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A Space & Missile Defense NewsWire

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Soldiers earn Space Badges



Courtesy photo

Capt. Jack H. Cooperman, commander, Company E, 53rd Signal Battalion, presents the Army Space Badge to Spc. Tyler M. Read Feb. 5 at Fort Buckner, Okinawa, Japan. For article on the Space Badge, see Page 4.



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Platoon sergeant promoted in Hawaii



Courtesy photo

1st Sgt. Luke Grim, left, first sergeant, Company D, 53rd Signal Battalion, congratulates Sgt. 1st Class Brent Burnfield, platoon sergeant, following his promotion from staff sergeant in a ceremony March 7 at Wahiawa, Hawaii.

Captains to be promoted

The U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command would like to congratulate the following captains in the command who have been selected for promotion to major: **1st Space Battalion's** Capt.

Daniel D. Castle, Capt. Brent P. Courtney, Capt. Jason W. Merriman, Capt. Jesus S. Rodriguez, and Capt. Jonathan C. Taylor; **HHC, 1st Space Brigade's** Capt. Erin L. Fella; Capt. Eric J. Sidio, with **HHC, SMDC**; and Capt. Mary E. Thornton, **G-3, SMDC**.

Deputy commander receives first star

Scott Andreae
USASMDC/ARSTRAT SIG

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. – Promotion to one-star rank occurred March 13 for Brig. Gen. Jeffrey A. Farnsworth, the deputy commanding general for operations at the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command.

In a ceremony at the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes, Farnsworth received his new stars from his wife, Gaby, parents Carol and Allen, and Lt. Gen. David L. Mann, USASMDC/ARSTRAT commanding general.

Mann presided at the ceremony.

"The Army is a major user and provider of space capabilities, so Jeff's job is very important to the Department of Defense, the United States and our international partners and allies," Mann said. "He possesses the education, experience and commitment to national defense found only in our most talented senior leaders."

As the deputy commanding general for operations, Farnsworth assists the commanding general on all operational matters anywhere in the world. Based at SMDC's operations headquarters at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., Farnsworth provides oversight of the Army's operational space and ballistic missile defense forces and other special operating units, which are assigned to U.S. Strategic Command. These forces comprise active, reserve and National Guard Soldiers in the 1st Space Brigade, 100th Missile Defense Brigade and other special operating units.

"Space is pervasive," Farnsworth



Photo by Sgt. Courtney Ropp

Newly promoted Brig. Gen. Jeffrey A. Farnsworth, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command deputy commanding general for operations, receives his first star from his wife, Gaby, and Lt. Gen. David L. Mann, USASMDC/ARSTRAT commanding general, at a March 13 ceremony in the Pentagon Hall of Heroes.

said. "Every warfighting function and a majority of our equipment and weapons in all the military services are enabled by space capabilities. Whether defending the homeland from a rogue nation ICBM attack, or enabling our formations to shoot with precision, move with dominance, and communicate with surety, anywhere in the world, space systems are critical enablers."

The 1st Space Brigade contributes to Department of Defense space capabilities that enable the Army and its coalition partners to fully exploit space services for missile warning, reconnaissance/surveillance, navigation and weapons guidance, tracking of forces, global communications and other services.

The 100th Missile Defense Brigade, a unit of the Colorado National Guard, conducts operations under the control of U.S. Northern Command and provides the nation's only limited defense against ballistic missile attack from North Korea.

Other operating units in SMDC conduct satellite communications operational planning and technical support; radar operations to characterize spacecraft and objects in space for situational awareness; and global Friendly Force Tracking services for the Defense Department, U.S. government agencies and allies.

Farnsworth also provides administrative oversight of the

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SMDC space warriors earn Space Badges

Jason B. Cutshaw
SMDC Public Affairs

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala. – Although numerous U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command Soldiers have earned various skill identifiers, some command Soldiers now have a badge that is out of this world.

On March 19, the most recent six Soldiers of USASMDC/ARSTRAT were awarded the Army Space Badge during a ceremony at the command's Redstone Arsenal, Ala., headquarters.

“Earning the Army Space Badge today is not an end, it’s a beginning,” said Col. Tom James, deputy director, Future Warfare Center, SMDC. “Officers, NCOs and Soldiers will see your badge, and ask you what it means and why it is important. You have to be ready to explain that meaning in ways that quickly and easily provide the importance of integrating satellite capabilities in support of Army operations.

“This only comes from staying sharp on your space knowledge and skills,” he added. “You have to continue learning and expanding that knowledge base to be able to educate others. That is the burden that comes with the prestige of the Space Badge. Embrace it.”

The Space Badge can be awarded to active Army, Army Reserve and National Guard Soldiers who successfully complete appropriate space-related training and attain the required Army space cadre experience. There are three levels of the Space Badge: basic, senior and master.



Photo by Carrie E. David

Col. Tom James, deputy director, Future Warfare Center, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, presents Maj. Christopher L. Fairley, the Master Army Space Badge during a ceremony at the command's Redstone Arsenal, Ala., headquarters March 19.

The required space cadre experience for active duty Soldiers is: Basic Space Badge, 12 months; Senior Space Badge, 48 months; and Master Space Badge, 84 months, and for Reserve and National Guard Soldiers: Basic Space Badge, 24 months; Senior Space Badge, 60 months; and Master Space Badge, 96 months.

The Space Badge is considered a Group 4 badge, and Soldiers can wear their Space Badge with Group 3 badges such as the Aviator Badge.

“The space badge is the newest badge in the Army inventory,” said Maj. Michael G. Meskunas, who earned the Basic Space Badge. “You can actually say it is unique. It is something Soldiers aspire for

nowadays. For anyone working in the space arena, it is a badge of acceptance, and I am glad to be a part of this community.”

Formerly called the Air Force Space Badge, the term “Air Force” was dropped from the name because Army and Air Force personnel are now eligible, and the badge is now called the Space Badge.

A paragraph pertaining to the Space Badge will appear in the next update to Army Regulation 600-8-22, Military Awards.

“I feel honored, valued and relevant earning the Master Space Badge, not only from an Army perspective but also in the DoD, joint,

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SMDC names new chief technology officer

Jason B. Cutshaw
SMDC Public Affairs

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala. – One man’s journey led him to become the chief technology officer, or CTO, for the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command.

Dr. Steve F. Pierce, director, USASMD/ARSTRAT Decision Support Directorate, became the command’s newest CTO, a senior executive service tier 1 senior leader position, March 23.

“It would probably always be exciting to get a job like this, but today, and what we are going through right now with space, with missile defense and with the priorities the Army has put on these areas, it is really an exciting time to become a CTO,” Pierce said. “I am looking forward to trying to translate what the needs are of the Army and the Soldier to technology, and how technology can enable our Warfighters.

“My primary mission as CTO is to provide advice to the senior leadership of the command,” he added. “One of the things I see as imperative to success in this new position is being able to link or tie together the different efforts that go on in this command. This command is responsible, not just for development of technology and acquisition of technology, but it is also responsible for combat development and force development.”

SMDC’s senior leader took time to congratulate Pierce on his selection as the command CTO, and said he looks forward to serving with him



File photo

Dr. Steve F. Pierce is the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command’s new chief technology officer. He began his new duties March 23.

in supporting the Warfighter.

“Steve has the requisite technical and leadership skills to collaborate internally within USASMD/ARSTRAT and externally with government, corporate, and educational institutions,” said Lt. Gen. David L. Mann, SMDC commanding general. “He will use these skills to identify specific research areas that support the command’s space and missile defense science and technology roadmap and help us continue to adapt to support the critical space and missile defense operational needs of our nation.

“Dr. Pierce has spent the majority of his adult life in service to his country – first as a career Army officer and after retirement, as a Department of the Army civilian,”

Mann added. “Most recently he served as the director, Decision Support Directorate, or DSD, of the Future Warfare Center where he successfully changed the focus of SMDC’s analysis, modeling and simulation, and high performance computing from organizationally centered to focusing upon impacting decisions at Army and higher levels. Dr. Pierce has extensive knowledge of the decision support tools needed to enable informed space, missile defense, and high altitude materiel and concept of operations decisions, which best support the Warfighter.”

Pierce served in the Army as a field artillery officer and operations research and systems analysis officer from 1977 to 1997, when he retired as a colonel.

He arrived at SMDC in April 2001 as a senior military analyst for the command’s Future Warfare Center and was promoted to division chief in 2002. There, Pierce led key Army and joint studies to include three operational missile defense studies for combatant commanders and a homeland defense study.

Pierce was assigned as the director of the DSD in February 2008. The DSD includes the command’s Studies and Analysis Division, Models and Simulations Division, the Information and Computational Engineering Division and the Cyberspace Support Branch.

Under Pierce’s leadership, the DSD has directly supported the Joint Chiefs of Staff vice chairman, leading a study that determined the missile defense requirements of the combatant commands. His

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DEPS focuses on solutions to threats

John H. Cummings III
SMDC Public Affairs

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala.

– As the Army and other services continue the mission of protecting forward deployed U.S. and allied Warfighters, one solution to counter the threat of rockets, artillery, mortars/missiles and UAVs is directed energy.

More than 300 members of the Directed Energy Professional Society, or DEPS, gathered in Huntsville to attend the 16th Annual Directed Energy Symposium held at the Westin Hotel at Bridge Street Town Centre March 10-14.

“Directed Energy Applications are considered ‘game changing’ technologies by the Army,” said Richard De Fatta, director of the Emerging Technology Directorate within the Technical Center of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command. “When fielded they will provide cost and operationally effective alternatives to conventional missiles, guns, and similar systems. A directed energy ‘bullet’ is generated almost entirely by electrical energy and does not require resupply except fuel to generate electricity.

“Cost per kill, measured in the tens of thousands to millions with conventional gun and missile systems, is typically measured in cents or couple of dollars,” he added. “Target effects or ‘dial-a-defeat’ can normally be varied in accordance with the individual Warfighter’s requirements and will be extremely accurate.”

De Fatta is the principal program



U.S. Army photo

The High Energy Laser Mobile Demonstrator, or HEL MD, vehicle conducts a series of tests from Nov. 18 through Dec. 10 at White Sands Missile Range, N.M.

director and scientific advisor for future technology research programs in areas such as high energy lasers, high power microwave and interceptors at SMDC.

He presented a briefing to the symposium attendees focusing on high energy laser technology development and demonstrations, including the High Energy Laser Mobile Demonstrator program administered by the USASMDC/ARSTRAT Technical Center.

At DEPS, De Fatta discussed HEL MD and how after completing the integration, testing and calibration of a 10 kilowatt laser, the HEL MD team conducted a series of tests from Nov. 18 through Dec. 10 at White Sands Missile Range, N.M. During the testing the HEL MD successfully engaged more than 85 mortar rounds, sufficiently tracking for aimpoint and possible engagement. Of those mortar

rounds, 69 were destroyed in flight. HEL MD also successfully engaged three unmanned aerial vehicles during the testing, damaging two and shooting down one of the “Outlaw” UAVs. During the testing against UAVs, there were more than two dozen UAV sorties flown with target boards as targets on the vehicles.

De Fatta discussed with the DEPS audience the HEL MD subsystems, the laser, the platform, beam control, command and control, thermal management and power that will lead the program from the current 10kw laser to a 50kw, and eventually a 100kw laser.

“DEPS is a fully joint gathering of government and industry professionals that span the full range of technologists, system developers, and user representatives,” De

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History: Army receives lunar mission

Sharon Watkins Lang
SMDC command historian

Organized on Redstone Arsenal in December 1955, the Army Ballistic Missile Agency, or ABMA, oversaw the development of the Army's intermediate range ballistic missiles and later space vehicles.

Following their success with the January 1958 Explorer I launch, ABMA and the Jupiter-C were identified for new missions.

On March 27, 1958, Secretary of Defense Neil McElroy tasked the ABMA to launch two lunar probes, and two or three earth satellites, using the Jupiter-C rockets.

In addition, the Air Force was also assigned a mission to launch three lunar probes using their Thor-Vanguard system.

The Navy meanwhile was tasked to develop a mechanical ground scanning system for these lunar probes. Conducted under the direction of the Advanced Research Projects Agency, or ARPA, these efforts were allotted a budget of \$8 million.

The goals for all of these efforts were "to determine our capability of exploring space in the vicinity of the moon, to obtain useful data concerning the moon, and provide a close look at the moon."

Dr. Herbert York, ARPA's chief scientist, noted that the ground work had already begun on this highly experimental project.

In an article from the Redstone Rocket, York observed "many test rocket launchings will probably be required before a probe is successfully placed in the vicinity of the moon."



Department of Defense photo
Dr. Wernher von Braun, left, director, Army Ballistic Missile Agency's Development Operations Division, John Casani, center, of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, and Dr. James Van Allen, right, professor of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Iowa, inspect components of the Pioneer IV lunar probe.

At the same time, ARPA Director Roy Johnson "(advised) the public that it is impossible to put a timetable on successful accomplishment of these efforts."

The first ABMA lunar probe was launched in December 1958. In a flight that lasted 66,654 miles, or 38 hours and six minutes, the Pioneer III, equipped with a photoelectric sensor trigger and two Geiger counters, collected data on dual radiation belts that surround earth.

Dr. William Pickering and Dr. Wernher Von Braun both praised this initial effort. Von Braun noted that the Juno II space rocket launched successfully without issue.

Pickering, meanwhile stated that "while the result of the launching of Pioneer III were disappointing to the engineer specialists in that the probe did not reach the moon,

the scientific benefits to be obtained more than compensates for this disappointment."

Pioneer IV, the second ABMA lunar probe, was launched in March 1959. The gold-plated satellite conducted a lunar pass, or flyby, and continued on a path to the sun, with a planned solar orbit.

Ground stations around the globe collected radio signals for 832 hours before they lost contact with the craft 655,000 km from Earth. Pioneer IV, which sought to study radiation intensities in deep space, would become the first U.S. satellite in permanent orbit.

It should be noted that the ABMA was separate and distinct from the Army Rocket and Guided Missile Agency, which included in its missions the development of the NIKE-ZEUS anti-missile system.

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governmental and civilian sectors as well. This includes all levels whether tactical, operational or strategic,” said Maj. Christopher L. Fairley, who received the Master Space Badge. “It feels very rewarding. I, like most Soldiers in the Army, have earned several badges and tabs that took some level of effort to obtain.

“What makes the Master Space Badge unique is that it was not earned in 10 days, three weeks, or even several months; it took more than seven years of proving myself in the toughest assignments and challenging space courses,” he added.

Fairley spoke of the importance of space and what it means to the Army, and how space Soldiers continue to grow in importance.

“People need to know we bring a space perspective to Army units or the organizations we support,” Fairley said. “Most Soldiers who wear the Space Badge come from different career backgrounds. We have served as platoon leaders, company commanders and staffs in combat, which brings an instant credibility to the organization we support. Space warriors have the talent and experience to translate ‘space stuff’ to those who need it, and explain why it is important in a way that is not ‘rocket science.’

“When I first started this ‘space stuff’ in the quest for my first Space Badge, if you had asked me about orbital mechanics, I would have responded with ‘Who is our unit orbital mechanic guy, and what does he do?’” he added. “We, as space warriors, must evolve to someone

who can translate data and information to knowledge about space. The goal is to be the PhD level at the end of your Army career, and this takes time.”

As the Army specified proponent for space, the commander of SMDC was assigned the mission to develop and track a cadre comprising space-qualified professional military and civilian personnel.

The Army space cadre was created to meet this requirement and consists of more than 2,300 Soldier and civilian billets spread throughout Army and joint organizations.

There are three categories of Army space personnel from all components: FA40 (Space Operations Officers), Non-FA40 Soldiers, and Department of the Army civilians.

To help facilitate the identification and tracking of space cadre Soldiers, the Department of the Army G-1 has approved the revision and expansion of the 3Y skill identifier. The 3Y identifier is called “Space Enabler” and applies to officers (except FA40s), warrant officers and enlisted Soldiers.

“This is one of the most prestigious badges the Army has,” said Staff Sgt. John R. Schaefer, who received the Basic Space Badge. “I try to be a leader, and never turn down an opportunity to improve myself. This is a win-win because with this badge, I get to show my fellow Soldiers that I am continuing to better myself.”

He talked about how it feels to be a member of a select group of Soldiers who work on space-based is-

suces for the Army and defend the “high ground.”

“Every Soldier who wears this badge is a member of a distinguished club,” Schaefer said. “I am honored to be a part of the Army’s space cadre and I will wear the Space Badge with pride.”

The following Soldiers earned basic, senior and master Space Badges from January to March: **Company C, 53rd Signal Battalion’s** 1st Lt. Stephen I. Roy, Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy M. Marsac, Staff Sgt. Raymond T. Flores, Spc. Caleb M. Burgan, Spc. Michael D. Doherty, Spc. Samara N. Esquibel, Spc. Kendle M. Kelley, Spc. Matthew N. Lindwall, Pfc. Robert P. O’Leary, and Pfc. Anthony M. Robinson; **Company D, 53rd Signal Battalion’s** Staff Sgt. Mark Armstrong, Spc. Theodosios Efthimiadis, Spc. Jennifer Addison, Spc. Nicholas Lang, and Spc. Dexter Stewart; **Company E, 53rd Signal Battalion’s** Spc. Ryan Adams, Spc. David Carnicom, Spc. Terrence Cunningham, Spc. Billy Mullins, Spc. Paul Phan, Spc. Tyler Read, Spc. Stuart St. John, Spc. Jeffery Threatt, Spc. Justin Ulloa, Spc. Joshua Weber, Pfc. Daniel Dillard, Pfc. Manuel Mapes and Pfc. Thomasina Walker; **1st Space Battalion’s** Staff Sgt. Dave Thomas; **Joint Tactical Ground Station-Korea, 1st Space Company’s** Sgt. Brian Hester and Pvt. Darius Crump; and **SMDC Huntsville’s** Lt. Col. Kerry G. Clements, Fairley, Maj. Christopher D. Marchetti, Meskunas, Sgt. 1st Class Catherine A. Dulay, and Schaefer.

Deadline for comments and submissions for the April 10 issue is April 4.

Please submit to Jason B. Cutshaw at Jason.B.Cutshaw.civ@mail.mil.

Heating things up for AER



Photo by Carrie E. David

U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command employees decide which homemade chili to try during the command's Chili Cookoff to support the Army Emergency Relief fund March 13 at SMDC's Redstone Arsenal, Ala., headquarters. More than \$400 was raised in one hour for AER. The winners for the best taste category are: Adriene Fields, first place; Abe Borum, second place; and Reed Carpenter, third place. The winners for best exotic taste are: Capt. Eric Sidio, first place; John Cummings, second place; and Jere Singleton, third place. The winner for best presentation was Phil Patterson.

SMDC celebrates Womens History



Photo by Carrie E. David

Sgt. Maj. Wanda Vereen, G-1 sergeant major, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, presents Maj. Gen. Heidi Brown, director for Test, Missile Defense Agency, a prize for answering a Women's History Month question correctly during SMDC's observance March 19 at its Redstone Arsenal, Ala., headquarters. Brown was the guest speaker for the event.

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Army's Astronaut Detachment and guides the Army Space Professional Development program.

He became the command's deputy commander for operations in July.

Farnsworth has been a leader in space-related positions for the Army and Department of Defense for more than 17 years. His assignments have included: exchange officer and Marine Corps Space Support Team chief with Naval Space Command; commander, 1st Space Battalion; and commander, 1st Space Brigade; director of Space Policy Implementation in the office of the

Assistant Secretary of Defense for Global Strategic Affairs; and chief of Space Capabilities Integration for Headquarters Department of the Army.

"I owe my success to the great Soldiers and civilians who I have had the honor to team with over the last 28 years," he said. "Without their professionalism, perseverance and achievement I would not have this great honor. I will now seek to serve our Soldiers and civilians around the world to better our position as an Army and nation from this position of greater influence that I am both

humbled and honored to hold."

SMDC is split-based, multi-component command with headquarters at Redstone Arsenal, Ala., and Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. The command has space and missile forces based, forward-stationed or deployed in more than nine nations and in Alabama, Alaska, Colorado, California and Maryland. The command also conducts applied research and technology demonstrations and develops future capabilities for space, high altitude, missile defense, directed energy and cyber capabilities.

Savell re-enlists



Courtesy photo

Capt. Etienne P. Jeanjacques IV, assistant S-3, 53rd Signal Battalion, left, administers an oath of enlistment to Sgt. Cameron Savell, maintenance noncommissioned officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 53rd Signal Battalion, March 3 in Colorado Springs, Colo.

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team helped develop modeling and simulations that will be the foundation for the integrated air and missile defense efforts; led an analysis of alternatives, or AoA, that resulted in an acquisition decision memorandum based upon the AoA; and oversaw the development of labs supporting experiments and exercises involving Aegis and Terminal High Altitude Area Defense.

“I think one of the most important parts of the SMDC mission is to support the Warfighters out there in the areas of space and global missile defense,” Pierce said. “We also want to look at what the potential technologies are out there. A lot of that ties into the intelligence of what the threats are that are developing. In a nutshell, my job is to help the command be more proactive than reactive and to start looking ahead at what we need to do to be a viable part of this Army and DoD.”

Pierce talked about his job and what he can do to make the command more successful as it leads the

nation in providing support to the troops.

“For SMDC, success really is normalizing our area of space as well as providing force protection for the troops out there,” Pierce said. “Similar to (commercial GPS systems), if we can get to where the Soldiers don’t even know that a lot of the intelligence capabilities they are receiving are from space because it is so normalized, we are successful. In the other major mission set we have here at SMDC, if we can provide force protection for our troops out there in critical areas, that is also success.

“I am excited about this position, and I will have the same mindset that our mission here at SMDC is not making SMDC better, but it is really providing the capabilities that enable our forces out there at the Army-level to be better,” he added. “I see what I need to do is take what SMDC does and make sure that we keep up with the technology we have currently, and then look forward to see what potential there is out there

in technology that can help enable our capabilities to provide support to the Warfighter.”

Pierce was selected as the 2005 SMDC Civilian of the Year, and subsequently selected as the 2005 Department of the Army Civilian of the Year-Redstone Huntsville Chapter.

Pierce earned a Bachelor of Science from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., a Master of Science in industrial engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology, a master’s degree in business finance from Long Island University and a doctorate in philosophy in systems engineering with a minor in statistics from the University of Alabama in Huntsville. His dissertation was nominated by UAH as best dissertation in 2007 and recognized as the second place dissertation nationally by the American Society for Engineering Management. Pierce also graduated from the first Defense Acquisition University Senior Service College, Huntsville, in 2007.

Deputy G-6 retires



Photo by Carrie E. David

Ronald E. Chronister, deputy to the commander, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, pins the Meritorious Service Medal on Lt. Col. Joseph "Bo" Taylor, deputy G-6, SMDC, during his retirement Feb. 25 at the command's Redstone Arsenal, Ala., headquarters. Taylor retires with 20 years of service.

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Fatta said. "This forum allows our personnel to interact with the complete body of folks in the directed energy functional area in a way that is not achievable elsewhere. We benefit from the interaction with our colleges across the services, (Office of the Secretary of Defense), and industry. Awareness of ongoing efforts, achievements and requirements allow us to both share our expertise and experience, and gain insight into the lessons learned of others."

Along with De Fatta, Dr. Mark L. Swinson, deputy director for Rapid Transition, Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization, and SMDC Technical Center personnel participated at DEPS. There were also several members of the Emerging Technology Directorate serving as session chairs and provided presentations

addressing high energy laser subsystem development and prototype demonstration results and high power microwave efforts.

DEPS was founded in 1999 to foster research and development of directed energy technology for national defense and civil applications through professional communication and education. DEPS is recognized as the premier organization for exchanging information about and advocating research, development and application of directed energy.

Each service has a primary role in supporting the DEPS Annual Symposium on a rotating basis and for 2014 that responsibility fell to the Army.

"DEPS is important to the (Department of Defense) community because it provides various forums for the directed energy community to

communicate with each other and to educate the larger DoD community on the emerging capabilities that DE can provide to the Warfighter," said John Wachs, a retired government employee and longtime DEPS member. "This exchange of information includes advances in high energy lasers and high power microwave technologies, the results of laboratory testing of HEL and HPM components, and the results of full scale demonstrations."

"The U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command's Technical Center in Huntsville manages a large portion of the directed energy research and development within the Army, so it was very important to DEPS that the symposium be held in Huntsville to minimize the cost of Army attendance," added Wachs, one of the lead organizers to bring the symposium back to Huntsville.