

# The Eagle

Volume 8, Number 3

Published in the interest of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command

May 2001

## Cosumano assumes command

Lieutenant General Joseph M. Cosumano, Jr., received his third star and assumed command of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command (SMDC) and the U.S. Army Space Command April 30th.

At an earlier promotion ceremony conducted at the Pentagon, Chief of Staff of the Army, General Eric K. Shinseki and Mrs. Lydia J. Cosumano, General Cosumano's wife, pinned on General Cosumano's rank to the epaulets of his dress green coat. The second set of stars were placed and buttoned onto the epaulets of General Cosumano's dress shirt by his daughters Leah and DeAnna.

Cosumano comes from an assignment on the Army Staff as the Director, Task Force Objective Force. A position he will continue to fill until his replacement can be named by the Army Staff and then confirmed by Congress.

He has served in several Washington, D.C. assignments. He has been the program manager for the National Missile Defense Joint Program Office, and the Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Force Development.

He has been the Chief of Staff Synchronization Cell for the Quadrennial Defense Review in the Office of the Assistant Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, and he served as the executive officer for the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Department of the Army. He has also served as chief of the Air and Missile Defense Division, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations.

Cosumano has been the Deputy Commanding General at the U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and School at Fort Bliss, Texas, and he has served as the J-5, Director of Plans, Program and Policies, U.S. Space Command.

Other key assignments include Operations Research Analyst, Patriot Missile Program Office; and, G-3 for the 32nd Army Air Defense Command, United States Army - Europe.

He has commanded three batteries in his career -- a Vulcan battery in the 1st Armored Division in Germany; and a Headquarters battery and a Hawk battery in Korea.

He also commanded the 1st Bn., 55th Air Defense Artillery (Chaparral/Vulcan), 5th Mechanized Division at Fort Polk, La. He later commanded the 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, 32nd Army Air Defense Command in Europe. His military education includes the Air Defense Artillery Officer Basic and Advanced courses.

He is a distinguished graduate of the Army Aviation School and the Air Com-



(Photo by Jonathan W. Pierce)

General John M. Keane, Vice Chief of Staff, United States Army, passes the command colors to Lt. Gen. Joseph M. Cosumano, Jr., (right) on April 30. At left is Brig. Gen. John M. Urias who returns to his duties as the Deputy Commanding General, Acquisition for SMDC. Command Sgt. Maj. Wilbur Adams is at right. The passing of the colors represents a bestowal of authority and responsibility for the command and its personnel as a commander accepts the command. Cosumano, in an earlier ceremony conducted at the Pentagon, had received his appointment to the rank of lieutenant general.

mand and Staff College.

General Cosumano is also a graduate of the Defense Systems Management College, the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, and the Yale School of Management Executive Course.

His military decorations include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Le-

gion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters, the Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, and the Army Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters.

He has earned the Parachutist Badge, Army Aviator Badge, Army Staff Identification, Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification and Office of the Secretary of Defense Identification badges.

## News Bits

### New Huntsville building plans take shape



Schematic drawings and architectural concept drawings for the new Space and Missile Defense Command building in the Von Braun Complex at Redstone Arsenal are available on Page 12.

### Letters to Alabamians serving in Saudi Arabia

The Program Executive Office, Air and Missile Defense is seeking people who will support an Alabama National Guard Patriot missile battery now serving in Saudi Arabia. The 75 men and women are from the northern Alabama area. They could use cookies, gum, paperback books, news magazines, and local newspapers. Cards and letters of encouragement are also welcome. Support packages and letters can be sent to: "Any Soldier", Bravo Battery, 1-203d Air Defense Artillery, Patriot, TF-2-1, APO AE 09852. For more information contact Connie Davis at (256) 313-3415, or send e-mail to [daviscm@md.redstone.army.mil](mailto:daviscm@md.redstone.army.mil).

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# AER may not save lives... but it sure helps

by Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Calkins

**VICENZA, Italy (Army News Service, April 24, 2001)** — A private first class, his wife and their twin 4-year-old sons weren't having the best of times as they drove from upstate New York to their first duty assignment at Fort Campbell, Ky.

Twice, first at a hospital near Cleveland, Ohio, and then again later at a health clinic in Northern Kentucky, the couple had stopped to have their son's worsening medical condition checked out.

On both occasions, they were told the same thing: "Just a little virus, probably associated with the pox. Don't worry about it."

They still worried.

While both were suffering from the chicken pox, one, in particular, was running an unusually high fever, and was much more listless than his high-energy brother. At the motel room that night, the mother even tried an ice-filled bath, but the thermometer still read 103 degrees. And climbing.

Finally, two days after arriving at the home of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), the four of them spent their first night in the apartment the soldier had rented just prior to picking up his family.

It wasn't a good night's sleep. The fever wouldn't go away.

So they packed everyone back in the station wagon and made the 25-minute trip back to Fort Campbell's Blanchfield Army Community Hospital.

The doctor there took one look at the boy and admitted him immediately. Soon, he came back to tell the shaken set of parents their son was about to be flown to Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tenn.

"He can't breathe; there's something very wrong with his lungs," he said.

The mother told the doctor "there was no way that boy is going on anything without me there with him," and then proceeded to hop on the chopper for the short ride to the Music City.

Her husband, having to look on a map to even see which direction Nashville was, took the other son with him and took off down I-65 to meet them.

An hour-or-so later, the parents sat across from a young doctor with a very bad message.

She said their son was suffering from some kind of bacterial pneumonia and he would have to be kept in isolated care,

in the hospital's pediatric ward.

She didn't know what would happen down the road; couldn't even say for sure if their son would survive.

All she knew was he was going to be there for a while.

And so, of course, were the parents and their other son.

The soldier, on the drive back to his unit to tell them what was happening, suddenly started to think how they could afford paying rent on their new apartment and paying hotel bills and a hundred other costs for what could be an extended period of time.

So he decided to ask his NCO.

"Go see AER before going back to the hospital," he was told.

So that's what he did, explaining the situation to a caring worker, he filled out some forms, got his commander's signature and drove over to the bank to cash the \$1,000 check he had just been loaned.

The soldier didn't think much about it right then; he was, of course, more focused on his son's condition.

But that, of course, is the point.

Because AER was there for him and his family, he didn't have to think about paying the bill, buying food, or trying to find something to do to entertain the son who took turns spending time with Mom and Dad at the hotel.

Because AER was there for him, he didn't have to think about anything other than watching his son undergo a successful lung operation - "like peeling an orange from the inside out" is what the doctor said later.

Because AER was there for him, he didn't have to think about anything other than shedding a tear when, for the first time in 17 days, his son rolled over at 2 a.m. and asked for a slice of pizza.

And then he watched as the platoon of doctors and nurses who had adopted him brought him one, topped with cheese and candles.

By noon the next day, they were all back home again. Both kids went swimming that day.

No, he and his wife didn't have time right then to think about AER, or even to thank them. They were too busy.

So we'll do it now, because I was that soldier at Fort Campbell in May 1987.

(Editor's note: This year's AER campaign began March 1 and continues through May 15 Armywide. Each command sets its own campaign dates within that time. Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Calkins is now with the Southern European Task Force public affairs office in Vicenza, Italy.)

*The Eagle* ... is an authorized unofficial newspaper published for military and civilian members of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command published under the authority of AR 360-1 using the industry standard Associated Press Stylebook. Contents of *The Eagle* are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, or U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command (SMDC). This monthly newspaper uses offset reproduction and has a circulation of 3,000. Reader input is solicited and welcomed; however, no payment will be made for such contributions. Please direct letters and comments to:

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# Aerostat proves secondary mission

by Jonathan Pierce  
Huntsville, Ala.

The Joint Land Attack Cruise Missile Defense Elevated Netted Sensor System (JLENS) isn't only about cruise missile defense. Officials with the JLENS program are enthusiastic about explaining the versatility of Aerostat platforms.

"Cruise missile defense is the primary mission of JLENS but the system has the ability to support secondary signal and intelligence missions as well," said Col. Mary Fuller, JLENS Project Manager.

JLENS, according to program officials, supports the creation of a single integrated air picture and provides commanders increased battlefield awareness and support of attack operations.

The Aerostat, according to Fuller, supplements ground-based sensors whose range can be masked by terrain features, as well as fixed-wing aircraft.

Aerostats come in different sizes from the 15-meter to the 71-meter platforms. The 71-meter platform has the capability to soar at 15,000 feet. At such heights, the JLENS's surveillance radar and precision track and illumination radar are able to track low flying targets such as cruise missiles at distances that are over-the-horizon for ground sensors.

This capability allows missile defenses to intercept incoming cruise missiles at greater ranges from the endangered targets. If needed, it also allows for multiple engagement opportunities.

It is precisely this elevation that also allows the system to accomplish its secondary missions.

A good example, according to Craig Fleming, a JLENS engineer, is a demonstration at Fort Gordon, Ga., late last year. The Armed Forces Communication and Electronic Association was hosting the annual Signal Symposium.

In an effort to display the JLENS applicability for the signal community to both the industry and government participants, the JLENS Project Office teamed with BAE Systems, Inc., to deploy a 15-meter Aerostat at Fort Gordon.

"We wanted to display the ability of the platform to act as a communications relay, adding the capability to talk beyond line of sight," Fuller said.

"We knew just a few weeks ahead of time which radio system we were going to mount on the Aerostat but no one on the team had ever seen, let alone used, the radios before," said Fleming.

"When we arrived at Fort Gordon, we had about a day to load the communications package," he said.

"The communications payload allowed transmission of voice, video, and data from a similarly equipped HUMVEE up to the Aerostat and back down to an exhibit booth at the Sym-



(U.S. Army Photo)

A detail of military intelligence soldiers and contractors prepare a 15-meter Aerostat for deployment at Fort Gordon, Ga., for demonstration at the Armed Forces Communication and Electronics Association Signal Symposium. The 15-meter Aerostat has five to six times greater line-of-sight communications coverage than a single mast mounted antenna.

posium," Fuller said.

The result was a realtime mobile audio-video-data link that really caught the attention of the Symposium participants because they could watch as the Humvee travelled around the post.

The demonstration opened doors to senior Signal officers who now appreciated some of the opportunities presented by the system.

One of the achievements of the demonstration was the Aerostat was largely deployed by military intelligence soldiers who had never seen an Aerostat before.

"We took soldiers, who weren't signal specialists, and with our two contractors they loaded the communications package, deployed the Aerostat, 'flew it,' and monitored the communications equipment at the ground station," said Fuller.

The Aerostat platform is an inexpensive and durable solution to multiple missions, she said. An Aerostat system costs just 20 percent of a fixed wing sensor platform.

The Aerostat can stay airborne for up to 30 days and in weather that would ground most aircraft. The 71-meter Aerostat has already logged more than 400,000 hours of operations worldwide, Fuller noted.

"We are really serious about being part of the Army's Transformation efforts," said Fuller.

One example of JLENS functional usefulness to the objective force lies in the signal demonstration at Fort Gordon.

"The 15-meter is highly deployable on many aircraft and it allows the commander to determine where he wants his ground signal assets to be without the need of placing them on the highest ground available. The Aerostat platform becomes a mobile high ground, giving the commander a larger signal footprint with fewer ground assets. De-



(U.S. Army Photo)

A detail of military intelligence soldiers and contractors launch a 15-meter Aerostat. The JLENS system of which the larger 71-meter Aerostat platform is a part is primarily an elevated cruise missile defense sensor system capable of tracking threat missiles and of supporting interceptors such as the Patriot, AMRAAM, MEADS, and Navy Standard missiles.

pending on the situation, the platform can also provide battlefield awareness for attack operations," Fuller said.

"A 15-meter Aerostat offers commanders five to six times greater line-of-sight coverage than a single mast mounted antenna," said Fleming. "Manpower and equipment requirements for communications coverage in the battlefield area of operations are significantly reduced. The 15-meter Aerostat tactical platform, as well as the 71-meter Aerostat cruise missile defense platform will significantly enhance the commander's ability to tailor the battlefield and obtain information superiority," she said.

# Command offers students opportunities

A cooperative program between colleges and industry/government provides benefits to the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command (SMDC) and Alabama A&M University and University of Alabama-Huntsville students.

The Student Educational Employment Program gives participating students the opportunity of working in industry or with government while they remain enrolled in college.

Several students have been introduced to government service since SMDC began participating in the co-operative program in 1995. Two of them, Jayson Wilson and Shawanda Boykin, are still with the command.

Wilson was among SMDC's first A&M co-op students.

"I started as a career-conditional employee. In 1999, I graduated from college, completed the co-op program and gained permanent status as an operational research analyst in Strategic Planning and Analysis Directorate." He graduated with honors with a bachelors of science degree in math.

Boykin joined the command as a co-op student in January.

"I'm still getting acclimated," she laughs. "I organize and maintain the cost research document database which the analysts use to develop cost estimates."

According to Wilson, students visit the career development center, sign up for the co-op program, and complete a resume.

Firms and government agencies contact the development center looking for students who meet their needs.

"Students pay a \$20 registration fee

at A&M," said Boykin. "A lot of students are turned off by the registration fee. But it's worth it."

Maintaining a 3.89 GPA in math and working at the same time is a challenge, she says.

"I had the same problem. Learning to prioritize and manage time are key elements to becoming successful," Wilson said.

Both believe they have been accepted as valued members of their offices. They

are appreciative.

They agree improvements could be made by adding more structure to co-op student development plans.

Process mapping various tasks showing milestones for their developmental assignments would really be helpful, they agreed.

But they really like working here.

"My friends ask me about the program. Most of them have now registered for the co-op program," said Boykin.

## SMDC employees visit college, discuss career opportunities

Nine members of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command (SMDC) participated in this year's Youth Motivation Task Force (YMTF) at Alabama A&M University at Huntsville, Ala.

The participants, according to Carolyn Harris, included Elizabeth Hurt, Al Love, Gordon Porter, Lucille Reeves, William Reeves, Juanita Sales, Barbara Scales, Vernon Scales, and herself.

YMTF participants across the country have helped more than five million students become aware of the variety of careers available to them in both the private and public sector.

Volunteers include informed, dedicated, and successful professionals from every walk of life with students at predominantly minority colleges and universities. YMTF professionals explain career opportunities in business and industry, discuss how the work world operates, and share

their personal career experiences. They provide students with the direction and insight necessary to make realistic career decisions.

The YMTF concept originated from a program called Plans for Progress, developed in 1961 with President John F. Kennedy's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO). The voluntary effort of American business and industry leaders aggressively promoted and implemented EEO.

The Advertising Council coordinated a two-year communications campaign to inform youth about career opportunities in business and industry.

In 1965, Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey asked 85 prominent black businessmen to personally visit predominantly black colleges. YMTF grew out of this search for a more consistent and concentrated effort.

## Positive and Negative Results garnered from SMDC's Equal Opportunity Climate Survey

by Rhonda K. Paige  
Arlington, VA

In accordance with the overall Department of Defense and Army Equal Opportunity Program, SMDC's Equal Opportunity Office recently collected and analyzed results from the Military Equal Opportunity Employment Climate Survey (MEOCS), distributed to approximately 1,689 command-wide employees.

The MEOC instrument was designed to survey, analyze and pinpoint through its results, the overall human relations climate at various commands, sub-commands, installations, and tenant organizations.

"The MEOC is just one of several Equal Opportunity surveys that are made available to Department of Defense agencies," said Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Elizabeth La Buda, SMDC EO Advisor.

"The decision to give the MEOC, was based on a recommendation by my office to the SMDC Commanding General, and that decision was based on the specific semantics of our organization," La Buda said.

Key areas that the survey addressed were sexual harassment and sex dis-

crimination; differential command behavior toward minorities; positive equal opportunity behaviors; reverse discrimination/preferential treatment; commitment; perceived work group effectiveness; job satisfaction; discrimination against minorities and women; reverse discrimination/service and environment; attitudes toward racial separatism; and overall EO climate.

Analysis of the survey showed the overall human relations climate of SMDC as positive.

However that analysis was based on less than half (49%) of SMDC employees' completion of the surveys. Of the command's 1,689 employees, a mere 752 (213 minority, 518 majority, 212 women, 503 men, 87 officer/warrant officer, 239 enlisted, and 409 other employees) responded.

Key findings and recommendations from the survey included:

- SMDC scores from the survey were higher than overall DoD and Army scores.

- The disparity indexes are considered statistically reliable. Small concerns exist in gender and racial issues.

- SMDC's moderately high disparity was between minority and majority groups.

- The disparities between the majority and minority groups of SMDC were most apparent in the areas of positive EO behaviors, commitment, discrimination against minorities and women, reverse discrimination, and overall EO climate.

- In comparison with the previous MEOCS taken by the Command in July 1998, the command experienced positive increases in all areas except work group effectiveness.

- Areas pinpointed that require improvement are employees commitment to the organization, reverse discrimination, and the overall EO climate.

- The Command should put increased emphasis on consideration of others training with subjects on understanding differences, and diversity profiles; as well as a broader discussion of the MEOCS.

La Buda and the SMDC Leadership consider the human relations climate of the Command a top priority, and are considering re-distributing the MEOCS in order to achieve a more representative survey.

# Airborne Advanced Tactical Laser System: Bringing lasers to future ground operations

by Marco Morales  
Huntsville, Ala.

The U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command (SMDC) has been given the O.K. by the Pentagon and Congress to develop an advanced demonstration of a tactical laser that could be fired at ground-based targets from various aircraft such as helicopters and C-130 airplanes.

The Advanced Tactical Laser, or ATL, is one of 14 new Advanced Concept Technology Demonstrations (ACTD) approved Feb. 1 by acting Pentagon Acquisition Chief David Oliver.

The ATL includes a laser, optics, and control system designed to enable "fixed and rotary-wing aircraft to precisely direct laser fire on targets from 15 kilometers," according to a Department of Defense (DoD) document.

The Army is the lead service for the ACTD, while U.S. Special Operations Command is the operational sponsor.

The ATL will feature a roll-on, roll-off capability, which gives it potential applications for a wide variety of platforms across the services.

"Since it's a tactical mission, we're looking at various platforms to include C-130, the MV-22 and different variations of the V-22, CH-53 and CH-47," said Lt. Col. Jerry Bradshaw, SMDC's ATL technical manager.

Bradshaw said planning for the laser is in the early stages, and other aircraft besides those currently considered, might be able to use the weapon as it develops.

"The idea behind the roll-on, roll-off is ... that it would not be tied to a specific airframe or platform," Bradshaw said. "You have a great deal of flexibility."

The ATL will likely be designed so it can be rolled onto a platform and fired by a weapon control officer. The officer can handle changes in mission requirements

immediately and, following an initial laser shot, make quick damage estimates to decide if more strikes are needed.

"That's one of the great attributes of the system — having eyeballs on the target, whatever it is, the entire time," Bradshaw said. "The weapon control officer is envisioned being able to stop an engagement or re-engage as required to meet the mission."

While the laser is being designed for use against "soft" targets like car tires and rooftops, rather than hard targets like tanks or bunkers, Bradshaw said that some light metal objects — 55-gallon drums, for example — could also be targeted.

"When we get into the design, development, building and testing, then we'll know a lot more," he said. "That's just what we envision right now."

One potential use could be strikes against moving targets, especially in populated areas.

Some ATL developers have visualized using the weapon against targets such as armored columns moving along a roadway, encircled by noncombatants.

Because lasers can be targeted with precision, tires, weapon stations or communications ports could be taken out, leaving the column defenseless while not harming innocent bystanders.

Although the program is Army-led, Bradshaw said SMDC has initiated talks with the Air Force on how to coordinate efforts to best use directed energy research that both services have recently developed.

"We're going to leverage as much of the existing technology as possible," he said. "That's only smart to do that. We all bring something to the table."

The Air Force is developing two major directed-energy programs: the Airborne Laser and the Space Based Laser.

"Of course, we [also] have to work with the Air Force, because obviously the Army



An artist's drawing of a V-22 Osprey using an Advanced Tactical Laser against a ground target.

doesn't have any C-130s," Bradshaw said. "You'd have to work with the Air Force component people on that."

While discussions have begun with the Air Force, final service partnerships in the ACTD have not been reached, Bradshaw said.

The most time an ACTD can run is four years.

If the technology or concept tested in an ACTD is adopted by one of the services, an extra two years of transition time can be added to the first schedule.

Funding for the laser program also remains unresolved. Bradshaw said that as an approved ACTD, ATL will receive some DoD funding, but he is not sure how much.

And because SMDC has not yet been told the exact amount, the schedule for ATL's development remains undetermined.

Bradshaw said that eventually the ATL may have both ground-to-air and air-to-ground roles.

"If we're successful [with air-to-ground], we feel there's a common technology base that we could use in the ground-to-air mode also," he said. "Each mission would be unique, and of course the sensors and communications you'd have to adapt to the mission."

## SMDC, Phoenix Services contract helps disabled

Disabled people have a brighter employment future thanks to a contract signed April 2nd between Huntsville-based Phoenix Services and the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command (SMDC).

Mr. Mark J. Lumer, chief of the SMDC Contracting and Acquisition Management Office and Mr. Tim M. Stickley, general manager of Phoenix Services signed a contract for the delivery of administrative and clerical support to the Army major command by using disabled workers.

Awarded under the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act (41 USC 46-48(c)) the fixed-price contract has an initial one-year term with four additional one-year options. Phoenix will provide 49,400 manhours during the first year of the contract for \$1,043,637.



(U.S. Army Photo)

Mr. Tim M. Stickley, general manager of Phoenix Services (seated at left) and Mr. Mark J. Lumer, SMDC's chief Contracting and Acquisition Management officer sign a contract that will help disabled workers while meeting SMDC needs. Standing are Mr. Glen Grussaute (left) Phoenix Services Project manager and Mr. Al Longhi, SMDC Contract specialist.

# 'Adventures in Engineering'

## Day promotes future science careers



Huntsville area high school students ask Lt. Col. Doug Wheelock, one of six Army astronauts with the U.S. Army Space Command, questions about becoming an astronaut and working for NASA. Wheelock also signed autographs for the students throughout the afternoon at the SMDC Advanced Research Center.

Chip Hardy (right), an engineer assigned to the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command's Technical Center Directed Energy (DE) Office, talks to curious high school students about some of the ongoing developments in the use of solid state lasers and other DE programs.

by Marco Morales & Dottie White  
Huntsville, Ala.

More than 200 selected Huntsville high school juniors participated in "Adventures in Engineering" here April 6 thanks to the combined efforts of seven local area governmental and defense industry organizations.

The one-day event focused on students who may be considering careers in science and engineering after they graduate from high school.

Participating organizations were the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command (SMDC), the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command (AMCOM), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Marshall Space Flight Center (NASA-MSFC), the U.S. Space and Rocket Center (USS&RC), and the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce (COC). Sponsors of the event were the Army Space and Missile Defense Association (ASMDA) and the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH).

"Among you are the future engineers and scientists who will help develop and run our high tech programs in both the government and private

industry," said Larry Burger, director of SMDC's Battle Lab at the event's kick-off conducted at the UAH University Center.

"The people you meet and talk with today, as you go from site to site, will give you a better perspective on some of the different jobs available in space, science and engineering." Also offering advice and encouragement to the students were Brig. Gen. John W. Holly, program executive officer, Army Tactical Missiles, Redstone Arsenal, Ala., and the president of UAH, Dr. Frank A. Franz.

"This is our first event which will become an annual effort," Burger said.

The event began and ended at UAH's University Center. Students were transported by buses to UAH, the USS&RC, SMDC's Advanced Research Center, Redstone Arsenal, and the MSFC throughout the day. Each location offered demonstrations, ex-

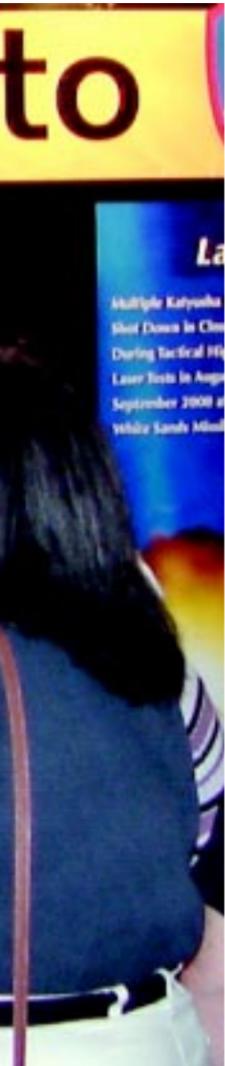


hibits, and conversation with subject-matter experts on various science and engineering topics. The tours included a live-fire tactical missile demonstration at the Arsenal, moon buggy races at the USS&RC, ongoing construction of future components to the International Space Station at the MSFC, and a brief synopsis of high energy laser technology.

One of the event's highlights in-

# ering'

## careers for Huntsville high school students



(Photo by Marco Morales)



(Photo by Marco Morales)

Mr. Larry Burger (wearing sunglasses), director, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command Battle Lab, pauses next to the SCUD missile launcher outdoor display to answer a few questions from Huntsville city and Madison County high school juniors about opportunities in science and engineering.



(Photo by Phil Patterson)

Lieutenant Colonel Doug Wheelock (right), a U.S. Army astronaut, answers a question asked by a student at the University Pre-School Learning Center in Huntsville. Wheelock took time from his busy schedule to talk to the children about the many possibilities in life, including space travel.

cluded a visit by Army Astronaut Lt. Col. Douglas Wheelock who is assigned to SMDC with duty at the Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas. Wheelock spoke to the students as they enjoyed lunch at the USS&RC.

"Can any of you tell me what 'impossible' means to you?" he asked the audience of students.

Some answered that it meant "never able to achieve something" while others said "the unreachable." Wheelock then recounted the plight of the Wright brothers in Kitty Hawk, N.C., who were told by skeptics that their idea of being able to fly was "impossible."

"Well, we all know what happened after they proved that man can fly, right?" he asked.

Wheelock also autographed promotional photos of himself for stu-

dents as they toured the exhibit at the SMDC facility. Sparkman High School students Amanda Kinch and Amanda Sharp said they'll remember having met a real astronaut. "He was really nice and didn't act like he was any better than anyone else. He seemed to be real down to earth and it was easy to relate with what he had to say. He was very inspiring."

Beckie Pratte of Grissom High School was also moved by the astronaut's advice.

"[Lt. Col. Wheelock's] speech at the Space and Rocket Center - 'keep working hard and things will fall in place for you' is what I'll remember most about today," she said.

Outside the SMDC facility, the students received a briefing on the SCUD missile and launcher display by Jeri Kyle of SMDC's Ballistic Mis-

sile Targets Joint Project Office. The SCUD is an early Soviet missile used by the Iraqis against Israel and U.S. forces during the Gulf War.

Ben Weed of Grissom High School spoke of his "adventure" in the day's events.

"It gave me an opportunity to look at new careers and see that being an engineer is not just working as a desk jockey like I thought," he said. "It was definitely a good event."

Mark Ullom of Bob Jones High School also endorsed the event.

"The most important thing I learned from this experience is realizing all of the different fields available in engineering and how I can use that in my life. I am very interested in engineering and in attending UAH so, this was a very worthwhile experience for me."

# HELSTF hosts officer development class

The High Energy Laser Systems Test Facility (HELSTF) hosted an Officer Professional Development (OPD) course at its facility at White Sands Missile Range, N.M., in February. Approximately 30 soldiers from the 6<sup>th</sup> Air Defense Artillery, Fort Bliss, Texas, along with 10 personnel from the Holloman Air Force Base 49<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron visited the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command site.

Mr. Scott McPheeters presented a laser introduction briefing. He described the basic operational theory of lasers and how lasers may meet the battlefield requirements for the Army transformation and objective forces. In particular, he explained, lasers have the needed responsiveness to defeat in-flight rockets, artillery and mortars, for which there is no current defense and which have been responsible for most Army casualties in the last century.

In a briefing on HELSTF, Lt. Col. Lyn O. Tronti, director, HELSTF, discussed HELSTF's test capability and how HELSTF is transforming itself into an Army Center of Excellence for the Research, Development, Testing and Evaluation of directed energy weapons.

The transformation, she explained, is required to make HELSTF the location of choice for the future testing and evaluation of future High Energy Laser weapons that includes support of the Army's Enhanced Area Air Defense System (EAADS), the counter unexploded ordnance, and weapon system vulnerability tests. The existing Mid-Infrared Advanced Chemical Laser (MIRACL) and SEALITE Beam Director (SLBD) have been used to support a number of Army, Navy and Air Force laser test programs. The SLBD, she said, was used by the Air Force to develop active imaging techniques for the Airborne Laser and is used by the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization to image



(U.S. Army Photo)

Mr. Ed Underwood, a HELSTF contract technician with Logicon, explains the Mid-Infrared Advanced Chemical Laser (MIRACL) components to an officer professional development class.

missile intercepts over WSMR.

The HELSTF overview was followed by a briefing on the Tactical High Energy Laser (THEL) by Mr. Terry Cash, THEL deputy program manager. He said, the THEL is a joint Advanced Concept Technology Demonstration (ACTD) program between the United States and Israel designed to negate the threat posed by Katyusha rockets to populated areas in northern Israel. In July 1996, the U.S. Department of Defense and the Israeli Ministry of Defense signed a memorandum of agreement for the development and functional testing of a THEL demonstrator. SMDC is the executive agent of the joint THEL/ACTD program for the Department of Defense, he said. The Is-

rael Ministry of Defense designated a program office to oversee this effort. TRW, Inc., was selected as the primary civilian contractor to design, build, and integrate the THEL demonstrator.

Tours of the THEL, HELSTF, and the Pulsed Laser Vulnerability Test Suite owned and managed by the WSMR Directorate for Applied Technologies, Test and Simulation, followed.

The tours offered the course attendees their first hands-on exposure to operational high energy laser systems and the facilities that supports them.

The interface between soldiers and scientists during this professional development class provided invaluable insights for all.

## Soldiers won't wear Chinese-made berets

by Gary Sheftick

**WASHINGTON (Army News Service, May 2, 2001)**—Not all soldiers will don black berets June 14, officials said. A phased fielding of the headgear will continue into November.

The delay is due to three companies defaulting on their beret delivery, officials said, and a policy decision not to issue berets produced in China.

"The Army chief of staff has determined that U.S. troops shall not wear berets made in China or berets made with Chinese content," said Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz in a statement May 1. "Therefore, I direct the Army and the Defense Logistics Agency [DLA] to take appropriate action to recall previously distributed berets and dispose of the stock."

About half of the berets made in China have already been delivered, officials said, but most have not yet been issued.

Those berets will be recalled and sold as surplus through the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office, according to a DLA spokesperson.

Quality issues and failure to meet production deadlines resulted in the cancellation of the other three contracts, according to a DLA spokesperson.

Originally, 4.8 million berets were contracted to seven different companies for a total cost of \$29.6 million, according to DLA.

The Army's goal is still to get as many of the berets issued by June 14 as possible, according to Lt. Col. Paul Hilton, who is coordinating the fielding plan in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations.

Priority for fielding in the active component will go to large stateside installations with deployable units, Hilton said, and also to the Recruiting Command and the National Capital Region.

He said a number of Army Reserve and National Guard units will also receive the berets prior to June 14.

Fielding of the black berets has already begun, Hilton said. The National Guard has 148,000 at its distribution center. The Army Reserve already has 40,000 and another 32,000 were shipped this week, Hilton said.

Shipment of berets to active compo-

nent units began in early May from DLA to Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Bragg, N.C.; the Military District of Washington and to Recruiting Command battalions across the nation.

On May 7, the fielding plan calls for berets to be shipped to Fort Campbell, Ky.

On May 14, berets are scheduled to be shipped to Fort Lewis, Wash., Fort Carson, Colo., Fort Stewart, Ga., and Hunter Army Airfield, Ga.

DLA is scheduled to ship berets May 21 to Fort Benning, Ga., and May 28 to: Fort Drum, N.Y., Fort Riley, Kan., and Fort Sill, Okla. Berets are scheduled to be shipped June 4 to Fort Bliss, Texas and Fort Polk, La.

If a division receives the beret—so will all soldiers at that installation.

"We are trying, to the maximum extent possible, to avoid mixed uniforms at the same installation," Hilton said.

Berets will be shipped to other installations and units on a weekly schedule through Oct. 29, according to the fielding plan.

U.S. Army Europe will be the last to receive the berets, Hilton said.

# Army Space Forces get new commander

**COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.** - U.S. Army Space Command held a change of command ceremony for the Army Space Forces at Peterson Air Force Base March 22nd.

Colonel John V. Klemencic turned over command of Army Space Forces to Col. William J. Partridge during the passing of the unit colors before a crowd of more than 150 spectators at the Peterson Parade Grounds.

Lieutenant General John Costello, then the commanding general of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command and ARSPACE, hosted the event and reflected on Klemencic's tenure at ARSPACE.

"John Klemencic has been an excellent commander," said Costello.

"He is the kind of leader who always gets the job done quickly, intelligently and at the least cost. John's influence has been excellent for ARSPACE."

"We will miss him, but I know Bill Partridge will continue the dedication to excellence that ARSPACE is known for," said Costello.

Klemencic, whose next assignment is the TRADOC System Manager for Cannons at Fort Sill, Okla., said, "It has been a great year."

"I have had the pleasure of working with the best team in the Army. This is the most professional staff I have ever worked with."

Partridge, the Army's senior Functional Area 40 colonel, commented on his new position, "As many of you know I'm no stranger to ARSPACE."

"I will do my best to continue the tradition of bringing space to the warfighter."

## Klemencic's accomplishments

Klemencic assumed command of Army Space Forces at ARSPACE last year but his association with ARSPACE and the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command dates back to July 1997.

Klemencic was assigned as the director for Experiments and Exercises, SMDC Battle Lab - West. Afterwards he became the ARSPACE's assistant chief of staff G3 (Operations) where he was instrumental in improving the quality of space products, expertise, and capabilities extended to the warfighting Corps.

Klemencic was a key player in the formation of the Army's 1<sup>st</sup> Space Battalion.

As commander of Army Space Forces, Klemencic improved performance of the Army Space Support Teams and Joint Tactical Air Ground Stations. He has been responsible for two one-of-a-kind battalions — the 1<sup>st</sup> Satellite Control Battalion and the 1<sup>st</sup> Space Battalion.

In addition to these battalions, a third, the Colorado Army National Guard Battalion, the 193<sup>rd</sup> Space Support Battalion, was stood up during his tour of duty at ARSPACE.

Klemencic is a graduate of the Command and General Staff College and the Army War College.

Klemencic, and his wife, Tina, have two children.



(Official U.S. Air Force photo)

Colonel William J. Partridge accepts command of Army Space Forces as Lt. Gen. John Costello, then the commanding general of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command and U.S. Army Space Command, passes the unit colors during a change of command ceremony March 22 at Peterson Air Force Base.

## The new commander

Partridge comes from Headquarters, U.S. Space Command at Peterson where he was the chief, Current Operations Division.

A native of Saugerties, N.Y., he graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1975 and was commissioned into the Regular Army as a Field Artillery second lieutenant.

He obtained his master of science degree in space systems engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School.

Previous assignments include Battery Fire Direction Officer and Battery Executive Officer, 1-15<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery, Korea; Battery Executive Officer, 1-20<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery, Fort Carson; Flight Platoon Leader and Operations Officer, 62<sup>nd</sup> Aviation Company, Germany; Company Commander and Battalion S3, 9<sup>th</sup> Aviation Battalion, Fort Lewis, Wash.; Plans Officer, USSPACECOM; Brigade Executive Officer, 4<sup>th</sup> Aviation Brigade, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, Fort Carson; and Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, ARSPACE.

Partridge commanded the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion (Assault), 2<sup>nd</sup> Aviation Regiment, 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division, Korea.

His military schooling includes the Army Command and General Staff College and the Army War College. He and his wife, Kristen, have five children.

## ARSPACE in review

ARSPACE was activated and organized to support the field Army on April 7, 1988. It absorbed the planning and support functions of the Army Space Agency and assumed operational space missions. In August 1992, ARSPACE became an element of SMDC; and, in 1997, the Army placed even more dependence on space with the formation of its newest major command, SMDC, of which ARSPACE is a major subordinate element.

ARSPACE soldiers have supported the full spectrum of military operations since 1990.

Since 1992 ARSPACE has made invaluable contributions in support of Army warfighters in both contingency operations and major exercises.

## ARSPACE soldier gains membership in coveted Sgt. Audie Murphy Club

A U.S. Army Space Command soldier was inducted into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club (SAMC) in March.

Staff Sgt. Chunka A. Smith, an engagement control team leader assigned to ARSPACE's Theater Missile Warning Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Space Battalion, became a member of the Mountain Post Chapter of the SAMC.



Staff Sergeant Chunka A. Smith

The Mountain Post SAMC is an elite organization with membership limited to Fort Carson's most outstanding Noncommissioned Officers.

Membership in the SAMC recognizes distinguished NCOs whose leadership contributes significantly to the development of a professional NCO Corps and a combat ready Army.

His major achievements while assigned to Fort Stewart included receiving a letter of commendation from the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, three impact Army Achievement Medals while serving as the battalion color guard NCOIC, Commandants List at the Battle Staff Course and three rotations at the National Training Center.

The club, named after Lt. Audie Murphy, the most decorated soldier in American history, originated at Fort Hood, Texas, early in 1986.

In 1998, it was estimated that the club membership had more than 3,000 soldiers and was steadily increasing.

This local chapter is one of many Army-wide.

ARSPACE is establishing its own chapter through the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command.

## Space Operations Officers meet

# First FA 40 Training Conference held

How do you create esprit de corps, share learning experiences, and develop a network of knowledgeable colleagues when you have a new career field filled by a few officers dealing with breaking technology?

The answer lies in what the Force Development and Integration Center (FDIC) did in late March—they held the First Space Operations/Functional Area 40 Training Conference in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Bringing together 82 Space Operations officers and captains considering a move into the functional area certainly led to a great deal of discussion, according to one observer.

“The conference was excellent because it was the first opportunity to bring active and potential FA 40s together,” said Capt. Joe Pagnotta who is considering applying for the career change. “The personnel and strategic briefings were good. The briefings by FA 40s already working in the corps headquarters offered a good insight into what they’re doing,” he said.

“This is a great idea,” said Maj. Patrick Marshall who is currently a math instructor at West Point. “There’s no better way to foster professional relationships than having a professional conference. It’s essential. You tend to remember the best of who you know and then you develop a network of technically and tactically proficient folks you can fall back on when you need ideas or experience,” he said.

“We had approximately 70 percent of the FA 40s attend the conference,” said Lt. Col. Larry Fallen, chief,

Proponency, Organization and Training Support Division, FDIC, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command (SMDC). “The ones that weren’t here just couldn’t get away from current missions,” he said.

“We had a great exchange of information that left everyone feeling better about where we’re going and how we’re going to get there,” said Fallen.

According to Fallen, all of the senior leaders in the functional area spoke to the conference. They included Col. (P) Richard V. Geraci, SMDC Deputy Commanding General-Operations and the DCG for Army Space Command.

Geraci took time to talk about the transformation of the Army and how much SMDC in general, and FA 40s in particular, had to offer the Army and its commanders in the transformation process.

He said that FA 40s should be excited by the opportunity to play a part in bringing space operations and space-based products to the transformation process.

Briefings and discussion followed on a number of important topics. The Space Operations officers were treated to a discussion of personnel matters, including: locations and durations of assignments, opportunities for training, growth of the functional area and its career promotion potentials.

The organization of the 1st Space Battalion and an update on the Army Space Support Teams helped officers gain an appreciation for a major portion of the Army Space Forces.

Working FA 40s from Army corps and armies provided insight into the challenges that face a new and growing functional area in a skill many still see as something off the movie screen. These officers shared their lessons learned about working within the confines of duties assigned by their immediate supervisors and of still providing commanders and their staffs space products they are unfamiliar with but which enhance the accomplishment of command missions.

On the second day of the conference technical, tactical and threat briefs were delivered by ARSPACE, the Battle Lab, and the Air Force Space Aggressor Squadron.

Just as important as the many varied presentations that were made, according to Fallen, was the discussion it engendered during breaks and after hours.

“There was a great exchange of information with a lot of officers asking good questions,” he said.

“I’m pretty pleased and very satisfied with the great presentations and the discussions. The end result has been an increase in camaraderie.

“We’ll use the annual training conferences as both a feedback and an update about what’s happening in the field.

“It will provide a means by which we can evolve doctrine and techniques concerning the employment of space operations officers and the space services they offer not only the current and interim forces but the Army’s Objective Force as well.”

## First full FA 40 Course begins June 18th

The first seven-week Space Operations Officer qualifying course for Functional Area 40 begins June 18th in Colorado Springs, Colo., according to course officials.

Mr. John Coons, Deputy Division Chief of Proponency, Organization and Training Support, Force Development and Integration Center, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command spoke recently about the first full course for FA 40s.

“We think the seven-week course will be intense,” he said. The FA 40s have 24 individual critical tasks and two collective tasks they must master in order to graduate from the course, he said.

Basically the course is divided into three segments:

- 25 days of classroom instruction
- a field trip to the National Reconnaissance Office, National Imagery and Mapping Agency, and the Army Space Program Office in Washington, D.C.; and, a visit to Fort Bragg, N.C., for hands-on training with equipment developed in the Army’s Tactical Exploitation of National Capabilities program.
- a 43-hour class command post exercise in which each student must display

proficiency in each of the 24 critical tasks in a simulation driven environment.

Officers who complete the course may be assigned to U.S. Army Corps Headquarters, Army Space Command, U.S. Space Command, the National Reconnaissance Office, and Department of the Army or Joint Staffs.

Most Space Operations officers serve in Washington, D.C., or in Colorado Springs, he said.

With the addition of National Guard and Army Reserve officers to the functional area, Coons said they would likely serve in the Colorado Army National Guard 193<sup>rd</sup> Space Support Battalion on either the battalion staff or as members of its Army Space Support Teams.

Coons notes that there are only two ways to become a fully qualified Space Operations officer.

Most officers will attend the FA 40 course to gain their qualifications. Army officers serving as NASA astronauts are also qualified as FA 40s because of the intense space training they receive.

“The course will academically challenge every student,” Coons said.

“They must achieve a minimum score of 70 percent on each of the critical tasks to pass the course,” he said.

“All of these officers have advanced

degrees. They are highly motivated. Some of them have a lot of space-related experience, some have a little.

But they come from almost every branch of the Army. It’s a good way to gain a broad perspective on how the Army operates,” said Coons.

“Once the first class graduates, we will analyze the course and see if anything needs to be changed.

“Our second course will begin in January. Following that course, we’ll make additional adjustments to the course content.

“By the time we get to the third course in June 2002, we’ll have a final program of instruction approved by the Training and Doctrine Command,” he said.

The course, according to Coons, produces the only officers in the Army who are experts in what space can offer the warfighter.

“We aren’t replacing military intelligence or signal officers who do some of the things we do.

“We supplement them and bring to commanders the full array of space support that can help them mold the battlefield to their mission requirements,” said Coons.

## ARMY NEWS

### Legal services now online, JAG offers information

**WASHINGTON (Army News Service, March 21, 2001)** — The U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps has launched a legal services website.

The site, [www.jagcnet.army.mil/Legal](http://www.jagcnet.army.mil/Legal), creates a "virtual" legal information and resource knowledge center for military members and their families. The site offers information that should be considered to prevent legal problems or before consulting an attorney. It includes information on personal legal assistance, claims, trial defense, and victim/witness information for the Army. It also provides preventive law information and helps users find the nearest Legal Assistance Office of any military branch.

The JAG Corps legal site aims to provide soldiers and spouses with information to make informed decisions on personal legal affairs, maintain legal well-being, readiness, avoid consumer scams, and otherwise minimize "legal" distractions.

### Retiree benefit seminars set near SMDC facilities

**WASHINGTON (Army News Service, March 28, 2001)** — Retiree Appreciation Days, also known as RADs, are one- or two-day seminars conducted annually to bring retirees, soldiers and their families up-to-date information on America's Army and changes in retirement benefits.

Installation Retirement Services Offices (RSO) put together a program of guest speakers and displays covering topics such as health care, retired pay, Survivor Benefit Plan, veterans' benefits, Social Security, military legal aid and retirees as adjunct recruiters. Some RSOs also offer health fairs with blood pressure checks and other screenings.

Some upcoming RADs are listed below. For more information, contact the RSO sponsoring the event. Installation RSO numbers are listed on the Army Retirement Services homepage at:

[www.odcsper.army.mil/retire](http://www.odcsper.army.mil/retire).

**June 22-24** Fort Carson, Colo.  
**Sept. 8** Redstone Arsenal, Ala.  
**Sept. 21** Fort Myer, Va.

### Army, Sears partner in recruiting program

**FORT KNOX, Ky. (Army News Service, March 30, 2001)** — An arrangement between the U.S. Army Recruiting Command and Sears Logistics Services, Inc., will allow more recruits signing enlistment contracts to have civilian jobs lined up upon successful completion of their enlistments.

Sears joined a growing list of businesses in the Army's "Partnership for Youth Success" program, also known as PaYS. PaYS seeks to partner the Army with industry for the benefit of both's recruiting efforts, according to program officials.

Under terms of the agreement between USAREC and Sears, enlistees interested in gaining specific job training and qualifications will receive that training while in the U.S. Army. As part of the enlistment process, recruits sign a letter of intent to work for Sears upon completion of their term of service. As the end of their terms of service approach, the soldiers will then have an opportunity to interview with Sears for a specific job at a specific location.

### Commissaries near 30-percent savings goal

**FORT LEE, Va. (Army News Service, April 11, 2001)** - Commissaries have almost reached their goal of a 30-percent savings over commercial grocery stores, members of Congress were told at a recent hearing.

Maj. Gen. Robert J. Courter, Defense Commissary Agency director, testified March 29 before a House Armed Services Committee hearing into Morale, Welfare and Recreation issues.

"I am extremely pleased to report that today customer savings have reached 29 percent and I project we will reach 30 percent by year's end," Courter told the committee.

The amount of savings verified by the survey means an annual savings of more than \$2,300 for a family of four that regularly shops in their commissary, officials said.

### TRICARE e-mail assistance grows by 30 percent

**WASHINGTON (Army News Service, April 17)** — TRICARE beneficiaries can get answers to their questions through the TRICARE Help E-Mail Service, commonly known as THEMS.

The service is growing more than 30 percent per quarter because "we provide fast, accurate and complete answers to TRICARE questions and assist beneficiaries in resolving their TRICARE problems," said Maj. Howard Schellenberg, THEMS program manager.

THEMS works by allowing soldiers and their families with access to a computer at work or home to e-mail their TRICARE questions, issues, or concerns to:

[TRICARE\\_help@amedd.army.mil](mailto:TRICARE_help@amedd.army.mil).

### Westphal named acting Army secretary

**WASHINGTON (Army News Service, March 7, 2001)** - Dr. Joseph W. Westphal was designated the acting secretary of the Army, effective March 5.

Westphal had been serving as the assistant secretary of the Army for civil works, a position he had held since June 1998.

Because Westphal had already been through the "presidential appointment and senate approval" process, he was eligible to move into the job, officials said.

President George W. Bush announced on April 24, his intention to nominate Army Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Thomas E. White as Secretary of the Army.

### Restrictions continue on tak- ing firearms to Germany

**HEIDELBERG, Germany (Army News Service, March 26, 2001)** - As the relocation season approaches, U.S. Army Europe officials are reminding soldiers and civilians that a restriction is in place prohibiting the shipping, transporting, or hand-carrying of privately-owned firearms to Germany.

This importation restriction does not affect private firearms covered by a valid German Weapons Possession Card, known as Waffenbesitzkarte, or WBK, officials said.

The temporary weapons restriction, in place since Sept. 26, will remain in effect

until USAREUR and the German Federal Ministry of the Interior finalize procedures for soldiers and civilian employees to obtain a WBK through the U.S. Armed Forces. The restriction will be modified or rescinded, officials said, when procedures are in place for U.S. military personnel to obtain the WBK through U.S. armed forces channels.

### The Army Birthday Ball registration is underway

Registration is underway for the Army's 226th Birthday Ball which will be held at the Washington Hilton Hotel on June 15. For registration to the Washington, D.C. gala event, log on to [www.army.mil](http://www.army.mil) and click on Army Birthday.

### Web site assists military campers, RVers

**ALEXANDRIA, Va. (Army News Service, April 17, 2001)** — Military campers and RVers can find their way on America's highways with a new web site:

[www.pathsacrossamerica.com](http://www.pathsacrossamerica.com).

Visitors to the outdoor recreation site will find information on the location of the RV parks and campsites at installations throughout the United States, directions from the nearest major highway, phone numbers, amenities, the number of pads and campsites, and fees. It also lists any cabins, cottages or duplexes available for rent. Future additions to the web site will include a trip computer to determine mileage, local on and off post recreational opportunities, and inter-service Morale, Welfare and Recreation specials for RVers and campers.

### DoD backs Army decision on black beret

**WASHINGTON (Army News Service, March 19, 2001)** — The secretary of Defense supports the Army's decision to adopt a black beret as its standard garrison headgear. The Army will don the black beret on the next Army birthday, June 14.

Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz announced the Department of Defense's beret support during a Pentagon press brief March 16.

The decision regarding the beret was a symbolic and visible demonstration for soldiers to mark the real change the Army is making in transforming from a Cold War force into a more modern one ready for future challenges.

### Rangers adopt tan beret as unique headgear

**FORT BENNING, Ga. (Army News Service, March 16, 2001)** — The 75th Ranger Regiment at Fort Benning, Ga., has announced it will exchange its traditional black beret for a tan one.

The Rangers studied several options, officials said, before deciding on the Ranger Tan Beret. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric K. Shinseki approved the regiment's request to change its beret to maintain the distinctiveness of the unit and reflect the legacy of Ranger history.

Tan rekindles the legacy of Rangers from all eras, officials said, and exemplifies the unique skills and special capabilities required of past, present, and future Rangers.



(Photo by Dottie White)

Kelly and Shane Putnam (left) pose for a wedding picture with the Rev. Gary Ledbetter following their wedding at the Huntsville SMDC facility.

## Couple weds at SMDC Huntsville facility

by Dottie White  
Huntsville, Ala.

Most employees find lunchtime to be a welcome respite from a hectic work schedule. Weddings aren't usually on the menu.

Kelly Terrell, a contract employee with Quality Research, Inc., at the Space and Missile Defense Command (SMDC) Help Desk in Huntsville chose lunchtime and the side entrance of the Huntsville facility as her wedding site. She also asked the Rev. Gary Ledbetter, an Information Management specialist for SMDC to perform the ceremony. Nearly 50 employees attended the union of Kelly and Shane Putnam on March 15. Shane is self-employed.

Kelly wore jeans, a white shirt and a veil; Shane wore jeans and a button down Auburn shirt. Pat Colvin of QRI decorated for this memorable event, and Leondra Robinson provided wedding bubbles in lieu of rice or birdseed. The reception was held in the SMDC cafeteria. Amy Dean of Dean's Food Service, SMDC cafeteria, baked the wedding cake. The happy

couple returned to work after the reception.

Why get married at work? Kelly had a ready answer.

"I've worked at SMDC for six years. My co-workers at QRI and SMDC are like my family. They have touched my life in many ways. I can't think of a better place to have it than here."

Rev. Ledbetter counseled the couple for about a month before the ceremony and feels they are a good couple and that they are very much in love.

Kelly and Shane met about two years ago at Friend's Hair Salon. She was there getting a perm.

She had no make-up on and had perm rods in her hair.

He was getting a haircut. Kelly remembers being bored while waiting and when she saw Shane she called out, "Hey . . . Hey!" He looked up as if to say "Who me?" and they just started talking. Shane often jokes around by saying, "All I wanted was a haircut".

For many, this will be one wedding they won't soon forget.

## New Huntsville building awaits proposals

The Request for Proposals for the new U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command building at Redstone Arsenal has been released. Contractors have until the beginning of June to submit their proposals. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will consider the bids and a contract award will be made toward the end of August.

The actual construction on the SMDC building of the Von Braun Complex will start this fall. Redstone Arsenal has elected to hold a "groundbreaking" ceremony for the complex on July 23.

Occupancy is scheduled to begin in October or November 2003. However, the move from the current facility in Huntsville will be phased over several months. Plans are for the entire move to be completed by the end of June 2004.

The new construction has taken the environment into account. Wetlands at the building site, at the northeast corner of Martin and Mills Roads, are being remediated or saved with ponds that will preserve the environment and enhance the landscaping of the new complex.

Force protection measures are being built into in the design of the complex and its environs. These measures include placing reserved/handicapped parking 80 feet from the building with general parking starting at 150 feet.

These drawings are the architectural concept of the building. The actual construction may vary slightly from the concept, but final construction will be close to this design.



An architectural concept drawing of the SMDC building in the Von Braun Complex.



The line drawing (right) displays both the location and the general landscaping scheme for the SMDC building in the Von Braun Complex. General parking areas for the building are noted by circled Ps. Ponds are in blue. Vegetation is shown in various green symbols. Future buildings in the complex will be to the northwest and north of the SMDC facility. All will be connected and an auditorium and a cafeteria will be constructed with one of the future buildings.