



# S M D C / A R S T R A T



Good afternoon. Is this a Hooah day in Huntsville Alabama or what? It's my honor to be here to talk to you today, representing the men and women of U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command / Army Forces Strategic Command.

First, I'd like to thank you and the Rotary Club for all that you do for our community. I believe, the Rotary Club shares a common value with those who serve in the profession of arms, that being a belief in a commitment to Service Above Self.

My wife Diane is a teacher, so I'm particularly impressed by the results of your STRIVE Program. The fact that almost half your members (175) are currently mentoring 209 at risk students at Butler and Lee High Schools is a commendable achievement.

Before talking about SMD C / ARSTRAT, I'd like to talk with you about three groups of people who are very important to me: First Soldiers, second Veterans – thank you for your service, and then the Community – represented by many of you.

First, our Soldiers: Today, more than 228,000 Active, Guard, and Reserve Soldiers are deployed or forward stationed in many countries around the world doing our nation's business. Soldiers and Civilians serve with distinction, whenever and wherever they are needed – making enormous contributions vital to our Nation's security. They fight with courage and valor at the forefront of this war against global terrorism. We appreciate and value the service and sacrifice of our Soldiers, and the sacrifices of their supporting and caring Families.



# S M D C / A R S T R A T



In August, I visited several of our Warriors recovering at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Last week I visited several more of our Warriors recovering at Bethesda Medical Center. Those Soldiers that I visited inspire awe. They are incredible examples of courage, dedication, and selfless service. Despite their circumstances not one of them complained – they were proud of their service and understood the meaning of sacrifice. It's to these Soldiers – and those still serving in harm's way and around the globe that we're committed providing space and missile defense capabilities. Thank you to our Soldiers.

Second, our Veterans: Veterans are an integral element in the fabric of our community – in local communities all across America, and they are visible reminders of service, patriotism, and enduring commitment to our Nation's values. They're active in our community – we see them at Memorial Day, on Veterans Day at 4th of July celebrations and at events like these. We see them at military funerals – paying respect to our fallen.

We are thankful for their service and so pleased with their continued involvement in our lives. If you're a Veteran, will you please stand up so that we can recognize you? To each of you who stood and those who served alongside you, thank you for your service.

Thirdly, Our Community: Many of you represent the community here in Huntsville. Communities across America demonstrate an outpouring of support to our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Coast Guardsmen, and Civilians who serve today. Communities are the life lines to Families separated by numerous deployments. Support from our communities is important and appreciated. One of the things I've realized these past few



# SMDC / ARSTRAT



years is that America has learned to say Thank You again. As I travel around the country, I proudly wear my uniform – and the outpouring of support and gratitude I get from our citizens is simply overwhelming.

On September 11<sup>th</sup>, my wife Diane and I had the honor of participating in a ceremony in Jacksonville Alabama. Members of the local community had gathered to honor the memory of MAJ Dwayne Williams, one of the 125 people who died at the Pentagon, as well as all other Alabamians who have died in Iraq and Afghanistan during these past ten years of persistent conflict. The strong community outpouring of support, both in Jacksonville Alabama, and here in Huntsville, where numerous 9/11 remembrances were held; speaks volumes. You all represent that community support, and I thank you.

Now let me talk a little bit about SMDC/ARSTRAT...

First slide please.