



**CG Column
December 2010**

December marks my fourth year in command of USASMDC/ARSTRAT. Who would have thought that I would be writing a holiday column for 2010?

It has been an incredible ride these last four years. A great many Soldiers, Civilians and contractors have contributed immensely to the cause of freedom and in support of America's Warfighters.

As I began to count my blessings for the holidays, I considered some of the things that have transpired over the past four years:

- in June 2007 we completed our BRAC move from the National Capital Region to Redstone Arsenal
- Space Cadre were defined to include Space Professional and Space Enablers and the coding of more than 2,500 positions across DOD and other federal agencies
- a major redesign initiative was instituted for the 1st Space Brigade and 100th Missile Defense Brigade
- we successfully launched the first three Wideband Satellite System (WGS), which increased Combatant Commanders' capabilities by more than 10 times the capability of the Defense Satellite Communications System (DSCS)
- the Joint Functional Component Command-Integrated Missile Defense developed and coordinated a Global Concept of Operations for Global Missile Defense
- USASMDC/ARSTRAT was designated as the interim Army Service Component Command for Army Cyber Operations and successfully transitioned Army cyber operations to the ARCYBER Command in October 2010.
- our Research, Development and Acquisition (RDA) personnel developed some incredible capabilities for the Warfighter: the Over Watch sniper detection system, GATR inflatable Satellite disk/antenna, Counter IED detection systems, the SMDC-ONE nanosatellite program, 100KW lasers, and several high altitude aircraft such as the HighSentinel80 and HALE-D – just to name a few.

The successes of the last four years would not have been possible without the incredible support and dedication of each member of the USASMDC/ARSTRAT/JFCC-IMD team.

During the past year, we continued to deploy our Soldiers in support of combat operations in order to provide continuous space support to the Warfighters on the ground. We also continued to provide the nation with an around-the-clock defense against intercontinental ballistic missile attack. There will be challenges and opportunities ahead in 2011 and I fully expect us to continue to meet them head on.

During the holiday season, let's not forget that there are more than 121,000 Soldiers who are deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation New Dawn. Please remember them and their families as you spend time with your family and friends to celebrate the many blessings we enjoy as a free nation.

Lastly, CSM Larry Turner offers excellent words of advice in his column about ensuring our Soldiers are not alone during the holidays and that families with Soldiers deployed are included in our holiday gatherings. He also mentions drinking and driving in his column. Take a moment to think about the risks associated with holiday activities and please ensure you and your loved ones remain safe during this very joyous time of year – we need every one of you on the team!

I am truly honored to be associated with this great organization and feel privileged to be your commander. On behalf of my family and the entire USASMDC/ARSTRAT command team, we wish each of you a safe and happy holiday season! Thank you all for what you do each day in the name of freedom.

Secure the High Ground