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A Space & Missile Defense NewsWire

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SMDC Soldiers compete in command Best Warrior Competition



Photo by Dottie White

Staff Sgt. Brian D. Hester, Charlie Detachment, 1st Space Company, 1st Space Battalion, 1st Space Brigade, Osan Air Base, Korea clears a building with his team during the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command's Best Warrior Competition June 23-26 at Fort Carson, Colo. See Best Warrior Competition on Page 5 for complete story.



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USSTRATCOM decorates Guzman



Photo by Jason B. Cutshaw

Navy Adm. Cecil D. Haney, commander of U.S. Strategic Command, pins the Meritorious Service Medal on Lt. Col. Joseph E. Guzman, forward detachment to U.S. Strategic Command, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, Omaha, Neb., during a ceremony at the USASMDC/ARSTRAT's Redstone Arsenal, Ala., headquarters June 20. Guzman is leaving the command to study at the Naval War College.

CG's aide receives MSM



Photo by Jason B. Cutshaw

Lt. Gen. David L. Mann, commanding general, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, pins the Meritorious Service Medal on his outgoing aide-de-camp, Maj. Mark Cobos during a ceremony June 27. Cobos is now assigned to the SMDC/ARSTRAT Future Warfare Center at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

SMDC, RTS play role in latest missile test

Jason B. Cutshaw
SMDC Public Affairs

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala. – U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command Soldiers and civilians played an important role in a recent missile defense test executed by numerous Department of Defense agencies.

A Capability Enhancement II (CE II) ground-based interceptor (GBI) was launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., June 22 and successfully intercepted an incoming intermediate-range ballistic missile target launched from the U.S. Army's Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site (RTS) on Kwajalein Atoll in the Republic of the Marshall Islands. The engagement took place over the Pacific Ocean, completing an integrated exercise of the Ground-based Midcourse Defense element of the nation's Ballistic Missile Defense System.

"This is a very important step in our continuing efforts to improve and increase the reliability of our homeland ballistic missile defense system," said Vice Adm. James D. Syring, Missile Defense Agency director. "We'll continue efforts to ensure our deployed ground-based interceptors and our overall homeland defensive architecture continue to provide the Warfighter an effective and dependable system to defend the country.

"I am very proud of the government and industry team conducting the test today," he added. "Their professionalism and dedication made this test a success."



MDA photo

A long-range ground-based interceptor is launched June 22 from Vandenberg Air Force Base, California.

A number of defense organizations participated in the joint exercise. They included the Missile Defense Agency; U.S. Air Force 30th Space Wing; the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command's 100th Missile Defense Brigade (Ground-based Midcourse Defense); Joint Functional Component Command for Integrated Missile Defense (JFCC-IMD); U.S. Northern Command, (USNORTHCOM); and the U.S. Navy. The various agencies will conduct extensive evaluations based on data they received during the test.

Lt. Gen. David L. Mann serves as the commanding general of USASMDC/ARSTRAT which is the Army Service Component Command to U.S. Strategic Command. SMDC provides continuous oversight, control, planning, integration and

coordination of Army forces while conducting space and missile defense operations in support of USSTRATCOM missions such as strategic deterrence, integrated missile defense and space operations.

In addition, Mann serves as the commander of JFCC-IMD which is responsible for planning and coordinating U.S. Strategic Command's global operations and support for integrated missile defense.

"This represents the first successful engagement with the CE-II and significantly enhances Warfighter confidence in this strategic capability," Mann said. "Although extensive data analysis remains, early indications are that virtually all Warfighter objectives were successfully achieved."

Supporting the launch from Huntsville, Ala., were members of SMDC assigned to the Reagan Operations Center – Huntsville, or ROC-H. Soldiers and civilians assigned to the ROC-H control sensors at the RTS.

ROC-H is the command and control facility for missile defense testing and for space operations at RTS despite being more than 6,500 miles from Kwajalein.

"The mission was a resounding success by the RTS team," said Timothy E. Kirchner, RTS technical director. "RTS served as the target lead range, providing support for infrastructure and logistics, flight and ground safety, instrumentation for tracking and data recording including radar, telemetry, optical tracking systems.

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USSTRATCOM commander visits SMDC

Jason B. Cutshaw
SMDC Public Affairs

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala. – Members of U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command welcomed the U.S. Strategic Command's commander on his trip to Redstone Arsenal June 20 for his first official visit.

Navy Adm. Cecil D. Haney, USSTRATCOM commander, visited USASMDC/ARSTRAT for a command overview and to meet key members of the command.

"I am always delighted to get around and see the folks who are doing the important work of United States Strategic Command," Haney said.

Haney is responsible for the global command and control of U.S. strategic forces to meet decisive national security objectives. USSTRATCOM is one of nine unified combatant commands (COCOMs) of the Department of Defense and provides a broad range of strategic capabilities and options for the president and secretary of defense.

The ARSTRAT serves as the Army Service Component Command to USSTRATCOM. ARSTRAT conducts space and missile defense operations and provides planning, integration, control and coordination of Army forces and capabilities in support of USSTRATCOM missions (strategic deterrence, integrated missile defense, space operations and cyberspace operations); serves as the Army specified proponent for space, high altitude, and ground-based midcourse defense; serves as the Army operational integrator



Photo by Jason B. Cutshaw

Navy Adm. Cecil Haney, commander of U.S. Strategic Command, shakes hands with Margaret Tam, a graduate student at the University of Texas, who started at the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command Concepts Analysis Laboratory on June 9 via the Department of Defense's Science, Mathematics and Research for Transformation program. Haney visited USASMDC/ARSTRAT's Redstone Arsenal, Ala., headquarters June 20.

for global missile defense; and conducts mission-related research and development in support of Army Title 10 responsibilities.

In his other hat as the commander for the Joint Functional Component Command for Integrated Missile Defense, Lt. Gen. David L. Mann, provides the USSTRATCOM commander with synchronized missile defense plans, conducts ballistic missile defense (BMD) operations support, and advocates for missile defense capabilities in support of USSTRATCOM, other COCOMs, the services and appropriate U.S. government agencies to deter and defend the United States, deployed forces and its allies against ballistic missile attacks.

Upon his arrival at Redstone Ar-

senal, Haney was greeted by Mann and other SMDC leaders who welcomed him to the command headquarters. Haney then visited the Concepts Analysis Laboratory (CAL) where he learned about how the command trains college students and future engineers.

"It was a real treat for us to present our work to Admiral Haney," said Kevin Nash, CAL supervisor. "Our students and young engineers and scientists were honored to get to speak with him and to share their experiences of coming through our development program. I really believe encounters like this with Army and DoD leadership strengthen their morale and commitment to

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SMDC Soldiers compete to be named 'Best Warrior'

Dottie White
SMDC Public Affairs

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. – U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command held this year's Best Warrior competition June 23-26 at Fort Carson, Colo., and Peterson Air Force Base.

The overall command winners are Staff Sgt. Brian D. Hester, Charlie Detachment, 1st Space Company, 1st Space Battalion, 1st Space Brigade, Osan Air Base, Korea; and Pfc. Chase M. Teats, Bravo Company, 53rd Signal Battalion, Fort Meade, Md.

Hester, a Waterford, Mich., native, currently serves as a joint tactical army ground station (JTAGS) operator, who provides early warning theater missile intelligence to the global combatant commanders in real time.

Teats, a Harrisburg, Va., native, is a satellite systems operator maintainer and a satellite systems network coordinator. His job is to provide 24/7 vital real time strategic and tactical communications to the entire department of defense, international agencies, and external government agencies.

Command Sgt. Maj. James Ross, USASMD/ARSTRAT command sergeant major, said the competition is a six-month process.

"We have unit leaders in our locations across the globe identify their top Soldiers," Ross said. "They start preparing them to compete at the unit level. From there they move on to the regional competitions. From there, we bring the winners to Colorado Springs where they compete in



Photo by Stephanie Chrisley

Pfc. Chase M. Teats, Bravo Company, 53rd Signal Battalion, reaches the half-way point of a 12-mile ruck march during the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command's Best Warrior Competition June 23-26 at Fort Carson, Colo.

a very intense competition."

The competition consisted of the Army Physical Fitness Test, day and night urban orienteering, Army warrior tasks and battle drills, a 12-mile ruck march, M9 pistol and M4 rifle weapons qualification.

They also were tasked with a written common Soldier knowledge examination, a written essay, and appearance in front of a board consisting of command sergeants major from across SMDC.

"Ultimately, what we were able to do this week was identify our top two warriors," Ross said. "We are going to invest a lot of time in preparing them during a train-up between now and October for the

Department of Army competition."

Hester and Teats will represent the command in the Headquarters DA Best Warrior Competition in Fort Lee, Va., in October.

Hester, who competed in last year's DA Best Warrior Competition, said he knows what it takes to compete as a noncommissioned officer.

"I am looking forward to competing again and getting the space name out there because not a lot of people know what we do or what USASMD/ARSTRAT is in general," Hester said about the upcoming competition. "So with kind of being the underdogs, I look forward to being able to show them what we can do and either win it or place very high this year no questions asked.

"I will take what I learned last year, and pass it along to Teats and ensure he knows a little about what's going on," Hester continued. "Also, I will continue to train and study real hard to make sure I am prepared. I plan on going back with a vengeance this year."

Teats who is new to the competition is looking forward to what lies ahead.

"I am looking forward to learning new skills, training hard and getting ready to compete at the highest level," said Teats.

"We are fully confident that these Soldiers will represent the command at the Army Best Warrior competition in Fort Lee in a positive manner, and I have no doubt that they will be ready to go," Ross said.

Both Hester and Teats will receive Army Commendation Medals by the command and will be formally recognized at a ceremony at a later date.

ROC-H to support new Space Fence

Jason B. Cutshaw
SMDC Public Affairs

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala. – The Air Force awarded a \$914.7 million contract to Lockheed Martin, June 2 to develop a Space Fence system that will track objects in Earth’s orbit with far greater confidence and fidelity. This system is an attempt to avoid collisions in space by more accurately tracking bits of space debris orbiting the Earth with a goal of reaching operational capability in late 2018.

The Space Fence is an S-band radar that will be located on the U.S. Army Garrison Kwajalein Atoll, Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Space Fence Operations Center will be co-located at Reagan Test Site (RTS) Operation Center in Huntsville (ROC-H). The Space Fence will replace the Air Force Space Surveillance System, or AFSSS, which has been in service since 1961 and could track about 20,000 objects before being shut down last year.

The Space Fence will expand that to 100,000 objects or more by using two strategically placed ground radars, with the first one to be located on Kwajalein and the second to be located in Australia if further procurement allows for it.

“Kwajalein’s proximity to the equator is important for the Space Fence as it relates to Space Situational Awareness,” said Maj. Christopher L. Fairley, ROC-H Space Operations Officer. “The radar is stationary and looks straight up for space objects. As the earth rotates over a 24-hour period it creates a wide angle ‘fence’ that



Courtesy photo

A look at the Space Fence control center as the U.S. Air Force awarded the contract for its Space Fence program to Lockheed Martin June 2.

will track softball sized objects in Low and Medium earth orbits.”

Fairley said the Space Fence radar operates in the S-band frequency spectrum which provides more fidelity at Low Earth Orbit and Medium Earth Orbit ranges than what the old AFSSS used. The radars will cover enough continuous area to effectively create a “fence” through which orbiting objects will pass.

He talked about the importance of the Space Fence and what it means for future U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command and ROC-H operations.

“Reagan Test Site does many things for many customers with respect to research and development and critical missile tests, but we also support an ongoing 24/7 Army Space Surveillance Mission which supports the war fighter by protecting Space assets that are depended upon to support operations in the

field at strategic, operational, and tactical levels. Hosting the Space Fence at Kwajalein enhances this important Space mission support,” Fairley said. “One of our SMDC deliverables in operations is to provide space tracking and space situational awareness capabilities to U.S. Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM). The Air Force Space Fence, working in concert with RTS radars, will enhance all of that space tracking support to USSTRATCOM.

“Furthermore, we have a long history of partnership with the Air Force on programs that support national defense and this will only strengthen our relationship,” he added.

The radars and capabilities at RTS include: ALTAIR (UHF/VHF), TRADEX (S and L band), MMW (Ka band), ALCOR (C-band), and a suite of telemetry, optics, flight

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G-3 TREX demonstrates space kits

Capt. Alexander Urosevich
SMDC G-3 TREX

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. – The U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command recently demonstrated Army Space Training Strategy, or ASTS, space kits to support personnel from U.S. Army Africa, or USARAF.

The command's G-3 Training Readiness Exercise Division, or TREX, worked with U.S. Africa Command, or AFRICOM, personnel May 6-7 while they worked to employ the kits in support of operational, exercise and training requirements in the AFRICOM area of responsibility.

G-3 TREX provided demonstrations of ASTS space kits 1, 2, and 3 during the visit to support discussions on the ASTS and facilitate demonstrations of normal, enhanced, and contested space environments.



Courtesy photo

Soldiers and civilians from the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command's G-3 Training Readiness Exercise, or TREX, Division observe the display of a space-enabled situational awareness tool during a demonstration of space capabilities to U.S. Army Africa Soldiers May 6-7.

Demonstrations with the three kits included: space tablets (with accompanying space education and applications), space-enabled friendly-force tracking equipment, and a contested space environment

simulator to emulate GPS jamming. Additionally, G-3 TREX demonstrated two space-enabled situational awareness tools that leverage a wide array of sensor payloads to provide Warfighters with increased situational awareness in austere environments.

The USARAF team, no stranger to ASTS, leveraged enhanced space concepts from Space Kit 2 to support a joint exercise in AFRICOM earlier this year. The success of the enhanced space support to the joint exercise, as well as demonstrations received during USARAF's latest visit to Colorado Springs, further the successes of ASTS initiatives and implementation efforts.

G-3 TREX continues to stay integrated with, and ready to support, USARAF operational, exercise and training requirements.

For more information on the Army Space Training Strategy and space kits, e-mail Robert.B.Maurio.mil@mail.mil.

SMDC Directed Energy chief scientist retires after 42 years



Photo by Jason B. Cutshaw

Richard P. DeFatta, director, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command Technical Center Emerging Technology Directorate, pins a retirement pin on Dr. Brian R. Strickland, Directed Energy Applications chief scientist, USASMDC/ARSTRAT Tech Center, during a ceremony June 23 at Redstone Arsenal. Strickland began his career with the Army as a cooperative education student in May 1972.

New safety director spends last day at SMDC talking safety

Scott Andreae
USASMDC/ARSTRAT SIG

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. – The Soldier slated to become director of Army safety delivered a strong message to members of his current command: “Think and apply self discipline to keep you and your family out of harm’s way.”

When Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Farnsworth talked to Soldiers, civilians and contractor employees June 12, he was the deputy commanding general for operations for the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command stationed at Peterson Air Force Base. Later in the day, Farnsworth departed to Fort Rucker, Ala., for his next assignment as director of Army safety and commander of the Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center.

“We’re all one team,” he said at the Safety Stand-Down Day for the command’s operational headquarters in Colorado Springs. “The health of the force depends on all of us.”

The event featured information tables and demonstrations from about 20 public safety agencies and companies.

Farnsworth noted that the summer season is the most dangerous, due to longer daylight hours and increased recreational activities such as boating, outdoor cooking and vacation traveling.

Personal motor vehicle accidents,



Photo by Dottie White

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey A. Farnsworth delivers Safety Stand-Down Day remarks June 12 to employees of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. That same day, he departed to become director of Army safety and commanding general of the Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center at Fort Rucker, Ala.

including motorcycles, continue to be the leading cause of fatalities for Soldiers and Army civilians. Contributing factors in this category are risky behavior, traveling at high speed, and drinking and driving, Farnsworth said.

An important step is to identify people at high risk and apply mentoring and leadership, he said. Be sure to factor in risk mitigation and think ahead of time, he added.

“Safety is a philosophy of life,” he said. “You have to have the self-discipline to factor it into everything you do.”

In the exhibit area, keeping animal companions safe during the summer was the focus of information provided by Sgt. 1st Class Frances Drumm, a member of the 100th

Missile Defense Brigade.

Her recommendations for pet owners: Have an evacuation kit on hand with leashes, food, water, bowls, toys and a crate or carrier for the animal. Take photos of pets and give them identifying microchips in case they run away or get lost. Always remove animals from parked vehicles, especially in hot or cold weather.

“Seventy-five degrees outdoors can become 108 degrees in a vehicle very quickly,” Drumm said.

Farnsworth used the occasion to deliver some parting remarks to the command’s workforce.

“You’re a great team of talent, expertise and dedication,” he said. “I look forward to seeing you again, perhaps. Lightning may strike.”

Deadline for comments and submissions for the July 17 issue is July 11.

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

53rd Signal Batt. Soldiers complete Army warrior tasks, conducts CBRN training



A Company, 53rd Signal Battalion (Satellite Control) Soldiers conduct Army warrior tasks and battle drills at the Frederick Police Station military operations on urban terrain (MOUT) site in Frederick, Md., June 17-18. The training included a three-lane range consisting of a react to contact, improvised explosive device drills, key leader engagements and MOUT training. The range re-enforced the SATCON Soldiers' Army warrior tasks to give them confidence in their squad's.

Courtesy photos



A Company, 53rd Signal Battalion (Satellite Control) Soldiers conducted a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear, or CBRN, defense exercise at Fort Meade, Md., June 10-12. Instructors provided a class on proper procedures used in a CBRN attack scenario, decontamination and vapor testing with M256 chemical agent detector kits. The exercise culminated with a testing of each Soldier's gas masks in a gas chamber. Alpha Company Soldiers conducted a land navigation exercise following this to validate their navigation skills.

SMDC CG speaks at law enforcement graduation

Carrie E. David
SMDC Public Affairs

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. – The commanding general of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command's spoke recently to a group of men and women who are serving their community and country in a different way than he does.

Lt. Gen. David L. Mann, USASMD/ARSTRAT comming general, was the guest speaker at the Huntsville Police Academy's 53rd Session Basic Class graduation at Columbia High School June 20.

"To the newest members of the Huntsville Police Department: congratulations, and well done," Mann said. "Frankly, and I mean this very sincerely, I view police officers as heroes. And I mean that. I want to say thank you for what you do on behalf of me and my family and all the families of this great community.

"I think there are a lot of similarities between being a Soldier and serving as a police officer," Mann continued. "Especially when you consider the values we share. There's a strong correlation between our chosen professions."

Twenty-five men and women graduated to become Huntsville police officers. They are: Joseph Batten, Jonathan Boyd, Tony Bryant, Dustin Clark, Craig Delgado,



Photo by Carrie E. David

Lt. Gen. David L. Mann, commanding general, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, speaks to the graduating class of the Huntsville Police Academy's 53rd Session and guests at Columbia High School June 20.

Zane Dutton, Jeffery Franks, William Frost, Gerald Gambino, Thomas Gargulinski, Lee Glaser, Kylene Gross, Eric Kuhnkey, Aimee McAlister, Paul Nordan, April Payne, Allison Peterson, Brett Ramsey, Mercedes Rugart, Hudson Slater, Jason Toney, Matthew Troncone, James Umoeka III, Jason Vanderbrink and Timothy Welch.

"Today each of you is going to take an oath to protect and defend this great community," Mann said about their future endeavors. "That oath is to serve a greater purpose and to live up to your core values of

professionalism and accountability. "You should be proud of yourselves. Take pride in the fact that very few folks could have made it through the training that you went through," he added. "There's an old military expression – many wish to be like you but few compete and far fewer succeed. On behalf of an old Soldier and a member of this community, thank you so very much."

The class' training lasted from Feb. 17 to June 20, and their class motto is "Never Settle; Strive for Perfection."

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History: Kwajalein test site celebrates 50 years with SMDC

Sharon Watkins Lang
SMDC command historian

The first day of fiscal year 1965 brought great change to Kwajalein as the operations and facilities were formally transferred from the U.S. Navy to the U.S. Army; specifically the NIKE-X Project Office.

The event was marked by a short ceremony held July 1, 1964, near the chapel, with a Navy band and a Marine Corps color guard. Headed by Navy Capt. H. D. Allen, the Navy staff attended in their starched white uniforms.

Meanwhile, Army Col. Glen Crane, incoming Kwajalein commander, and his boss, Col. Ivey O. Drewry, NIKE-X project manager, dressed in khaki represented the Army. The ceremony officially decommissioned the island, the Kwajalein Pacific Missile Range Facility, for the Navy and signaled the assumption of command by Crane of the renamed Kwajalein Test Site (KTS).

The ceremony marked the conclusion of a transition implemented by Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara in a Nov. 16, 1963, memorandum to the services. As a result of a special study of duplication and excess in Department of Defense test facilities, it was determined that the Army as the primary user of the facility should assume responsibility for the range.

Despite objections from both the Army and the Navy, McNamara held that, “inter-service jurisdictional boundaries should be avoided in any situation wherein range services are consumed by a single Service.”



File photo

A July 1, 1964 edition of the Kwajalein Hourglass signifying the transfer of control from the Navy to the Army.

Commending the Navy for, “excellent performance under difficult conditions in its management of PMR,” the secretary concluded, “It is appropriate to place this burden on the consumer of range services and to enable them to control the resources essential to support of their own operations.”

As KTS was to be funded through the Project Office’s Research, Development, Test and Evaluation appropriations, every effort was made to streamline operations. Funds spent on infrastructure were a decrement to mission development. In the proposed operational plan, NIKE-X officials proposed a government owned, contractor operated (GOCO) organization.

As Crane had recommended in February 1964, “in the concept of management, I envisage, the Kwajalein site as an isolated, special research and development site, housing a civilian community with research and development contractor engineers and technicians, supported by other contractors. The initial package would be managed

by a small military and department of the army civilian staff in key positions.”

Under the Army’s operations plan, 86 personnel would be involved in the management and operations of Kwajalein. Of this number, 45 (23 military and 22 civil service) would be required on Kwajalein.

On the island, the Navy began a phased transition in May 1964 with operations transferring to Army or contractor personnel or temporarily suspended. Although the primary contractors remained unchanged, the transition was met with some trepidation by the island’s 3,500 residents.

In an open letter published in Kwajalein’s *The Hourglass* on July 1, Drewry noted “Today we have a very fine installation that is well equipped and staffed by some of our country’s best qualified technical people. That is the way it will remain. There is no reason for concern over changes resulting from the Army assumption of administration. Buses will run on the same schedules, Macy’s will open as usual, and primarily everything will be directed toward getting our mission accomplished, That is – developing and testing the NIKE-X weapon system.”

“My thanks and confidence remain with you,” Drewry concluded.

In the subsequent 50 years of operation, the NIKE-X Project Office and its successors to include the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command have continued to successfully execute the mission providing missile defense and space systems to the Warfighter.

CSM Fahie receives NCO sword



Photo by Sgt. Christianna Sappa

The 1st Space Brigade's new senior enlisted leader, Command Sgt. Maj. Norriell Fahie, receives the noncommissioned officer sword from Col. James Meisinger at a June 6 Change of Responsibility at the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command's Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., headquarters. Outgoing Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Eagan is at center.

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termination systems, and C-band beacon tracking radars.

“The Air Force Space Fence will greatly improve space situational awareness and add to Kwajalein’s world class suite of sensors and instrumentation that are vital to our national security,” Fairley said.

The program has been in the works since 2009, when the Air Force awarded three concept development contracts. The Air Force awarded the Space Fence contract to Lockheed Martin with a projected initial operational capability in fiscal year 2019. Additionally, the contract includes an option for procuring a second radar site on Australia.

“When Space Fence reaches its full operational capability it will have two geographically dispersed sites located on Kwaj and Australia,” Fairley said. “This will improve space object detection and space event and launch detection timelines. Although this program is funded by the Air Force we will have to coordinate and provide support because the Space Fence Operating Center is co-locating with our Space Operation Center.

“Additionally, the Space Fence radar will be emplaced on Kwajalein requiring even more coordination,” he

added. “RTS is a charter member of the Site Activation Task Force working group with the Air Force Space Fence Program Office and meet frequently to iron out any issues dealing with construction, land, facilities, environmental, estimates and etc...”

NASA estimates that there are approximately 500,000 objects in orbit, ranging from full-size satellites to centimeter-sized debris. Space junk is a big worry for the Air Force, NASA and other agencies that rely on satellite communications.

“Look at this through strategic glasses or holistically first, virtually everything we do in the world today involves space; cable TV, satellite radio, GPS, banking transactions, finances, the stock market, internet and of course, military and defense are only a few,” Fairley said. “Furthermore, space is becoming contested, congested and competitive, and orbital collisions and the potential for collisions are increasing,” Fairley said. “With predictions and early warning, we can mitigate collisions by performing avoidance maneuvers or notify satellite owners in order to save satellites,” he added. “From a Warfighter perspective it preserves and protects space capabilities the Warfighter needs.”

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“RTS performed command and control of the RTS support for the mission from the ROC-H with a highly skilled government and contractor technical work force,” he added. “The success of RTS was due to the dedicated efforts by the entire RTS team of professionals who worked tirelessly to ensure every detail of the mission was planned and rehearsed and that the instrumentation was upgraded and maintained appropriately to ensure success.”

About six minutes after target launch, the ground-based interceptor was launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. A three-stage booster rocket system propelled the interceptor’s CE II exoatmospheric kill vehicle, or EKV, into the target missile’s projected trajectory in space. The kill vehicle maneuvered to the target, performed discrimination, and intercepted the threat warhead with “hit to kill” technology, using only the force of the direct collision between the interceptor and the target to pulverize the target warhead.

An operational crew of Soldiers from the 100th Missile Defense Brigade (GMD), located at Schriever Air Force Base, Colo., remotely launched the interceptor.

As a subordinate unit of SMDC/ARSTRAT, the 100th Missile Defense Brigade is a multi-component (active component and Army National Guard) unit that operates the Ground-based Midcourse Defense fire control system, provides positive operational control of interceptors at Fort Greely, Alaska, and Vandenberg Air Force Base, and ensures the protective security of the Fort Greely missile



U.S. Army photo

Kwajalein Atoll, Republic of the Marshall Islands, located 2,300 miles southwest of Hawaii, houses sensors of the Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site (RTS) and they are controlled at the RTS Operations Center in Huntsville (ROC-H).

defense complex.

“The recent Ground-based Midcourse Defense intercept test represents yet another important benchmark for the 100th Missile Defense Brigade,” said Col. Edward E. Hildreth III, 100th MDB commander. “It reinforced key mission command functions supporting USNORTHCOM and confidence in the performance of our no fail mission of defending the homeland against a limited ICBM attack.”

The brigade Missile Defense Element (MDE), located at Schriever Air Force Base, is essentially the same as the Fire Direction Center (FDC) at the 49th Missile Defense Battalion. The MDE and FDC are the locations where the GMD fire control workstations are located, thus that is where the missile defense crews are located.

During the flight test, the on-duty senior tactical director said, as one of 10 missile defense directors, he

felt that every successful flight test builds confidence and trust with the interceptors they use to defend the nation against ballistic missile attack. It reaffirms that the GMD system is reliable and will ultimately enable them to accomplish their mission of protecting families, friends and fellow Americans.

The director said the skills his crew members possess, coupled with their close relationship with USNORTHCOM and the developmental community allows the unit to defend the nation 24/7/365 in perpetuity.

“I am extremely proud of our Missile Defense Element crews,” Hildreth said. “The Charlie Crew senior tactical director and his Charlie crew performed flawlessly. Frankly, we could have plugged in any one of our five MDE crews to support the test and we would have achieved the same results. It is a testimony to their collective crew skills and readiness.”

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the DoD, and I think maybe those leaders leave our lab feeling rejuvenated and optimistic about what we are doing here, as well.”

Haney was then escorted to the Future Warfare Center’s Joint Air Defense Operations Center-Developmental, or JADOC-D, to see what SMDC does to support and protect the National Capital Region.

“The SMDC Battle Lab provides sustainment engineering in conjunction with the multiple system program offices to ensure the air defense task force at the National Capital always has a fully functional system to perform its mission,” said David Cox, SMDC Integrated Missile Defense Division chief.

Haney was briefed on the overall importance of the command’s mission and how the command’s Technical and Future Warfare Centers coordinate and develop current and future technologies.

“This is my first visit to SMDC headquarters in Huntsville, and I have been impressed with the professionalism of the Soldiers and civilians,” Haney said. “The Technical Center’s Concepts Analysis Laboratory and the Future Warfare Center’s Joint Air Defense Operations Center are critical to SMDC/ARSTRAT’s support of USSTRATCOM on a daily basis.”

As the visit to the command headquarters ended, SMDC’s senior civilian leader reiterated the importance of the admiral’s time.

“The visit is important for Admiral Haney to gain an in-depth view of the command as it relates to our entire suite of space and missile defense capabilities to strengthen the already strong relationship between SMDC and USSTRATCOM,” said

Ronald E. Chronister, SMDC deputy to the commander. “We appreciated the opportunity to talk with Adm. Haney about the space and missile defense capabilities this command provides to USSTRATCOM and COCOMs and the significant role they play in the defense of our nation and our allies.”

After lunch and an award ceremony, Haney then travelled to the Reagan Operations Center – Huntsville, or ROC-H, to visit with Soldiers and civilians who control the Reagan Test Site located at U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll in the Republic of the Marshall Islands and its mission of monitoring space and missile operations.

“We want to inform Admiral Haney about what ROC-H and the Reagan Test Site allows us to do,” said Tom Webber, director, SMDC Technical Center’s Space and Cyberspace Technology Directorate. “They allow us to have command and control and be more available to our customers who are mostly located stateside. It also gives us the ability to not only control the radars and other assets, but allows us to save money.”

Haney received a briefing on ROC-H operations, learning of the many ways the facility provides up-to-date information for the nation’s space warriors. The center also provides SMDC with the tools to remain the Army’s operational integrator and force modernization proponent for space, global missile defense, high altitude and related technologies.

Haney talked about his impressions of the Reagan Operations Center and what the facility provides to STRATCOM and to nation-

al defense.

“It was great to see firsthand how the ROC-H has transformed the Reagan Test Site in the Marshall Islands from a locally operated range to a globally operated national asset,” Haney said. “Since coming on line in 2012, ROC-H has been the command and control facility for missile defense testing and for space operations despite being more than 6,500 miles from the Kwajalein Islands. The ROC-H operates a national missile defense test range and conducts operational space surveillance with precision and accuracy, all from an extreme distance from the range.”

Before leaving, Haney took a moment to show his appreciation for what the Soldiers and civilians at SMDC do for the defense of the country.

“Every single day you do important work for the entire joint team, and I could not be more proud to lead you,” Haney said. “The Soldiers and civilians assigned here do a critical job for the nation. Missile defense and space activities are of growing importance to our joint military forces, and are critical to our warfighting activities and our national security. While we will continue to face threats from ballistic missiles and proliferation of ballistic missile technology, your work in missile defense is a critical part of how we combat those threats and reassure our allies. What you do keeps our nation safe, and I thank you for your professionalism.”

“Thanks for what you and your families do for our nation,” Haney added. “I appreciate your service to our country and urge all to keep up the great work.”

SMDC gets combative



Photos by Jason B. Cutshaw

Staff Sgt. John Schaefer, enlisted aide to command sergeant major of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, instructs Lt. Col. Christopher D. Marchetti, executive officer for USASMDC/ARSTRAT commanding general, left, and Lt. Col. Corey Robinson, deputy chief of staff G-1, during the command's combatives class June 18.



U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command Soldiers during the command's combatives class June 18.

SMDC remembers former union president

**Vicki Fuller and
Thea Stewart
AFGE Local 1858**

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala. – Jim Brothers, a former president of AFGE Local 1858, died June 11 in Gulfport, Miss., He was 78.

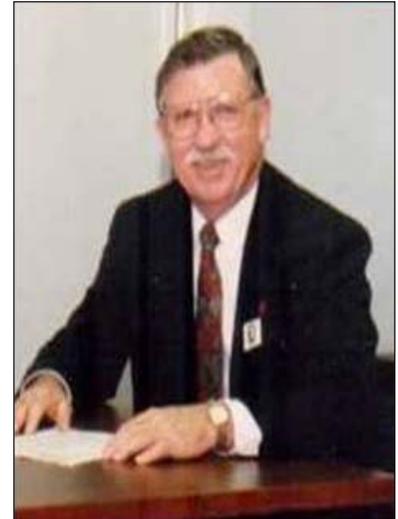
Brothers was buried in Albertville June 17.

Brothers became a government employee with Tennessee Valley Authority in 1978.

In 1986, went to work for the then Strategic Defense Command as a general engineer. Brothers retired from the government in June 2005 and moved to Foley, then later returned to his hometown of Albertville after the death of his wife, Loretta.

In 1987, Brothers became a member of the American Federation of Government Employees Local 1858. He then moved up the ranks from U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command vice president of the professional unit, to executive vice president, and then to union president in 1993. He served in this capacity until 2003.

Brothers helped start partnership councils throughout the various commands that AFGE Local 1858 represents. USASMDC/ARSTRAT was



Courtesy photo

Jim Brothers, shown during his time as president of the American Federation of Government Employees Local 1858 from 1993 until 2003. Brothers died June 11.

the first partnership council with AFGE Local 1858.

He helped establishing collaborative partnering with-in SMDC. He negotiate for a satellite office (a designated office space for union representation) which allows SMDC bargaining unit employees to meet with their AFGE representatives on site.

Brothers led the formation of the laboratory demonstration that was negotiated with the union and the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center.

In addition, Brothers was also able to negotiate with management an alternative work schedule for Redstone Arsenal employees.