Minister Vlasta Parkanova receives an overview briefing from each Soldier of a five-man crew. She also observed an unclassified simulated engagement scenario of the GMD system. Made up entirely of Alaska Army National Guard Soldiers, the 49th Missile Defense Battalion is responsible for defending the nation from an incoming threat of intercontinental ballistic missiles.

# Welcome home Soldier, welcome home!

## SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs Office

**PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo.** — Lt. Col. Tony Chavez was welcomed home from a yearlong deployment to Afghanistan in a ceremony at Building 3 here July 31.

Chavez deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom July 19, 2007, and returned this past July 22. During his deployment, Chavez served as the executive officer/operations officer for the Deputy to the Commanding General for Police Development, Combined Security Transition Command – Afghanistan.

In this position, Chavez was responsible for standing up, training, and equipping the Afghan National Police forces consisting of the Afghan Uniformed Police, Border Police, Counter Terrorism, Criminal Investigation Division, Counter Narcotics, Afghan National Auxiliary Police and Afghan National Civil Order Police. The total force structure was 82,000.

The training initiatives established to augment and enhance the training of the Afghan National Police included Focused District Development,

In-District Reform, Jump Start and Training Surge. Additionally, the Poppy Eradication Force was in the process of getting revamped and retrained prior to the poppy eradication season taking place in 2009.

Chavez also worked with the Minister of Interior, International Narcotics and Law Enforcement and DynCorp to train the police. Specifically, he worked with INL and DynCorp to identify key leadership positions in the Ministry of Interior that would require mentoring either at the professional or executive level.

His work on Rank and Pay Reform, to include Pay transparency, proved vital in ensuring police get paid in a timely manner and receive the correct amount due them. Where wide-spread pay corruption once existed, through work involving Chavez, many police officers now get paid through electronic funds transfer. To date, 18 provinces have Electronic Funds Transfer with the remaining 16 provinces scheduled to have the capability by July 2009.

Chavez also planned and coordinated numerous trips for the Minister of Interior, his staff and the Deputy to the Commanding General for Police



Photo by DJ Montoya

Lt. Col. Tony Chavez, left, is welcomed home after his yearlong deployment to Afghanistan by Director of Combat Development, Col. Bruce Smith.

Development personnel to visit Provinces, Districts and Regional Training Centers throughout Afghanistan, and worked the Ministry of Interior restructure initiative.

This was Chavez's fourth deployment. He previously deployed to Desert Shield/Desert Storm with 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment out of Fort Bliss, Texas, Joint Endeavor/

Joint Guard with 7th Combat Support Group in Hungary and Bosnia, and Operation Iraqi Freedom with 3rd Army in Kuwait and Iraq.

Chavez's sister, Christella, a 1989 West Point Graduate from Tulsa, Okla., and his girlfriend, Crista Benavidez, from Albuquerque, N.M., were in attendance at the welcome home ceremony.

# Alpha Company change of command

## By Sgt. Adam Fairchild Alpha Company 53rd Signal Battalion

**FORT DETRICK, Md.** — A change of command ceremony was conducted recently to pass the responsibility, leadership, and mission of Alpha Company, 53rd Signal Battalion, from the outgoing Company Commander, Capt. Daniel Wall to incoming commander Capt. Torrence Moore. Among the distinguished guests

for this special day were Fort Detrick's garrison command group, Col. Judith Robinson, Command Sgt. Maj. James Shaheen, 53rd Signal Battalion command group, Lt. Col. Patrick Kerr and Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy Czuba, and friends and Family members from around the nation.

As the invocation was delivered, the reality finally set in for the Soldiers and Family

members of Alpha Company that Wall was really leaving – "one of the most caring and squared away officers the Soldiers had ever met."

Wall truly made the company the best that it could be during his two-year tenure.

Under his leadership, the company's excellence in communications and satellite network control took on a whole new level.

Wall's goal was to ensure that by the time he left, the unit was more tactically and technically proficient than when he arrived.

Under his and 1st Sgt. Philip Rivera's mentoring, the Noncommissioned Officers and Soldiers of Alpha Company led the way in both operational and tactical knowledge.



Photo by Fort Detrick Visual Information

Capt. Daniel Wall receives a gift at his recent change of command ceremony from Lt. Col. Patrick Kerr, commander, 53rd Signal Battalion.

As the guidon passed from Wall to Kerr then to Moore, a sense of relief fell upon the Soldiers. If anyone can fill the void that Wall is leaving, Moore is that officer.

A former enlisted Soldier, Moore's words of inspiration during his speech motivated the Soldiers.

The impression that he gave left the Soldiers with a renewed sense of

the upward direction of the unit.

With their new commander, Alpha company stands strong and sure. The missions of supplying global satellite communications to an Army at war is in good hands. If anyone ever has a question of what "Army Strong" stands for, maybe they should plan a visit to the Global Guardians.



Photo by Fort Detrick Visual Information

Capt. Torrence Moore stands in front of the Soldiers of Alpha Company after he took company command during a recent ceremony.

# Army switches from green to blue for Class A & B uniforms

The Army has officially adopted the new Army Service Uniform or ASU, as its new dress uniform replacing the Army Green. The ASU is steeped in historical significance and is a major part of the Army's heritage since colonial times.

With the adoption of the ASU, the Army has consolidated and streamlined its uniforms for ease of wear and care, providing simplified options and solutions for Soldiers. The move to a new uniform was not arrived at quickly but is a product of many years of coordination, consideration and testing and Soldiers played a key role in the design process.

The decision to transition from the green to blue ASU was originally announced in June 2006 and during that two-year period additional improvements were made based on feedback from Soldiers and leaders in the field.

Senior Army leaders took the pulse of the force regarding the ASU, considered their input, and made refinements to the uniform to better reflect and honor Soldiers for their service in an era of persistent conflict.

In 2004, the Army reduced the number of battle dress uniforms from three to one when it adopted the Army Combat Uniform (ACU) in place of the winter and summer versions of the woodland pattern Battle Dress Uniform (BDU) and the Desert Combat Uniform (DCU).

No future uniform changes are anticipated since the adoption of the ASU completes the transformation of all the Army's uniforms.

The result will be one ASU uniform that is grounded in tradition, attractive, professional, of high quality and of which Soldiers will be very proud to wear.

In addition to providing the best equipment and training available to prepare them for the fight, the new ASU instills pride, tradition and connects Soldiers to warriors past.

The entire uniform complement possesses the attributes of utility, simplicity and quality and will cost less than the current set of uniforms.

Streamlining various service uniforms into one reduces the burden on Soldiers as the ACU did for the field utility uniform.

The Army traces its uniform roots to a

congressional resolution in 1779, when it directed General George Washington to prescribe the uniform.

The resolution "authorized and directed the commander in chief, according to circumstances of supplies of clothing, to fix and prescribe the uniform, as well with regard to color and facings as the cut or fashion of the clothes to be worn by the troops of the respective States and regiments." Washington issued a general order from his headquarters that prescribed blue coats with differing facings for the various state troops, artillery, artillery artificers and light dragoons.

Source: "Stand-To!" Aug. 26, 2008



Official Army Photo

Above: Nine looks of the new Class B uniform. Note the Noncommissioned Officer uniform pant has a gold stripe.



Official Army Photo

New Class A Uniforms — blue in color.