

The Eagle

United States Army Space and Missile Defense Command

Volume 10, Number 3, March 2003

Space wargame concludes

SCHRIEVER II tests essential space products

SCHRIEVER AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — A space wargame investigating the “outer limits” of possibilities and capabilities that can be leveraged by the Joint military community concluded Feb. 28.

The exercise, dubbed SCHRIEVER II, is the second of its kind to take place here and was hosted by the Air Force and included U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command assets and personnel.

“Opportunities such as the wargame SCHRIEVER II offered to examine our space concepts and requirements within the joint framework are invaluable,” said Brig. Gen. Richard V. Geraci, deputy commanding general for Operations, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command, and deputy commanding general, U.S. Army Space Command.

“A key goal of Army Space Command is to normalize space for the warfighter and to ensure that all its benefits are available to him when he needs them,” Geraci said. “Wargames such as this allow us to investigate and exchange positions and concepts and also allow us to brainstorm future possibilities. If there’s one

thing those of us who work with space have learned, it’s to stretch our imaginations. All agencies involved in this wargame will take away substantial lessons.”

An unclassified, publicly available executive summary of the wargame results will be published in approximately six months.

The futuristic wargame was set in the year 2017 and explored critical space issues in depth and examined the integration of space into the joint fight.

Wargame objectives focused on scrutinizing space capabilities within emerging transformational concepts, exploring the impacts of laws, policies and strategies on future space operations, and providing insights for effects-based acquisition.

Wargame details are classified, but the “game” was played out using the classic friendly “blue” force versus enemy “red” force scenario, against the backdrop of worldwide conflict that stressed space systems.

“We’re focused on how we can leverage space for the Objective Force,” Geraci said. “We were looking for ‘how to’

answers for the following requirements.”

These requirements were:

- Support increased deployability and reduced theater footprint.
- Enable situational understanding — “off the ramp” during entry operations.
- Support precision maneuver, fires, sustainment and information.
- Enable continuous information and decision superiority.
- Protect the force during all phases of the operation.

“We’re excited about the many things we learned during the wargame, and most importantly, by how we were able to test ourselves on those space operations essential tasks which are critical to the Army’s Objective Force,” Geraci said. “Performing those tasks correctly allows us to place the right soldiers, in the right numbers, in the right places with the best information, so they can hit the ground running. Space capabilities allow us to protect those soldiers with the best early missile warning, reliable communications and critical

information to sharpen our decision-making abilities, as well as precision maneuver and sustained fire capabilities.

“Wargames such as this, and the upcoming Army Transformation Wargame in April, allow us to test and determine the right Space requirements for our future Army,” Geraci said.

Luther Barbee, a civilian contractor for SMDC-FDIC who played an aggressor in the wargame, said, “From the Army viewpoint, we gained a lot of perspective into the four main space missions: space support, space control, force application and force enhancement.

“The value we’ve gained from this stresses how important it is to have the Army involved in future Space wargames,” Barbee said.

Air Force Space Command hosted the Feb. 20-28 wargame at Schriever Air Force Base. The first space wargame “SCHRIEVER 2001,” named in honor of retired General Bernard A. Schriever, was held at Schriever Air Force Base in January 2001 and was a significant success, highlighting the vulnerabilities of space systems to red forces.



Photo by Debra Valine

Saying goodbye

U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command will say farewell to Command Sgt. Maj. Wilbur V. Adams Jr. at a retirement ceremony March 17 in Arlington, Va. Adams leaves the Army after a 30-year career. He and his wife, Diane, will live in northern Virginia. For more on Adams and his career, see story on pages 8 and 9.

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The Command Corner



LTG Joseph M. Cosumano Jr.
Commanding General



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

Since the day when "Molly Pitcher" helped serve the guns at the Battle of Monmouth in the American Revolution, through the Persian Gulf War and today, American women have willingly responded to their country's call. No less than their male counterparts, their service has always been characterized by individual and collective acts of self-sacrifice, patriotism, dedication and personal heroism.

In the Civil War, women served as cooks and nurses, scouts and spies on both sides. They included Clara Barton, who went on to found the American Red Cross, and Dr. Mary Walker, the only woman in our Nation's history to be awarded the Medal of Honor.

During WWII, more than 200 military nurses were killed by hostile fire, including six Army Nurses who remain buried at the beachhead on Anzio. Eighty-one military women stayed behind on Bataan and Corregidor to care for the wounded during the fall of the Philippines. They would spend 37 months in prisoner of war camps. Nearly a thousand other women served as flight instructors, ferried airplanes from the United States to Europe, and even towed aerial targets so male fighter pilots could practice on a moving object while using live ammunition.

In Vietnam, women served in hospitals, MASH units and support areas across the country, and eight women were killed in action. By the time of the Persian Gulf War in 1991, more than 11 percent of the active duty military and 13 percent of the reserve forces were women. For the first time, they were called upon to man Patriot missile batteries, fly reconnaissance and search and rescue missions, drive cargo trucks and perform many other jobs, exposed to the same dangers as men. Close to 35,000 women served in the Persian Gulf. And even more women serve today, including throughout SMDC and ARSPACE.

From the Revolutionary War to the present, America's women veterans have been invisible heroines. This month we honor those American women who have served their country through military service. I encourage all members of the SMDC family to reflect on the contributions of women to our Army, and participate in the special events scheduled throughout the month to recognize their achievements and sacrifices.

SECURE THE HIGH GROUND!

As the armed forces of our nation prepare to defend and protect our vital interests and our citizens, we again look to our citizen soldiers and civilian counterparts to accomplish this monumental undertaking.

The Space and Missile Defense Command is prepared to secure the high ground, meet and exceed every challenge given to us, and we will achieve overwhelming success.

Under the command of LTG Cosumano, we will integrate ourselves into our forces and protect the warfighter: our sons, daughters, fathers, mothers, friends and neighbors.

As we prepare to link together state-of-the-art technologies, using satellite communications and world class missile warning capabilities, the common thread is and will continue to be our people. We eagerly await to provide an unprecedented level of situational awareness to battlefield operations. Because of our superior level of preparedness, our leadership and our people will win the day.

Our Army is strong. Our command is strong, prepared and ready. Our soldiers and civilian counterparts are the best, and are doing — and will continue to do — a great job for our country. We will support our maneuver forces with information superiority at a level where the maneuver forces will have more than a decisive advantage in the event of combat.

Let us never lose sight of these challenges, goals and objectives. Let every deployed member of our forces rest assured that we hold all of them in prayer, and wish for a speedy and safe return. LTG Cosumano and I can't be prouder, and can't thank you enough. God bless you, God bless our soldiers, God bless America.

PROUD TO BE HERE ... READY TO SERVE

*March is Women's History Month.
See stories on pages 7 and 15*

What We Think

The Eagle asks:

March is Women's History Month. Which woman do you admire most and why?



Jennifer L. Jones
OTII, Huntsville, Ala.
Co-op Student

The woman I admire most is my mother. First and foremost she is the reason I am here today. She has shown so many people throughout the years how they can succeed through adversity. She has given me and others aspiration to always to our best. Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines admirable as: deserving the highest esteem, and my mother truly deserves the highest esteem.



Kelly Terrell
Property Manager
CIMS Contract, SAIC

The woman I admire most is my mother. She is the funniest and most outgoing person I know. Her knowledge is overwhelming, her strength is greater than that. She has been through many trials in her life and emerges as well or better than she was. She is like the "Energizer Bunny" she just keeps going, and going."

The Eagle ... is an authorized unofficial newspaper published for military and civilian members of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command published under the authority of AR 360-1. The editorial style applies the industry standard Associated Press Stylebook. Contents of *The Eagle* are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, or U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command (SMDC). This monthly newspaper uses offset reproduction and has a circulation of 3,300. Reader input is solicited and welcomed; however, no payment will be made for such contributions. Visit SMDC on the Web at: www.smdc.army.mil.

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AKO keeps families in touch, securely

By Patrick Swan

Commentary

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) — Loose lips sink ships, but will errant e-mails strafe soldiers and their families?

It may all depend upon whom soldiers trust with information about themselves and their families when surfing the vast, anonymous, unsecure locale called the Internet.

We'd be rightly skeptical if we linked to a Web site offering support for U.S. military families with emergency notifications — but which was run by Osama bin Laden's operatives.

But what if the Web site with such a service seemed innocuous enough — with good, red-blooded American names and addresses listed in its "Contact Us" button?

And what if the organization offering this service couched its request in noble-sounding, patriotic, rally-around-the-flag sentiments? You know the kind: "We help our dedicated military people and their concerned loved ones stay in

touch in uncertain times as these."

You just might be persuaded to submit your soldier's name, address, social security number — or your family member's names and addresses and other Privacy Act Information.

Such an Internet-based organization may or may not be legitimate. But to borrow a phrase from a typical site's pitch, in these "uncertain times," why take the chance?

After all, any information provided to such sites could be used for identity theft, intelligence gathering by foreign nations or terrorists, or pose other threats to service members, their families and their privacy.

Indeed, why take any such chance when the Army is already offering a Web site to keep soldiers and families connected when separated by a deployment. That place is

Army Knowledge Online, www.us.army.mil. AKO allows family members the ability to rapidly access general-level knowledge about the Army and their soldiers across a secure communications channel. Translation: It keeps the bad guys from getting your personal information while it helps you keep in touch with those you love in uniform.

AKO is a cyber-space example of its familiar credo: The Army takes care of its own. Hence, every family member of a soldier is eligible for an AKO account/e-mail address. All family members have to do to get one is sign in as a new user and request a guest account. Soldiers serve as the sponsors and once they approve the family member's request, they are re-connected in a trusted sector of cyber space. They can exchange e-mail, chat online, engage in instant messaging. They can even post photos or personal information in a secure individual knowledge center on AKO that only the soldier and family can access.

A soldier from the Oklahoma Army National Guard recently wrote that a friend at work has a son who just joined the Army.

"She didn't know how to contact him via e-mail," said 1st Lt. Benjamin J. Weiss. "I was able to go onto the white pages in AKO and find his e-mail address. He's at Fort Carson, Colo., getting ready to head overseas."

And because his mother only has to know one, lifetime e-mail address for her soldier-son, she can stay in touch, even when he is far away. That makes her very happy when she could be heart-sick and worried.

Clearly, not every Web site claiming to "support the troops" is a security risk for the soldier and family member. But thanks to AKO's ability to keep the Army family connected, we don't ever have to find out, either. That's worth a world of peace of mind.

(Patrick Swan is a public affairs liaison with the Army's Chief Information Office/G-6 in the Pentagon.)

Camel tamers

1st Lt. Angela Johnson, right, attempts to adapt to local culture. Achmed, a very angry camel, thwarted her efforts. Sgt. Sabrina Bannister, below, rode Achmed like a natural. Johnson and Bannister are serving with Army Space Support Team 5 in support of Marine Expeditionary Force 1, currently in Southwest Asia.



Army Space photo

MTHEL transitioning to PEO AMD

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — The U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command's Mobile Tactical High Energy Laser (MTHEL) program started its transition to the Program Executive Office for Air and Missile Defense (PEO AMD) with a ceremony Feb. 28. The formal transition to the PEO AMD will be completed by Oct. 1.

Stemming from the Tactical High Energy Laser (THEL), an Advanced Concept Technology Demonstration (ACTD) program initiated in 1996, the MTHEL program has recently seen great success as a technology demonstration within the SMDC Technical Center.

The THEL ACTD proved highly successful, intercepting and destroying twenty-six 122 mm Katyusha rockets in 2000 and 2001 and four 152 mm artillery projectiles in late 2002. These artillery projectiles were part of a new series of target threat assessments for the MTHEL program, which also conducted a multitude of static engagements on the ground.

The MTHEL Program is a collaborative development program between the U.S. Army and the Israeli Ministry of Defense. It 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.

This transition marks a major milestone in the evolution of the MTHEL to an acquisition program in the Army. While this is a normal process in the Army, it illustrates the great success of the program and shows how high energy laser technology has reached a level of maturity that indicates it is now ready to be integrated into the next phase of the process, moving it closer to the battlefield.

The ceremony included award presentations by Maj. Gen. John M. Urias, SMDC deputy commanding general of Research, Development and Acquisition and the PEO AMD.

Transformation often occurs during time of war

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Transformation of the U.S. armed forces is at the heart of the president's fiscal 2004 defense budget request. Yet at the same time, America must fight a global war on terrorism.

Many pundits question whether the U.S. military can do both at once. They argue that resources used to transform the military are best used fighting the war.

But history shows they are wrong: The U.S. military has had long experience in transforming the military while at the same time fighting a war.

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Air Force Gen. Richard Myers said during a January briefing that not only should transformation continue as the United States fights the war on terror, "but it's absolutely imperative that we do this."

Myers pointed out that the U.S. military has done this in the past. "We did the same thing in World War II; we transformed while we were fighting a global war," the chairman said.

The World War II example is illustrative. Gen. George C. Marshall became the Army's chief of staff on Sept. 1, 1939 — the day Nazi Germany invaded Poland. Under his command he had roughly 227,000 soldiers but only enough equipment to arm 75,000.

Further, the Nazi Blitzkrieg exposed shortcomings in strategy, tactics and doctrine that made obsolete much of what the U.S. military thought.

And it wasn't just the Army. The Navy had been wed to the idea that battleships would be the decisive factor in any war in the Pacific. The Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, and the sinking of the British battleships Prince of Wales and Repulse on Dec. 10 put that idea to rest.

So the American military in World War II had to not only grow in size, but change in thinking. The Army and the Army Air Forces had to devise ways to fight together. The Navy had to devise battle plans around aircraft carriers, because military planners had taken notice of Japan's effectiveness with these platforms. And the Army and Marine Corps worked with the idea of amphibious warfare on a grand scale.

By 1945, the Army and Army Air Forces had 10 million soldiers. It was, without a doubt, the best fighting force on Earth. The U.S. Navy dwarfed all other navies in the world. The services had indeed fought a global war and transformed themselves

at the same time.

World War II was not the only instance of this transformation. The American Civil War was an example of what happens when technology changes, but thinking does not.

Union and Confederate soldiers were armed with rifled muskets. That, plus advances in artillery, made a frontal attack suicidal. Yet military thinking was based on Napoleonic era tactics where soldiers were armed with unrifled muskets that were complicated to load and not very accurate — the effective range was about 50 meters. The tactics then were to march shoulder-to-shoulder to within 50 to 75 meters, fire two or three massed rounds, then charge with the bayonet.

In 1860, a trained soldier using a rifled musket could fire three aimed rounds per minute. These weapons were far more accurate and the killing distance was increased to about 300 meters. Add in the destruction that 1860-era artillery could inflict and one has to wonder how any frontal attack ever succeeded.

Yet the Napoleonic tactics remained intact: March shoulder-to-shoulder, then charge.

The enlisted men saw the futility of these tactics before the generals did. By the mid-point of the war, the battalion fronts had expanded to where there was more space between soldiers. They also saw the necessity of earthworks and, if ordered into an area, would dig what a later generation called foxholes and expand those into trenches. Yet in 1864, long after the futility of these attacks was apparent, Union Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant ordered a Napoleonic charge at Cold Harbor, Va., as did Union Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman at Kenesaw Mountain, Ga., and Confederate Lt. Gen. John Bell Hood at Franklin, Tenn.

The change in thinking was tough to overcome. On the equipment side, the Union could have outfitted its troops with breach-loading repeating rifles early in the war. Senior officers ignored this advantage.

But still the U.S. military fought a major war and transformed at the same time. The Union Army grew from a small frontier-based fighting force to the best on Earth by 1865. The riverine wars on the Mississippi and operations on the South's seacoast forced the Union's Army and Navy to cooperate in ways no other nation on the globe could duplicate.

But perhaps the most impressive

example of transformation while fighting a war occurred during the Revolutionary War. When the Continental Congress formed the Army in 1775, Gen. George Washington took over a motley band of militiamen and then proceeded to challenge the greatest empire in the world. Great Britain's army was well-equipped, well-trained and well-led. The Continental Army was truly, in the words of then-British Prime Minister Lord North, a "rabble in arms." Washington had to train the men, arm them and build the whole logistics base while fighting a war.

It was further complicated by the fact that a sizable American minority was still loyal to the crown. This was transformation by necessity, and the fact that Washington succeeded is a testament to his qualities as a leader and manager.

And today the military is transforming once again. "We came into this century not particularly well-prepared for the security environment that we found ourselves in," said Myers. "We kind of knew that; September 11th told us for sure we knew that, and that there was a sense of urgency that we had not had before regarding that."

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld has made military transformation a priority. "Current and future enemies will seek to strike the United States and U.S. forces in novel and surprising ways," Rumsfeld said in a report on the issue. "Now is precisely the time to make changes. The attacks on Sept. 11 lent urgency to this endeavor."

The secretary has six overall transformation areas the military must address:

- Protect the U.S. homeland and defeat weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery;
- Project and sustain power in distant environments;
- Deny enemies sanctuary by developing capabilities for persistent surveillance, tracking and rapid engagement;
- Leverage information technology to link up joint forces;
- Protect information systems from attack; and
- Maintain unhindered access to space and protect U.S. space capabilities from enemy attack.

On this two-pronged approach of fighting the global war on terrorism and transforming at the same time, Myers said, "Nobody said it's going to be easy, but that's what we've got to do."

Civilian News

Status of retroactive pay increase

The President has signed the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution for FY 2003. Among many other provisions, this legislation includes language that mandates a 1 percent retroactive pay increase for most white-collar civilian Federal employees. However, decisions will have to be made regarding how the additional 1 percent pay increase will be allocated. Those decisions will be reflected in an Executive order signed by the President. Once the Executive order has been signed, OPM will issue new salary tables and provide additional guidance to Federal agencies. The additional 1 percent pay increase will be retroactive to the first pay period in January for all affected employees.

New TSP computer system not ready

Govexec.com reports that the launch date for a long-awaited computer system that would give federal employees more control over their 401k-style Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) accounts is still up in the air, according to TSP officials. Lawrence Stiffler, director of TSP's Office of Automated Systems, told TSP board members recently that while there has been progress on the automated record keeping system during the past few months, a date for implementation had still not been set. About three million civilian and military participants have about \$100 billion invested in the TSP. The new system would allow participants to check the value of their funds daily, offer them more ways to withdraw money and provide online service for loans and withdrawals. For more details on this news, see <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0203/022003t1.htm>.

Security alert level lowered to yellow

WASHINGTON D.C. (American Forces Press Service) — The threat level of terrorist attack has been lowered to an "elevated" risk, or "yellow." The threat level was raised to "high" — "orange" — on Feb. 7. The decision to lower the threat level was based on a careful review of specific intelligence and counterterrorism actions taken to address specific aspects of the threat situation. At the yellow risk level, significant security measures will remain in place at all federal agencies. Examples of these include:

- A focus on critical facilities and vulnerabilities, with security and surveillance tailored to meet specific intelligence reports and security needs.
- Continued increased surveillance.
- Random inspections of passenger vehicles entering parking lots and restricted parking as necessary.
- Continued coordination of emergency plans with state and federal jurisdictions and private-sector partners.
- A 100 percent identification check of personnel entering facilities.
- Screening procedures remain in place for incoming office mail and other deliverables.

TRICARE Mail Order replaces National Mail Order Pharmacy

The TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy (TMOP) program has replaced the National Mail Order Pharmacy (NMOP) program as the prescription mail order pharmacy benefit for Department of Defense (DoD) Military Health System beneficiaries. The TRICARE pharmacy benefit and co-payments remain the same — only the program name and benefit manager have changed. TRICARE beneficiaries have three options for filling prescriptions. They can use a military treatment facility, a TRICARE retail network pharmacy, or TMOP. Prescription medications filled under TMOP cost \$3 for a 90-day supply for generic medications, and \$9 for a 90-day supply for most brand-name medications. Before a prescription can be filled, each beneficiary must complete a one-time Express Scripts Registration Form and return it to Express Scripts for processing. The registration form is available online at <http://www.express-scripts.com> or may be picked up at any military treatment facility or regional TRICARE Service Center.

Military News

Deployment tax reminders

Reservists deploying overseas are not automatically excused from filing their federal income tax return, according to Air Force Reserve Command staff judge advocate officials. Deploying Reservists have four options when it comes to filing taxes. They can file before they leave, authorize a spouse or trusted friend to sign and file for them, have a non-military or non-deploying spouse sign and file a joint tax return on their behalf, or use an extension if authorized. If Reservists have not received their Form W-2 in the mail before deploying, they can access it online by using a personal identification number via "My Pay" on the Defense Finance and Accounting Service Web site at <https://emss.dfas.mil/mypay.asp>.

DoD confirms current method of handling remains

The current method of handling the remains of U.S. service members will remain in place, according to DoD officials. Senior defense officials examined the policy of handling human remains contaminated by biological or chemical weapons. The group — which included representatives from the services, the Army's mortuary affairs, DoD's health affairs and DoD's personnel and readiness staffs — wanted to ensure that any decision was based on the latest medical thinking. The result was to validate the way remains are already handled. Human remains contaminated by biological or chemical weapons will not be cremated. Nor will mortuary affairs personnel bulldoze mass graves, said DoD officials. "Cases involving contaminated remains will be handled with the dignity and respect accorded to all remains and processed by mortuary and medical personnel consistent with applicable laws and procedures to ensure the health of the living," DoD officials said.

Mobilized Reservists should check child support rules

Guard and Reserve members who have child support obligations and whose civilian income is larger than their military one should review their rights before they get orders. The Defense Finance and Accounting Service's Garnishment Operations Directorate has been working with the Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement to address child support payment issues related to activated Reservists. Reservists who need relief have to ask for a review and modification of the child support obligation from their appropriate state child support agency, he said. For more information, visit state child support enforcement agencies gateways at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cse/extinf.htm#exta>, and the Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement Information Memorandum (IM)-01-09 at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cse/pol/im-01-09.htm>.

Pet options for deploying troops

Deploying soldiers with pets have an option for pet care: pet fostering. Stay-at-home patriots are opening their homes to the pets of departing soldiers who have no one else to care for their animals. When the soldier returns, he or she gets to restart life with a beloved family member. The trick is getting soldiers and foster-caregivers together and making sure that the parties (human and animal) are a good fit for each other, says Maj. Steven D. Osborn of U.S. Army Veterinary Command. Osborn recommends beginning the search locally with installation veterinary treatment facilities (VTFs), which may be familiar with local services. But in the event a VTF does not know about any fostering service, the soldier should check next with local humane societies, animal-control facilities and breed clubs. Several Web sites provide general advice on fostering and/or with brokering services to bring pet owners and foster-caregivers together: NetPets at <http://www.netpets.org/>, Feline Rescue at <http://www.felinerescue.net/> (click on "Operation Noble Foster" box), the Humane Society of the United States at <http://www.hsus.org/ace/11822>, and 4MilitaryFamilies at <http://www.4militaryfamilies.com/pets.htm>.

TRADEX begins new life after modernization

By Jim Bennett
Editor, Kwajalein Hourglass

TRADEX engineers wasted no time once their sensor gained initial operations capability status Feb. 26 by tracking items in space Feb. 27.

"Everything went really well and we're ready for [upcoming mission] GT-32," said Henry Thomas, TRADEX Kwajalein Modernization and Remoting Lead for MIT/LL.

"There's no real rest for the weary," said Mark Schlueter, TRADEX sensor leader. "We started fulfilling our commitment to U.S. Space Command for 10 hours of catalog tracking, and that started Feb. 28."

The completion of TRADEX marks the last item on the checklist for KMAR, a five-year program to modernize the radars, optics and telemetry sensors on the range, though planning for the project dates back to 1997.

For the radars, the program acts as "an enabler," because it opens the doors for future operational options, said Mohamed Abouzahra, MIT/LL site manager.

"It's a new world, enabling us to do things we couldn't do before," Abouzahra said.

For example, "six years ago, a 'quick look' consisted of a couple PowerPoint slides in a few days," he said. "We can now give you a complete analysis and full briefing with movies in 12 hours."

The difference lies in uniformity.

With KMAR upgrades, engineers use the same data format for each radar and the same off-the-shelf tools to analyze the data, regardless of the source. Display screens will offer engineers a Windows-based, point-and-click ease as they monitor and track objects.

Some data goes to customers in "real time," or as it happens, Abouzahra said.

Furthermore, the same people can be used to analyze data from any source, because they're all trained on the format and tools. Also, components for one radar will work in other radars, should spare parts be needed.

The upgrades also allow engineers to track more targets than before, Abouzahra said, and remote many operations from the radar on Roi-Namur to the Kwajalein Mission Control Center. So much so, the number of commuters flying to Roi in the mornings has dropped dramatically, eventually to as few as 30, said Jeff DeLong, radars manager.

In addition, the "enabler" gives the range the option to market test beds, or experiments that operate along with, but don't influence the results of, a particular mission. In short, the range can have more than one customer per mission, and that is good for business, Abouzahra said.

As an enabler, too, "now we can do some really neat stuff," said Chuck Smith, radar modernization leader for MIT/LL, referring to smaller enhancement projects and upgrades.

"A lot of other things will springboard from this," said RSE Site Manager John Wallace. "Some things we haven't thought of yet."

Thomas, however, already has some ideas including something regarding evaluating mission complexes and another for space tracking.

"Biting off a small project and working it



Photo courtesy of RTS

Range engineers completed a 6½-month modernization refit on TRADEX, completing the five-year Kwajalein Modernization and Remoting project. The refit gives new life to the radar that has peered into the skies over Kwajalein Atoll since 1962.

through, you can see the rewards sooner," Thomas said. "The rewards for this [KMAR] are much greater, but so is the stress."

The radar is the fourth sensor in the KREMS complex on Roi-Namur to undergo KMAR upgrades.

"The thing about starting and finishing a project is you get to see what you did well and what you didn't do so well," DeLong said. "And there weren't many things, as a team, we didn't catch and fix."

KMCC underwent a facelift in the summer of 2000, paving the way for the remoting projects to come. ALCOR became the first radar remoted in October 2000, after 10 months' work, followed by MMW in 2001, after 8 1/2 months on the job.

ALTAIR crews finished its KMAR upgrades in June after 8 1/2 months work. With ALTAIR, however, engineers had to add in space tracking capabilities, something they would later use with TRADEX, as well. But TRADEX had a few unique characteristics.

"In doing the other radars we learned a lot," Thomas said. "When we got to TRADEX, we were concentrating more on TRADEX-specific issues."

"We worked closely with our sub-systems people in Lexington (Mass.). There was a lot of testing and debugging and more testing. It's a continuous cycle," he added.

Schlueter said for weeks the process involved the arrival of new software, followed by more tests before everything checked out.

"It's been a real milestone reaching this point, as quickly as we did," he said. "Part of that was anticipated because of the learning curve, but we had fewer people, too, and we had some resource limitations."

Timing affected the project, too.

"It provided some significant technical challenges because TRADEX has some unique waveforms and other aspects and there was the loss of people in dealing with the contract transition," Smith said.

"Everyone pulled together," said Thomas. "There was a lot happening, but

there was always someone there to pick up the ball. It was a good team effort."

According to Wallace, the crews put the job first.

"People put their badges aside and worked side-by-side," Wallace said. "There was a lot of extra effort, and the credit goes to the people working on this project who didn't let the distractions get in the way."

The KMAR project will go down in Kwaj history as one of the biggest since the construction of the radars, and certainly a project with one of the longer-term impacts, too, according to Abouzahra, Wallace and Smith.

"This will be a model program for years to come," Smith said.

And throughout the five-year program, supporters met some disbelief, too.

"There were a lot of people who didn't think it would work," Smith said, echoing Abouzahra and Thomas. "We won a lot of believers over after ALCOR and then we won a few more after MMW. After ALTAIR, everyone knew it would work, so by the time we started TRADEX, it was sort of anti-climactic because it was over in a lot of people's minds."

One of those original disbelievers was Wallace.

"I was skeptical at first," he said. "It's been successful beyond belief and made a lot of believers out of people including me. And it came in pretty much on schedule and on budget. That almost never happens. I think that's because it was well thought out, not a knee-jerk reaction. They really thought through the solutions before starting."

"And we did this in the worst of circumstances," DeLong said. "It's the most corrosive environment, with older equipment and more daily requirements than other radars in the world with little or no impact on missions. You can't touch that."

Abouzahra said the next MIT/LL project would focus on upgrading the KMCC to handle all of the additional data streaming from the sensors.

"It's not at the same level [as the radars]," Abouzahra said. "[KMCC] has to utilize what the radars are giving them."

Women's History Month – Women Pioneering Our Future

By Mary Peoples
Equal Employment Opportunity Office

In 1978, members of the Sonoma County California Commission on the Status of Women initiated the first National Women's History Week and sponsored programs for local schools.

This was a community effort to encourage the study of women's history and structure a continuing discovery on women's past.

In 1982, National Women's History Week was first proclaimed a national observance as the result of a joint congressional resolution proposing that such a week be held inclusive of March 8, International Women's Day.

In 1983, the joint resolution designating women's history week requested that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Subsequent resolutions were issued each year designating national Women's History Week until March 1987 when by a joint resolution of Congress, the entire month of March was designated as Women's History Month.

The idea of celebrating the unique, multicultural history of women in the United States has captured the imaginations of teachers, community groups, women's organizations and thousands of individuals throughout the nation.

The popularity of women's history celebrations has sparked a new interest in uncovering women's forgotten heritage. Women's History Month observances have become more than a call to acknowledge the outstanding American women whose

names we do not know, but it also has become a vehicle to pay homage to the nameless women who have shaped our collective past.

The theme for this year, "Women Pioneering the Future," celebrates pioneering women from U.S. history, who led and won campaigns for equality and civil rights; who created and advanced educational and professional opportunities; and who made great contributions to the arts, sciences and humanistic causes. The 2003 theme also recognizes the pioneers of today — innovative women who are helping pioneer new possibilities for generations to come.

Statistical data maintained by the Equal Employment Opportunity office reflects that in fiscal year 1984, women occupied 40 percent of the work force of what is now the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command. However, further analysis shows that of the total number of women, 66.8 percent were in secretarial or clerical jobs. Only 3.9 percent were in scientific and engineering jobs — which were and still are the most populous occupations within the command. Even more startling was the representation of women in the senior grades of GS-14 and above. In fiscal year 1984, four women occupied 3.5 percent of jobs at the GS-14 level and one job (1.9 percent) at the GS-15 level. None were represented at the Senior Executive Service (SES) level.

At the end of fiscal year 2002, 59 women occupied 22.3 percent of jobs at the GS-14 level and 11 women occupied 20 percent of the jobs at the GS-15 level. Currently, women are not represented at the SES level within the command; however, history was made when the command

selected the first woman SES within the Army community in Huntsville. Dr. Shelba Proffit was selected to head a major directorate for the command in 1990 but subsequently was transferred out of the command to work in the National Missile Defense Joint Program Office.

A second woman, Dr. Robin Buckelew, was selected as an SES in 1993 to manage the Space and Missile Defense Battle Lab. It was truly historic to see for just a short time, two women in the ranks of SES within the command in non-traditional jobs of engineering and science.

Other historical accomplishments within the command occurred with the advancement of two minority women to the ranks of GS-15, an African American and a Native American.

The innovative SMDC women of the past helped pioneer new possibilities for generations of women to come. Women such as Lois Spruiell, who was the first and only GS-15 woman for some time in the command, inspired others to reach for their potential and excel.

Women who were hired at the GS-7 level have advanced eventually to the GS-15 level in management positions, which was quite an accomplishment in a predominantly male career field. Their work challenges social assumptions and stereotypes about who women are and what women can accomplish. The stories of their lives are filled with the power of words like, "I can" and "I will."

The history of the advancement of women within SMDC can be looked at as their strength — strength that has inspired others to answer the call to action — a call that recognizes and celebrates the possibility of individuals to do remarkable work.

Survey finding:

Men changing view of women in the services

By Sgt. 1st Class
Doug Sample

ARLINGTON, Va. (American Forces Press Service) — Here's bad news for folks who argue that women don't belong in the military: Recruitment and retention rates are up; their roles in the military continue to grow; and they're just as good as men at their jobs — or better.

"Naysayers" may find the above facts discouraging, but they're good news to Carol Mutter, who said she's not surprised by the capabilities of women in uniform.

Mutter is a retired Marine Corps three-star general and the first woman general to command a major deployable tactical command. She now chairs the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS), a group that advises the secretary of defense on issues affecting military women and families.

In recent years, the committee has studied and provided the secretary recommendations on such issues as women's health care, retention and the effects of deployment on recruitment,

retention and military families.

"I came into the military 35 years ago," Mutter said. "When you look at where we were then versus where we are now, there has been an evolution over time of many changes with regard to the role of women in the services, and it will continue to evolve."

The group conducted its first semiannual business meeting in Arlington Jan. 16.

About 30 civilian and military personnel gathered to hear progress reports from service representatives on how well the military is integrating its more than 60,000 women in uniform, and what roles women may play in future military operations.

Of particular interest: Men are changing the way they view women in the services.

Morris Peterson, chief of the Army Personnel Survey Office, Army Research Institute of Behavioral and Social Sciences, in Alexandria, Va., reviewed findings from a recent survey of male and female officers. He said it concluded that both officer and enlisted males have positive attitudes about women in the

Army, that the attrition rates of men and women are nearly the same, and that men have gained confidence in their female counterparts' abilities.

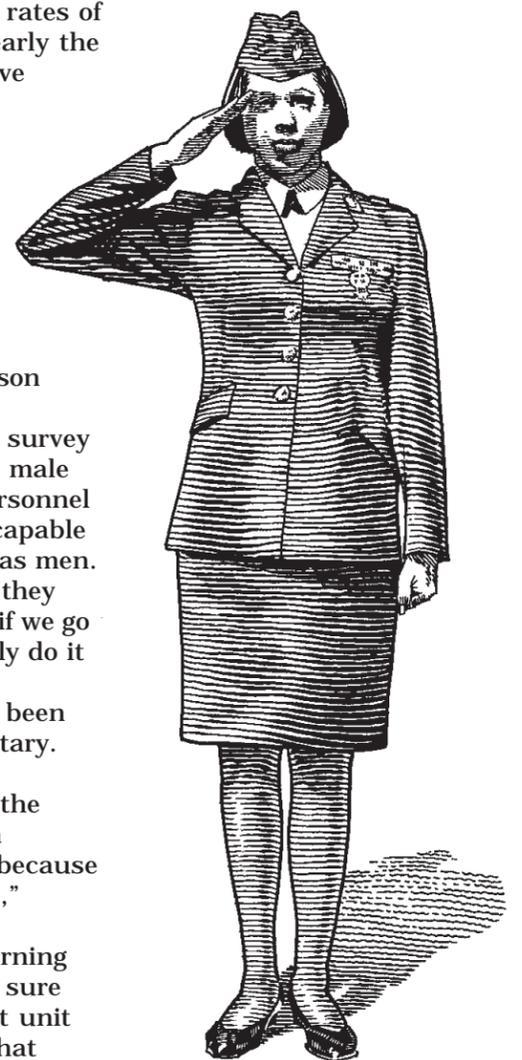
"Women are doing the work, and they've proven themselves, just as they did in (Persian Gulf War operations) DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM," Peterson said.

Peterson pointed to a survey entry that showed most male officers and enlisted personnel say women are just as capable of handling "male jobs" as men.

"They've proven that they can do the job and that if we go to war, they will certainly do it again," Peterson said.

"Women have largely been integrated into the military. There are still some acceptance issues, but the integration is less of an emphasis at this point because a lot of it has been done," Mutter said.

Now DACOWITS is turning its attention to making sure women are trained, that unit readiness is high and that women still have good careers.



SMDC says farewell to CSM Adams

30-year soldier always tough but fair

By Debra Valine
Editor, The Eagle

In 1973, as the Vietnam War was winding down, being a soldier wasn't the most popular of occupations. But for one young man in Detroit, Mich., enlisting into the new All-Volunteer Army seemed a pretty good deal.

At 19 years old, Wilbur V. Adams Jr. worked on an assembly line in an automobile factory. It was what his father wanted him to do. However, when he saw former high school classmates return from initial training for the U.S. Army wearing the maroon beret of the paratroopers, young Wilbur's life changed.

"I joined the Army for a couple of reasons," said Adams, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command's command sergeant major. He stayed in the Army "because of the people." On March 17, Adams will retire from his 30-year military career. He and his wife, Diane, will live in northern Virginia.

By joining the Army, Adams would have a chance to go to college and gain valuable life experiences, something he says his family will never understand.

'Often when I have to make a tough decision, I think about how CSM Adams would do it. I wanted to be tough and fair, just like him.'

— Kovar

"I have spent time with people in places like South Korea; Kuwait; Cairo, Egypt; Saudi Arabia; Bosnia; and Afghanistan," Adams said. "It was great to be able to sit down with people in a non-threatening environment and just talk. They put it all in perspective. Those are the things that you cannot put a dollar value on."

Adams enlisted to work with Red-Eye and Chaparral missiles — both are in museums today. He said enlisting changed his life because it gave him an opportunity to be part of so many different cultures and subcultures.

"Being in the Army has provided me an education — as it has with all soldiers — that you just cannot get in one little home town or a large city," Adams said. "Being in the Army really made me more of an objective person by minimizing a lot of prejudices my environment had placed on



Courtesy photos

Sgt. Adams conducts guard mount while stationed with the 2nd Infantry Division in South Korea. Yes, the shades were authorized then.

me. It made me realize that everyone from a particular class or race did not particularly feel the same way.

He said one of the lessons his mother taught all her children from birth really came to fruition. "She taught us to look for good in our fellow man first. If there is a rule that has provided me guidance all my life, that is the one."

After his first enlistment, Adams was ready to leave the Army and return to Detroit. He nearly had all the necessary signatures on his clearance papers. But a going-away party in the barracks changed his mind.

"It always goes back to the people," Adams said. "I realized that those guys in the barracks were my family. They had made me the person I wanted to be. I did not want to leave. So I re-enlisted. I liked being part of something special. I couldn't see me doing anything else that would cause the kind of spirit, togetherness and fellowship that I got from being in the Army. I did not see where anything else out there would fulfill all my needs."

Of all his assignments, Adams most enjoyed those where he performed a humanitarian mission. As a section chief, squad leader and platoon sergeant, Adams went to Guam in the early 1970s to

help with disaster relief. He went to Florida after Hurricane Andrew in 1992 and Rwanda in 1994 to help United Nations soldiers settle the warring tribes there. "I really felt good about our contributions during those times. Those missions gave us an understanding of how important it is to protect our own families so

they never have to live in those conditions, like in Rwanda."

During his career, Adams has seen many changes in the Army, beginning with barracks life. In 1973, the Army was getting people out of the open bay barracks and putting them into two- or three-man rooms.

"Vietnam was coming to a close, and the attitudes of the veterans had an impact on how I view the Army now," Adams said. "I use that time as kind of a standard now, but a lot of the things you hear about those times is negative. But those lieutenants, sergeants, captains that came back from Vietnam laid the foundation for who I am today. They taught me how to be a soldier and gave me a solid leadership base to build from."

Master Sgt. Ricky Kovar, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the Force Development and Integration Center in Arlington, Va., has known Adams for years. Kovar said Adams is the best leader he has known in the Army. "He is the epitome of Army leadership."

"CSM Adams has been my mentor for the past 15 or 16 years. He is the reason I stayed in the Army," Kovar said. "I tried to model my career after his. Often when I have to make a tough decision, I think about how CSM Adams would do it. I wanted to be tough and fair, just like him. He brings out the best in the folks."

"CSM Adams is a tremendous man," Kovar said. "He once made a comment to me that wherever there is a soldier, he is there for them. It doesn't matter what his personal sacrifice is. Every soldier in Air Defense Artillery, the Space and Missile Defense



On June 4, 1994, at the 50th anniversary of D-Day at the Normandy American Cemetery in Normandy, France, Adams had the chance to meet one of his heroes, Bob Dole.



Adams
now i

'Wilbur Adams grew up to be the soldier and successful noncommissioned officer he is because he knows what right looks like.'

— McKinney

Command, and the Army, he will take care of that soldier as if he or she was his own child. I would not be where I am today without him."

Quality of life also has changed since 1973 because the military takes much better care of soldiers' personal lives than they did back then by providing services like Army Emergency Relief, Army Community Service and the Red Cross.

"On my first permanent change of station, I had no idea that Transportation would come by your house and pick up your stuff and ship it to your next duty station for you," Adams said. "Whatever we could not put in our cars, we would box up and mail.

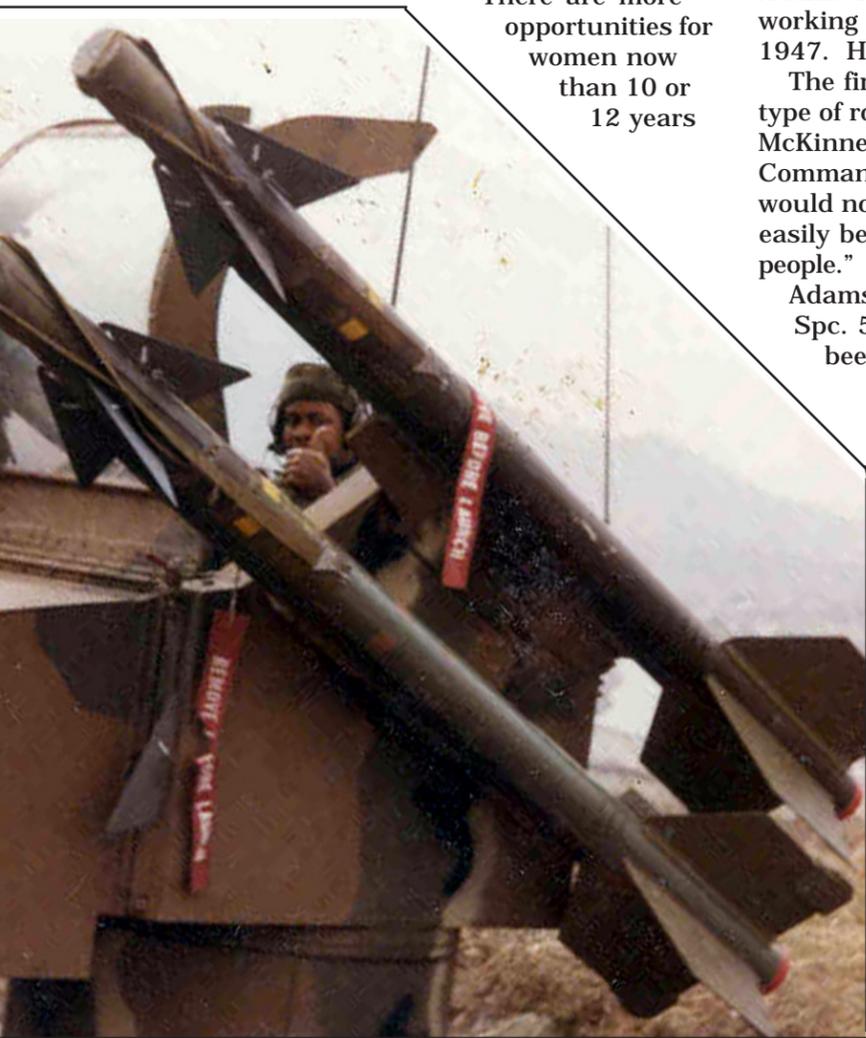
"The Army leadership now knows that what is first and of foremost importance to soldiers is to see families settled in before they go to work," Adams said. "I remember the time when you would report to your duty station and when you would get there someone would pick you up, sign for your gear, and send you downrange. The family would be left back wondering where the heck is he? The Army has learned that the first impression will stay with you down the road.

"We also had to change our focus and do a better job of recognizing those folks who decided to stay," Adams said. "We would throw parties for people who were leaving the Army while people re-enlisting would be sent back to work. I think the empowerment the Army has given the NCO Corps over the last 20 years has made that stuff happen. We are now better able to take care of soldiers and families.

Adams also saw cultural changes that have made the Army a better place.

"Within the NCO Corps, there is no longer a feeling that you have to be from a certain culture to get ahead. I think that collectively throughout the enlisted ranks and NCO Corps, we know that caring for soldiers, families and commitment to the mission will get us there. I also think we have made great strides in getting our women accepted.

There are more opportunities for women now than 10 or 12 years



Adams enlisted for Red-Eye and Chaparral missiles. Both missile systems are in museums.

ago. I think that through providing these opportunities, we have learned that women can do the job and in a lot of cases — do the job better. We need to continue to provide the leadership challenges so women have the skills and opportunities to lead their teams, organizations and mission requirements. The leadership of the Army knows that we have to continue to improve."

He said formal processes like the Equal Opportunity Office and the Inspector General Office have given everybody an opportunity to talk about issues they do not think are fair.

"There was a time when those formalized systems did not exist," Adams said. "The training we have all attended helped bring the people together and reduce the division and tension we were experiencing. I think we started making progress once we realized the key to understanding the different cultures was respect. We involved everybody from the newest private to the sergeant major."

Adams named three people who provided inspiration for him throughout his career.

"The two most important people have been my mom and dad. My father's work ethic has been my benchmark. When I joined the Army, my dad already had 26 years in the factory, and here I am, ready to retire, and he still works in the factory. And along the way, all my soldiers, whether junior or senior to me, have played an important role in my life." Adams' father, Wilbur Adams Sr., has been working in the automobile industry since 1947. His mother, Mary, is deceased.

The first military person who provided a type of role model for Adams was James McKinney, retired Training and Doctrine Command Command Sergeant Major. "He would not let us go astray. We could have easily become influenced by the wrong people."

Adams was a private first class when Spc. 5 McKinney first met him. They've been friends ever since.

"I tried to be a role model for all the soldiers subordinate to me," McKinney said. "I learned from some old sergeants major what right looked like, and I tried to pass that along. Unfortunately today, a lot of our soldiers do not know what right looks like. Wilbur Adams grew up to be the soldier and successful noncommissioned officer he is because he knows what right looks like. We were not afraid to make on-the-spot corrections if we saw somebody doing something wrong."

Adams' advice to soldiers moving through the ranks today is simple, "if you want to succeed, you have to be committed. You have to care about your soldiers and they have to trust you.



Adams enlisted in the Army to be a paratrooper.

"You can get anywhere you want to go if you work on those three tenets," Adams said. "There is no door that will be closed to you as far as development, promotions and rewards. It is the soldiers who will get you where you want to go.

"We are given positions of increased responsibility based on accomplishments made by our soldiers. When they have suggestions about how to accomplish a mission, listen to them. When your soldiers know you care, they will work to maximum capacity each day. Seniors will recognize that and give you jobs of greater responsibility. Troops have to know you are committed and that you care. If any one of those three is not on the scope, it doesn't matter how good you are, you are not going to get where you want to go."

Col. Bob Woods, commander, 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Fort Bliss, Texas, is another who has known Adams a number of years.

"We first served together in the 82nd Airborne Division," Woods said. "Everyone who has ever served with him has benefited from the experience. He is one of those types of guys who relates well to the rank and file both high-level leaders and down to the lowest-ranked soldier. He will always have time for you. That is something folks will always remember. He is a professional soldier and was a mentor long before it became a buzz word. The Army will be a much lesser place when Wilbur Adams retires."



Command Sgt. Major Wilbur V. Adams Jr.

SMDC employees recognized for contributions to the U.S. Army Contracting Agency

Three U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command (SMDC) employees received U.S. Army Contracting Agency (ACA) awards for their contributions during the ACA transition period that led to the successful activation of the new agency on Oct. 1, 2002.

Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology (ASA(ALT)) Claude M. Bolton Jr. presented the awards during a town hall meeting held Jan. 29 at the Pentagon.

Mark J. Lumer received the Department of the Army Meritorious Civilian Service Award. In addition to Lumer's daily responsibilities as the SMDC Contracting Executive and Principal Assistant Responsible for Contracting (PARC), Bolton also appointed Lumer to serve as the acting director of the ACA from March 15, 2002 through July 25, 2002.

Lumer led the organization to its full establishment, providing unparalleled expertise, vision and dedication contributing to the successful stand-up of the organization. He met every challenge with a highly positive, cooperative attitude and mission-oriented approach throughout the execution of the program involving more than 2,000 civilians and soldiers serving across the world.

Elizabeth Ratliff received a U.S. Army Acquisition Corps Coin for her exceptional contributions and accomplishments while serving on the ACA Transition Team. Jan Burke received the Department of the Army Commander's Award for Civilian Service for her outstanding performance writing ACA documentation, developing policy and serving as editor of the ACA monthly newsletter.



Photo by Debra Valine

Congratulating Al Longhi, right, on his developmental assignment with the Defense Acquisition University are, from left, Maxine Maples, Acquisition Support Center; Mark Lumer, SMDC; and James McCullough, dean of the Defense Acquisition University.

Developmental assignment a first for SMDC

A contracting specialist with the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command in Huntsville, Ala., Feb. 5 became the first civil servant in the Huntsville community to receive a developmental assignment with the Defense Acquisition University, Southern Region.

Al Longhi will help work on improving the instructing curriculum and developing the new curriculum for the university.

"This is the highlight of my career," Longhi said. "This is putting everything together from my 30 years of experience with the government."

"He is already making an impact," said James McCullough, dean of the

Defense Acquisition University.

The Defense Acquisition University provides selected individuals with a broader knowledge and understanding of his or her assigned functional area of expertise through expanded learning opportunities and daily interfaces with professors and students from other service branches and organizations within the Office of the Secretary of Defense. Developmental assignments generally last for 18 months, unless otherwise negotiated.

SMDC can expect that the returning individual will be better prepared to assume greater responsibilities and to contribute both functionally and strategically to the organization.

Awards/Promotions

Special Act Awards

Steven D. Fox, Huntsville, Battle Lab, Simulation Development Division
Robert A. Kyniston, ARSPACE, Space Battalion

On-The-Spot Cash Awards

Daisy H. Barnett, Huntsville, Battle Lab, Missile Defense Directorate
Anne P. Greene, USAKA/RTS, Test and Evaluation Center, Community Relations Office

Performance Awards

Helen C. Brown, USAKA/RTS, Test and Evaluation Center, Directorate of Logistics and Community Activities
Sandra C. Click, Huntsville, Deputy Chief of Staff, Information Management, Automation Division

Eleanor M. W. Ellis, USAKA/RTS, Test and Evaluation Center, Resource Management Directorate

Teresita C. Geronimo, USAKA/RTS, Test and Evaluation Center, Directorate of Logistics and Community Activities

Robert T. Godlewski, USAKA/RTS, Test and Evaluation Center, Directorate of Logistics and Community Activities

Frank Gray, ARSPACE, G3, Operations, Plans Division

Robert L. Kunz, USAKA/RTS, Test and Evaluation Center, Resource Management Directorate

Ruth Karen M. Long, Deputy Chief of Staff, Logistics Support Division

Robert E. Pistorius, Deputy Chief of Staff, Logistics Support Division

Jimmie L. Sherode, Deputy Chief of Staff, Logistics, Supply and Services Division

Eleanor E. Talich, USAKA/

RTS, Test and Evaluation Center, Directorate of Logistics and Community Activities
Belinda J. Walker, USAKA/RTS, Test and Evaluation Center, Resource Management Directorate

Time-Off Awards

Karol Cortright, Huntsville, Battle Lab, Space Directorate
Steven R. Groves, Huntsville, Battle Lab, Concepts and Initiatives Division

Quality Step Increases

Sandra J. Askew, USAKA/RTS, Test and Evaluation Center, Test Support Division
Maryanne P. Lane, USAKA/RTS, Test and Evaluation Center, Community Relations Office
Stephan F. Notarianni, USAKA/RTS, Test and

Evaluation Center, Community Relations Office

Commander's Award for Civilian Service

Alice G. Correa, USAKA/RTS, Test and Evaluation Center, Resource Management Directorate

Civilian Promotions

Ricardo L. Parks, GS-12, Technical Center, Kinetic Energy Interceptor Directorate
Frederick G. Robinson, GS-12, Technical Center, Kinetic Energy Interceptor Directorate
Robert D. Huffman, GS-14, Test and Evaluation Center, Kwajalein Support Directorate, Program Support Division
Roxanne Hopple, GS-12, Deputy Chief of Staff, Resource Management, Management Division

Space Command soldiers, Boy Scouts make winning combination for annual pinewood derby

By CWO 2 Garth Hahn
Unit reporter

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Soldiers and Scouts make a winning combination most any day, and when you add a dash of racing frenzy, heaps of teamwork, some sawdust and pint-sized bundles of energy — the outcome is unbeatable.

Fourteen Army Space Command soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Satellite Control Battalion, volunteered their time and judging skills recently to help a local Boy Scout Pine Box Derby achieve racing success.

The soldiers, who work at the Defense Satellite Communication System Certification Facility on Schriever Air Force Base, assisted Boy Scout pack 223 in the annual event.

The soldiers set up a nearby middle-school gym for the event on a Friday evening, then returned Saturday for the main event. They performed starter and pit crew duties as well as judging and keeping score during the event, which consisted of three matches divided by age groups and an overall match.

“It was great the soldiers came out early on a Saturday morning to support the kids,” said Scoutmaster Dave Martin.

The pinewood derby is a model car competition where Scouts pit their mechanical, engineering and woodcarving abilities against each other. The cars must conform to Boy Scouts of America standards, which outline dimensions and weight restrictions.

One of the areas the soldiers helped with the day prior to the race was in determining eligibility by ensuring the cars met those exacting standards.

Before each match, the cars were judged in a variety of areas including “fastest looking,” “best paint job” and “coolest vehicle.” All racers received a certificate of participation and a pinewood derby medal.

The race itself involved rolling four cars from a simultaneous start down a 50-foot-long track to a finish line.

The soldiers helped out by placing the cars at the start line where a lever-controlled starter was used to ensure a fair start.

During each race, cheers echoed throughout the gym as the cars zoomed down the

track. At the finish line, a group of soldier judges identified the placing of the racers and passed that information to a recorder. From the recorder, the data was passed to two soldiers that entered the information into a computer spreadsheet — that was then projected onto the wall for everyone to see.

A volunteer, Staff Sgt. Steven Cato, said, “The chance to get away for awhile from our everyday workplace and do something positive within the community — especially something fun — improves teamwork and unit cohesiveness.”

The drama of each race, some so close they were only decided by camera, kept the children and their parents on the edge of their seats. In the end, it was Wolf Cub Scout Vincent Grossi who took first place — earning a trophy bigger than himself. Although not everyone could win “The Big One,” all the Scouts had fun, and soldiers had more than a little fun too, as well as a chance to do good — an opportunity important to soldiers as well as Scouts.

“It was real cool that they came and helped out, even

though I didn’t win,” said Jordan Elle, son of Maj. Stephen Elle.

Eagle Scout and soldier, Sgt. Keith Barnhart, said, “These community events are important because they remind us exactly why we are serving our country at the same time as helping out a great organization.”



Photo by CWO 2 Garth Hahn

Triumphant Wolf Scout Vincent Grossi holds up his championship trophy.

Satellite battalion staff sergeant reenlists ‘Above the Rest’

By 1st Lt. Jessica Burris
Unit reporter

FORT MEADE, Md. — At Bravo Company, “Above the Rest,” 1st Satellite Control Battalion, reenlistments are not normally handled in a simple manner.

The leadership at Bravo always encourages the unit personnel to be creative and to think big in all aspects of decision-making.

Reenlistments are a very important part of a soldier’s career. When it came time for Staff Sgt. Todd Chesser, a satellite controller, to reenlist, he wanted to take the oath perched atop one of the FSC-78 antennas.

The weather was cold and cloudy, but that did not put a damper on the reenlistment. Chesser’s wife, Megan, was able to make it to the reenlistment and also made the brave ascent to the top of the 78 antenna in stow.

The antenna, used to transmit signals to and from satellites, was “in stow,” or pointing directly up into the sky, because it was in a maintenance phase. The reenlistment was only possible because of the position of the antenna. If it had been in any other position, it would not have been possible. So, the window of opportunity offered by the antenna being modernized was seized upon.

“I chose this literally outstanding

location to reenlist in for two reasons: one, it definitely speaks to what we do on a day-to-day basis and serves as a focal point for what our mission is, and two, because it would provide a once-in-a-lifetime experience,” said Chesser.

It was undoubtedly that for all involved thanks to Chesser’s creative thinking and company commander Capt. Thaddeus Underwood’s oft repeated encouragement to “think big.” That philosophy goes hand in hand with our company’s motto, “Above the Rest!”



Staff Sgt. Todd Chesser, center, shakes hands with 1st Lt. Jessica Burris. Megan Chesser, left, climbed to the top of the FSC-78 antenna for the ceremony.



Sgt. Audie Murphy Club

SMDC inducts four new members

By Rhonda K. Paige

ARLINGTON, Va. — Four U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command (SMDC) soldiers joined the ranks of the elite Sgt. Audie Murphy Club last month.

Although the temperature outside was a frigid low, command pride was high as the four noncommissioned officers were inducted.

New members are Sgt. 1st Class Mark Van Horn, Battalion Operations NCOIC/Company 1st Sgt., Headquarters Headquarters Company, 1st Space Battalion; Staff Sgt. Barbara George, Personnel sergeant, HQ, SMDC; Staff Sgt. Desire'e Mubarak, Special Security NCOIC, HQ, SMDC; and Sgt. Chris Hansen, Installation Personnel sergeant, U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll.

The four NCOs join five other SMDC soldiers who have been inducted into the club. In 2002, Sgt. 1st Class Earla Reddick, Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Tomlin, Staff Sgt. Darrick Noah and Staff Sgt. Devon Roy were inducted. Prior to 2002, only one other SMDC NCO — Sgt. 1st Class Chunka Smith — had been inducted into the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club.

The club, which originated at Fort Hood, Texas, in 1986, is named after one of the Army's most outstanding NCOs, the late Sgt. Audie Murphy. NCOs who demonstrate the same performance, inherent leadership qualities, and abilities that Murphy exemplified as a soldier are eligible for induction into the club.

Audie Murphy served with the 3rd Infantry Division for three years during World War II, and received 33 medals and awards for heroism above and beyond the call of duty. Murphy is considered the most decorated soldier in U.S. Army history.

"This is not an easy organization to get into," said Command Sgt. Major Reginald Ficklin, Army Space Command. "We have tough boards where we look at top notch NCOs to not only represent the

organization, but to be a role model for the young soldiers."

The induction ceremony was preceded by an intense four-phase process each inductee underwent. Phase I - Commander's Evaluation/Nomination; Phase II - Performance Test: based on recorded accomplishments of the candidate and their subordinates (when applicable); Phase III - Initial Selection Board; and Phase IV - Final Selection Board.

During the Board, each candidate is required to answer a series of questions designed to test their general knowledge of the Army and to demonstrate their ability in areas specific to an Army soldier: land navigation, map reading, knowledge of chemical and biological warfare, weapons qualification and maintenance, disassembling and reassembling an M-16 rifle; drill and ceremony; marksmanship and also physical readiness and physical fitness.

Although the process was the same for each potential inductee, Van Horn, George, Mubarak and Hansen, each offered their unique perspective on the process.

"It took a lot of time and effort," said Hansen. "But it was worth it, and I hope I can live up the expectations of being a member."

Mubarak and George conducted a study session each morning for two weeks prior to the board. Both credit that teamwork with helping them to meet the challenge successfully.

In addition to teamwork the key characteristic all four inductees attributed to their selection into the prestigious club



Photo by John E. Upp III

Staff Sgt. Barbara George, left, and Staff Sgt. Desire'e Mubarak are recent SMDC inductees into the elite Sgt. Audie Murphy Club.

was their present and future leadership abilities.

"I am very proud to be inducted into the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club," Mubarak said. "For me, it is more than a club, it's about providing quality leadership that I myself expect and continue to receive from other Army leaders."

"As a senior NCO, I believe I should be an example leading the way to show other soldiers and NCOs that you need to step up and put your best foot forward and do the best you can," Van Horn said.

"Doing the best you can means making right decisions, standing up for what is right, taking the hard right over the easy wrong, not being afraid to make a mistake, and standing up for your convictions and what you feel is right," Van Horn said.

It is through quality soldiers like the new inductees Van Horn, George, Mubarak and Hansen's leadership that SMDC will continue to "Secure the High Ground," for our nation.



Army Space Command photo

Is this straight?

Dave Trujillo, left, and Jim Bearce, contractors with Management Construction Design Services, adjust the Wideband Gapfiller System satellite model in the Army Space Command headquarters on Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado Springs, Colo. The model, built to 1/4 scale, is on loan from the Boeing Company. The actual satellites in the system — the first launching scheduled for later this year — are designed to provide increased data for U.S. military satellite communication. The satellites provide high capacity X-band service compatible with DoD's Defense Satellite Communications System and Global Broadcast System satellites.

Soldiers building new ground-based midcourse defense unit

By Maj. Greg Simpson
and Maj. Laura Kenney

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — With an enthusiasm for their cutting-edge technology and an eagerness to get to work, eight new Ground-based Midcourse Defense (GMD) program soldiers recently joined Army Space Command.

Fusing with a small core of soldiers who've been training at Army Space for the past year, the eight new soldiers blended in quickly, focused on

the mission of getting GMD "off the ground" running.

They traveled to Colorado Springs from various walks of life and from across the nation; from Virginia, Utah, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Illinois. They joined four other soldiers who have been here for the last year diligently working on the program.

Maj. Greg Simpson, the current officer-in-charge of the section, hails from Virginia. Maj. Lawton Kitchin, Capt. Joe Miley, 2nd Lt. Paul Childress and Sgt. First Class Marcus

Kent all call South Carolina home. Capt. Paul Fritz is from Pennsylvania. 1st Lt. Amy Riggs — Illinois. 1st Lt. Mike Edwards is from Utah. The soldiers who've been here for the past year are Capt. Chad Haman of North Dakota and Sgt. First Class William Ray, Sgt. Ralph Fresquez and Sgt. Rene Saiz — all of New Mexico.

"This is a great group of soldiers. Everyone is excited to be here and have the opportunity to serve their country in this capacity," Simpson said.

The soldiers bring a variety of experiences to the new GMD table, but all have common ties in Air Defense Artillery. In addition to each being in the National Guard, they are all volunteers for the new mission.

They were brought on active duty to be trained as operators for the new GMD missile system in order to meet President Bush's intent to deploy a national missile defense program by September 2004. Once the system is fielded, these soldiers and many more will be assigned to the Colorado National Guard and the Alaska National Guard.

The command and control element will be in Colorado Springs, and the actual weapon system will be in Fort Greely, Alaska. Army Space Command

will maintain operational control of the unit.

"It's exciting to be part of something new and to work with the very latest in technology. I've been here a year, and having the new soldiers join us definitely has increased the momentum," Fresquez said.

National missile defense is not a new concept, but one which has received recent emphasis from the President.

Modern ballistic missiles have been around since WWII when Germany rained the V2 rocket down on England. The United States fielded a national missile defense program, Safeguard, in the mid 1970s, but it was deactivated by Congress shortly afterward. President Reagan created the Strategic Defense Initiative to readdress the establishment of a national missile defense program. The current missile defense program is split into three phases; boost, midcourse and terminal. Other weapon systems are being tested to address the boost and terminal phases.

Miley said, "I think each of us signed up for the GMD mission because we're excited by the new technology and the chance to be in at the beginning of something so important to the defense of our country. It's good to be here."



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Dennis Beebe

1st Lt. Amy Riggs, left, newly arrived Ground-based Midcourse Defense program soldier, watches her screen intently during a training session. Sgt. 1st Class Marcus Kent pays equal attention to the critical training phase given to Army Space Command's new element.

Joint Forces in Kuwait train for worst to provide best care

Mass casualty exercise prepares medical, support staff for future operations

By Journalist 1st Class Joseph Krypel
CTG 51.8/CMPF Public Affairs

CAMP PATRIOT, Kuwait — A joint-service American and Kuwaiti military force of more than 1,500 personnel recently participated in a mass casualty drill here in support of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM.

The drill was the culmination of weeks of training exercises designed to prepare the medical staff and support personnel for future operations.

"One of our primary goals is to test the response capabilities of the joint American-Kuwaiti Medical Center and its staff," said Task Force 51 medical planner Lt. Cmdr. Jerry Gardner.

"We all prepare in our specific areas on a regular basis, and with close coordination and planning between the Navy, Marine Corps and Kuwaiti assets, we can do anything that is medically required of us here," Gardner said.

With a combined total medical staff of more than 30 people responding, the day-to-day operations of the joint medical facility quickly turned from sick-call and immunizations to field triage and treatment.

Gardner explained that the shift in operations was something that every member of his staff was prepared for. "We've organized teams based on the known assets we have on hand. Our teams are comprised of sailors, Marines and Kuwaiti medical staff, as well as

others from around Camp Patriot that will act as stretcher-bearers and masters-at-arms."

Dental officer Lt. Andrew Huttula, triage officer for the response team, explained his role during the drill. "Triage is the evaluation of an individual's health and circumstance. We use that information to determine the urgency of care required. I'm here to serve in the most proficient manner and to provide the best triage possible — it will save lives."

For the purposes of this exercise, the joint medical staff was confronted with a very real possible threat: falling debris from an intercepted, inbound missile.

According to Cmdr. James Gregory, director of trauma, five to 10 individuals were selected to act as casualties in multiple locations around Camp Patriot.

"The response teams and clinic staff have no idea what to expect or where to expect it," Gregory said. "This is to test our communications and response; it wouldn't be a very good test if we all knew what and where something like this was going to happen."

Gregory, a trauma surgeon, is a reservist recalled to active duty in support of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM.

Once the drill began and the mock casualties arrived, all on-board reacted with the utmost professionalism. "It was rewarding to see all our assets pull together in such a fast and professional way," said Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Shane Lane, who played the role of an off-site responder. "Although we had some language barriers, the team-play between our Kuwaiti colleagues and our corpsmen was excellent. There was very little question as to why we were there and

what we had to do to save lives."

The goals were to test response time and preparedness of the clinic. Lasting approximately one hour, Camp Patriot's first test of medical response was considered a success by its staff and planners.

"All roles were covered, and while communications around the camp and the different commands could be improved, we have made significant progress in our ability to respond to mass casualty situations," Gardner said.

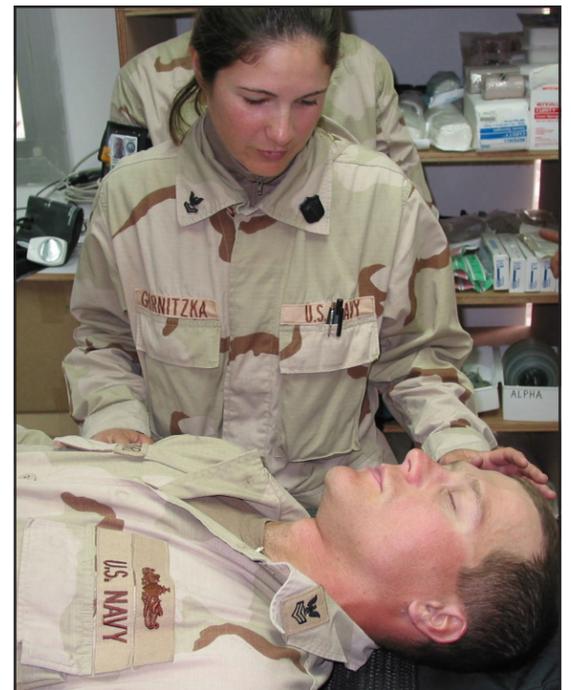


Photo by Navy Journalist 1st Class Joseph Krypel

Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Melissa Gornitzka assesses the simulated injuries of a shipmate during a recent mass casualty drill at Camp Patriot in Kuwait.



By Sharon L. Hartman

Talking to troops

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Sergeant Major of the Army Jack Tilley, right, gives a pep talk to soldiers from the Army Space Command during a visit to his old stomping grounds. Tilley, former command sergeant major of the Space and Missile Defense Command, discussed issues ranging from promotions to better quality of life and more. Tilley told soldiers that people in the Army today are more aware of what Army Space Command provides. "Most of the video teleconferences I go to now, Space and Missile Defense is always there to describe what you bring to the fight. I think the Army really understands more about what you all have and what you offer a great deal more than they probably did five or six years ago. You've done a great job."

Congressional staffers check out Kwajalein

By Jim Bennett
Editor, *Kwajalein Hourglass*

Kwajalein could serve as a test case for a Defense Department technology study on water production methods, according to a visiting Congressional staffer.

And that's just one of the benefits from the increased visibility that comes from the annual three-day event where U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll (USAKA) hosts staff members from the House and Senate. The program has grown from three staffers in 2002 to 16 in 2003, reviewing the range for nine House members and two senators.

"This trip provides an opportunity for Congressional staff to see USAKA first-hand and take that experience to the members of Congress," said John Cummings, SMDC Congressional Affairs officer.

The Army issues an open invitation to Congressional

staffers in August and September, allowing them to sign up for the January trip.

The trip is purposely scheduled for January, "because it's the month where most Congressional offices regroup and staffers can get away for a week," Cummings said.

This year, after an election, new senators and House members are moving in, and committee assignments are being made.

"It's extremely important," said Stanley White, chief of staff for Rep. Robert Brady (D-Pa.).

"Missile defense is a hot topic, and you can't understand the issue unless you see for yourself what's going on."

But while White and others examined the missile technology on the island through a series of tours, briefings and break-out sessions, Steven Traver, a legislative assistant for Sen.

Pete Domenici (R-N.M.), looked at the reverse osmosis water purification units, or ROWPUs.

ROWPU crews recently reported the units had produced 100 million gallons in regular usage for the past five years, though originally purchased as a stop-gap measure during a drought in 1997.

But the military hopes to study newer water production methods, something that interests the delegation from New Mexico, Traver said.

"When you think of testing water production, you think of the desert because of the harsh conditions, the heat. But you're unique out here with the heat, but also the corrosion," he said.

The USAKA Water Department will soon review bids on new equipment, and Traver said the review could set the baseline for the study.

"That will tell researchers how good they have to be, because if they can't produce something better than we have, what's the point?" Traver said.

In Phase I of the study, set to begin next year, researchers will examine alternative methods, and in Phase II, build test models for their work. One test model could find a home here, Traver said, because of the unique environment, but that portion of the study wouldn't begin for two to three years or so, he added.

Sooner than that, however, the delegates

will return to their Washington, D.C., offices and review the President's proposed FY '04 budget, that began with its release to members of Congress Feb. 3. The Space and Missile Defense Command, and specifically, USAKA, will have line items in the multi-thousand-page document, with a separate descriptive summary paragraph.

"My boss wants to know that you have what you need to do the job right," White said.

Traver added that Congress has embraced Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld's "life cycle" approach, which reviews the cost of not only meeting specific project goals, but also cutting long-term costs. Using housing as a hypothetical example, Traver said if Congress were to buy a house, they would look favorably on buying a more expensive home up front, if that meant less maintenance costs over the long term.

White's boss, Brady, previously served on the House Armed Services Committee with sub-committee assignments to Appropriations and Research and Development, "both of which are germane to Kwajalein," White said.

Traver's boss, Domenici, serves on the Senate Appropriations committee. Committees should begin hearings in March. Having seen the island will help both in those discussions, they said.

"I have the descriptive summary [from the budget] and I can put an image with that, and it's immensely helpful," Traver said.



Members of the missile defense Congressional staff delegation to USAKA return from a tour and briefing of the Meck Island missile launch facility.

Annual commander's conference provides face-to-face opportunity for learning, bonding

By CWO 2 Garth R. Hahn
Unit reporter

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. – Even with the sophisticated technology used by satellite controllers to ensure speedy communication these days, it's still important for leaders to get together face-to-face. One such venue is the annual Commander's Conference, held here recently by 1st Satellite Control Battalion, Army Space Command.

The event brought in commanders and executive officers from around the globe to participate in training, conduct the Quarterly Training Brief and Officer Professional Development, and share lessons learned from their respective companies.

The conference started with briefings by Lt. Col. Mearen Bethea, commander of the 1st Satellite Control Battalion, and Command Sgt. Maj. Ricky Judy.

Throughout the week, the attendees were given classes on personnel issues including awards and evaluations, logistical subjects such as hand receipts, Prescribed Load List and IMPAC purchase card use and operational and training issues.

"These classes and the conference in general reinforce standards across our geographically distributed command and are invaluable," said Maj. Heidi Gebhardt, battalion executive officer.

In addition to the classes, the commanders and executive officers discussed issues at their sites and how they deal with them. This peer-to-peer discussion resulted in better understanding of how similar issues are handled throughout the command — in a way that a typical Army battalion with all the companies collocated can do on a daily basis.

After the training and briefings from the staff sections, the commanders and executive officers briefed Col. David Schaffer, commander of Army Space Forces, in the Quarterly Training Brief.

This briefing is usually done via video teleconferencing, but the battalion took the opportunity to set up a face-to-face briefing. This allowed the company commanders and executive officers to personally discuss the operational activities of their units in the field with their brigade-level commander, an important part of officer development in the Army.

Another exciting opportunity presented itself with the arrival of Col. Jeffrey Foley, chief of staff, U.S. Army Signal Center & Fort Gordon, Ga. Foley, at the behest of Bethea, conducted an Officer Professional Development session on leadership. Signal officers and soldiers from Fort Carson, some of whom will soon be deploying to the Southwest Asia region, took the opportunity to attend and hear from the preeminent leader in their field.

Bethea considered the training an "excellent developmental opportunity for all the soldiers in the Colorado Springs Signal community."

Foley discussed the difference between management and leadership and the need for leaders in the military, drawing from a variety of military and civilian sources. He concluded the session with a question and answer period and further discussion on the future of the Signal Corps.

As the week wrapped up, the commanders and executive officers along with staff and soldiers of HHC, 1st SATCON, took to the slopes in a teambuilding ski day at Keystone Ski Area. This activity provided an opportunity to have fun, while cementing the relationships they had renewed or built during the training.

Tales of three women

SMDC women 'pioneer the future'

March is Women's History Month. This year's theme, "Women Pioneering the Future," incorporates both pioneering women from U.S. history, who led and won struggles for equality and civil rights, created and advanced educational and professional opportunities, and made great contributions to the arts, sciences, and humanistic causes, and innovative women of today who further these efforts and continue to expand the frontiers of possibility for generations to come.

At the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command, civilian and military women continue to blaze trails for those women who will follow behind them. The following stories are just some examples.

Lt. Col. Nancy Currie, as the first female Army astronaut, ranks in the top echelons of outstanding Army women of all time. She's literally flown higher than any earlier Army female aviator, "pushing the envelope," as pilots like to say,



Lt. Col. Nancy Currie

and breaking down boundaries one after another.

Currie, who has a doctorate in industrial engineering,

has served in the U.S. Army for more than 20 years. Prior to her assignment at NASA in 1987, she attended initial rotary wing pilot training and was subsequently assigned as an instructor pilot at the U.S. Army Aviation Center. She served in a variety of leadership positions including section leader, platoon leader and brigade flight-standardization officer. As a Master Army aviator she logged more than 3,900 flying hours in a variety of rotary-wing and fixed-wing aircraft.

Currie was assigned to NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, in September 1987 as a flight simulation engineer on the Shuttle Training Aircraft, a complex airborne simulator which models flight characteristics of the Orbiter. An astronaut since 1990, she was involved in robotic hardware and procedure development for the shuttle and space station and worked as a spacecraft communicator. Currie also served as the chief of both the Astronaut Office Robotics and Payloads-Habitability branches. A veteran of four space shuttle missions, she accrued 1,000 hours in space. She flew as mission specialist 2 and flight engineer on STS-57 (1993), STS-70 (1995), STS-88 (1998); the first International Space Station assembly mission), and STS-109 (2002).

Sgt. Jenevieve Murphy, Headquarters, 15th Air Defense, Joint Tactical Ground Station Detachment Europe, would be considered an outstanding Army woman by any yard-stick.



Sgt. Jenevieve Murphy

Recently promoted to sergeant from the NCO rank of corporal, the administrative specialist will soon be giving up chevrons to wear the silver railroad tracks of a captain, when she accepts a direct commission into the Judge Advocate General Corps this summer.

Murphy earned her law degree at Notre Dame, and practiced law prior to enlisting in the Army in 2000. Her reasons for enlisting included patriotism at the top, and also a desire to take advantage of the Army's program for paying off student loans. Once in, Murphy has been 'value added' from the very beginning, earning numerous honors in addition to, in 1st Sgt. Gene Nixon's words, "exemplary performance of her daily mission."

Murphy was selected as the Space and Missile Defense Command Soldier of the Year, European Region, in 2002. Previously, she'd been chosen Fort Leonard Wood Soldier of the Quarter in an earlier assignment. At the Primary

Leadership Development Course, she received the Commandant's Inspection Award.

"Work hard, do the job you were hired to do, volunteer for other responsibilities and have a good attitude," said **Dianne Cargile**, who retired from her 36-year federal service career Jan. 3.

Cargile began her civil service career in 1967 as a 20-year-old GS-4 clerk at NASA. She transferred to SMDC in 1968. During her career, she worked her way up the ladder from clerk to secretary to budget analyst. When she retired, Cargile was a GS-13 in the Resource Management Office in Huntsville, Ala.



Dianne Cargile

She contributes her success to two mentors. "Both were excellent teachers and leaders who encouraged me to seek a career in the analyst field. They also advised me to seek the necessary courses that would help me advance."

Cargile believes more opportunities are available to women now because women in the past worked hard to prove they were capable of doing the job.



U.S. Air Force photos

2nd Lt. Keith Woodburn, 193rd Space Battalion, Army Space Command, dressed in helmet and a life pack, is saddled with 50 feet of S-rolled hose on his shoulder while dragging another 250 feet of hose. Woodburn is cheered on by Senior Airman Heather Shields and fellow Space soldier, Staff Sgt. Kent Brandsted during the Fireman's Challenge in Oman.

Fireman's Challenge pairs Army Space with Air Force

Hard work breaks up monotony of day-in day-out work schedule

By Lt. Col. Michael L. Yowell
Unit reporter

OMAN — "GO ARMY-AIR FORCE!!!!"

That was the cheer of the inter-service team during the 405th Air Expeditionary Wing's President's Day Fireman's Challenge in the Sultanate of Oman. On a sunny 90-degree Sunday afternoon, three members of the Army Space Command's Test and Evaluation unit joined with three Air Force Medical Group members for a series of challenging events. Team composition was simple, a six-person team with at least one female member. While eight other Air Force teams were formed five men to one woman, the Army-Air Force went 50-50.

Air Force Capt. Alicia Wright, a Life Skills social worker with the base Medical Group, spearheaded the team's true equal flavor and recruitment. Staff Sgt. Melissa Buss and Senior Airman Heather Shields were with Wright on the same flight to the base in January and quickly joined her. Their challenge came when balancing the team makeup.

"We went to this event with the sole intention of having a good time instead of being hell-bent on winning," Wright said. "We didn't even know what we were going to do beforehand other than the requirement to be able to carry a 125-pound dummy." Having recently arrived, Wright saw the Army Space soldiers and decided to ask them to join in. "Most people do not even realize there are Army soldiers on base," added Buss.

Being on a base of nearly 2,000 airmen makes the six soldiers from the 193rd Space Battalion, Colorado Army National Guard, quite invisible, but 2nd Lt. Keith Woodburn, Staff Sgt. Kent Brandsted and Sgt. Michael Hurley eagerly accepted Wright's offer. Each member had to compete in two events during the challenge, and all six had to take part in the last event together. In true team spirit, all Air Force members sported Army T-shirts.

Starting off the six events, Hurley had to race a 3-inch fully charged fire hose 100 feet, then shoot water through a window until the bucket inside filled — striving for

the speediest completion time. Buss then took her turn with the best of the two times counting for the team.

"The hose knocked the wind out of me as soon as I turned it on. I'm glad someone from the base fire department was standing behind me," said Buss. The team started off with the best time of all the teams.

Having watched the other teams in the first event, team "Army-Air Force" strategized that the key to the Fireman's Challenge was not so much speed and agility but rather thinking about what you were doing before doing it. With that in mind — and no rest breaks between events — they started off on the second event of rolling out three 50-foot sections of hose and connecting them before the entire team had to race to the end to shout "Fighting Fire" three times. They then had to reverse the process by dropping the hose, disconnecting it and S-rolling it before dashing across the finish line.

Dressed in a fireman's helmet and bunker gear, Woodburn negotiated a traffic-cone course with 50 feet of hose on his shoulder before dragging a roped truck tire 50 feet. Lastly, he used a sledgehammer to drive a railroad tie three feet. Tagging his similarly dressed partner, Brandsted dragged a fire hose and had to shoot at two windows — filling two buckets — before hefting a 125-pound dummy and carrying it 100 feet.

Following the combined event, Hurley had to move a dummy 50 feet, drop it and drag another dummy back before tagging Buss to repeat the process.

One of the hardest events found



Team Army-Air Force members Capt. Alisa Wright, 2nd Lt. Keith Woodburn, Staff Sgt. Kent Brandsted and Senior Airman Heather Shields prepare to coil a fire hose during the second of six events of the 405th AEW Fireman's Challenge. The two men are from 193rd Space Battalion, Army Space Command, and are presently serving in Oman.

Woodburn dressed again in helmet and a life pack, saddled with 50 feet of S-rolled hose on his shoulder, and dragging another 250 feet of hose all the way until it was fully stretched. Then Woodburn had to run it back while Wright and Shields S-rolled the hose back up.

Finally, the entire team raced with canvas buckets to douse a roof designed to drain into a 55-gallon drum. The team quickly realized they had to pace the water flow onto the roof since too much at once would overshoot the drain and waste time. Quickly they had it filled to the second ring on the barrel, and their challenge was complete.

"It was hard work," reflected Woodburn. "It was a good thing to break up the monotony of the day-in day-out work schedule here."

Competition was very tight throughout the challenge, and team "Army-Air Force" took fourth place. Prizes for the team included 405th AEW T-shirts, mugs, coffee cups and key lanyards. The Fireman's Challenge was so popular that it will be a monthly base event. No doubt Team Army-Air Force will aim to improve its standing.