



S M D C / A R S T R A T
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The first day of the calendar year is one of the world's oldest holidays. The ancient Babylonians celebrated the concept of the "New Year" more than 4,000 years ago. They also are credited with starting the annual tradition of making a New Year's resolution. A common resolution during the Babylonian New Year would be to return something borrowed from a friend during the previous year. Today, our resolutions tend to be focused more upon improving ourselves through the cessation of bad habits, or through the strengthening of our good habits.

During the past year, I had the pleasure of visiting with many of the Soldiers assigned to our global command. Everywhere I traveled, from the coral sands of Kwajalein Atoll to the frigid tundra of Fort Greely, Alaska, I could not help but note the commitment to duty and the outstanding professionalism of all the personnel assigned to our command. I use the phrase "our command," because that's just what it is; an organization of professionals striving for excellence on a daily basis. SMDC/ARSTRAT is a group of outstanding men and women who are focused upon providing space force enhancements and missile defense capabilities vital to the success of the Warfighter in combat and to the overall defense of our great nation.

It's easy to look back upon the outstanding accomplishments of the men and women of SMDC/ARSTRAT and to be justifiably proud. It might also be just as easy to look back at their accomplishments and become complacent. With this in mind, I would like to urge each of you to add the following to your list of New Year's resolutions.

COMMITMENT – Both Lt. Gen. Campbell and I are committed to the wellbeing of the personnel assigned to SMDC/ARSTRAT, as well as that of their families. We will do everything in our power to provide each of you with the tools necessary to carry out your assigned mission, and with a strong support structure for your loved ones. In return, I ask that each of you resolve to maintain your current outstanding levels of performance, and to commit to an even higher level of operational success in the coming year.

GROWTH – Professional and personal growth is vital to the overall wellbeing of every Soldier and to their Family members as well. Professional military as well as civilian education helps each of us grow as Soldiers and as contributing members of society. I urge each of you to resolve to grow both professionally and personally during 2008. Start and/or complete the appropriate level of professional military education. Take a civilian course that expands your mind and increases your abilities.

LEADERSHIP – I expect you to continue to lead by example. During the "New Year," I also ask that each of you resolve to use your leadership positions to help the other members of SMDC/ARSTRAT to achieve growth and increased commitment. Provide your troops with the time and encouragement necessary to complete their educational goals. Recognize their individual as well as group achievements. Help our Soldiers feel valued by showing your commitment to them as well as to the mission.

2007 was an excellent year. Each of you played a role in the successes we enjoyed, and I believe each of you will play a vital role to our continued success during 2008. Let's all resolve to make 2008 an outstanding year!

SECURE THE HIGH GROUND!