



**USASMD C / ARSTRAT**  
Headquartered on Redstone Arsenal, Alabama



**CSM Column**  
**April 2009**

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Last month (March 23-26), USASMD C/ARSTRAT hosted the annual Senior Enlisted Leaders Training Conference (SELTC) at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. Overall, the conference was a resounding success! This is due to the hard work, professionalism, commitment to excellence and selfless service of our entire USASMD C / ARSTRAT team.

I want to express my thanks and appreciation to our G-Staff, DoD Civilians / Contractors, keynote speakers, senior enlisted leadership and the many others who supported this year's SELTC. I'd also like to offer a special thanks to the 14th Air Force (Air Force Strategic-Space), 30th Space Wing and their entire installation staff for their generous support and hospitality in hosting their facilities during our conference. Their efforts helped make the conference a truly first class event!

We, the NCOs assigned to USASMD C / ARSTRAT, owe a special debt to the command's senior leadership. The active support provided by LTG Kevin Campbell, BG Kurt Story, Dr. Steven Messervy, Mr. Michael Schexnayder, Dr. Mark Swinson, Mr. Larry Burger and the Battalion and Brigade Commanders helped assure the overall success of the conference.

During the SELTC, LTG Campbell and CSM Borja inducted SFC Samuel Jackson, SSG Christopher Barber, SSG Benjamin Sharp and SSG Mark Bagwell to the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club. I'd like to again congratulate these outstanding young NCOs upon this achievement.

The SELTC fully reflects the goals and objectives of the "Year of the NCO." Our Senior NCOs and Senior Enlisted Leaders benefited greatly from the opportunity to come together and interact with each other as well as with much of the senior leadership from within USASMD C / ARSTRAT. We learned a great deal through formal and informal discussions, beginning with LTG Campbell's keynote address on the critical importance of NCO leadership during this 'Era of Persistent Conflict' and his personal views concerning global change during the next twenty years, continuing through to breakout groups where the sharing of lessons learned and ideas for improving the command's overall operational capability benefited both the Senior Enlisted Leaders and the Command.

The breakout groups were lead by CSM Ronald Desjardins (DA G-6 CSM); CSM Dave Hudson (NGB CSM); CSM William Clark (CA State CSM); CSM Dan Lousberg (CO State CSM); CSM Gordon Choate (AK State CSM); and MSG Craig Evans (ADA Enlisted Branch Senior Career Advisor Maneuver and Fires Division), SFC Jarrett Jongema (CMF 14 PDNCO/Career Advisor ADA NCOES Manager Air Defense Artillery Branch), SFC Gregory Aikens Career Advisor (25P, 25S, 25T, 25L, 25C) Human Resources Command. Each of these groups did an excellent job of meeting the goals and objectives of the "Year of the NCO:" Education; Fitness; Leadership Development; and Pride in Service.

I'd also like to thank the Senior Enlisted Leaders from our sister services who presented briefings at this year's SELTC and were also very active participants: USAF CCMSgt Thom Narofsky, USSTRATCOM Command Senior Enlisted Leader, and USN Senior Chief Dewey Torres, JFCC-IMD, Joint Senior Enlisted Leader.

Finally, I'd like to thank the former USASMD C / ARSTRAT Command Sergeants Major senior enlisted leaders whose participation helped make this year's SELTC a success: SMA Jack Tilley, CSM Wilbur Adams, CSM David Lady, and CSM Reginald Ficklin. Their shared experiences and advice were greatly appreciated by all in attendance.

Next month I'll share what occurred during my attendance at the Department of the Army Sexual Harassment Summit from April 6-8 in Washington D.C. Until then, I ask you all to continue to remain mindful of the goals and objectives of the "Year of the NCO" and to do your part in ensuring the continued success of this important initiative.

*SECURE THE HIGH GROUND!*