

The Eagle

United States Army Space and Missile Defense Command

Volume 10, Number 1, January 2003



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Robert Wall

Going to the top

Chief of Staff of the Army, Gen. Eric K. Shinseki, left, topped the list of special persons who came to share Thanksgiving with soldiers and sailors stationed in Qatar. Three Joint Tactical Ground Station soldiers shared a pre-Thanksgiving lunch with the general and other soldiers and sailors. But one JTAGS soldier really hit the jackpot, and was administered the oath of re-enlistment by the Army's top general. Staff Sgt. Steven Adams, right, Engagement Control Team leader, raised his right hand and repeated the time-honored words to the stern but friendly face of the man with four stars marching across his desert pattern BDU cap.

Inside The Eagle



Army Space celebrates season, page 8

Space unit likes its training 'cubed,' page 11



Packing a punch, page 12

Flight Test 10

Test incomplete because of booster failure

From DoD and staff reports

The Missile Defense Agency announced Dec. 11 it was not able to complete a test involving the planned intercept of a long-range ballistic missile target over the central Pacific Ocean when the exoatmospheric kill vehicle interceptor and the booster rocket failed to separate, preventing the EKV from engaging the target warhead in space.

A modified Minuteman II intercontinental ballistic missile carrying the target warhead was successfully launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., at 12:26 a.m. PST, and the booster rocket carrying the EKV was launched approximately 20 minutes later and about 4,800 miles away from Kwajalein Atoll.

This test was conducted in support of research and development efforts for the Ground-based Midcourse Defense program.

The fireball lit the Kwajalein night sky, marking the first night missile launch in several years at the Reagan Test Site.

"I'd never seen a nighttime launch," said resident Trace Fleming. "It was the most beautiful mission I'd seen. Spectacular."

Residents who gathered at North Point, the Snake Pit, Emon Beach and various other

points around the island to witness the shot, could clearly see the launch and the initial ascent, along with the curly-Q maneuver the booster performs to bleed off energy before going in for the kill. The flaming trail then disappeared in the night sky in a matter of minutes.

This was the final planned test involving the use of the interceptor's booster rocket that has been serving as a surrogate booster system and used for all GMD intercept tests since 1999. In a test on July 8, 2000, an apparently similar anomaly resulted in not completing the test because of the booster and EKV not separating.

The surrogate booster is used for the developmental flight test program only, and is not intended for further use in the GMD test program or for a future operational GMD system. Two new booster designs are currently in development and will undergo flight testing beginning next spring. One or both of the new boosters will be used by the GMD program in all future intercept tests beginning late next year.

Initial post-test analysis indicates that all other GMD program elements successfully completed their test objectives, including radars and other

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The EKV leaves a dazzling streak of light in the night sky as it launches from Meck Dec. 11.

The Command Corner



LTG Joseph M. Cosumano Jr.
Commanding General

As we begin 2003, I want to thank you and your families for your great work and sacrifices in 2002. The events of the past year and the accomplishments of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command and Army Space Command were many and significant. Well done!

As we turn the page, the new year will be one of great challenges and opportunities for our Army, for SMDC, and for the space, information operations and missile defense communities. Military operations will continue in the cause of protecting America and the world from the scourge of global terrorism, and the possibility of war in the Middle East may well put more SMDC and Army Space soldiers in harm's way.

Meanwhile, transformation will progress in creating the Army of the future, and SMDC will continue at the forefront in development of the doctrine, operational and training requirements, and the technologies that will come together in the Objective Force.

We have often said, "Space enables transformation," and the full truth of that adage will become apparent in 2003. Integrated missile defenses will also come closer to reality this year, as we accelerate procurement of Patriot-3 missiles, integrate a new booster into the ground-based midcourse defense system, conduct more complex flight tests, and move forward on construction on the Ballistic Missile Defense System Testbed at Ft. Greely, Alaska.

We will continue working closely with Joint Theater Air and Missile Defense Organization and U.S. Strategic Command in developing an integrated architecture encompassing all four operational elements of missile defense — Active Defense, Attack Operations, Passive Defenses and Battle Management/C4I. And in our new role as an Army service component, we will begin working out the details of how Army space forces, missile defenses, strike units and Information Operations capabilities will support USSTRATCOM's global missions.

With all this going on, however, the care and welfare of our families must not be neglected. Their support will be as important as ever. So roll up your sleeves, this will be a busy year at SMDC.

SECURE THE HIGH GROUND!



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

This past year has brought all of us in the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command a great sense of pride and well being. We have accomplished much as a team. Our commitment to each other has allowed us to endure many challenges with a great deal of success.

As we know all too well right now, 2003 will challenge us even more. Our commitment to each other, our country and our future will depend a lot on what we do in support of our nation's efforts to protect and preserve our personal and professional freedoms.

As in 2002, we will need to continue our steadfast vigilance and cooperative spirit. We must work even harder to reach and meet our transformation objectives, as well as prepare to meet an adversary down range.

This great organization will prevail on both fronts, and that's absolute. Why? Because we have steadfast and vigilant people at the helm and executing the missions. I truly look forward to sharing this adventurous and challenging journey with you.

I want to thank all of you for a very great year, and as I like to say, "The home run we hit on Friday doesn't count on Tuesday," so we need to be ready to do it again real soon. **TOGETHER.**

PROUD TO BE HERE ... READY TO SERVE

February 2003



What We Think

The Eagle asks:

What are your New Year's resolutions?



Kevin Cohen
MIT Lincoln
Laboratory
Reagan Test Site,
Kwajalein

My grandfather always said, "Work hard and then play hard." Every new year I remember his words. At work, I will continue to do what it takes to ensure technical excellence. At home, I will strive for quality time with my wonderful family. Finally, I will spend a lot of time running, cycling, and swimming, in order to work off all of the accumulated holiday cheer, which has been particularly fine this year!



Capt. Mike Daniels
Army Space Support
Company, 193rd Space
Support Battalion



Yvonne S. Hampton
staff accountant,
Accounting Division,
Resource Management

To achieve the highest PT score in my unit.

My New Year's resolution is for me to have a closer walk with God and to read more. I also need to relax more when I am at home instead of always finding something to do.



Maj. Robert Zaza
Army Space Support
Company, 1st
Space Battalion

Two of my resolutions for the new year are to spend more time with my family and continue my exercise program at least three times a week.

My New Year's resolution is to be a more attentive husband and father.



Carmen Correa
contract specialist/
contracting officer,
Arlington, Va.

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Americans celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy Jan. 20

By Mary D. Peoples
SMDC Equal Employment Opportunity Office

On Jan. 20 we celebrate the birthday and life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. While his birthday is Jan. 15, the federal holiday always falls on a Monday.

Observances will be held throughout the United States in memory of King and the significant accomplishments made during his short lifetime. Much has been written and said about the man who made history in changing race relations in this country.

King was a vital personality of the modern era. His lectures and remarks stirred the concern and sparked the conscience of a generation; the movements and marches he led brought significant changes in the fabric of American life; his courageous and selfless devotion gave direction to 13 years of civil rights activities; his charismatic leadership inspired men and women, young and old, in this nation and abroad.

King's concept of "somebodiness" gave black and poor people a new sense of worth and dignity. His philosophy of nonviolent direct action, and his strategies of rational and non-destructive social change, galvanized the conscience of this nation and recorded its priorities. The Voting Rights Act of 1965, for example, went to Congress as a result of the Selma to Montgomery march. His wisdom, his words, his actions, his commitment and his dream are intertwined with the American experience. The success of his efforts is reflected in

the laws on the books today against discrimination in all facets of American life — public accommodations, housing, jobs and voting.

It is the international impact of King and his movement that is credited with helping to spur the democratic movements in Eastern Europe and the fall of the Berlin Wall. The sight of East German crowds on network television clasping hands before the wall and singing "We Shall Overcome" was electrifying to the world. Many Americans believe that wherever the struggle for democracy and human rights is waged, the memory of Martin Luther King Jr. is revered. He showed the world that conflicts can be resolved through reason and that significant change can come about without bloodshed.

It's a time to say a personal "thank you" to Dr. King for giving his life for the cause of civil rights and promoting universal brotherhood. When he died in Memphis, he was leading garbage workers in demonstrations for better wages, and planning a march on Washington for economic justice. Americans who are touched by the same experiences have become his inheritors and the recipients of his legacy. He was dedicated to the oldest of man's collective dreams — universal brotherhood.

Dr. King refused to accept the view that "mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality."

Re-enlistment at 9/11 site 'a profound experience'

By Sgt. 1st Class Mathew Frias

FORT MEADE, Md. — For a soldier, re-enlisting is a milestone in his or her career. A soldier has the option to ask when and where he or she would like to re-enlist; and if possible, the company will try to coordinate arrangements to make it happen.

Sgt. Raul Sheran, who hails from Brooklyn, N.Y., asked if he could re-enlist in New York City at the World Trade Center Ground Zero. Since he is from New York City, the events that occurred on Sept. 11, 2001, touched him and his family personally. He wanted to dedicate his re-enlistment to the memories of what happened on that day. He wanted observers to ponder the reasons why those of us who re-enlist do it — "to defend these United States against all enemies foreign or domestic."

And to protect our loved ones.

On Oct. 18, 2002, Sheran's wish to re-enlist at Ground Zero in New York City became a reality. After a great deal of coordination and planning, 21 Black Dragon soldiers of B Company, 1st Satellite Control Battalion, departed home base on two Black Hawk helicopters. The helicopter trip was made possible with the assistance of Chief Warrant Officer David Rosser from the Military District of Washington. Rosser had heard about Sheran's re-enlistment through his stepson, Spc. Kenneth Smith, who is assigned to B Company.

For many of the soldiers, this was their first time on a Black Hawk helicopter. "I would never have thought to be flying in a Black Hawk in my military career," said Spc. Taito Taylor. For most of the soldiers, just riding in a Black Hawk helicopter made the day. But there was more to come.

For the flight, just going over the landscape from a height of a couple thousand feet was amazing. But coming into New York City, the view was extraordinary. Going by the Statue of Liberty and seeing the Manhattan skyline — for many of us something we'd only seen in films — was breathtaking.

We ended up landing at Manhattan Wall Street Southside Helipad. We had to wait

Commentary

until the FBI director Louis Freeh departed before we could land.

"Things happen," said one of the Black Hawk pilots.

After disembarking, we walked to Ground Zero. This only took about 10 minutes. Walking through downtown Manhattan around the Wall Street area, and seeing the people around looking at us, the soldiers of B Company, made us proud to be in the U.S. Army.

People left and right were offering uplifting comments and asking us where we came from. We even had some funny remarks, such as, "Is that a bazooka you're carrying?"

We then told the questioner that it was the U.S. flag and our unit flag in a carrying case — and we were going to use them for a re-enlistment ceremony at Ground Zero.

After arriving at Ground Zero, we met up with Lt. Quentin DeMarco of the Port Authority Police of New York and New Jersey, who showed us around and gave us an enlightened briefing about what happened on Sept. 11, 2001. Most of us were awestruck about what had happened,

even so many months after the terrible events, especially after seeing the aftermath.

DeMarco lost some of his comrades during the Sept. 11, 2001, events, and he offers these briefings in their memory. After the briefing, he showed us the temporary memorial that was set up while the construction to rebuild was ongoing. Sheran re-enlisted near the memorial around 11 a.m. It was a solemn ceremony, and rightly so.

"I re-enlisted here for the families and friends directly affected on this day," he said.

After the re-enlistment, we had to wait for the helicopters to refuel and to return to the heliport.

We returned to home station, having had both a very moving experience and a good time afterward.

This is something I will remember all my life. I was devastated, as all Americans were, by this attack on our country. To actually go to one of the sites, and then to be a witness and participant while one of my fellow soldiers re-dedicated his life to the service of our nation — it was a profound and moving experience that will serve as a major highlight of my military career.



Sgt. Raul Sheran, B Co., 1st SATCON, is administered the oath of re-enlistment by his company commander, Capt. Thaddeus Underwood, at a place seared in his heart, as it is in the hearts of all Americans. Sheran took the oath to renew his dedication to country and service at Ground Zero, World Trade Center, New York City, with his fellow soldiers as witnesses.



Photo by Giselle Bodin

Keep up the good work

Sgt. Matthew D. Valek, center, an instructor assigned to the 238th Joint Tactical Ground Station Detachment at Fort Bliss, Texas, accepts a coin from U.S. Strategic Command Commander Admiral James O. Ellis Jr. for a job well done during the Association of the U.S. Army's convention held Dec. 10-12, 2002, in El Paso, Texas.

2002: A momentous year for America's armed forces

By Kathleen T. Rhem
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Members of the U.S. military were instrumental in tremendous advancements in Afghanistan, Iraq, NATO and the United States, said Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld Dec. 17.

"In 2002, OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM finished driving the Taliban from power in Afghanistan," Rumsfeld said, noting U.S. forces have also disrupted operations of al Qaeda, the terrorist group responsible for the Sept. 11 attacks.

The secretary highlighted humanitarian improvements in Afghanistan, where coalition military members have dug wells, delivered food, built schools and roads, and repaired hospitals.

Rumsfeld said American men and women in uniform "can take pride in knowing the pressure they put on the Iraqi regime has played a role in the progress that's being made." He called the Nov. 8 unanimous approval of U.N. Security Council Resolution 1441 "a

turnaround regarding the situation in Iraq."

After a decade of evading and defying U.N. sanctions, Iraq has a final opportunity to "comply with its disarmament obligations," Rumsfeld said.

At a NATO summit in Prague, Czech Republic, in November, the North Atlantic alliance invited seven Eastern European nations to join. All are former communist countries.

"The arrival of these liberated nations reminds us that although we still face serious challenges in the world, freedom is indeed ascendant around the world," Rumsfeld said about the NATO expansion.

The past year saw significant changes in the U.S. defense structure as well. The Bush administration "fashioned a new defense strategy with a way of sizing our forces and a new way of balancing risk," Rumsfeld said.

The reorganization of the Unified Command Plan will allow the Defense Department to better defend the homeland, Rumsfeld said. UCP actions included the establishment of U.S.

Northern Command, and the realignment of Joint Forces Command, now more focused on transformation, and U.S. Strategic Command, responsible for early warning against missile attacks.

He called the work to repair the Pentagon after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack "a heroic effort."

"We celebrated the resiliency of this great institution and the stout hearts of those within," the secretary said. "The new Pentagon is better and stronger than ever."

Rumsfeld said the men and women of the Defense Department have a lot to be proud of in the past year. "(They) certainly have my admiration and respect."

Joint Chiefs Chairman Air Force Gen. Richard Myers extended his kudos to family members, who manage children, careers and homes while their military spouses are deployed.

"It takes great courage to ... fight a war," Myers said. "But maybe it takes more courage to allow a loved one to go. So to the families, thank you for your courage and your patriotism."

Personal information taken in health care computer theft

By Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Thieves made off with computer equipment and files from the Arizona office of a military health care contractor Dec. 14, 2002, gaining access to some clients' social security numbers, according to DoD's health care management organization.

The TRICARE Management Activity noted in a Dec. 23 news release that TriWest Healthcare Alliance Corp., a TRICARE contractor, provides services to military members, their families and retirees living mostly in the central and western United States.

Affected TRICARE beneficiaries can call a toll-free number, 1-888-339-9378, for more information.

Data files embedded within equipment missing from the Phoenix facility "contained sensitive and personal TRICARE Prime beneficiary information — including claims history and social security numbers," according to documentation provided by TriWest.

The TriWest document went on to say that officials could account for no motive for the alleged thefts.

The Defense Criminal Investigative Service, FBI and other law enforcement

organizations are investigating the incident, according to the TMA release.

The department had been notified of the theft Dec. 20th and DoD has since been working with TriWest, according to TMA, to ensure uninterrupted service for beneficiaries.

TriWest covers TRICARE beneficiaries living in Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming, Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, and extreme western Texas, according to the TMA release.

Affected TRICARE beneficiaries can call a toll-free number, 1-888-339-9378, for more information.

Civilian News

Homeland Security Office, OPM introduce Web site

The White House's Homeland Security Office and the Office of Personnel Management have been rallying prospective federal homeland security employees by means of a Web site intended to answer their questions about the coming Homeland Security Department and transition matters. The site, located at www.dhs.gov/employees, includes documents and official announcements about the new agency. It also gives workers a way to supply feedback to the Bush administration. The site includes a Web cast of a Dec. 17 town hall meeting, which had about 600 attendees from the 22 agencies that will be merged into the new department. The department is launching its own public Web site in January, which will be www.dhs.gov.

OPM speeding up security clearance processing for federal employees

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is working on speeding up the time it takes federal employees to receive security clearances. OPM is the lead agency on the e-Clearance program — one of the president's 24 e-government initiatives. The goal is to move from a paper-based system to an electronic clearance system, said John Crandell, e-Clearance project manager at OPM. Expected shortly on OPM's Web site is the SF 86C form, which is designed to help those who have to complete the traditional clearance form repeatedly — for example contractors who must submit the form to several different agencies. The new form will allow the applicants to certify that no information has changed, if that is the case, or to make any necessary changes, Crandell said. By the end of January, OPM expects to load civilian agency clearance information on the OPM Security/Suitability Investigations Index and connect it to the Defense Department's Joint Personnel Adjudication System. This will create a cross-agency clearance verification system that will allow agencies to locate clearance information through a single search for any agency.

OPM considering outsourcing Retirement Systems project

The Office of Personnel Management has released a request for information about outsourcing its Retirement Systems Modernization (RSM). Interested vendors have until Feb. 21 to respond. Only those that reply will be eligible to bid should OPM decide to outsource the effort. OPM analyzed the customer service operations and retirement claims processing and defined benefit record-keeping functions for the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) and the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS). The retirement systems cover more than 5 million current and retired federal workers and their families. More than 2 million retirees receive payments each month and the trust has more than \$450 billion in assets. The current retirement systems have links with 14 federal human resources systems. OPM manages its claims processing and defined benefits record-keeping on paper. Through the modernization project, it wants to automate manual processes, including the review of claim applications, updating of benefit pay status and appeals filings. The agency found that outsourcing "offers potentially lower risk and faster implementation, and may be comparable in cost to the estimated RSM baseline for some functions."

DODDS staffers no longer must file travel plans

Stars and Stripes reports that teachers and other civilian employees of Department of Defense Dependents Schools in the Pacific no longer need to file force-protection plans for personal travel, DODDS-Pacific officials said. At the beginning of the school year, DODDS-Pacific issued a requirement that travel to virtually all locations in the region — except Guam, Hawaii and other U.S. territories — had to be approved by the district. The stipulation also called for DODDS employees to file a detailed force-protection plan and itinerary before travel was approved. But after receiving a clarification from Pacific Command anti-terrorism officials, DODDS-Pacific decided to drop the requirements for personal travel, officials said. Those will stay the same for official travel in the region, however.

Military News

Army budget funds transformation, pay increase

Army News Service reports that this year's Defense Appropriations Bill and Authorization Act fund a fourth Stryker Brigade, 650 Comanche helicopters and pay increases for soldiers. One of the things that the Army requested was to close the pay gap between soldiers and the private sector, officials said. Congress responded with a pay increase of at least 4.1 percent with targeted increases of up to 6.5 percent for mid- and senior-level noncommissioned officers and a 5.5 percent increase for majors with between eight and 14 years of service. The Army also asked Congress to eliminate out-of-pocket housing expenses for soldiers and their families. The last legislative session saw progress there as well by reducing the average amount of expenses paid by service members from 11.3 percent to 7.5 percent, with the intent of eliminating the out-of-pocket expenses by Fiscal Year 2005. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric K. Shinseki has repeatedly said that the Army needs six Stryker Brigade Combat Teams. Congress responded by authorizing \$788 million to purchase 332 Stryker vehicles, enough for a fourth brigade, with an additional \$150.9 million for further research and development.

DFAS sets 2002 tax season mailing for retirees, annuitants

Air Force Retiree News reports that the 2002 1099R tax forms for all Department of Defense military retirees and annuitants will be mailed by Jan. 15, 2003, to the home addresses on file with the Defense Finance and Accounting Service. Retirees and annuitants, who do not receive their 1099Rs by Jan. 31, 2003, or have questions about their 1099R forms, should call 1 (800) 321-1080 or (216) 522-5955. When calling to request a reissue of the 2002 1099R, press 1 when prompted and the call will be forwarded to the next available customer service representative. Callers should expect to receive the reissued 1099R approximately seven business days after the initial request. DFAS officials said customer service representatives are available Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. EST (except federal holidays). Paydays, or the first business day of each month, are the busiest days. Mondays are also characteristically busy. Beginning Jan. 11 until Feb. 15, Saturday service will be available from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. EST.

New TRICARE mail order pharmacy to open March 1

American Forces Press Service reports that more than 400,000 military pharmacy mail order customers will be switched March 1 to a new TRICARE mail order pharmacy program, according to Army Col. William D. Davies of the TRICARE Management Activity. Services will continue under the National Mail Order Pharmacy contract until Feb. 28, he said. The next day, March 1, Express Scripts Inc. will provide the services. Davies said beneficiaries who have refills remaining on prescriptions on March 1 will be transferred to Express Scripts so they can continue ordering medications on time, with a few exceptions. TRICARE beneficiaries living and working overseas can use the mail order pharmacy if they have an APO, FPO or a U.S. embassy address. But the prescription must be written by a provider licensed to practice in the United States. For more information, including a complete section on the co-pay structure, visit the TRICARE Web site at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil>. Reservists can check the site for details of their benefits under the program.

Program will help vets buy franchises

Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Anthony J. Principi has announced the Veterans Transition Franchise Initiative (VetFran), which allows veterans to buy a franchise with a down payment of 10 percent or less of the initial franchise cost. Franchising companies will absorb the difference. Currently, VetFran is limited to franchises with initial investments up to \$150,000, which is the maximum loan amount on which the Small Business Administration offers 85 percent loan guarantees. VetFran may increase the maximum to include franchises costing more than \$150,000, for which the SBA provides 75 percent loan guarantees. For more information, visit <http://www.vetbiz.gov>.

Transformational Communications Office meets at Army Space Command

By Maj. Laura Kenney
Army Space Command

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — The Transformational Communications Office – Senior Leadership Team (TCO-SMT), a group responsible for many of the actions that will change the face of warfighter communications in the near future, met Nov. 20, 2002, at the new Army Space Command headquarters here.

The TCO is responsible for planning and directing the implementation of the Transformational Communications Architecture for the Department of Defense, intelligence community and NASA. The TCO, under Director Rear Adm. Rand Fisher, who is also the commander, Space and Naval Warfare

Systems Command, and director of communications at the National Reconnaissance Office, meets monthly in the Pentagon.

The TCO-SLT is composed of representatives from the Department of Defense, intelligence community and NASA with the critical mission of coordinating, synchronizing and directing changes in communications to meet the growing requirements of warfighters and the intelligence community.

The ability to transmit detailed information quickly and reliably to and from all parts of the globe will help streamline military command and control and ensure information superiority, enabling faster deployment of highly mobile forces capable of adapting quickly to changing conditions in the field.

Satellite communications play a pivotal role in providing the interoperable, robust, "network-centric" communications needed for future operations.

The conference included representatives from Army Space Command; the National Reconnaissance Office; the Office of the Secretary of Defense for Command, Control, Communication and Intelligence; Air Force Space Command; Defense Information Systems Agency; NASA; MILSATCON Joint Program Office; CIA; U.S. Strategic Command; National Security Space Architect; Naval Operations; HQ Department of the Army Chief Information Office; Communications; and Joint Staff Communications.

USAKA joins with U.S. agencies to help RMI

By Jim Bennett
Editor, *Kwajalein Hourglass*

MAJURO — Many federally funded aid and education agencies in Majuro may have gotten a new partner in U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll.

"I see a lot of utility to getting involved here," said Maj. David Coffey, chief, USAKA Community Relations. "I haven't heard from one group here where I couldn't see us doing something with them in the future."

American officials gathered at the U.S. Embassy for what they call an Expanded Country Team Meeting. They try to get together quarterly, said Jennifer Brush, deputy mission director for the U.S. Embassy. It gives the local U.S. government program directors a chance to review success stories and the various challenges each group faces,

some common to the group, others unique. The meetings also cut the duplication of service.

The roll call reads like a who's who of federally funded programs in Majuro including representatives from Mission Pacific, CARE, rural development, disaster management, College of the Marshall Islands and *Waan Aelon In Majel*, a youth development program, to name a few.

"This way the U.S. government is speaking with one voice," Brush said.

While USAKA has always contributed to the Marshall Islands nationwide through regular contact with the embassy and Pacific Command, the December meeting and potential subsequent involvement marks a more coordinated effort with specific aid agencies.

"The missing component is Ebeye," Brush said, adding she hopes to involve aid and education agencies from that island in future meetings.

Coffey reviewed the situation on Ebeye for the group, updating the power situation that had literally blacked out most of the island. He said power has been restored using a "patchwork of generators." New coils for one generator were flown in within two to three days of the power outage. That generator now powers Ebeye with the "patchwork" serving in back-up mode. Also, KAJUR is renting a new generator from an outfit in Australia and the KMRSS Worthy will bring that generator to Ebeye when it returns from drydock. In addition, four new generators will arrive in the February-March 2003 timeframe.

Coffey added that because of

the back-up design, any future power outages won't affect the hospital, food storage, communications and other critical areas.

"Hopefully we're talking more about inconvenience and lower quality of life rather than a major health crisis," he said.

Cooperation between USAKA and the Republic of the Marshall Islands has taken other forms as well.

When an impeller broke at one of the reverse osmosis water stations on Ebeye, members of Kwajalein's Machine Shop refashioned a new one. The water plant produces 300,000 gallons of water a day, one-third of the million gallons needed daily. In an emergency, USAKA can supply Ebeye with 120,000 gallons a day, Coffey said.

Coffey further discussed funding for the region, adding that Pacific Command's Title X money, which has been a source of many improvements, including most recently the multi-purpose facility on Ebeye, is now going to Afghanistan and the Philippines in support of the war on terrorism.

Brush added that the United States is hoping to lure the Peace Corps back to the Marshall Islands. The Embassy hopes to get a Peace Corps assessment team here in the near future to examine the area.

Much of the meeting centered on introductions and project overviews.

Brush reviewed the Compact of Free Association developments. The Compact was initialed Oct. 31, 2002, and the intent is to sign it in January, she said.

"The timing is critical," she noted. "Getting it signed after January threatens the administration's ability to put the Compact before Congress in time for funding in FY 04.

"We're very close but there are still a few remaining issues," she added.



Photo by Jim Bennett

USAKA Community Relations Chief Maj. David Coffey, far right, and Stephan Notarianni, Host Nation specialist, carry a Christmas tree through the RMI government offices on Majuro following meetings at the U.S. Embassy.

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Continued from page 1

sensors, as well as the battle management, command, control and communication elements that are vital in the GMD development effort. In a missile defense research and development program involving a number of different elements such as GMD, the successful integration of system elements is as important as the intercept.

USS Lake Erie, an Aegis cruiser, successfully tracked the target missile after launch, and the Airborne Laser, a modified Boeing 747 aircraft, successfully used an installed infrared sensor to detect and track the boosting target missile after launch. The developmental Theater High Altitude Area Defense radar located at Vandenberg Air Force Base also performed well, successfully tracking the target missile after launch.

This was the eighth intercept test of the GMD research and development program. The first test on Oct. 3, 1999, resulted in the successful intercept of a ballistic missile target. The second test took place on Jan. 19, 2000, and did not achieve an

intercept due to a clogged cooling pipe on the EKV, but did successfully test the integrated system of elements.

The third test, on July 8, 2000, did not result in an intercept because of unsuccessful separation of the EKV and the booster rocket. The fourth test, on July 14, 2001, achieved a successful intercept of a ballistic missile target, as did tests on Dec. 3, 2001, and March 15, 2002. The successful test on Oct. 14, 2002, included the use of a ship-based SPY-1 radar for the first time to track a long-range target missile.

The last four tests used all GMD system elements as part of an integrated flight test. Government and industry program officials will conduct an extensive review of the test results to determine the reason(s) why EKV/booster separation did not occur, as well as a thorough analysis of all test-related data.

Because of the vast amount of telemetry and other data collected during the test, it is likely to be some time until a preliminary evaluation is completed.

Soldier named ASG Soldier of the Year

The 6th Area Support

Group in Stuttgart, Germany, on Dec. 20, 2002, named Private 1st Class Matthew J. Martinez, 15th Air Defense Detachment (JTAGS-Europe),



Photo by 1st Sgt. John S. Hughes

Martinez

1st Space Battalion, its Soldier of the Year. After being scrutinized on his uniform and reciting his speech, he was drilled on various military topics to test his knowledge and his military bearing. In March, Martinez will represent the 6th ASG in the 7th Army Training Command Soldier of the Year Competition.



Photo by David L. Tilson

Army astronaut meets next generation

Army astronaut Lt. Col. Timothy L. Kopra, a space shuttle mission specialist candidate, signs an autograph at the Association of the United States Army's convention held Dec. 10-12, 2002, in El Paso, Texas. Kopra, assigned to Army Space Command, is in advanced training with NASA for a future flight on the space shuttle.

Service members thank Bob Hope for the memories

By Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — American entertainment icon Bob Hope may be getting along in years — he's 99 now — but he continues his patriotic support of U.S. troops assigned stateside and deployed around the world.

Hope, born Leslie Townes Hope in Eltham, England, on May 29, 1903 (his family emigrated to America in 1907), became a star on vaudeville, Broadway, radio, movies and television — and a hero to U.S. service men and women.

He became famous for flourishing a golf club during his comedy act. But Hope also became well-known as a patriot who'd over the last six decades risked his life to visit with and entertain more than 12 million U.S. service men and women during 700 trips stateside and overseas in peace and war.

This year, "Give Thanks America," a national initiative co-sponsored by DoD, Hewlett-Packard, and Sorenson Media, salutes Hope, showing historical video clips from his trips on its Web site at <http://givethnksusa-ecdc-250-239.digisle.net/hope/>.

Hope's trips to see troops began in May 1941, when the comedian and movie star — soon to be known as "America's No. 1 Soldier in Greasepaint" — traveled with other entertainers to March Field in California and performed a morale boosting radio show for airmen.

After America entered World War II on Dec. 7, 1941, following the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor, Hope began visiting service members at military posts across the nation, and in theaters of war in Europe and the Pacific.

Hope, honored five times by the U.S. Congress, has been recognized for his patriotic efforts, too. The USNS Bob Hope, a roll-on/roll-off cargo ship, was christened in May 1997. The comedian also had an Air Force C-17 transport plane named after him.

In October 1997, Bob Hope was made an Honorary Veteran by both houses of Congress — the first time an individual has been so honored in U.S. history.

Army Space HQ celebrates season, missing those deployed

By Maj. Laura Kenney
Army Space Command

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Current global events have Army Space Command soldiers deployed in increasing numbers around the world, with just more than 500 now serving in 18 different locations. They are performing the critical mission of providing Space support to the warfighter, regardless of the season's normal jollity. But for those still or temporarily at home base here — especially family members of deployed soldiers — valiant efforts were made to mark this normally joyous time.

Amidst the flurry of small office holiday get-togethers, a huge Christmas party held Dec. 13, 2002, at the new headquarters building here featured Santa with individual gifts for the 30-plus children waiting impatiently for their names to be called. Many of them were too young to understand exactly why mommy or daddy wasn't home for the holidays, but they certainly understood the man in the red suit and all the other holiday trimmings gracing the party room.

Heaps of home-cooked foods were brought in by soldiers and family members. At least 15 turkeys and eight hams were cooked with care in the predawn hours to make it by

the 11 a.m. deadline for service. Scarlet cranberries, green casseroles, golden breads and stuffings, snowy mounds of mashed potatoes and sumptuous desserts — in every other color found on a Christmas tree — made the long tables themselves look like trees covered with ornaments.

Fort Carson Garrison chaplain Maj. Allen Stahl while offering grace, said, "Let us remember our soldiers serving their country far from home — trying to celebrate the season without the warm presence of loved family and friends."

Pam Porter, the military personnel management specialist who coordinated the event, was pleased with its outcome.

"It took some planning and juggling, but it all came together," Porter said. "The planning committee did a terrific job, and each and every one was a volunteer. Without their efforts, it certainly wouldn't have gone as smoothly. Everyone who participated seemed to have a good time. I certainly saw many smiles and heard a lot of laughter."



Photo by Sharon L. Hartman

Tyler Harrell, 3, grandson of Army Space Command program analyst Mary Schaap, confides in Santa all his hopes and dreams.

In keeping with tradition, Army Space Command also held its annual Christmas Fun Run.

The run kicked off at o'dark thirty Dec. 16, with the sound of soldiers' feet thudding on the pavement accompanied by the cheerful jingle of bells.

Brig. Gen. Richard V. Geraci, deputy commanding general of Operations, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command, and deputy commanding general, Army Space Command, clad in red

shorts over white sweats and bedecked with a Santa's cap, led the festive runners.

"We've been doing this Christmas Fun Run at Army Space for as long as I can remember, and I hope it continues to be a tradition," Geraci said.

"The reason I'm addressing the smallest ever group of soldiers to make this run is due to our soldiers being deployed all over the world, doing what soldiers are trained to do."



Staff Sgt. Philip Tatum manfully chugs along carrying two full 5-gallon fuel cans as part of the gas can relay event in the JTAGS-PAC Best Crew Competition.

Best crew in JTAGS-PAC

Joint Tactical Ground Station-Pacific team members compete to see who's the best in a Best Crew competition. OS2 Stephan Pulver and OS2 David Wilson participate in the Cable Pull Relay, which entails the laborious task of pulling a 50-foot cable off a platform, rolling it back up and tying it down.



Photos by OS1 Wilfredo Caldero, U.S. Navy

Return voyage: WWII veterans tour Pacific battle sites

Former Navy vets make nostalgic return to Kwajalein Atoll

By **KW Hillis**
Feature Writer, Kwajalein Hourglass

Edwin Dawson especially remembers the rain.

Sitting on metal seats in a virtual downpour and wearing a poncho, Dawson watched a movie on Roi-Namur 58 years ago.

In November 2002, Dawson revisited the islands he had spent 21 months on during World War II when he joined other veterans from World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War, along with some battlefield history buffs, on a trip to Kwajalein and Roi-Namur for three stormy days.

Dawson and one other visitor, Voit Gilmore, had been to Kwajalein Atoll more than 55 years ago as members of the U.S. Navy.

The other visitors, although they did not fight here, were self-declared history buffs and either had been in the service during the war or had a relative in the military. They came to Kwajalein Atoll to learn more about WWII. George Richardson, who joined the U.S. Army in 1946, summed up the reason why most of them had come.

"It is a matter of interest ... it was a turning point in American history, as well as world history, because it was the first time America really came to grips with what their future was," he said.

Richardson, who was born in Hawaii, lived on Oahu when Pearl Harbor was attacked. He said everyone in Hawaii knew about Kwajalein from following the war in the Pacific.

"After Pearl Harbor, we had a fear of invasion," he said.



Edwin Dawson looks over a series of black and white photos he has from his days of living at Roi-Namur after World War II. Inset: Photos show the inside of a church on Roi-Namur.



Photos by KW Hillis

"Then, of course, Midway happened and that fear receded."

The group, accompanied by resident and guide Scarlett Scholte, visited the Island Memorial Chapel, historical markers, Mount Olympus and bunkers. Gilmore pointed out familiar locations to his wife, Josephine, and fellow travelers.

"We have done many trips in the Pacific, but we hadn't done this part," said Josephine Gilmore, as she surveyed Kwajalein from Mount Olympus. "He wanted to come back."

Gilmore, as a Lt. J.G., was assigned to Honolulu's Naval Transport. He flew supplies in and transported the wounded and dead out of Kwajalein, starting in 1943.

"Everything came through Kwajalein ...

it was very much the hub," Gilmore said, explaining that late in 1945 his job changed.

"Our principal mission at that time, since the war had just ended, was pulling out the Bikini natives to get ready for the atomic tests ... in 1946," he said. "We got them settled in Rongelap."

During his visit, Dawson remembered his service time on Roi and Ebeye and left some memories for others to share.

"It is a real pleasure to come back here ... to see where I worked," Dawson said, laying out a yellowed stack of papers, complete with a hand-colored map of the atoll. "I brought with me today, this report I made 58 years ago and am going to give it to the cultural association on Kwajalein." He also left some black and white photos of the Roi movie theater, church, Quonset huts and the Marshallese people.

The group then flew to Roi-Namur, and resident Ted Burris accompanied the visitors and described the different battle sites. Dawson already knew most of the sites, and visited Green Beach, where his U.S. Navy troop ship landed on Feb. 5, 1944.

"Dawson had a hard time recognizing where he landed because it was so green," said Robert Reynolds, group organizer and WWII Royal Air Force veteran.

Responsible for putting up submarine netting and for the protection of the harbors when he first landed on Roi, Dawson said he switched over to administrative work after living and working quarters were built. Upon promotion to chief petty officer, Dawson moved to Ebeye to work on the special report for the Navy concerning the military government in the Marshall Islands. Dawson donated a copy of the report to the Marshallese Cultural Center.

A history buff, Richardson said stories from veterans like Dawson and Gilmore should be recorded for posterity. Documenting first-hand experiences from war veterans of all eras is part of a national effort established by the Library of Congress, according to the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress Web site (www.loc.gov/folklife).

During a dinner hosted by American Legion Post 44 before the group left, Richardson said he and his wife experienced part of the documentation effort during a recent Pacific cruise.

"We had perhaps 400 veterans of WWII, mostly Marines, some Navy, some Air Force, a few infantry," he said. "One of their projects was to interview 100 of these people during the cruise ... they were trying to get the individual experience of what happened to them."

Recording, rather than transcribing, veterans' experiences is important because it preserves the voices and emotions, Richardson said.

"During the war we were told not to talk," Reynolds said. "Back then there was an unwritten law. I wouldn't tell them anything because Hitler was listening," he said. "When my children asked me, 'What did you do in the war, Daddy?', I didn't want to tell them." The RAF pilot had flown night bombings against Germany as part of Tiger Force, a joint effort with the American Eighth Air Force.

"I didn't want to tell them I was frightened, because I was scared to death and daddies aren't supposed to be scared," he said.



Voit Gilmore, with wife Josephine, looks over the various military insignia on the wall at the Veterans Hall.

Awards/Promotions

Special Act Awards

Daniel J. Bradley, Technical Center, Kinetic Energy Interceptor Directorate
Douglas E. Burdette, Technical Center, Space Technology Directorate
Michael L. Howard, ARSPACE, Public Affairs Office
Edward Kiker, ARSPACE, Technical Support Office
Hugh W. Mason, ARSPACE, Public Works Directorate
James M. Miskelley, Technical Center, Kinetic Energy Interceptor Directorate
Buphus L. Nall, Technical Center, Information Science and Technology Directorate
Thomas D. Potter, ARSPACE, Information Management Division
Andrea E. Wiley, ARSPACE, Protocol Office
Roger E. Williams, Technical Center, Systems Directorate

Performance Awards

Peggy N. Adams, Technical Center, Test and Evaluation Directorate
Yolanda Y. Alexander, Technical Center, Sensors Directorate
Carol C. Barclay, Technical Center, Data Analysis and Exploitation Directorate
Kimberly A. Bauer, Technical Center, Test and Evaluation Directorate
William Bet-Sayad, Technical Center, Advanced Technology Directorate
Roger D. Betts, Technical Center, Sensors Directorate
William L. Burrows, Technical Center, Space Technology Directorate
Michael W. Butler, Technical Center, Test and Evaluation Directorate
Carolyn F. Cantrell, Technical Center, Information Science and Technology Directorate
Kathy H. Carpenter, Technical Center, Joint Center for Test and Evaluation
William A. Chaffin, Technical Center, Systems Directorate
James M. Clark, Engineering Division, Communications/Visual Information Division
Frederick W. Clarke, Technical Center, Sensors Directorate
Gerald W. Cochran, Operations and Plans, Force Protection OPSEC
Bobby W. Cooley, Technical Center, Space Technology Directorate
Thomas M. Craven, Engineering Division, Environmental Policy Compliance and Remediation Branch
Charles D. Crawford, Technical Center, Data Analysis and Exploitation Directorate
Kevin L. Creekmore, Technical Center, Test and Evaluation Directorate
Jacqueline R. Crepeau, Technical Center, Kinetic Energy Interceptor Directorate
Douglas M. Deason, Technical Center, Advanced Technology Directorate
John K. Dempsey, Information Science and Technology Directorate
Stephen L. Donnelly, Engineering Division, Facilities Branch
Patrick M. Duggan, Technical Center, Kinetic Energy Interceptor Directorate
Milan K. Dutta, Technical Center, Kinetic Energy Interceptor Directorate
Julia F. Elliott, Engineering Division, National Environmental Policy Act Compliance Branch
Dennis C. Fairchild, Technical Center, Directed Energy Directorate
Jonathan C. Fleming, Technical Center, Directed Energy Directorate
Norman B. Forsythe, Technical Center, Sensors Directorate
Alexander Gilmore, Technical Center, Advanced Technology Directorate
William O. Greenhaw, Technical Center, Systems Directorate
Gerald W. Greenwood, Engineering Division, Operations Branch
Helga M. Hayes, Information Science and Technology Directorate
Dana P. Henslee, Operations and Plans, Command Evaluation Branch
Candace L. Holcomb, Operations and Plans, Command Evaluation Branch
Jay A. Howland, Technical Center, Advanced Technology Directorate
Brian W. Hunter, Technical Center, Sensors Directorate
Elizabeth J. Hurt, Operations and Plans,

Command Evaluation Branch
Billy E. Johnson, Technical Center, Test and Evaluation Directorate
David R. Kennemur, Technical Center, Test and Evaluation Directorate
Freddy N. Killen, Information Management, Automation Division
Frances C. King, Technical Center, Data Analysis and Exploitation Directorate
Edmund J. Krupko, Technical Center, Systems Directorate
Thang Q. Lai, Technical Center, Data Analysis and Exploitation Directorate
Billy W. Lemley, Command Support Services Branch
Mark T. Little, Technical Center, Test and Evaluation Directorate
Ellen L. Lively, Technical Center, Test and Evaluation Directorate
Rudolph Love, Technical Center, Data Analysis and Exploitation Directorate
Ivan Martinez, Technical Center, Data Analysis and Exploitation Directorate
Susan McRae McCulley, Technical Center, Systems Directorate
John M. McGary, Technical Center, Test and Evaluation Directorate
David W. McNeill, Technical Center, Sensors Directorate
Craig L. Meadows, Technical Center, Kinetic Energy Interceptor Directorate
Russell R. Medley, Technical Center, Advanced Technology Directorate
Richard D. Mullin, Technical Center, Data Analysis and Exploitation Directorate
Michelle L. Oliver, Technical Center, Joint Center for Test and Evaluation
Robert J. Oravits, Technical Center, Systems Directorate
Robert W. Patty, Operations and Plans, Command Evaluation Branch
Aubrey C. Pinkerton, Information Management, Automation Division
David B. Raschen, Information Management, Communications/Visual Information Division
Lee Alice Ray, Technical Center, Sensors Directorate
Larry G. Ridgeway, PARC/CAMO, Branch T
Nona M. Riley, Technical Center, Data Analysis and Exploitation Directorate
James O. Roberts, Technical Center, Systems Directorate
Susan M. Rogers, Command Support Services Branch
Harold V. Romero, Technical Center, Kinetic Energy Interceptor Directorate
Richard A. Runyan, Technical Center, Kinetic Energy Interceptor Directorate
Thomas J. Ryan, Information Management, Information Assurance Division
Mark A. Shipman, Technical Center, Systems Directorate
Gail E. Sikes, Technical Center, Data Analysis and Exploitation Directorate
Timothy L. Smith, Technical Center, Test and Evaluation Directorate
Jo Carol Stermer, Technical Center, Advanced Technology Directorate
William L. Strickland, Technical Center, Sensors Directorate
Kenneth S. Strom, Technical Center, Test and Evaluation Directorate
Alexis P. VonSpakovsky, Technical Center, Test and Evaluation Directorate
Daniel W. Wesnor, Technical Center, Advanced Technology Directorate
Brian M. Wheelock, Technical Center, Test and Evaluation Directorate
Irvin D. White, Operations and Plans, Command Evaluation Branch
Belinda J. Williams, PARC/CAMO, Branch T
Daryl E. Williams, Technical Center, Sensors Directorate
Jonathan E. Williams, Huntsville, Technical Center, Kinetic Energy Interceptor Directorate
Sharon M. Witczak, Huntsville, Technical Center, Systems Directorate
Melva L. Wooten, PARC/CAMO, Branch T
Carolyn G. Wright, PARC/CAMO, Branch K
Shirley J. Wright, Technical Center, Data Analysis and Exploitation Directorate
John K. Yim, Technical Center, Data Analysis and Exploitation Directorate

Invention Award

Leon H. Riley, Technical Center, Advanced Technology Directorate

On-The-Spot Cash Awards

Phyllis M. Baez, ARSPACE, Command Group
Dorothy F. Bell, ARSPACE, Supply and Transportation Division
Karol C. Boutwell, ARSPACE, Operations
Dennis C. Fairchild, Technical Center, Directed Energy Directorate
Jennifer R. Greiner, ARSPACE, Resource Management
Anthony S. Hodgkins, ARSPACE, Operations Division
Doris H. Ingram, Resource Management, Program Support Division
William A. McQueen, ARSPACE, Supply and Transportation Division
Albert L. Pardue, Technical Center, Data Analysis and Exploitation Directorate
Pamela D. Porter, ARSPACE, G1, Personnel
Craig S. Seiler, ARSPACE, Security Division
Richard J. Verneti, Technical Center, Data Analysis and Exploitation Directorate

Time-Off Awards

George A. Bennett, Engineering Division, Operations Branch
Nancy E. Byrd, Technical Center, Kinetic Energy Interceptor Directorate
Douglas H. Ennis, Technical Center, Joint Center for Technology Integration
Wonda E. Grayson, Resource Management Division
Gary W. Gunter, Engineering Division, Facilities Branch
Hazel P. Hyde, Technical Center, Joint Center for Test and Evaluation
Vernal R. Scales, Technical Center, Joint Center for Technology Integration

Quality Step Increase

Adam M. Aberle, Technical Center, Space Technology Directorate
Cedric Bailey, Technical Center, Sensors Directorate
Mickey A. Beavers, Information Management, Plans and Operations Support Division
David W. Brand, Technical Center, Advanced Technology Directorate
Steven E. Bryant, Technical Center, Kinetic Energy Interceptor Directorate
Stafford Brown, Technical Center, Advanced Technology Directorate
Michael G. Chapman, Technical Center, Test and Evaluation Directorate
John Cummings, Arlington, Congressional Affairs Office
Clyde N. Elliott, Technical Center, Systems Directorate
Garry L. Freeman, Technical Center, Systems Directorate
Vernon L. Frazier, Information Science and Technology Directorate
Paul D. Gutierrez, Technical Center, Advanced Technology Directorate
Kathleen M. Harris, Technical Center, Systems Directorate
Ralph C. Jones, Technical Center, Systems Directorate
Michael M. Lee, Technical Center, Space Technology Directorate
Philip M. Ligon, Technical Center, Systems Directorate
James M. Miskelley, Technical Center, Kinetic Energy Interceptor Directorate
Robert C. Parks, Technical Center, Space Technology Directorate
Barry C. Pollard, Technical Center, Kinetic Energy Interceptor Directorate
Kari A. Powers, Technical Center, Kinetic Energy Interceptor Directorate
Christine M. Stewart, Technical Center, Data Analysis and Exploitation Directorate
J. Scott Wilson, Technical Center, Joint Center for Test and Evaluation

Civilian Promotions

Jeri D. Kyle, GS-12, Technical Center, Data Analysis and Exploitation Directorate
Lillie V. Jackson, GS-07, PARC/CAMO
Johnie H. Morgan, GS-13, Technical Center, Information Science and Technology Directorate



Photo by Staff Sgt. Franklin Barrett

Sgt. Erica Schaffer checks soldiers on protecting themselves against NBC attack.

Space unit likes its training 'cubed'

By Staff Sgt. Franklin Barrett
Unit Reporter

OKINAWA, Japan — Training recently took on a third dimension for E Company, 1st Satellite Control Battalion, Army Space Command. Not just another routine few hours at the rifle range, instead, these soldiers spent a hard-charging day firing, testing on common tasks, and, the soldiers' perennial favorite ... getting "gassed" in the CS chamber.

The unit conducted the action-packed training and testing day recently, with 27 soldiers participating in the three-part range. The range, conducted on Camp Hansen here, qualified soldiers on their assigned weapons, the M-16A2, and tested them in this year's Common Tasks. The third "dimension" showed up as soldiers endured and survived mask-confidence training, an annual requirement for all soldiers.

The planning and coordination effort for the scheduled training involved every aspect of the unit. The unit's Training NCO, Sgt. Robert Nelson, was the centerpiece for conception and planning. To accomplish the same objectives in the past, the unit would have had to conduct several large ranges throughout the year.

"By having large ranges, there were a lot of soldiers who were having to wait for their firing line — complaining about how most of their day was spent that way when they could have been training," said Nelson. He thought grouping the ranges would largely eliminate that aspect of the training. With cooperation and participation from the other NCOs in the unit, Nelson was able to coordinate the combination of the three events.

NCOs from the first sergeant to team leaders worked together in planning and execution.

The unit's Supply NCO, Sgt. Victor Glaze, handled all the logistical needs. Sgt. 1st Class Brian Groves, Operations platoon sergeant, and Sgt. Erica Schaffer,

the unit's Nuclear, Biological and Chemical NCO, made it happen at the mask-confidence training. Sgt. Michael Stansbury and Groves worked together as range safeties to ensure the success of the M-16 Qualification Range, while Sgt. 1st Class Brian LaMay oversaw the event as the NCOIC and Range Safety Officer.

The unit armorers, Sgt. Christopher Golden and Spc. Daniel Fagan, teamed-up to ensure weapons and ammunition were a "go."

Vehicle load plans developed by LaMay and his platoon enabled the advanced party to move out from Fort Buckner, the unit's installation, in a timely manner on the morning of Nov. 21, 2002. The soldiers being trained and tested fell in for accountability and inspection at 5 a.m. With the bus warmed up, and gear stowed, bus driver Spc. Mitchell James began the long drive to Camp Hansen at 5:35.

The plan for the day was to integrate all three of the tasks: weapons qualification, CTT, and mask-confidence. While the teams of soldiers prepared their land navigation task, each heading out to a different point for further testing, LaMay and his range cadre set up Range 15 for weapons qualifications. Meanwhile, Groves prepared the NBC chamber with a stout treatment of CS gas, and Schaffer and Sgt. John Castine prepared for the NBC CTT tasks.

Three checkpoints were plotted for land navigation: one at the weapons range, one at the NBC chamber and one in between.

At the weapons range, Nelson tested the soldiers on the Claymore and communicating in a secure net, as well as verifying the soldier's land navigation checkpoints.

At the NBC Chamber, Schaffer and Castine tested soldiers on the NBC Common Tasks in conjunction with Groves' mask confidence training.

At the third checkpoint, Staff Sgt. Daniel Bleifield, the unit's personnel

sergeant, tested soldiers on first-aid tasks.

In the NBC chamber, always a "hot-spot" for drama, range cadre observed soldiers in mask-confidence training.

One soldier, Spc. Christopher Smithson, went beyond the call of duty by singing the Army Song, unmasked, in the CS chamber. After this unique exhibition of his pride in the Army, Smithson spent more than 10 minutes clearing his uniform and his body of the potent CS gas.

While the M-16 range was being prepared, the gas chamber remained hot, and this added to the simultaneous completion of both. As a result, "Everyone was in and out of the chamber, and tested on the CTT tasks, within the three-hour scheduled time frame," Groves said.

By 10:30 a.m., the weapons range was ready to go "hot," and the first firing order of soldiers prepared for zeroing their weapons.

On Okinawa, the only ranges available for Army units are 25 meters, with stationary paper targets, rather than the familiar 300-meter pop-up ranges. With the first firing order zeroed, qualification began. When the smoke cleared later in the afternoon, four soldiers achieved the coveted "expert" qualification. Fourteen soldiers achieved sharpshooter, and five made it as marksman.

"There was a 100 percent first time 'go' overall, which is an accomplishment itself," said Sgt. 1st Class Lester Blandin, the unit's Operations trainer.

With all the soldiers tested in CTT, and cleared in mask confidence, the last group of firers completed the range by mid-afternoon.

For larger units, the combination of these three events into a one-day range may not seem like much, but for smaller units like E Co., it takes a large amount of cooperation and coordination to ensure the success of such a feat.

"Leadership, especially that of the junior non-coms, was key to the success of this type of range," said Schaffer.



Photo by Marine Cpl. Colin Wyers

Packing a punch

1st Lt. Angela Johnson, 26, left, communications officer for Army Space Support Team 5 and serving in Kuwait in support of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM, lands a punch on Marine Lance Cpl. Anna Bradley, 20, from Sacramento, Calif. The "match" was part of a stress-relief morale event arranged by the Marines in early December at Camp Commando, Kuwait. Johnson was the only Army participant in the boxing "smoker" which featured 21 Marines. She and Bradley provided the only female match. After each match, all boxers gave each other a sporting hug to demonstrate there were no ill feelings. Safety equipment was worn.

Space NCO's leadership style helps increase unit's PT score, esprit de corps

By Staff Sgt. Franklin Barrett
Unit Reporter

OKINAWA, Japan — The standards of physical fitness are being put to the test.

In the 1st Satellite Control Battalion, the soldiers aspire to score 250 points overall on the Army Physical Fitness Test. That goal is no cakewalk, especially when you consider that 180 is the minimum requirement for the rest of the Army — representing a big difference in just how many pushups, sit-ups and seconds shaved off the run is expected from SATCON soldiers. But it's the responsibility of every soldier in the battalion to strive to achieve it.

In E Company, the motivation and determination of soldiers in the Support Platoon have been molded by their Platoon Sergeant, Sgt. 1st Class Brian LaMay.

LaMay's imaginative leadership created a challenging physical fitness training program, inspiring his soldiers to achieve their fullest potential. His program is very simple, but effective.

All NCOs and junior enlisted soldiers alternate leading PT for a week at a time. By guiding the soldiers in developing their roles in the program, the variety of training options has led to a level of fitness and esprit de corps that rivals any.

"The change in our PT sessions was not a decision I just arbitrarily made," LaMay said. "I noticed the Support Platoon soldiers spent most of their time together during our PT sessions. We used the time to build team cohesion, esprit de corps and to raise morale. I also noticed that many of the soldiers were bored with PT and



Photo by Staff Sgt. Franklin Barrett

Sgt. 1st Class Brian LaMay, E Co., 1st SATCON Bn., carefully grades the pushups of one of his platoon soldiers, Sgt.(P) Michael Stansbury.

were not putting forth their best efforts. I believed that with some minor changes in our PT sessions we would be able to capitalize on the quality time we spend together as a team, increase the interest in PT, and of course raise the overall fitness level of the soldiers.

"I wanted the platoon to have something they could use as a base — a building block — in developing a more cohesive team with the added benefit of a more physically fit group. All the potential in the world was there," he said.

His ability to turn potential into action was demonstrated at the Army Physical Fitness Test, conducted last fall. The platoon APFT average increased a total of 18 percent (25 points) to 261. That

average not only exceeds the 1st SATCON goal, it exceeds the battalion and E Co. overall averages. His lead-by-example approach motivated his soldiers to improve their own scores by 15 points or more.

LaMay added that the benefits are not only those clearly seen or quantifiable by a PT scorecard.

"Before we changed the PT program, the platoon was already well on its way to being a very tight-knit group," LaMay said. "However, I think through implementation of this varied and challenging PT program, the platoon became more interested and involved." The interest overflowed into other functions of the platoon, such as platoon lunches, Sergeant's Time Training, and platoon outings.

"Since the change in the program, I feel that everyone looks forward to coming to work and being around the other members of the platoon," said Sgt. Michael Stansbury, one of LaMay's soldiers. "For example, six members of our platoon are on the [company] exemption program, however, none of them have taken any days off from physical training."

Stansbury — an automated logistical specialist and the unit's Prescribed Load List NCO — reaped the benefits of the program by scoring a 317 on the extended scoring scale.

For his soldiers in the Support Platoon, LaMay's leadership and mentoring has melded physical fitness training, a core element of soldiering, into a core element of morale.