Debra G. Wymer
Director
Technical Center

A New Phas

Working Each & Every Day for Technical Superiority

As director of the Technical Center at U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, I lead an organization of scientists and engineers responsible for the development of advanced Space, Missile Defense, high altitude, and directed-energy technologies. We strive to provide unsurpassed Space and Missile Defense capabilities to the nation by, first and foremost, directly supporting the Warfighters on the battlefield.

This is an exciting time for our team, as we embark upon a new phase of the Technical Center at USASMDC/ARSTRAT. After careful deliberation, senior leaders found it to be in the best interest of achieving maximum productivity to merge the two organizations formerly known as the Technology Center and the Test and Warfighter Solutions Center into what is now known as the Technical Center. Adapting and evolving to meet the technological needs of the Warfighter is a constant challenge for USASMDC/ARSTRAT, and I am confident that this merger will increase effectiveness and efficiencies, compensate for reduced budgets, and allow us to continue to give our Soldiers the best possible support. The merger corresponds with the Commanding General's vision and guidance to align our operations with Department of Defense and Army priorities. Our fee-for-service business model dictates continual change, and by implementing this merger, we are remaining relevant to the needs of our most important customer, the Warfighter.

As the command's technical arm, the new Technical Center is focused on providing critical technologies that meet today's requirements and address future needs, planning and executing test and evaluation programs and performing related analyses, and most importantly supporting operational

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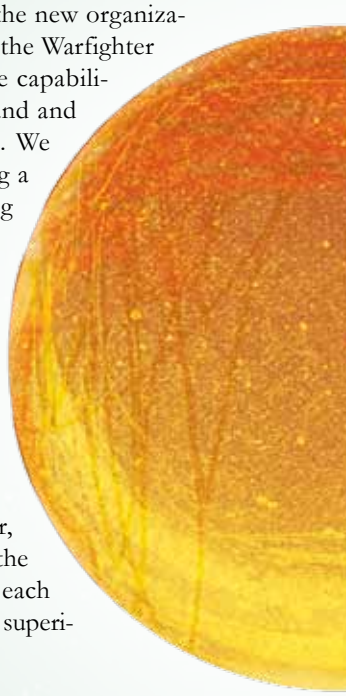
elements. The U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll and Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site (USAKA/RTS), a subordinate element of the Technical Center, plays a key role in test and evaluation and in operational support. Not only is USAKA/RTS critical to the testing of Missile Defense, ballistic missile, and hypersonic systems, it also plays a vital role in accomplishing U.S. Strategic Command's Space Object Identification/Space Surveillance Network. Our Space and Cyberspace Technology and Emerging Technology directorates develop, integrate, and transition Space, Missile Defense, high altitude, cyberspace, and directed-energy technologies and conduct high-energy laser testing. Additionally, we have separate divisions that are dedicated to the transition of specific products to the Warfighter and our customers as rapidly as possible. Because our primary customer base is constantly changing, we are shifting to more in-house engineering work, which also allows each of the Technical Center subordinate elements to create and maintain closer relationships with their customers.

Another major advantage of shifting to more in-house engineering work is the opportunity to train new employees through hands-on experience. The Concepts Analysis Lab (CAL) division of the Technical Center is especially committed to hiring and training student interns and young engineers who work on summer breaks and part-time throughout the school year. The CAL offers young people the opportunity to gain technical hands-on work experience early in their career, such as performing ground station operations for Space and Missile Defense Command-Operational Nanosatellite Effect (SMDC-ONE). The SMDC-ONE is a low-cost, lightweight communications satellite, which was designed to provide a rapidly responsive, gap-filling capability to the Army's disadvantaged users. The first flight of SMDC-ONE was hugely successful and demonstrated the military relevance of a small satellite. We intend to fly several more SMDC-ONE satellites in various configurations and roles in the near future, and we also have new technology efforts ongoing to expand the capabilities of nanosatellites.

The successes of this small satellite program are expected to have a positive near-term impact on the Warfighter while giving us a fantastic opportunity to draw in many college students and young engineers who would like to gain experience in technical fields. This mutually beneficial relationship also allows the Technical Center to better prepare for the challenge posed by a retiring workforce. We work closely with the Student Temporary Employment Program and Science, Mathematics, and Research for Transformation Scholarship program to ensure that many of the engineering interns we hire will become full-time USASMDC/ARSTRAT employees in the future.

While our future workforce and the development of technologies to meet future needs are critical, we also are dedicated to getting systems into the hands of Warfighters without delay. An example of one of our rapid transition programs is the Long Endurance Multi-Intelligence Vehicle (LEMV). The LEMV is an unmanned hybrid airship approximately the width and length of a football field and stands seven stories high. This lighter-than-air platform will stay aloft for weeks at a time, carry more than a ton of payload, and operate at an altitude of more than 20,000 feet. It is equipped with radar to detect the movement and location of enemy vehicles or personnel, and that information is then downloaded to units on the ground. The program specifics include a very short 18-month development schedule that began in June 2010 and is being carried out by a group of engineers and analysts from USASMDC/ARSTRAT, other government agencies, and the Northrop Grumman team. The LEMV program will provide a tremendous capability to Warfighters.

The Technical Center has a rich legacy of technology development and transition, especially in the field of Missile Defense, and we remain proud of our heritage. While my short-term priority is fully implementing the new organization, we will remain focused on providing the Warfighter with dominant Space and Missile Defense capabilities and supporting U.S. Strategic Command and the geographic combatant commanders. We are expanding our portfolio by developing a focused role in cyberspace and providing nontraditional and innovative capabilities to rapidly assess systems and operational concepts. We are making the directed-energy path to weaponization a priority and are shortening the timeline to bring Space and high altitude capabilities to the field. We will continue to seek new business opportunities that align with core missions and adapt to changing and emerging requirements. Within the Technical Center, we are dedicated to meeting the needs of the Warfighter, and we will continue to work each and every day to ensure continued technical superiority on the battlefield.



SECURE THE HIGH GROUND

The Sun Never Sets on USASMDC/ ARSTRAT