

The Eagle

United States Army Space and Missile Defense Command

Volume 9, Number 10, December 2002

Care packages sent to soldiers victimized by fire

Four members of Army Space lose everything in blaze

By Maj. Laura Kenney
Army Space Command

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — For everyone who's ever been a single soldier stationed far from home, you know that your barracks room, with all its stuff, becomes your haven.

Picture that barracks room in a foreign country, which, no matter how exciting and exotic, is still a far cry from home.

Then add the time element — just before the holidays.

Now, see those rooms/havens devastated by fire. All soldiers involved, four Joint Tactical Ground Station soldiers stationed in Korea, to be precise, escaped with their lives and health intact, except for some smoke inhalation injuries. But they were left with just the clothes on their backs, literally.

In the very best tradition of family helping family, soldiers from Army Space Command headquarters, upon hearing of

their fellow soldiers' plight, banded together with the Family Support Group to raise money to fill care packages to send overseas.

In a few short days, since the emphasis was on a speedy mailing of the comfort articles, more than \$500 was raised.

"We have gift certificates for the Army and Air Force Exchange, so they can purchase necessities," said Tina Bailem, Family Support Group coordinator and wife of 1st Space Battalion's Command Sgt. Maj. Lester Bailem. "We also put in nice thick sweatshirts with Colorado symbols on them, a personal note of concern from the battalion commander and our group, and, homemade cookies for a personal touch.

"We all just felt so terribly sorry for the soldiers and wanted to do something to help. We'll be having fundraisers to send them more later, but we felt we had to get them something right away," she said.

"This is what the Army does, stand by its people," said Lt. Col. Scott Netherland, 1st Space Battalion commander.



Photo by Sharon L. Hartman

1st Sgt. Gene Nixon, Theater Missile Warning Company, helps Tina Bailem, Family Support Group coordinator, assemble boxes for soldiers in Korea.

"I'm very proud of the quick and generous response," Netherland said.

The four soldiers, Staff Sergeants Philip Tatum, John Peart and Jeffrey Patterson, and Sgt. Ronald Morgan, didn't have to wait the notoriously long time a package normally takes to arrive in foreign climes during the holiday season. They received personal hand delivery.

Maj. Shelley Volkwein, commander of the Theater Missile Warning Company,

Colorado Springs, Colo., delivered the packages the weekend after they were assembled, during a command visit to Korea. She performed an assessment of their individual needs that will be helpful in the ongoing efforts to assist the soldiers.

The fire was caused by a faulty built-in humidifier in the basement — not by any occupant. The building was damaged to the extent that it will have to be torn down and rebuilt.

Laser concept captures high marks in recent testing

By Debra Valine
Editor, The Eagle

This is a correction/clarification to an article in the October issue of *The Eagle* about recent testing of the THEL demonstrator.

In November, using the Tactical High-Energy Laser Advanced Concept Technology Demonstrator, the Space and Missile Defense Command conducted three successful tests using a laser to shoot down artillery rounds in flight over the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico. SMDC's High Energy Laser Systems Test Facility is located on White Sands.

The tests on Nov. 5 and 15 are part of a series being conducted for the Mobile Tactical High-Energy laser concept system engineering effort, a follow-on to the THEL ACTD developed by TRW Inc. of Redondo Beach, Calif. The THEL ACTD has successfully shot down 26 122mm

Katyusha rockets and four 152 mm artillery projectiles and conducted a multitude of static engagements on the ground.

"Tests continue to demonstrate the military utility of this technology," said Gerald Wilson, SMDC's MTHEL program manager.

The Army started its move from the THEL to the MTHEL in fiscal year 2001 with an amendment to the THEL memorandum of agreement between the

See **Laser** on page 4



TRW photo

Soldiers ready the THEL demonstrator testbed beam director for recent tests conducted for the MTHEL laser concept study effort.

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The Command Corner



LTG Joseph M. Cosumano Jr.
Commanding General



CSM Wilbur V. Adams Jr.
Command Sgt. Maj.

Celebrate safely during the holiday season

The holiday and New Year season is a very special time of year. It is normally a time for traveling, getting together with family and friends and attending lots of parties.

This year, however, as the Global War on Terrorism progresses and other military actions are contemplated by our national leaders, some members of our SMDC team will be away from their families during the holiday season. They are on the front lines of this new kind of war, supporting operations in Afghanistan, forward deployed in Germany, on Kwajalein Atoll, on Okinawa, and many other places.

As we plan our holiday activities, keep in mind our fellow SMDC soldiers and all the others who are on duty around the world, giving up for a time the comforts of home and family so others may remain safe and secure. I know America is profoundly grateful and indebted to all of you for what you do.

As you celebrate this holiday season, I want you all to drive carefully, celebrate responsibly and pay attention to the potential weather hazards that can so easily ruin an otherwise great holiday season. SMDC accomplished great things in 2002, and we all have even more to do in 2003 with new missions and challenges ahead.

From my family to yours, best wishes for a happy and safe holiday season and a great New Year!

SECURE THE HIGH GROUND!

Holiday season a chance to say thank you

Throughout December, many people from different religions and backgrounds celebrate family, faith and goodwill.

Muslims observed Ramadan from Nov. 5 to Dec. 4; the eight-day Jewish Festival of Lights, Hanukkah, ended Dec. 7; Christians celebrate Christmas Dec. 25; and African-Americans of many religious faiths and backgrounds practice the cultural holiday of Kwanzaa Dec. 26.

This is a special and fun-filled time for all of us.

The spirit of unity and charity during the holiday season is ultimately an expression of gratitude. It's our opportunity to say thank you to all we care about: family, friends and associates. It's our opportunity to say thank you to those who are serving our nation proudly in many locations, especially those who are serving in overseas locations and who are unable to be here with us this holiday season.

We live in the greatest country on the face of the Earth. We have more privileges than any other country in the world. We are blessed beyond measure. We in SMDC are grateful for your support and effort.

My wife, Diane, and I take this opportunity — on behalf of all of the soldiers and civilians of our headquarters — to say have a happy and merry holiday season, to you and all of your loved ones. Please be safe and enjoy.

PROUD TO BE HERE ... READY TO SERVE

What We Think

The Eagle asks:

What have been your most significant accomplishments for 2002?



Sgt. LaKeshia C. Dunigan
assistant specialist security officer,
Intelligence Division, Huntsville,
Ala.

Completing the Primary Leadership Development Course was one of my most significant accomplishments of 2002. While attending school, I was notified that I made the cutoff score for promotion to sergeant in my military occupational specialty. Shortly after graduating, I was promoted and inducted as a noncommissioned officer. Accomplishing those things simultaneously felt very gratifying.



Capt. Randy R. Wheeler
current ops officer,
DSCOPS, Arlington, Va.

Moving my family of five from the Boston area and settling here in the D.C. area was the biggest event for me in 2002. Competing in (and finishing) the Army 10 Miler felt pretty good, too.

On the professional side, I completed three very rewarding years as the commander, Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS), Richmond, Va. We had the awesome responsibility of being the very first military organization young Americans encountered as they joined the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines or Coast Guard. On the personal side, I supported my wife as a military spouse throughout her military career which culminated in July 2002 when she retired as a Quartermaster lieutenant colonel with 21 years of service. She continues to be my best friend. I am very proud of these accomplishments but could never have done it alone. Family and teamwork are my foundation.



Lt. Col. Ed Mason
DCSPER,
Arlington, Va.

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ZEUS weapon system makes AUSA debut in El Paso

ZZEUS — a laser-based weapon system developed to neutralize surface-laid landmines or unexploded ordnance — will make its AUSA debut at the association's conference Dec. 10-12 in El Paso, Texas.

The ZEUS laser neutralization system — developed by Sparta, Inc., of Huntsville, Ala., with the support of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command — is a self-contained laser system on an unarmored High Mobility Multi-purpose Wheeled Vehicle. The system uses a

laser beam to heat a target until the ordnance explodes in a controlled way, thereby reducing collateral damage.

"SMDC is developing two new lasers to go on the existing ZEUS system," said Bob Snead, chief engineer. Over the last decade, the Army, Air Force, and Navy have all conducted tests on laser neutralization systems for mines and unexploded ordnance. Now, dealing with unexploded ordnance on the battlefield has a lot of Joint Service and international interest. The Marine Corps needs a system

to clear landing areas, the Air Force is interested in clearing runways of unexploded ordnance, and the Army needs improved methods of remotely and rapidly clearing

main supply routes and dealing with unexploded battlefield ordnance. "If you move into an area where unexploded ordnance is laying around, you have to clear it before you can send in soldiers and equipment," Snead said.

"However, we also want to extend the mission of ZEUS once we get the lasers in place. In addition to using the laser to remotely clear surface landmines or unexploded ordnance, we also can use the optics for battlefield observation."

ZEUS is one of few military systems that is composed of true commercial off-the-shelf components. The only thing not available is the integration software that pulls the system together.

"We are a science and technology item. ZEUS is not yet funded in the Army's annual budget. There are no production plans in concrete at the moment, but we are working on that. There are a lot of areas where we could use ZEUS to clear unexploded ordnance, both in peacetime and in war.

"The system has not been through the military test and evaluation cycle, but it has blown up a lot of mines," said Dick Bradshaw, director of the Directed Energy Directorate at SMDC. "We know the system works; we just have not cleared it for use in all military operations. We will be moving toward that in the next few years of the program."

A date to field the ZEUS is unavailable at this time.

"It depends on funding. With adequate funding, we could have it ready for full testing and to the field in a year or two," Snead said. "The test and evaluation process will take from six months to a year, and probably a year after that to fold in all military requirements."

"We would like to get some of these prototypes out to the warfighters to let them use it," Snead said. "We want the soldiers to use it, see if they can break it, and then fix it better. That would be the first true test of lasers of substantial power on the battlefield and enable us to better address the enormous humanitarian issues of unexploded munitions."



The ZEUS high-power laser system is self-contained on an unarmored High Mobility Multi-purpose Wheeled Vehicle.

Army Space soldier helps organize huge bone marrow drive

By Spc. Bradley Morrow
Unit Reporter

LANDSTUHL, Germany — We all live on the same planet. As Americans and soldiers, we also watch, read or hear nearly identical news stories each day. Occasionally, one of these stories will open our eyes to a topic that truly touches us in deep and meaningful ways, and makes us take personal interest and action.

For Staff Sgt. Jose D. Angulo, C Co., 1st Satellite Control Battalion, that particular story was an article he read in the paper about an Army major who volunteered to be screened as a bone marrow donor and ended up becoming a match, donating marrow which helped save the life of a 2-year-old girl.

The article appeared in the newspaper for Americans overseas, "The Stars and Stripes." Angulo was so moved upon reading it, that he sought out an opportunity to, in some way, help others as that Army major had helped that little girl.

His search led him to play a key leadership and organizational role in conducting one of the most successful-ever bone marrow donation drives in the European Theater this past fall.

"When I read that article it really made me stop and think ... you know, that could have been my kid, or anybody's," Angulo said. "I just never realized how little attention this kind of thing gets, and I wanted to do something about it."

Angulo wasted no time finding out the various ways he could help. The article from "Stars and Stripes" contained an information block that led him to a regional coordinator for the C.W. Bill Young/DoD Marrow Donor Program.

Angulo was slightly discouraged when he was told that a bone marrow drive in the Kaiserslautern Military Community was unlikely this year, due to the lack of public support for past drives and the expenditures incurred for the donor

organizations. Apparently, however, Angulo was not the only one affected by the article, and it became clear that there would be enough support to host a drive as other individuals from posts and bases around the community expressed interest.

Angulo volunteered as the local area coordinator for the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center and coordinated for facilities, phlebotomists and public exposure.

"I have to give credit and thanks to Armed Forces Network radio's Z100.2 and their morning show hosts, Mike Burnett and Jackie Hagerty. They had me on the air a number of times, and many of the volunteers we got said the radio broadcasts brought them," Angulo said.

"We had about 274 volunteers in just the first four hours. That was more than they (the donor organizations) expected for the whole drive," Angulo bragged unabashedly.

The process was simple. Angulo and Smith explained the procedure to would-be volunteers and answered questions while verifying the volunteer application paperwork. Once verified, the volunteers moved to the phlebotomist where a blood sample was collected for processing and typing.

Although a positive match and subsequent donation could gift the recipient with life itself, the would-be donors lost only about 15 minutes of their time.

Once a blood sample was collected, it was sent to a Naval Laboratory for typing and processing. That data was then entered into a national registry with information on thousands of samples from around the world.

From medical facilities around the

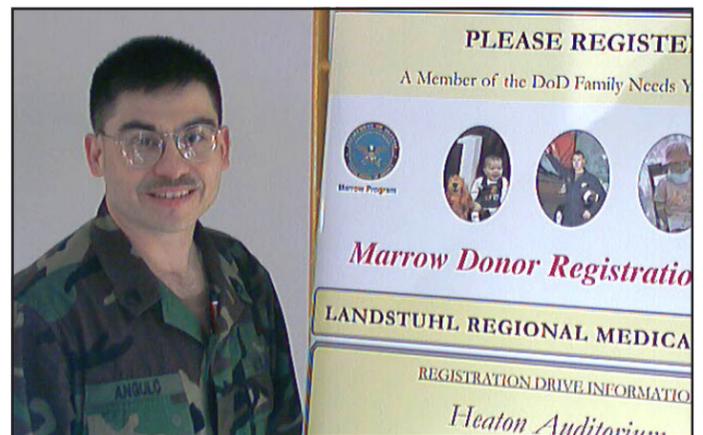


Photo by Derrick Butler

Staff Sgt. Jose Angulo, 1st Satellite Control Battalion, organized a very successful bone marrow drive for the Kaiserslautern Military Community.

world, this national registry is accessed more than 3,000 times each day by medical professionals hoping to find a match for one of their patients.

Unfortunately, even with the number of samples collected, a positive match is still extremely rare.

Doing their best to increase each patient's chances, the individuals involved in the European Theater bone marrow drive secured more than 2,500 new additions to the national registry.

These volunteers came from sites in both England and Germany, but notably, almost half of all volunteers — 1,093 total — came from the Kaiserslautern Military Community. Local participants included active duty service members from LRMCC, Ramstein Air Base, Sembach, and Kapaun as well as reservists, National Guard members, DoD civilians and military spouses.

See related story on page 8.

To find out more about bone marrow donations, visit the Web at www.dodmarrow.com or call 1-800-MARROW-3.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Franklin Barrett

Spc. Pratan Ratanapinta, a satellite network controller in E Co., 1st Satellite Control Battalion, recently had the chance to serve in Thailand, the land of his birth.

Soldier returns to Thailand for COBRA GOLD exercise

Satellite network controller 'serves' in his native land

By Staff Sgt. Franklin Barrett
Unit Reporter

OKINAWA, Japan — A soldier from E Co., 1st Satellite Control Battalion, Army Space Command, had the opportunity recently to return to the exotic land of his birth, and perform an important mission at the same time.

Spc. Pratan Ratanapinta, a 22-year-old satellite network controller, originally from Thailand, returned there when he deployed for this year's COBRA GOLD exercise. Sent as a Ground Mobile Forces Network Control liaison and equipment operator, Ratanapinta assisted the Kadena Air Force Base 353rd Special Operations Group in achieving its mission and much more.

During the two weeks of deployment, Ratanapinta was responsible for operating and maintaining a light transportable satellite communications terminal. The terminal provided Defense Secure Network (DSN) and Secure Internet Protocol Router Network (SIPRNET) services as direct support for the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force.

"Everyone there was very impressed with our systems, and excited about their future potential," said Ratanapinta. In addition to duties as an operator and network control liaison, Ratanapinta assisted with language translations to help overcome communication barriers between the Thai and U.S. Forces. He had the distinguished opportunity to provide a brief for the Thai Special Warfare commander on the terminal equipment.

Military officials from more than 18 countries observed the annual joint exercise this year, in hopes of future participation. They toured the training areas to observe what was going on, what it looked like and how the exercise ran.

After returning to his unit, Ratanapinta commented, "For a terminal operator, it's quiet when the equipment is working and you don't have to worry about other terminals. For a network controller, you have to know everything that is going on with every terminal at all times."

Ratanapinta gained a new perspective on his normal duties by working hand-in-hand with the warfighters he supports.

"It was a memorable experience. I enjoyed working with a different branch. I

was very impressed about how varieties of units from different countries worked together to get things accomplished. A lot of work and effort were put into this exercise by everyone."

Ratanapinta had opportunities outside of duty to spend time in the country he had left so many years ago. One event of major significance for the young soldier was the solemn familial duty of assisting in the funeral of his grandmother.

Ratanapinta's parents and older brother immigrated from Samutprakan, a province neighboring Bangkok, to the United States, while he remained in Thailand under the care of his grandmother, Wanee Suchart. In 1989, Ratanapinta's mother, Vinnomart Tedpanit, returned to Thailand, and brought her youngest son to the United States. He was 10 years old.

Ratanapinta's grandmother passed away while he was at his previous duty station in Germany. She was more than 70 years old and the last member of the family living in Thailand.

Tedpanit preferred that her mother's remains be kept. However, she told her son that in a dream one night, her mother came to her, and asked that her remains be put back into Mother Nature, the ocean. Friends of his grandmother had planned for the ceremony to be done around the time of a Buddhist holiday.

After discovering that Ratanapinta would be in Thailand, his grandmother's friends planned the event for a day that he could attend.

In a sacred ceremony, Ratanapinta and his grandmother's friends, guided by a local Buddhist Monk, laid his grandmother to her final rest, interring her remains in the ocean.

"This was a very special duty for me to perform. I am grateful that I had the opportunity to act for my family in ensuring our grandmother was buried in accordance with our customs."

After the sorrowful details of the funeral were completed, Ratanapinta had time for pure enjoyment. During one of the weekends following the ceremony, Ratanapinta and some of the 353rd SOG personnel enjoyed a bit of Thai culture.

"The Thai Signal soldiers invited us out for dinner. They wanted us to experience several Thai dishes and to understand more about each other. While I had a bit of an edge over other American soldiers who were not Thai, it was still in many ways a new experience for me, because I was so young when my family and I left."

Uniquely, for this soldier, his duties as a soldier brought him closer to home.

Laser

Continued from Page 1

United States and Israel. The amendment initiated an MTHEL System Engineering and Trade Studies effort.

By the end of 2001, the study defined a range of candidate MTHEL weapon system concepts that could be built based on existing technology. The goal is to integrate the high energy laser with a standard U.S. Army mobile platform such as a flatbed truck or a platform loading system and have a prototype weapon system within five years.

"We expect a down select of the optimum concept to be made soon," Wilson said.

MTHEL will be designed to meet common U.S. and Israeli operational requirements, providing operational capability to address U.S. Army transformation objectives and to help with Israeli security requirements by providing a defense against short-range missiles, rockets and other air defense threats.

Congress appropriated \$13 million in FY02 for the MTHEL effort. Beginning this fiscal year, the U.S. Army has budgeted for the development of a U.S./Israel MTHEL weapon system prototype.

"The MTHEL test bed — the THEL demonstrator — will be used to understand the engagement requirements against other targets such as unmanned aerial vehicles, cruise missiles, mortars and air-to-ground munitions," Wilson said.



At the helm

Navy Lt. James Brown takes command of the Joint Tactical Air Ground Station - Pacific at a ceremony at Osan Air Base, Korea, Oct. 23. Outgoing commander Navy Lt. Cmdr. Arlene Gray leaves command to attend the Naval War College. Brown arrived in Osan after an assignment at Naval Network and Space Operations Command at Dahlgren, Va.

Civilian News

Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program Open Season ends Dec. 31

Open Season for the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program ends Dec. 31. To view and/or order an open season information kit with an application, go to the Long Term Care Partners' Web site at <http://www.ltcfeds.com>. Most employees, members of the uniformed services and their spouses will be able to apply online at that site. Annuitants, retired members of the uniformed services and other qualified relatives can complete an application online, print it out and mail it. You can also call 1-800-LTC-FEDS (1-800-582-3337) (TDD for the hearing impaired 1-800-843-3557) to request a kit. Certified long-term care insurance consultants are available by telephone from 8 a.m. to midnight (Eastern Time), seven-days-a-week, to assist callers with their questions.

The Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program is administered by Long Term Care Partners, LLC, a partnership formed by John Hancock Life Insurance Company and MetLife. The Office of Personnel Management, which worked with Members of Congress to gain overwhelming bipartisan support for the law authorizing the FLTCIP, sponsors the program.

SMDC employees take buyout

The following SMDC personnel elected to take the recent buyout:

Richard (Dru) D. Barrineau, Huntsville, Environmental Division
Mary E. Benson, Technical Center, Advanced Technology Directorate

Mary T. Cargile, Resource Management, Program and Policy Division

Gerald L. Cochran, Technical Center, Joint Center for Technology Integration

Helen S. Dunlap, MDA, Missile Defense Targets Joint Project Office, Project Support Division

Richard D. Feirman, ARSPACE, Plans and Operations Division

Norman R. Gilfand, Technical Center

Dennis Greenawalt, PARC/CAMO, Branch K

Ann Helbert, PARC/CAMO, Policy and Pricing Branch

Kay Hester, Resource Management, Accounting Division

Thomas Horn, Engineering Division, Facilities Branch

Jerrell B. Justice, Information Management, Communications/Visual Information Division

Berniece M. LeBlanc, Arlington, ASPO, Office of the Director

Fred L. Mathews, Information Management, Administrative and Technical Information Library

James D. Mathis, ARSPACE, Personnel Division

Shirley P. McCluer, Test and Evaluation Center, USAKA Support Directorate, Program Support Division

Nancy A. Parker, Information Management, Communications/Visual Information Division

John R. Remich, Technical Center

Jimmie A. Rutland, Battle Lab, Special Projects Division

Carolyn G. Sharp, Battle Lab, Office of the Director

Ross O. Ward, MDA, Missile Defense Targets Joint Project Office

William R. Wing, Arlington, Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations and Plans, Space Branch

Carolyn G. Wright, PARC/CAMO, Branch K

Betty G. Zamora, Technical Center, THAAD

TSP Open Season ends Dec. 31

The current Open Season for the Thrift Savings Plan closes Dec. 31. During this Open Season, if you are a Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) employee, you may elect to contribute up to 13% of your salary. If you are a Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) employee, you may elect to contribute up to 8% of your salary. The annual Internal Revenue Service (IRS) cap has also increased to \$12,000.

To make a TSP Open season election or change, you can click on the "Benefit Change" button at URL <https://www.abc.army.mil/Information/ABCTSP/TSP.asp>. You must then enter or create a Point-of-Entry (POE) password. If you would like to make your election or change through the automated telephone system, you can call toll-free 1-877-276-9287 and follow the prompts.

Open Season changes affect only your future contributions. If you want to reallocate your TSP account, you must make an Interfund transfer by either the Web site at <http://www.tsp.gov>, the Thriftline at (504) 255-8777, or by completing the TSP-30, Interfund Transfer Request Form and mailing it to the address shown on the form. This form can be found on the TSP Web site.

The next Open Season will be April 15 - June 30, 2003.

Military News

PERSCOM replaces all e-mail addresses with AKO accounts

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (Army News Service) — In terms of personnel business, Army Knowledge Online became the official e-mail for all soldiers in November.

U.S. Army Personnel Command replaced all soldier e-mail addresses currently in its database with AKO addresses. Officer record briefs, for example, now contain the us.army.mil address in the top left-hand corner, not what was previously listed. Enlisted soldiers' AKO addresses are also required on efficiency reports to shorten contact time when an NCO-ER requires a correction.

AKO e-mail is currently used for a variety of official purposes, such as correspondence from career managers and the electronic mailing of travel voucher settlements from DFAS.

The change was implemented at PERSCOM, with no action required on the part of soldiers. Soldiers without AKO addresses will not have a contact e-mail in their database. Soldiers who do not currently have an AKO address should sign up for an account from the Army Knowledge Online Web site at www.us.army.mil.

AKO was designed as a central place for soldiers to receive information. Personalized information can be sent directly to them via their AKO e-mail account. The Army can use this similar to how businesses use e-mail to provide information to their customers, PERSCOM officials said.

AKO e-mail can be read through the AKO Web site or can be forwarded to other e-mail accounts owned by the soldier for convenience. Mail forwarding can be implemented by choosing the "personalize" tab once inside the AKO portal.

Military looks at 'rebalancing' reserve forces to relieve overburdening

WASHINGTON, D.C. (American Forces Press Service) — Certain military job specialties, including military police and civil affairs, are being overburdened in the reserve components and may need stronger representation in the active duty force, the Defense Department's senior adviser on reserve affairs said Nov. 19.

Thomas F. Hall, assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs said repeated call-ups of certain specialties might eventually hurt recruiting and retention in the reserve forces.

Hall cautioned service members shouldn't look for a mass exodus of specialties being moved from the reserve components to the active force. He called it more of a "rebalancing."

He spoke of the heavy burden placed on the reserve components by the war on terrorism. Thousands were called to duty on or immediately after Sept. 11, 2001, when terrorists struck in New York and at the Pentagon.

Today, roughly 51,000 Guard and Reserve members are on active duty across the United States and around the world. At the peak of the call-up, nearly 100,000 reserve component members were activated. In all, roughly 130,000 reserve troops have served in support of OPERATIONS ENDURING FREEDOM and NOBLE EAGLE.

VFW emergency grants available for deployed troops, families

Deployed service members or their families can apply for emergency financial grants from the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

These are not loans and do not have to be repaid. Jerry Newberry, a VFW spokesman, said local or state VFW posts theoretically can offer any amount, depending on the situation and the funds available. VFW national headquarters then will kick in additional funds up to a maximum of \$500.

To qualify, a service member must be deployed on active duty or in a mobilized National Guard or reserve unit. To apply, troops or family members should contact a local VFW post or their state VFW department. There are 9,500 posts worldwide; information on locating a post can be found online at http://www.vfw.org/insidethevfw/ins_VFWPost.htm or by calling (816) 756-3390.

A service member or family member must give proof of an immediate emergency, which VFW defines as stemming from something beyond the control of the service member or family member, such as illness or death in the family, and not mismanagement of income or overspending.

Requests will be verified through the member's chain of command and VFW officials. There is no guarantee funds will be available, Newberry emphasized. National funds for this program currently are limited to \$50,000.

Awards/Promotions

Special Act Awards

William T. Atchley, Test and Evaluation Center, USAKA, Test Support Division
John A. Calvert, Technical Center, Information Science and Technology Directorate
Pamela J. Dykema, Test and Evaluation Center, USAKA, Plans, Training and Security Directorate
Gayle D. Pridmore, Resource Management, Management Division
Roger D. Schwerman, Technical Center, Systems Directorate
Jean F. Sims, Resource Management, Program and Policy Division
Francoise N. Standifer, Test and Evaluation Center, USAKA, Command Judge Advocate
Thomas E. Webber, Test and Evaluation Center, USAKA, Command Safety Office
Gerald L. Wolf, Test and Evaluation Center, USAKA, Logistics and Community Activities Directorate

Performance Awards

William T. Atchley, Test and Evaluation Center, USAKA, Test Support Division
Dianne R. Atchley, Test and Evaluation Center, USAKA, Directorate of Resource Management
Byron T. Brown, Test and Evaluation Center, USAKA, Public Works Directorate
Terry H. Brown, Test and Evaluation Center, Test Support Division
Brian D. Burnham, Test and Evaluation Center, USAKA, Resource Management Directorate
Jeanetta G. Burwell, Research, Development and Acquisition, Staff
Berry L. Clemons, Technical Center, Information Science and Technology Directorate
Marla R. Cobbs, Research, Development and Acquisition, Staff
Jay F. Daniels, Test and Evaluation Center, USAKA, Safety Analysis Branch
Marie Lucienne Demeo, Test and Evaluation Center, USAKA, Logistics and Community Activities Directorate
Albert A. Dillman, Test and Evaluation Center, USAKA, Program Support Division
Christopher H. Dinh, Research, Development and Acquisition, Staff
Kent D. Duncan, Test and Evaluation Center, USAKA
Claudia J. Fahrner, Technical Center, Operations Staff
Penn S. Foreman, Technical Center, Data Analysis and Exploitation Directorate
Anne P. Greene, Test and Evaluation Center, USAKA, Community Relations Office
Paul L. Hester, Test and Evaluation Center, USAKA, Test Support Division
Stacy L. Houk, Research, Development and Acquisition, Staff
Robert D. Huffman, Test and Evaluation Center, USAKA, Program Support Division
Leslie H. Jones, Test and Evaluation Center, USAKA, Program Management and Development
John E. Jorgensen, Test and Evaluation Center, USAKA, Information Management Directorate
Thomas J. Kane, Test and Evaluation Center, USAKA, Public Works Directorate
Charles C. Kang, Test and Evaluation Center, USAKA, Test Support Division
Louis J. Kubik, Test and Evaluation Center, USAKA, Plans, Training and Security Directorate
Karen Larson, Technical Center, Space Technology Directorate
Michel Laurenceau, Test and Evaluation Center,

USAKA, Public Works Directorate
Olen W. Lawson, Test and Evaluation Center, USAKA, Office of Deputy Garrison Commander
Larry P. Lewis, Test and Evaluation Center, USAKA, Public Works Directorate
Karla R. Long, Test and Evaluation Center, USAKA, Logistics and Community Activities Directorate
Dennis R. Marguriet, Test and Evaluation Center, USAKA, Program Support Division
David V. Mayo, Technical Center, Systems Directorate
John N. McCreary, Test and Evaluation Center, USAKA, Program Management and Development
Wilma J. Michael, Test and Evaluation Center, USAKA, Public Works Directorate
Robert J. Pestona, Research, Development and Acquisition, Staff
Mark E. Reavis, Research, Development and Acquisition, Staff
Patricia E. Savage, Test and Evaluation Center, USAKA, Resource Management Directorate
William L. Schneider, Technical Center, Space Technology Directorate
Jere S. Singleton, Technical Center, Joint Center for Technology Integration
Claude P. Snoddy, Technical Center, Data Analysis and Exploitation Directorate
Melinda K. Still, Technical Center, Operations Staff
Mark L. Verstraten, Test and Evaluation Center, USAKA, Logistics and Community Activities Directorate
David J. Villeneuve, Test and Evaluation Center, USAKA, Reagan Test Site Command and Staff
Kathy Whisenant, Research, Development and Acquisition, Staff
Donald M. Wren, Test and Evaluation Center, USAKA, Command Safety Office

On-The-Spot Cash Awards

Ronald A. Smith, Technical Center, Systems Directorate

Time-Off Awards

Vicky J. Cody, Technical Center, Information Science and Technology Directorate
Pamela J. Dykema, Test and Evaluation Center, USAKA, Plans, Training and Security Directorate
Shelia K. Noel, Technical Center, Systems Directorate
Ricardo L. Parks, Technical Center, Kinetic Energy Interceptor Directorate
Myrtle B. Smyre, Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations and Plans
Thomas E. Webber, Test and Evaluation Center, USAKA, Command Safety Office
Gerald L. Wolf, Test and Evaluation Center, USAKA, Logistics and Community Activities Directorate

Quality Step Increase

Randall W. Carpenter, Technical Center, Data Analysis and Exploitation Directorate
Michael G. Chapman, Technical Center, Test and Evaluation Directorate
Alice G. Correa, Test and Evaluation Center, USAKA, Command Safety Office
Rodolfo F. Gil, Test and Evaluation Center, USAKA, Command Safety Office
Walter K. Ivey, Test and Evaluation Center, USAKA, Test Support Division

Jane B. Price, Technical Center, Kinetic Energy Interceptor Directorate
Buddy D. Wagoner, Test and Evaluation Center, USAKA, Honolulu Field Office
Deborah A. Webber, Test and Evaluation Center, USAKA, Office of the Garrison Commander
Gerald L. Wolf, Test and Evaluation Center, USAKA, Logistics and Community Activities Directorate
Paul R. Yancey, Technical Center, Data Analysis and Exploitation Directorate

Command Award for Civilian Service

Gene M. Dohrman, Test and Evaluation Center, USAKA, Public Works Directorate
Donald M. Wren, Test and Evaluation Center, USAKA, Command Safety Office

Achievement Medal for Civilian Service

Deloris Epps-Anderson, Arlington, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations
Carolyn Herbst, Arlington, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations
Mike Irvine, Arlington, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations
Linda Matheny, Arlington, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations
William Warden, Arlington, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations

Civilian Promotions

Helen C. Brown, GS-03, USAKA, Logistics and Community Activities Directorate
Barbara M. Elmore, GS-13, Resource Management, Program and Policy Division
Christopher J. Grzybowski, GS-12, USAKA, Public Works Directorate
Brenda K. Jones, GS-09, Technical Center, Information Science and Technology Directorate
Yancy C. Mitchell, GS-13, Resource Management, Management Division
Rhonda M. Norris, GS-13, Resource Management, Program and Policy Division
Kenneth R. Parham, GS-13, Technical Center
Thomas A. Rogers, GS-12, Test and Evaluation Center, USAKA, Directorate of Resource Management
Theodora F. Stewart, GS-13, Research, Development and Acquisition, Staff
Dennis R. Stout, GS-12, Deputy Chief of Staff, Intelligence, Security Division
David J. Villeneuve, GS-15, Test and Evaluation Center, USAKA, Reagan Test Site Command and Staff

Length of Service Awards

Marie Lucienne Demeo, Test and Evaluation Center, USAKA, Logistics and Community Activities Directorate - 5 years
Douglas B. Hoskins, Test and Evaluation Center, USAKA, Test Support Division - 15 years
Maria Cris Foster, Test and Evaluation Center, USAKA, Office of the Garrison Commander - 20 years
John E. Jorgensen, Test and Evaluation Center, USAKA, Information Management Directorate - 25 years
Donald E. Hornbrook, Test and Evaluation Center, USAKA, Information Management Directorate - 30 years

Veterans History Project keeps war memories alive

There are more than 19 million veterans living in the United States today. With each is a personal story of battles fought, victories and defeats. Each story, though sometimes heartbreaking, is full of love, dedication and patriotism.

That's how Peter Bartis describes his work with the Veterans History Project. The grassroots effort that began two years ago — and has now caught fire — is hoping to keep those memories alive.

Bartis, a senior program officer for the project, said that each day some 1,500 U.S. veterans die — and with them a treasured part of the nation's past. "These are some of the most amazing stories; when you put them all together you get a story of the nation," he said.

Over the past year alone, the project's staff of 16 has already collected more than 14,000 items, such as letters and other memoirs, and video and audiotape interviews.

With the idea that future generations could learn from the

histories of the nation's veterans, the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress, began the effort to collect video and audio recordings of personal histories and testimonials of American war veterans — men, women and civilians who served in World Wars I and II, and the Korean, Vietnam and Persian Gulf wars. The center needs contributions of civilian volunteers, support staff and war industry workers also.

The Veterans History Project's official Web site lists more than 50 national partners and support organizations from every state. The military services contribute through offices such as the Army's U.S. Center of Military History and the Naval and Marine Corps Historical centers, as well as DoD's official committee commemorating the 50th Korean War anniversary. Major national veterans associations are well-represented also.

To learn more about the Veterans History Project, visit www.loc.gov/folklife/vets.



Photos by Sharon L. Hartman

Members of Army Space Command and their families came together recently to support Matthew Smith, nephew of Headquarters and Headquarters Company 1st Sgt. Tammy Coon, at the 55th Annual Buddy Walk for Down Syndrome in Denver, Colo. Paul Tilley, brother of Sgt. Lori Murphy, Headquarters and Headquarters Company's training NCO, pulls Matthew in a wagon along the 5-K route.

Nephew of first sergeant blessed by new 'buddies'

By Sharon L. Hartman
Army Space Command

DENVER, Colo. — "Buddy" is an expression that has been long used in the Army to illustrate the camaraderie between fellow soldiers.

Recently, "buddy" took on an even greater significance, as 41 members of Army Space Command and their families united at Clement's Park to join more than a thousand others for the 55th Annual Buddy Walk for Down Syndrome.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company 1st Sgt. Tammy Coon initiated the command's involvement in the event. Her nephew, Matthew Smith of Denver, Colo., has Down Syndrome.

"I have been doing the walk since I moved here in 2000 because of Matty," Coon said. "My sister, Matty's mom, has always been proud of the military — especially with me being in it — and thought it would be great if my unit would come up and participate in the Buddy Walk. I advertised the event as totally voluntary, and we ended up having 41 people walk as Matty's buddies."

She then added jokingly, "Participation in the walk counts for CO2 (Consideration for Others) training, so I'm sure that brought the numbers up."

It was an early start to the

day with everyone meeting at the command at 6 a.m. Upon completion of a safety brief, Coon gave her heartfelt thanks to all and relayed her sister's amazement at the number of "buddies" the command gathered to walk for Matthew.

"When I realized how many people had signed up, I was beside myself. At the safety brief I gave the morning we left, I told everyone I'm not going to get emotional here, but you don't know how many hearts you've touched by coming here today," Coon said.

Then the trek to Denver began. Upon arrival, participants checked in and were served breakfast as a disc jockey spun tunes to the delight of many. The walk did not start until 10 a.m., giving everyone a chance to meet Matthew and his family.

"It was very inspiring for us to be out there as a unit and to show our support for Matthew," said participant Sgt. Rene Saiz. "It was a plus to get our families involved as well."

'We just love all of Tammy's friends, and feel that they're now our friends, too.'
— Toni Smith,
Matty's mother

Once the walk began, everyone knew the Army was proud and present as Coon called cadence. Throughout the 3-mile journey, cadence continued with other members of the command taking lead, including 8-year-old Brianna Tarango, Saiz' stepdaughter.

"She really enjoys cadence calls," Saiz said. "She likes to hear them and sing them in the car."

The walk's route included a beautiful lake setting, and participants benefited from the glorious and sunny day.

"The weather was perfect, and we all had a good time walking together with Matty," said Sgt. Michelle Hosey, a participant from the command's personnel section. "The camaraderie displayed was amazing."

After the walk, lunch was served, allowing more time for the group to mingle and get to know Matthew and his family better. Children could get their faces painted and enjoy dancing to the continuous music.

"It was a fun day. I really think it was great that we all came together to support such a good cause," said participant Pfc. Michael Benedetto from the 1st Space Brigade.

For Matty's mother, Toni Smith, "one of the most memorable parts of the day was doing the cadence calls. It was nice to see a lot of people's



1st Sgt. Tammy Coon gives her nephew and "buddy," Matthew Smith, a hug.

reactions. It brought out a lot of smiles. The company commander, Capt. Scott Matey, did one call and changed the words to gear them toward Matty. It was about the buddy walk and Matty as he grows older. My son thought it was so cool.

"Usually it's just grandparents, aunts and uncles that walk, but this year with the 41 from Army Space Command, we had a total of 55 walkers in his name," Smith said.

"When you think about 55 people walking in one little boy's name — that's pretty significant. We just love all of Tammy's friends, and feel that they're now our friends, too."

Army announces new Reserve Component unit stop loss policy

The Army Leadership has determined that the current total Army approach on stop loss does not fully support unit readiness in the Army's Reserve Components (RC) (Army National Guard and United States Army Reserve). The Guard and Reserve are primarily tasked to provide mobilized units in support of OPERATIONS ENDURING FREEDOM and NOBLE EAGLE, rather than to provide individual replacement fillers for active Army units.

To date, when Individual Ready Reserve soldiers have not been available, RC units have been forced to fill empty billets with individual replacements from non-mobilized RC units.

Attrition from the mobilized unit and the need to take replacements from other units have eroded RC unit readiness. On Nov. 4, in support of OPERATIONS NOBLE EAGLE AND ENDURING FREEDOM, Assistant Secretary of the Army (Manpower and Reserve Affairs) (ASA (M&RA)) Reginald J.

Brown approved a new RC unit stop loss policy.

This new policy affects both Active Army and Ready Reserve soldiers.

Hereafter, this new policy establishes stop loss upon an RC unit's alert notification and continues through the period of mobilization until 90 days after demobilization. This policy is referred to as RC Unit Stop Loss, and applies to RC units currently mobilized and to all future RC unit mobilizations.

Active Army soldiers presently assigned to or who may be assigned to RC mobilized units in the future remain under the Army's 12-month Soldier Stop Loss policy.

The current 12-month, skill-based soldier stop loss policy remains in effect for Ready Reserve soldiers subject to the RC Unit Stop Loss Policy, as modified below: Under RC Unit Stop Loss, Ready Reserve soldiers subject to the 12-month, skill-based stop loss may voluntarily separate or retire only upon completion of their 12-month period of stop

loss (which begins running at the point that the soldier first becomes subject to the skill-based stop loss policy) or 90 days after demobilization, whichever is later. Thus, skill-based stop loss runs concurrently with the RC unit stop loss period.

This decision affects more than 25,000 RC soldiers currently subject to stop loss. Personnel strength managers from all Army components will regulate separation dates to ensure no adverse impact on Army-wide readiness.

Brown has approved four increments of stop loss in support of OPERATIONS NOBLE EAGLE AND ENDURING FREEDOM, dated Nov. 30, 2001; Dec. 27, 2001; Feb. 8, 2002; and June 4, 2002. The first increment focused on Active Army Special Forces soldiers and certain Aviation specialties. The second and third increments expanded the previous coverage to include additional skills and specialties, and to include members of the Ready Reserve. The fourth increment lifted

stop loss for selected skills from Stop Loss 1-3 and included additional skills and specialties, to include members of the Ready Reserve, for Stop Loss 4.

Additionally, on Aug. 31, Brown changed the overall stop loss program from an open-ended policy to one of only 12 months duration by approving the 12-month Soldier Stop Loss Policy.

Prior to OPERATIONS NOBLE EAGLE AND ENDURING FREEDOM, the Army last used stop loss during OPERATION DESERT SHIELD/DESERT STORM in 1990 when President George H. Bush delegated stop loss authority to the Secretary of Defense. Stop loss does not affect most involuntary separations or retirements, nor does it generally limit laws, regulations or policies that lead to involuntary separations, retirements or releases from active duty.

The Army continues to reevaluate stop loss on a monthly basis and to use it as a tool to maintain unit readiness.

'Security awareness — now more than ever' focus of command Nov. 5

In light of current events in a post-Sept. 11 world, the theme, "Security Awareness, Now More Than Ever" was the focus from Huntsville to Arlington to Kwajalein to White Sands, New Mexico to Colorado Springs, Colo. Organizers, through a collaborative effort, crafted carefully planned events to inform the workforce on a variety of security and safety related issues unique to each location.

The Space and Missile Defense Command leadership designated Nov. 5 as Security and Safety Awareness Day.

In Huntsville, Ala., Maj. Gen. John M. Urias, SMDC deputy commanding general for Research, Development and Acquisition, kicked off the event, talking about maintaining perspective in a volatile environment; other speakers presented an intelligence threat update; workplace violence — in a changing world and beyond; travel security; response to a bio-chemical attack; and the wireless threat.

In Arlington, Va., multi-discipline security/operation specialists conducted various security awareness briefings and manned security displays, all emphasizing program protection, foreign disclosure practices and procedures and force protection in our daily lives.

Army Space Command observed Security and Safety Awareness Day July 31 due to the move to its new headquarters. Various items of interest included an anti-terrorism/force protection brief, moving security for classified information and computer systems and an operations security briefing.

Kwajalein Atoll combined Security and Safety Awareness with a craft fair Nov. 4. Activities included a static display of explosive ordnance equipment, demonstrations on examining suspicious packages, issuing photo ID cards to underage children, bike registrations, and handouts on anti-terrorism, force protection, foreign travel and operations security.

The event at the High Energy Laser Systems Test Facility at White Sands Missile Range, N.M. was postponed due to conflicts with the safety/environmental site recovery going on and a Mobile Tactical High Energy Laser test. HELSTF is looking at rescheduling for late January.

U.S. STRATCOM's commander commends Army Space soldiers

See related story, 'Soldier helps organize huge bone marrow drive' on page 3

By Spc. Bradley Morrow
Unit Reporter

LANDSTUHL, Germany — On Nov. 4, Adm. James O. Ellis Jr., commander, U.S. Strategic Command, toured the Operations Center where C Company soldiers control and monitor several of the military's communications satellites.

While in Landstuhl, he recognized several soldiers from C Company, 1st Satellite Control Battalion, for outstanding achievement.

Ellis was given a series of briefings concerning the various functions of the Defense Satellite Communications System Operations Center and took time to congratulate the soldiers on a job well done.

He presented coins to four soldiers: Staff Sgt. Jose D. Angulo received special recognition, along with Spc. John Smith, for coordinating one of the most successful-ever bone marrow drives in the Kaiserslautern Military Community.

The admiral also recognized Sgt. Jonathan Merritt and Spc. Michelle Shockley for winning the C Co. Soldier of the Year 2002 board and the most recent Soldier of the Quarter board, respectively.

Military space operations recently were restructured, placing nearly every space asset in the new STRATCOM.

This restructuring allows for a more centralized command and control of the nation's space-based assets, and results in more efficient implementation in the field.

C Company soldiers, along with the rest of the 1st Satellite Control Battalion, are some of the many joint services resources reallocated to this command.

Ellis seemed impressed with the soldiers and facilities of C Co., as evidenced by his comments to the C Co. commander, Capt. Lan T. Dalat.

"You are very privileged, Captain," Ellis said. "You command a unit of extremely professional and highly motivated individuals. If these people were in the Navy, I would expect to find them in the submarine fleet since the Navy picks only the best for undersea duty. Thank you all very much for allowing me to be a part of Army Space."

Digging cold dirt

On Nov. 15, Fort Greely, Alaska, residents awoke without water due to a water line break. With the temperature hovering around 8 degrees Fahrenheit, Public Works employees Joe Crandall, left, and Frank Havel use a backhoe and shovels to dig up a section of the utilidor system to locate the broken water line. The employees quickly isolated the problem and restored water to the majority of the facilities on post.



Photo by Joyce Duff

Air defenders get taste of higher Space

Third captains course tours Army Space Command facilities

By Donald Montoya
Army Space Command

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — The Air Defense Artillery Captains Career Course from Fort Bliss, Texas, visited Army and Air Force Space facilities during a recent three-day off site in Colorado Springs.

The group, only the third of its kind, came to see how Space and its associated technologies are helping today's warfighters in the field.

"The members of this course were very impressed with what they saw and learned," said Capt. Roland Quidachay, small group instructor and tour escort.

"I had no idea how big a role Space plays in the U.S. Army," said course participant Capt. Lisa Barnes.

"Just being able to come here and talk to people in this field who have done the different things is fascinating. I didn't realize all the information you can gather from Space."

Barnes expressed satisfaction talking to personnel who are in the FA40 career field to get their take on where Space intelligence is going.

"This is definitely one field I would like to enter."

This particular tour group consisted of 19 lieutenants and captains, along with two instructors.

During the brief but informative stay in the Springs, the group toured Army Space

Command facilities to include the Spectral Operations Resource Center, an Army Space Support Team and a Joint Tactical Ground Station. They also received various briefings and updates on Army Space issues. The group also toured the North American Aerospace Defense Command at Cheyenne Mountain.

One of the highlights came when the air defenders traveled to U.S. Space Command and received a special welcome and briefing by Lt. Gen. Edward G. Anderson III, deputy commander and chief of staff, U.S. Space Command, and vice commander, U.S. Element, NORAD, headquartered at nearby Peterson Air Force Base.

Anderson, who helps lead the unified command responsible for directing space control and support operations including missile defense, as well as Computer Network Defense and Computer Network Attack, briefed the group about the standing up of two new commands in the midst of war.

The two commands are the new Strategic Command — composed of a merger of U.S. Space Command and the current Strategic Command — and Northern Command, both stood up Oct. 1.

A former "air defender" and commander of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command, Anderson told course participants how Space-based capability achieved a number of firsts in the conflict in Afghanistan.

Two areas of importance Anderson touched upon were

Space-based Blue Force Tracking and Space and Information Operations.

"Space-based Blue Force Tracking, in my view, is going to be appealing and in as great a demand by warfighters as the Global Positioning System currently is."

According to Anderson, Blue Force Tracking is where GPS was when it was first introduced to the warfighters years ago.

"We have a lot of challenges to work on," said Anderson. "Certainly and most importantly we have to maintain our warfighting capabilities. We've worked very hard to get Space and Information Operations, to include Computer Network Operations, out to the warfighter."

"And I'll tell you right now, don't ask us whether Space and Information Operations are important. We are the wrong people to ask. Ask Central Command. Ask General Tommy Franks, commander of U.S. Central Command. Ask the folks who are down there in theater whether or not they think Space Information Operations are important. I can tell you we do. Our answer is not only yes, but hell yes."

After the briefing, Anderson left time for students to ask questions. The students were not shy when it came to asking Anderson what they felt were important concerns involving the two new commands and Space-related issues.

Capt. Timothy Woodruff, student, asked, "In regard to Northern Command, besides the command structure, what

visually can we expect to see? I remember hearing talk about defense batteries like the old Nike Hercules units and coastal artillery. Would there actually be more such as those which even the general public would start seeing in terms of homeland defense?"

Anderson answered, "No. Not initially. As the threat develops and emerges, and if those types of responses become necessary, the country would not hesitate to move in that direction."

"The biggest thing we're going to get from Northern Command is unity of effort," Anderson said. "Just as we are seeing the Department of Homeland Security bring all those federal agencies together into one single entity — it'll be the same for Northern Command. It brings it all under one commander and one responsibility."

In closing Anderson said, "Let there be no doubt we have some outstanding people here in this command to include Army Space Command."

"All of us were thankful to General Anderson for taking time out from his busy schedule to even talk to us," said Quidachay. "It was great to hear him talk to us about computer network operations."

The charm of the Army in Space seems to sit well with air defenders. According to Army Space officials, more than 170 personnel within the command have backgrounds in air and missile defense — be they soldiers, government employees or contractors.

Travel agreement revised for Army travelers

By Capt. Erick Ottoson
Claims Office, Redstone
Arsenal, Alabama

The rules governing liability for damage to vehicles rented while on TDY have changed recently. For most of fiscal '02, travelers could be held liable for damage to rental cars caused by their own negligence. As of Oct. 1, the "U.S. Government Rental Car Agreement," which is negotiated by the Military Traffic Management Command, was changed.

Under the revised agreement, participating companies will bear the cost of most damage, including damage caused by government driver negligence. Rental car companies are not responsible, however, in the event of intentional damage, fraud or misrepresentation, DUI, operation of the vehicle for an illegal purpose or by an unauthorized driver, or in various other circumstances primarily geared toward unethical conduct or inappropriate use of the vehicle.

To ensure maximum protection from liability, an employee renting a car for TDY should notify the company of his or her official travel status, and must rent the car using the official government VISA card. Use of the card is not only required by law, but also allows the traveler to take advantage of Bank of America's insurance, which covers most vehicles rented pursuant to official travel. To get the insurance coverage, the traveler must decline the rental car company's collision damage waiver or similar coverage. In the event of an accident, in addition to notifying local police and the rental car company, the traveler should contact Bank of America by calling 1-800-VISA-911 within 20 days and comply with Bank of America's claims procedures. Among other things, Bank of America will require the completion of a claim form (which they will provide) within 90 days of the date of loss. Absent gross negligence on the part of the driver, Bank of America will then cover all damage (physical

damage to and theft of the vehicle, valid loss-of-use charges and towing charges) to the rental vehicle. The insurance does not apply if the vehicle is rented for more than 31 days, and does not apply to vehicles rented in Israel, Jamaica or Ireland.

Information about the insurance coverage may be found at www.visa.com/benefits.

A related issue is the extent to which a government driver may be held liable for property damage or injuries inflicted on third parties. Under the current MTMC agreement, rental car companies are required to maintain insurance coverage to protect the United States and its employees against liability for personal injury, wrongful death and property damage arising from the use of rental vehicles.

An employee faced with a demand from a third party or insurance company should notify the nearest Army claims office. The claims office will seek to invoke the aforementioned insurance coverage. If for some reason

the coverage was deemed not to apply, the government would evaluate the third party's claim for possible payment under the Federal Tort Claims Act, a federal law that allows the government to pay for damage or injuries caused by the negligence or wrongful conduct of its employees.

A few final notes: first, travelers are allowed to use their government travel card for car rental during leave authorized in conjunction with temporary duty. When this is done, the traveler can take advantage of Bank of America's liability coverage during the leave period. Travelers are urged to verify travel card coverage by calling Bank of America before going on TDY. Second, a traveler without a Government Travel Card may benefit from coverage provided by his or her personal credit card. Employees should check with their credit card companies or personal insurance policies to determine whether they have liability protection before renting a vehicle.



Photo by Dennis Plummer

Air Force Weapons School students visit Colorado Springs facilities

Visiting instructors and students of the U.S. Air Force Weapons School, Space Division, receive a briefing on the Army Space side of things from Army Maj. Shelley Volkwein. Volkwein, commander of the Theater Missile Warning Company in Colorado Springs, Colo., described the functions of the Joint Tactical Air Ground Station shelter behind her to the officers during a tour of Army Space facilities. The JTAGS provides early missile warnings to the warfighter. Visiting Joint Space facilities is an integral part of the intensive, elite course at the AF Weapons School located at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

To Russia with Love

A tale told by the father of an Army Space soldier

Editor's note — The following story, which appeared previously in the Duxbury Clipper, Duxbury, Mass. — and reprinted here with permission — was written about an E Company, 1st Satellite Control Battalion soldier by his father, freelance writer Bruce Barrett. Staff Sgt. Franklin Barrett, 24, is the Information Security and Management NCO and also serves as unit reporter. He met his lovely Russian bride, also 24, in a very modern way, via the Internet, and married her this fall in a very old-fashioned way, replete with centuries-old Russian customs. His father, who flew to Russia for the story, wrote it first person better than any uninvolved journalist could do after the fact, so — reprinting a grand tale that celebrates the openness between two countries long enemies, and now friends.

By Bruce Barrett
Freelance Writer

MOSCOW — Moscow greeted the day with grit and glory. Wildfires in the surrounding plains joined the city's notorious smog to choke her people into submission, but they failed. Russians don't surrender.

I went to Moscow with daughter Rachel for the wedding of son Franklin to a lovely and brilliant Russian girl, Irina Sergeyevna Ryabchinskaya. Now I can answer the question, "Oh, do you know Moscow?" with the excruciatingly chic response, "No, not very well."

Moscow's center holds the bulk of the must-see sites for tourists and Russians alike.



Staff Sgt. Franklin Barrett, E Co., 1st Satellite Control Battalion, guides his Russian bride Irina's hands as the new couple cuts the first piece of the wedding cake at the reception.

Red Square, Lenin's Tomb, the Kremlin, St. Basil's Cathedral and the Bolshoi Theater are all within walking distance, mostly in sight of one another. Nearby, Marshall Zhukov (architect of the defeat of the Nazi invasion) stands in the stirrups, hand outstretched in a defiant block. He overlooks a park where flowerbeds recall the less fortunate monuments to Soviet figures. There, along the Kremlin Wall, is their Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. A wall of names lists not fallen soldiers, but cities.

On a Saturday, wedding parties line up to have their pictures taken at these spots, each pose inevitably followed by a chant from by-standers: "Gorka! Gorka! Gorka!" At this command, the couple must kiss until the crowd is satisfied, or the bride faints away in delighted surrender. Then it's on to the next site, a tour of love and celebration that can take all day.

Muscovites ache with what the German's call *Weltschmerz*, the pain of the world. Irina thought it might well be from the many years of loss and struggle Russians have suffered. Sergei, Irina's father, expressed a current sorrow that the end of the Soviet era has brought out a mercenary spirit, that a sense of serving a greater cause has been lost. Irina shut him up in no uncertain terms. The moment sparkled. I knew that Sergei and Tatiana had raised a full-spirited girl into a woman who knows her own mind and speaks it fiercely.

Russian brides are tough to get. A young man must rescue her from her family. On wedding day, Franklin met obstacle after obstacle: a guarding line of balloons blocked his way. He cried out (in Russian, of course) "Irina! Irina! I've come to save you!" But the tests had only begun. Spell her name in coins! Sing her a song! Prove that you love her — pick the lipstick kiss that is hers! Boxes of shoes — which



Photos by Alexander Voytenko

Parked just outside Red Square in Moscow, with a Kremlin Tower in view, the new couple pauses for a photo in the Classic Rolls Royce that just toured them through Moscow.

holds hers? Now tell us — what color are her mother's eyes?

At last the final test: a closed door, with a large basket before it. Place in the basket a gift that she will treasure forever, more than any other gift you could give her! Franklin passed the test — he stepped into the basket himself, and the door opened. Irina was his.

Toasts at a Russian-American wedding feast are marvelous. Over the murmuring of simultaneous translation, Sergei and I toasted the joining of two families into one. Indeed, there were many such toasts that night. Vodka for those who wanted it, to be sure, but water, cranberry juice and Sprite served just as well. The significance of our national histories was no undercurrent in our toasts. It was right in front. Both families have served their countries for generations, and still do. But our toasts agreed: love pierces the obstacles between peoples, and burns deep. After each toast, "Gorka! Gorka! Gorka!"

The word doesn't mean, "kiss!" After the revelers toast, they find that their drink is not

quite sweet enough. They complain to the bride and groom for it to be sweetened, "Gorka!" They answer with the greatest sweetener in the hall. They kiss. The delighted throng then counts slowly until the bride comes up for air. The number reached foretells the happy future: Franklin and Irina will have 19 children. Whew!

Rachel and I left Moscow laden with gifts and memories. Smoke still covered the city. The fires in the country were buried in the vast peat soil, impossible to put out. Russia burns deep. The greatest memory of all is the face of Moscow when Franklin and Irina toured the wedding spots for their pictures. Young women, of course, stopped to smile and wave at the couple passing by. Children chattered and laughed. Young men whistled. Burdened, serious workingmen honked and drove away smiling. For the moment, the pain of the world was lifted by love, and life was sweetened.

Gorka! Gorka! Gorka!

Space soldier shares the 'high' of rock climbing



Photo by Sharon L. Hartman

Sgt. David Denio makes his way up one of the many red rocks in the Colorado Springs, Colo., area.

By Sgt. David Denio

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo — Lately I've taken up rock climbing and I can't think of any better physical activity. Going up and going down each rock provides its own individual brand of "high."

It's a constant battle — fighting no one but yourself and your limitations, whether it's fear or physical conditioning. At first you start off and you're a little nervous with butterflies in your stomach — more so if you're the one taking the rope up there. The muscles haven't really been able to warm up to the level they're about to be used, but adrenaline and nerves are providing a helpful boost.

The first grip on the rock always seems to be a tricky one. Along with it comes the transfer of body weight from the stable ground to this seemingly awkward four-point-of-contact grip that you've formed on this anything-but-predictable rock.

Commentary

To continue, you rely on a completely different group of muscles than you normally use.

You look up at your predetermined route and reach for the next grip, knowing the longer it takes to keep moving up, the quicker muscles will fail. It's okay though — because now you're a good 18 feet off the ground and still moving.

But wait ... Your predetermined route has about ended since you can't predict all 100 feet of the ascent. Now you have only two points of good contact and can't tell where the climbers before you have gone from here. You reach around searching with a free hand and free foot for contact points that your eyes can't see. There's still nothing.

Calves and forearms start to feel the burden of your body weight. You know you must

move on — or you won't be able to hold yourself much longer.

Nothing! There's nothing there. You switch the toehold to a heel hold to relieve that calf and ever so carefully switch hands. You depend only on balance to keep yourself from slipping. You must go up now. (I'm going ...) Go, you tell yourself. (I don't care if there's nothing.) Find something and go. Pump yourself up with a couple of breaths and grab for that hold you didn't think you could get at first glance.

Arrrghh! With a great exhale you've done it. One more body length up the rock! Your buddy on belay gives a comforting "good job" sign because he knows you've just defeated yourself one more time. Now there's a good 10 feet of difficult but maneuverable holds that you've previously worked up the skill to make. You know now that a torqued (braced in a crevice) hand, an expanded fist or an angled foot can properly wedge itself into that crack and build up the required pressure to keep you moving.

You stop for a minute and realize how much you love this. What a great workout, because you know if you can't manage your own body weight, all that time in the gym is useless. Now you're three quarters up and what you knew would come, has. These grabs that would've been so easy in the beginning are a whole new task up here. They call for muscle endurance and that's wearing pretty thin about now.

Once again you have a one-toe and one- to possibly two-slight-finger holds. That calf muscle is not only swelling this time but it is starting to shake. You feel those back muscles starting to kick in now while

already tired biceps are keeping your chest against that rock that seems like it's getting wet.

You're trying everything you can to keep your body vertical because any inversion will only wear your strength down faster. You decide the only way to get higher will have to be by placing a foot in that ripple, the one just below your waistline. It's barely large enough for one, maybe two toes but you can do it. Place that foot there, then, with all the balance you can muster, squat up to a full standing position so you can sail it on easy up to the top. You know it can be done because you won't give up. Lord knows you're not going back down!

With an energizing grunt, thrust while charging your body and — you're there, but you don't stop to savor the accomplishment this time. You just kept on going.

You're sitting at the top. You take a deep breath of relief, a breath of victory. The scenery is beautiful — and best of all, you've earned it.

The only thing left to do is rappel back down. Now, list all the things you've done. You've beaten your body's limits, your mind said quit but you wouldn't, you didn't think you had that flexibility but you did, your muscles said "no more" but you said "yes" three times over, and now you get to rappel down also.

You get your L-shape positioned and sail on back down. Now, what could be better than this?

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Photo by Phil Patterson

Reaching for a dream

Steve Pierce, center, with the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command's Battle Lab, Studies and Analysis Division, escorts Hillary Wheeler, a student from Sparkman Middle School, at the Special Olympics track and field events held Oct. 22 in Huntsville, Ala. Mary Ann Burns, second from right, with Boeing, was one of the many volunteer judges. An unidentified judge, right, looks on. More than 300 Special Olympians competed in the annual event.