



# SMDC / ARSTRAT



LTG Formica's Remarks  
Wideband Satellite Communication Operation Center Dedication  
10 a.m., February 23, 2011  
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBHH), Wahiawa Annex

Recognitions: (Deleted)

Aloha! G-Day! Is this a Hooah Day in Wahiawa or what? I'm honored to be here today, representing the Soldiers and Civilians of USASMDC/ARSTRAT, to dedicate our military's newest Wideband SATCOM Operations Center. This dedication culminates years of planning and teamwork by a number of people, from all services. We are particularly grateful to the U.S. Navy's Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station (NCTAMS) 'nic tams' – Pacific for partnering with us as important tenants on this installation. We will be responsible and cooperative tenants and we look forward to a long partnership here at Wahiawa Annex.

Today represents an important milestone in our Command's core task to provide trained and ready space and missile defense forces and capabilities to our Combatant Commanders and Warfighters. We replaced the 1980s-era satellite control capability located at Camp Roberts, California with this state-of-the-art

\$25.3 million facility here at Wahiawa. This enables the best support and coverage for PACOM Theater Wideband SATCOM requirements. Wahiawa is the first of four new Wideband Satellite Communications Operations Center Control facilities. Based on this Center's design, we will be replacing our remaining three legacy Wideband Operations Centers over the next three years.

Many of you may already be familiar with the SATCOM mission, but let me take a few minutes to talk about the importance of this operations center.

USASMDC/ARSTRAT is responsible for providing military communications to troops deployed at forward stations throughout the Geographic Combatant Commands; including PACOM. The Air Force maintains the health of our Wideband Global Satellites and the constellation of our Defense Satellite Communications System. SMDC provides 24/7/365 operations of our Regional SATCOM Support Centers and our new Wideband Global SATCOM Ops Centers managing the payloads and providing critical communications, navigation, and other space based capabilities to the Warfighter. This is no small task, and our Soldiers and Civilians take pride in their ability to maintain the lifeline that secure communications bring to those serving in harm's way.

Inside this center, and within the wideband centers around the world, dedicated Soldiers, Civilians and Contractors will maintain the vast majority – virtually all – of the military's wide band satellite communications capacity.

Satellite capacity that's used to support U.S. combat forces in Iraq and Afghanistan, our fleet afloat and Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines stationed around the world who work daily to defend our great nation. With this new Ops Center, we'll work alongside 11 Australian service members who will be integrated into our team, as part of our bi-national partnership in the Wideband Global Satellite program.

The capabilities provided by the WGS constellation of satellites and this WSOC here at Wahiawa, provide high speed satellite communications support and improved communications control services to USPACOM. Also, because of Wahiawa's geographical location, this is the only WSOC capable of accessing the test slot for the new WGS satellites. This means the Payload Control Validation on all future WGS launches and testing of Satellite Control hardware and software will be done from here.

Let me close with some heartfelt thanks to those who worked hard to make this happen. The successful relocation of this facility resulted from the diligent and dedicated efforts of more than 35 organizations external to SMDC; including a substantial amount of effort by our hosts here at Wahiawa.

First, we'd like to thank USARPAC and its supporting organizations. Specifically, thank you to USARPAC's IMCOM-Pacific for providing the housing for our Soldiers and Civilians when we first began the project, and to USARPAC's

516th Signal Brigade for providing office space and network connectivity to our personnel during the early days of this effort. I'd also like to thank PM Command Center Upgrades (CCU) and PM Special Projects Office (SPO) who served as the project integrators. Thank you PM Defense Communications and Army Transmission Systems (DCATS) and PD Satellite Communications Systems (SCS) and their associated contractors – there was a lot of re-engineering and unique configurations required for this project.

To Headquarters Department of the Navy N5 and NCTAMS representatives here at Wahiawa, thank you again for your assistance in relocating this facility. Your help was invaluable. And finally, thanks to our Australian partners for joining us in this critical mission area.

Now let's dedicate this facility. Shortly, CSM Larry Turner, HQ USASMDC/ ARSTRAT, CSM James Ross, 1<sup>st</sup> Space Brigade, CSM Marcus Campbell, 53<sup>rd</sup> Signal Battalion, and Flight Sergeant Matthew Clarke; representing the Soldiers who will operate this WSOC, will untie the Maile Lei – formally dedicating the WSOC. Then COL Eric Henderson, Commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> Space Brigade, LTC Benjamin Jones, Commander of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Signal Battalion, and Captain Dan Zisk, will lead us on a tour of the facility. Army Strong! Hooah! Mahalo!