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Year in Review**

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# The Eagle

United States Army Space and Missile Defense Command

Volume 10, Number 9, October 2003

## Commander commends soldiers back from deployment

By D.J. Montoya  
SMDC Public Affairs

**PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo.** — A ceremony honoring 64 members of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command who have returned from duty in OPERATIONS ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM was conducted at the SMDC-Colorado Springs building on Peterson Air Force Base Aug. 22.

As part of a welcome home tribute, LTG Joseph M. Cosumano Jr., commanding general of SMDC, awarded seven soldiers of the command with a total of 11 awards ranging from the Bronze Star Medal to the U.S. Marine Corps Certificate of Commendation.

"OPERATIONS ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM are about protecting our way of life," said Cosumano addressing an

audience of soldiers, civilian co-workers and family members.

"We are here today to honor those who have been a part of this Global War on Terrorism and to properly acknowledge the wonderful contributions that soldiers, family members, Department of the Army civilians, and contractors have made to these operations, making it happen for this command, this Army, and this nation in their own special way."

Cosumano said SMDC continues to live up to its motto "First in Space" by listing a number of firsts achieved in OIF where space-based capabilities were brought to the warfighter. They include: first time an Army space unit provided support to the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Expeditionary Force in combat; first ever split-based operations between rear and forward command posts by an Army space unit; first time support in a

Joint Special Operations Task Force by an Army space unit; and first time sustained space control operations were conducted in combat by an Army space unit.

Concerning the last listed first, Cosumano said, "This command, with only a few hundred soldiers, really has the unique capability — that no other service has — to ensure we can control the high ground."

In addition, Cosumano stated the Joint Tactical Ground Stations in Europe and Qatar provided battle space characterization to the war effort for the first time.

After making his remarks, Cosumano presented the following awards.

See Awards on page 4



Photo by Sharon L. Hartman

### *Glad that's over*

Sgt. Jennifer Swift, SMDC Soldier of the Year, rests after completing a portion of the second annual Army-level NCO and Soldier of the Year Competition conducted Sept. 12-18 in Northern Virginia.

Staff Sgt. Steven Cato represented SMDC in the NCO category.

Both soldiers are members of Headquarters Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Satellite Control Battalion, in Colorado Springs, Colo.

The event, initiated last year by Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack Tilley, brought together once again the "best of the best" in today's Army.

At the end of the competition, Spc. Russell A. Burnham, U.S. Army Forces Command, was named the 2003 Soldier of the Year, and Staff Sgt. James W. Luby, Military District of Washington and National Capital Region, was the 2003 NCO of the Year.

See related stories on pages 6 and 7.

# The Command Corner



**LTG Joseph M. Cosumano Jr.**  
Commanding General



**CSM David Lady**  
Command Sergeant Major

**P**resident Abraham Lincoln, America's 16<sup>th</sup> President, once observed, "You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today." These prophetic words have special meaning for the soldiers, civilians and contractors serving with the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command. Because of your professionalism, capabilities and willingness this past year to accept responsibilities that contribute to the defense of freedom, America is a more secure and prosperous place to work, live, worship and raise our families.

On Sept. 11, 2001, terrorists attacked America's heartland, determined to inflict death and grievous harm to thousands of unsuspecting and innocent individuals. The will of the American people was resolute, and the nation responded decisively in the Global War on Terrorism. Answering the call to arms, SMDC soldiers and civilians deployed here and abroad in support of OPERATIONS NOBLE EAGLE and ENDURING FREEDOM. As in 2001-2002, SMDC personnel remain committed during 2003 as part of this ongoing effort, providing 24/7 space-based support to the joint warfighters still serving in Afghanistan and the United States.

SMDC personnel also provided invaluable space support in the preparations for and conduct of combat operations for OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM. Army Space Support Teams, supporting the Combined Forces Land Component Commander, V Corps and the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Expeditionary Force, brought space products, services and expertise directly to the joint warfighters. Soldiers with the Joint Tactical Ground Stations provided early warning of enemy missile launch activity in the theater. The Regional Satellite Communications Support Centers and the Defense Satellite Communications System Operations Centers provided reliable and responsive satellite communications support. Finally, the joint warfighter was backed up by an extensive reachback system of technical and operational professionals who quickly addressed numerous issues in a timely manner. During this entire time, SMDC continued to provide an immense range of space products and services to our National Command Authority and military forces from locations around the globe. Truly, the sun never set on SMDC in 2003.

The designation of SMDC as the Army Service Component Command (ASCC) to the U.S. Strategic Command (STRATCOM) resulted in the assignment of new missions that requires new planning and coordination responsibilities. SMDC is now responsible for all Army support to STRATCOM for Space Operations, Global Integrated Missile Defense, Global Strike, Global Information Operations, and Global C4ISR (Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance).

A number of internal restructuring efforts have taken place as part of these new missions. We merged the staffs of the former Army Space Command with SMDC to reduce redundancy and gain efficiencies. The Army Space Program Office was transferred to the Program Executive Office, Air, Space and Missile Defense. The colors of the Army Space Forces have been retired, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Space Brigade (Provisional) has been activated. Construction is continuing on the new Von Braun Office Complex in Huntsville and we expect to occupy the new building in January 2004. And the construction of the Ground-based Midcourse Defense system at Fort Greely, Alaska, is ongoing with a projected Initial Defense Operations capability of Oct. 1, 2004.

Clearly, this past year has been one filled with great challenges. But it has also been filled with great achievements, due in no small part to the tremendous efforts of the SMDC collective family of soldiers, civilians and contractors. This coming year will present even more challenges as we mature as the ASCC to STRATCOM and as the Army's lead for the Ground-based Midcourse Defense system. But with every challenge, an unparalleled number of opportunities arise to accomplish even more; that is indeed something to look forward to. Again, thanks to all for your continued great support over the last year.

**SECURE THE HIGH GROUND!**

**T**his month must begin with a farewell to one of our most distinguished space and air/misile defense soldiers. In August, CSM Reginald Ficklin retired after 30 years of superb service to our nation. No NCO has done more to develop the current generation of air defense artillery leaders and soldiers. No NCO has worked harder to increase the readiness of our Satellite Control and Space Support units, and to take care of soldiers and families. He helped activate the 32nd Air Defense Artillery Command and he helped transform Army Space Forces into the First Space Brigade (Provisional) of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command. He served ably as interim Space and Missile Defense Command CSM. Reggie Ficklin has been a shining example of the selfless sergeant. Well done, Sergeant Major, and thanks.

My second topic for this month is how our soldier recognition programs can also serve as "warrior development programs." We are all proud of Staff Sgt. Steven Cato and Sgt. Jennifer Swift, our command's NCO and Soldier of the Year 2003. They represented this command very well in the Army NCO and Soldier of the Year Program in September. This competition evaluated their fitness, basic soldier skills, basic soldier knowledge, and bearing and confidence.

All soldiers, both warfighters and those who support the warfighters, must be fit, knowledgeable and skilled in their basic soldier and technical specialty tasks. They must display confidence and sharp appearance. To strive to become "best" at these tasks is what develops each soldier into an "Army of One." The Army NCO and Soldier of the Year Program identifies those outstanding soldiers who are best at accomplishing these tasks.

Remember that the warrior ethos is not specialty-specific; all soldiers must "...always put the mission first, refuse to accept defeat, never quit ...". Soldiers who participate in such recognition programs as Sgt. Audie Murphy or NCO of the Year are demonstrating their willingness to learn more, to set higher standards, to compete and to become more than they were. These soldiers are demonstrating their natural leadership ability; leaders first demonstrate how to exceed standards, and then inspire others to exceed standards.

Such programs as SMDC NCO and Soldier of the Year do not look merely for the well-spoken; the interview panel is only part of the entire program. Soldiers must exceed standards of the physical fitness test, rifle marksmanship, day and night land navigation, chemical defense, first aid, tactical communications, and field craft. Testing is hands-on and standards are high. During the interview panel appearance, our soldiers must show they can think clearly, write clearly and speak clearly. Throughout the selection process, which may continue for nearly six months (unit, regional, MACOM and Army selection programs), the soldiers must show that they will not quit, but will pursue the goal of being best of the best.

Leaders of this high caliber will inspire confidence in their soldiers. Soldiers want to be led by the best, and will respond to high standards that are demonstrated and enforced by their leaders. Such outstanding leaders will create more effective teams and small units. We need effective teams, full of confidence in their leaders and themselves, ready to deploy with little notice into hardship and hostile environments in order to accomplish all missions and win the war.

I encourage all leaders to put their best soldiers into such competitions as NCO and Soldier of the Year and Sgt. Audie Murphy Club. Put our best forward, and inspire them to be more than they may think they can be. The return is an Army much better than before, an Army comprised of self-reliant individuals who have mastered their tasks and are anxious for more goals to meet and obstacles to overcome.

**ON POINT, SIR!**

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# Well, LOOK what I found in the dumpster!

By John W. Davis  
Intelligence Analyst G-2

## Commentary

Occasional merriment around SMDC-Huntsville is watching a senior civil servant as he scrounges through the trash. What is he doing? Lunch?

Is this a commentary on government belt-tightening on the order of, "Hey buddy, can you help out a civil servant down on his luck?" Is our dumpster diver seeking additional compensation in the form of cans, wrappers with contest entries or loose change? No. He is looking for government documents thrown out in the dumpster.

Did you know that once something is put in the trash outside the building, it is in the public domain? Put another way, when you place any government paper in the trash, you have just made a "public release?" You aren't authorized to do that, you know.

Today, the proper discarding of SMDC paper has been reduced to Sesame Street level. If it is unclassified paper, or your personal papers, put them in the large black trash can. Any paper. The little gray can is for coke cans, leftover lunch, newspapers and so forth. That sort of trash. Big can: paper. Little can: coke. Big can: paper. Little can: lunch.

Of course, many people wonder what, if anything, our dumpster diver finds in his quest. To give you a general idea, these are some items we have thrown out in our dumpsters: Whole briefings (to include slides), projected budgets, company proprietary information, legally and regulation-protected information, briefings to the general, briefings by the general, legal documents and personal items.

Here it might be interesting to get a

flair for the personal documents. Our diver reads your mail, knows your investments (none have panned out yet, or our diver would no longer be here!), reads your bank statements, reads your private e-mails and knows all sorts of information about what is going on around our big SMDC family. After all, it is all in the public domain. It is as if you put it on CNN!

When government documents are found, they are brought up to the Intelligence and Security Division. There they are assessed for sensitivity, and then forwarded to the chief of staff. He then contacts those who threw them out.

All in all, leaping in other people's trash is not fun. Not fun at all. Finding several million dollars of government research and keeping it from falling into adversary hands is at once rewarding and sad. Watch what you throw into the trash. At least one other person is watching, and there may be more.

## What We Think

### The Eagle asks:

What are you doing to protect yourself from identity theft?



About two months ago I registered my credit cards with the American Express registry. If there is any unusual activity I am notified immediately. Also, I monitor my credit report annually.

Sgt. 1st Class Connie Wagoner, Assistant Inspector General, Arlington, Va.



I registered for the national "Do Not Call" list and I never give my social security number over the phone. I have photocopies of all my credit cards and important documents. Thinking about this question has made me realize how vulnerable we all are. I think I need to do more to protect myself.

Portia Davidson, chief, Community and Family Support Programs, Arlington, Va.



I went through a credit company and established an account that automatically sends an alert if anything unusual changes on my credit report. My account is checked every 90 days by the credit company. Also, I change my personal passwords once a month to help ensure my protection from identity theft.

Master Sgt. McCoy Haynes, Frequency Management Instructor, U.S. Army Detachment, Keesler Air Force Base, Miss.



I never release any personal information to anyone unknown. Neither do I discuss personal identity information with telemarketers. Finally, I only select trusted Internet sites when they require the release of personal information.

John Lendeborg, Administrative Assistant, Small and Disadvantaged Business Office, Huntsville, Ala.



Online shopping for everything from running shoes to motorcycle chrome is so quick and painless. Although it is the wave of the future, it still seems inherently risky to me. I'm real cautious about passing personal, especially financial information, about myself over the Internet. Even though you see all these advertisements about certain sites being secure, one never really knows where personal information goes once you hit the "send" button.

LTC Mike Zarbo, Executive Officer for the deputy commanding general, Research, Development and Acquisition

### Historic activation

First ever Ground-based Midcourse Defense Brigade to be activated Oct. 16 in Colorado Springs, Colo.

The Ground-based Midcourse Defense Brigade will be activated Oct. 16 at 9 a.m.

The brigade is the first of its kind, and will join other organizations such as the Missile Defense Agency and U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command in meeting the nation's global missile defense needs.

The unit will be manned by National Guard and active duty soldiers. The ceremony is planned to take place outside the SMDC-Colorado Springs building.

The commanding general of SMDC, LTG Joseph M. Cosumano Jr., and the Adjutant General of the Colorado National Guard, Air Force MG Mason C. Whitney, will host the event.

## Rumsfeld praises contributions of nation's Hispanic Americans

By Donna Miles  
American Forces Press Service

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — Vowing to continue working to increase Hispanic representation throughout his department, Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld praised the contributions of Hispanic Americans in a speech at the Pentagon Sept. 17.

Rumsfeld told Hispanic leaders from academia, business and the Defense Department, as well as representatives of national Hispanic organizations, that Hispanics have played a vital role "in every war and every battle our country has fought from the American Revolution to OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM."

The Defense Department and the Reserve Forces Policy Board sponsored the session during the first week of Hispanic Heritage Month to commemorate Hispanic achievements and explore ways to increase Hispanic representation within the department.

Rumsfeld applauded the group's efforts and the many contributions Hispanics historically have made to the country's defense and to the strength of the United States and its military forces. He noted that 39 Hispanic service members have earned the nation's highest military award, the Medal of Honor — many, he said, paying "the ultimate price" in the process.

Hispanic Americans continue to make a vital contribution toward the nation's defense, Rumsfeld said, including the Global War on Terrorism in Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere around the world. He pointed toward an important Hispanic role model in that effort, Army Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, commander of coalition ground forces in Iraq.

Rumsfeld said it is "critically important" that the Defense Department does a better job of tapping into the talents of its growing Hispanic force.

Just back from a trip to Southwest Asia where he met many of the deployed U.S. troops, Rumsfeld said he was struck as he read the nametags on their uniforms.

"Name after name is a Hispanic name," he said. "It's a wonderful thing ... being able to look (these troops) in the eye and thank them and tell them how important it is what they're doing for their country."

He said these troops "are helping bring liberty to the oppressed" and creating a better world for the next generation, which he said will "no longer have to be fearful and terrorized."

The nation's Hispanic service members, he said, with their proven "devotion to faith, the community and the country" are critical to achieving that goal.

See related story on page 19.



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See related story on page 19.

## Strategic Command missions rely on space

By Maj. John Paradis, USAF

**OMAHA, Neb.**, — Applying the operational experience gained during the Global War on Terrorism to flesh out the use of space forces in theater operations is one challenge facing the new U.S. Strategic Command as it observes its first anniversary Oct. 1.

"Space is essential to everything we do," said Adm. James O. Ellis Jr., STRATCOM commander.

Ellis spoke Sept. 4 at the Strategic Space 2003 conference, a first-of-its-kind gathering of the aerospace industry community, NASA representatives and senior leaders of America's military space community.

Last year, the Defense Department built a new unified command by combining the missions and strengths of U.S. Space Command and the former U.S. Strategic Command. Since that time, the new STRATCOM reorganized its headquarters while providing critical support, including space operations, to U.S. Central Command for the war in Iraq, Ellis said.

The U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command is the Army Service Component Command to STRATCOM.

Space support covered the entire landscape of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM and provided a level of precision that gave coalition forces the ability to not only understand first but to act first as well, said Ellis.

The command, however, can't rest on its laurels, said Ellis. He said the command will now strive to further refine its support to the nation's warfighters.

Only by integrating the command's aggregate strengths will STRATCOM bring its entire range of global capabilities — space, missile defense, planning, communications, information operations, kinetic and nonkinetic strike, and intelligence — and ensure the U.S. military stays one step ahead of any adversary, he said.

A kinetic attack is one using weapons that rely on energy — blast, heat and fragmentation, for example — to cause their damage. A nonkinetic attack might involve electronically disabling an enemy's computers and communication equipment.

Ellis said coordinating the application of the command's vast capabilities and providing a single source for space-based capabilities that cuts across military and space boundaries is vital.

In previous operations, space support has been applied when and where needed, but required too much time and effort by a theater commander to synchronize, Ellis said.

"Until now, theater support in our mission areas has been supplied a la carte," the admiral said. "It's like single riders from a frontier cavalry troop arriving simultaneously, or nearly so, from all points of the compass at the same time."

STRATCOM now is uniquely positioned to help plan and support an effort to combine military and national security space operations, Ellis said, adding that streamlining chains of command and avoiding duplication in space operations is one of the command's key priorities.

**(Maj. John Paradis is assigned to U.S. Strategic Command public affairs.)**

## Awards

Continued from page 1

### Bronze Star Medal

• **Maj. Daniel Cockerham**, a member of Army Space Support Team 5, for support to the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Expeditionary Force.

### Joint Service Commendation Medal

• **Capt. Robert Barrett** and **1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Angela Johnson**, both members of ARSST 5.

### Army Commendation Medal

• **Lt. Col. Jeff Souder**, Space and Missile Defense Battle Lab Space Support Element Toolset – Light Fielding Team  
• **Maj. Greg Glover**, Space and Missile Defense Battle Lab Space Support Element Toolset – Light Fielding Team  
• **Maj. T.I. Weintraub**, Space and Missile Defense Battle Lab Space Support Element Toolset – Light Fielding Team

### Joint Service Achievement Medal

• **Spc. Joshua Foye**, a member of ARSST 5

Cockerham, Barrett, Johnson and Foye also received the USMC Certificate of Commendation for their contributions to OIF.

Cosumano then personally acknowledged eight additional soldiers for their contributions in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and OIF with three-star coins.

These soldiers previously received their awards from their supported units in the field: Maj. Andrew Weate, V Corps ARSST 1, Bronze Star Medal, OIF; Capt. Bo Taylor, Combined Force Land Component Commander ARSST 3, Joint Service Commendation Medal, OIF; 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Shawn Price, CJTF-180 ARSST 2, Joint Service Commendation Medal, OEF; Staff Sgt. Kipp Wilson, CFLCC ARSST 3, Joint Service Commendation Medal, OIF; Sgt. Samuel Huseby, CJTF-180 ARSST 2, Joint Service Commendation Medal, OEF and, Joint Service Achievement Medal, OIF, CFLCC

ARSST 3; Sgt. Eugene Justice, CJTF-180 ARSST 2, Joint Service Commendation Medal, OEF; 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Mathew Rapp and Staff Sgt. Jessica Adams, V Corps ARSST 1, Army Commendation Medal, OIF.

Two additional groups of soldiers came forward to receive three-star coins and personal thanks from the commanding general. These were soldiers who have returned most recently from deployments, and are awaiting the processing of their awards.

Afterward a reporter asked the commanding general to summarize what all the awards and acknowledgments in the day's ceremony meant.

Cosumano replied, "If you were to ask the soldiers and me as the commander, we were just doing our jobs. We don't expect anything other than the support of our families and the nation — and we certainly have that."

## Civilian News

### Combined Federal Campaign begins

The Department of Defense kicked off its 2003 Combined Federal Campaign for the National Capital Area Sept. 23 with a Pentagon ceremony. This year's goal is to raise more than \$11.5 million. Last year, DoD agencies raised over \$12 million for CFC organizations beating its \$11.3 million goal, according to Raymond DuBois, the Pentagon's director of administration and management and Washington Headquarters Services. This year's campaign began Sept. 15 and runs through Dec. 15. Each year, federal civilian and military personnel contribute millions of dollars to the CFC to benefit thousands of local, regional, national and international nonprofit organizations.

### TSP Open Season starts Oct. 15

The Thrift Savings Plan Open Season runs Oct. 15-Dec. 31. If you are 50 years or older, you could be stashing away as much as \$2,000 more in your Thrift Savings Plan this year—and up to \$5,000 more in years to come. Making catch-up contributions can make a positive difference in helping you achieve your goals for a financially comfortable retirement.

### Federal Employees Health Benefits Open Season starts Nov. 10

The Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Open season starts Nov. 10 and runs through Dec. 8.

### Insurance premiums for feds rising 10.6 percent next year

Health insurance premiums for federal workers and retirees will rise next year by an average of 10.6 percent, which is much less than the increases planned by many private employers. Bush administration officials noted the new rates suggested that the federal employee program was a model for the private sector and for Medicare, the insurance program for people who are elderly or disabled. Kay Coles James, director of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), said the premiums for federal workers and retirees would average \$277 every two weeks, or \$7,202 a year, in 2004. The government pays slightly more than 70 percent of this amount, on the average. Premiums for health maintenance organizations (HMO's) will increase an average of 9.9 percent next year, while federal workers in fee-for-service plans will see an average increase of 10.7 percent, the government said. For the first time in five years, the number of health plans participating in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) will rise next year, to 205, from 188 this year. About 4.3 million federal employees and retirees are in Blue Cross and Blue Shield plans.

### Eye on federal families

Spouses, domestic partners, parents, children and other federal employee dependents are all part of the extended Federal Family. Eye on Federal Families stories, as seen in Federal Employees News Digest and heard on FederalNewsRadio.com, give federal employees and their family members a window to news, policies, legislation and other information affecting them. Visit <http://www.FederalDaily.com/families/>.

*FederalDaily is a free e-mail news service from Federal Employees News Digest, Inc.*

## Military News

### Commissaries nix home-printed coupons

Commissaries are no longer accepting "home-printed" coupons as the grocery industry comes to terms with the fraudulent use of Internet coupons. "We still gladly accept manufacturers' coupons — the kind you clip out of newspapers or magazines or that you receive in the mail. What we're not accepting are coupons that have been downloaded from the Internet and printed with a home computer because it's too difficult for our cashiers to tell if they are valid," said Bob Vitikacs, the Defense Commissary Agency's director of operations and product support. The use of fraudulent Internet coupons is growing in the grocery business and many commercial grocers are also declining to accept home-printed coupons. Most coupons are legitimate, but home computers and Internet access have made it easy to alter legitimate coupons for fraudulent use, Vitikacs said. Some analysts estimate the loss by coupon fraud to the grocery industry to be millions of dollars. Fraud ultimately costs consumers as manufacturers raise their prices to recoup losses.

### Holiday mailing dates and policies

Dates for mailing items to and from overseas locations in time for the holidays are fast approaching, and Military Postal Service Agency officials have suggestions for ensuring packages and letters arrive on time. The recommended mail deadlines for sending mail from the United States to all overseas military mailing addressees for the holidays are:

- Parcel post: Nov. 13
- Space-available mail: Nov. 28
- Parcel-airlift mail: Dec. 4
- Priority and first-class letters or cards: Dec. 11

These dates can also be observed by customers sending mail from overseas locations to the United States. Customs forms are required on all international mail, and shipments should be properly packaged before sending them overseas. Because of security restrictions, mass-mailing operations such as Operation Dear Abby or the "Any Servicemember" mailing program are not being supported by the agency. Postal agency officials encourage service members to support the publicly available Web sites that allow the American public to write supportive letters to them.

### New low-rate phone card for troops

Army and Air Force Exchange Service officials are offering a "550-unit Military Exchange Global Prepaid Phone Card," which they say has the lowest rates available for troop calls from the Middle East region to the United States. The card's per-minute rates to the United States from Kuwait are 21 cents per minute; from Iraq and Afghanistan, 35 cents per minute; and from satellite telephones in Iraq, 85 cents per minute. The AAFES cards, which cost \$39, will be available in AAFES exchanges worldwide and on the AAFES Internet within the next few weeks. AAFES has set up four phone "call centers" in Iraq, Kuwait, Kurdistan and Afghanistan. The organization has also handed out 700 satellite phones to different units in Iraq, spokesman Fred Bluhm said. The fees the Iraqis charge for phone calls typically range anywhere from \$1 to \$2 a minute to call stateside, which adds up quickly, soldiers said.

### New PT regimen for Army

A team from the U.S. Army Physical Fitness School is visiting Army installations to teach a new exercise regimen that includes pull-ups, the shuttle sprint, squat bender, rower and forward lunge. There are no immediate plans to change the Army's physical fitness test, officials said, just how soldiers prepare for it. Fort Bliss was the first Army installation to be introduced to the new program that was just approved for trial less than three weeks ago. Some of the key points in the program will be to:

- Improve physical fitness while controlling injuries
- Progressively condition and toughen soldiers
- Develop soldiers' self-confidence and discipline

*MilitaryReport.com Published by Military.com*

# SMDC NCO of the Year battled for DA title while younger brother faces own battles in Iraq

By Sharon L. Hartman  
SMDC Public Affairs

**S**taff Sgt. Steven Cato of Headquarters Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Satellite Control Battalion, represented U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command as he vied for the title of Department of the Army Noncommissioned Officer of the Year during a weeklong competition.

The contest, conducted in Fort Lee and Arlington, Va., Sept. 12-18, pitted him against 10 other NCOs representing their major commands as they performed an array of tasks to include a physical fitness test, various common task tests, day and night land navigation, and a mystery event that consisted of a six-mile ruck march, two more CTTs and an M-16 qualification while wearing their protective gas masks.

Yet during this time, as often as his mind was focused on the competition and the task at hand, Cato found his thoughts frequently shifting to ones of his brother, John, a truck driver who has been serving in Iraq with a National Guard unit out of Ardmore,

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*'A good NCO will give his or her soldiers guidance and sometimes even a little push to help them reach their potential. That is my goal as an NCO.'*

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— Staff Sgt. Steven Cato

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Oklahoma, since April of this year. For Cato, the title he was competing for was one, which in his heart and mind, had already been bestowed upon his brother and every NCO that has served and sacrificed in the fight for freedom.

Cato, a native of Vernon, Texas, joined the Army believing it to be an experience that would send him down a new and challenging path. He knew nothing of what an NCO was or what his role as one would be, but with five-and-a-half years of service behind him, he can now sum up with one word, what it means to be an NCO: Influence.

"NCOs make today's Army," Cato said. "We're molding the soldiers of the future, and we have an extreme influence on them.

"If a soldier has a poor leader, it reflects directly on that soldier. That soldier may not turn out the same way, but

even if he or she is a good soldier, their progression will be much slower. It will hold them back.

"I definitely keep a higher standard for myself, but I also keep a higher standard for other NCOs," he said. "A good NCO will give his or her soldiers guidance and sometimes even a little push to help them reach their potential. That is my goal as an NCO. To embrace that influence and use it to the advantage of the Army."

With this attitude, it was no wonder Cato shined at the company, battalion and regional boards and was subsequently selected as SMDC's NCO of the Year. Although a competitor at heart, Cato modestly admits that he did not expect to make it as far as he did.

"I have a will to win and always want to do the very best I can no matter what I'm doing, but the competition I had all the way through the MACOM level was tremendous and I believe, just by pure luck, I came out on top. I never expected to come this far and would have never been upset to have been beaten along the way because my competition was that outstanding.

"The competition at the DA level was just another step up," added Cato.

"The soldiers I work with are satellite controllers like I am. It was interesting and exciting competing against soldiers from different branches."

The soldiers he competed against and roomed with for a week, side by side, represented such military branches as Special Forces, U.S. Forces Command, Rangers and the Old Guard to name a few.

"It was a great experience," Cato said. "I was able to learn from these guys and take things from their fields of expertise.

"Although there were many differences between the competitors at the DA competition, one thing we all had in common was the drive to live up to that higher standard. We all set standards for ourselves that are so far above the normal standard that we never



Photos by Sharon L. Hartman

Staff Sgt. Steven Cato listens intently to instructions prior to undertaking the land navigation portion of the competition.

have trouble meeting the norm, but can have trouble meeting the standards we have set for ourselves. Sometimes this can be a blessing, but other times, an affliction."

When asked what drove him to strive so hard and what prepared him to meet challenges such as this, Cato

had another one word answer: Family.

Raised on farms and ranches in Texas and Oklahoma, Cato was placed in a position of responsibility at a very early age. He was responsible for weapons, tractors, making sure he was where he was supposed to be on time and that his job was accomplished. The standards he had to meet, the safety precautions he had to observe were things he grew up with.

He also credits the love, support, and even discipline from his parents Dena Moss, and Terry and Donita Cato, and his siblings, as contributing factors to his successes as an NCO.

"They taught me about sympathy and compassion. They also taught me to listen and understand," Cato said.

"I think the relationship with NCOs is similar to that of your family ... especially the relationship with siblings. We are peers and are all on the same team. As long as things are good, there's nothing to say to try to correct each other. However, we all mess up sometimes and when we do, we should expect someone to come and correct us, just like you would your brother or sister. That's how we in the NCO corps and soldiers are throughout the Army."



Staff Sgt. Steven Cato, left, and an unidentified competitor focus on their first steps of the six-mile road march that was part of the mystery event in the Department of the Army NCO and Soldier of the Year competition.

# 1<sup>st</sup> SATCON soldier hangs tough at DA competition

By Sharon L. Hartman  
SMDC Public Affairs

**ARLINGTON, Va.** — The Department of the Army Soldier of the Year competition was conducted this year at Fort Lee and Arlington, Va., Sept. 12-18. Representing U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command was Headquarters Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Satellite Control Battalion's, Sgt. Jennifer Swift — one of four female soldiers competing "one-on-one" against seven men for the title.

"It was really a tough, good competition, and the people I was up against are the most talented people I've ever met in the Army. They are very good at what they do," Swift said.

A native of Redding, Calif., Swift joined the Army after deciding that the party scene often associated with college life was not for her. Although she didn't consider the military until her brother joined the Marines her sophomore year in high school, the physical aspect of the military and being able to keep in shape was something that definitely appealed to her. An athlete from a very early age, Swift viewed physical fitness tests and ruck marches as an exciting challenge.

"I've been a swimmer pretty much all my life," Swift said.

"I'm a rock climber right now, and go whitewater rafting. I also started dancing when I was 5 and the flexibility that comes with that has really helped more than you might think it would."

Coming to 1<sup>st</sup> SATCON's Headquarters Company straight from Advanced Individual Training in early 2002, Swift worked her way up the ranks in good time. Her journey to the Department of the Army Soldier of the Year competition began as a specialist. She competed for soldier of the month at her company level just hoping to get practice for her sergeant board. (Swift appeared before the sergeant board and was promoted shortly after being selected as SMDC's Soldier of the Year.)

"I won soldier of the month so I went up

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*'It was really a tough, good competition, and the people I was up against are the most talented people I've ever met in the Army. They are very good at what they do.'*

— Sgt. Jennifer Swift

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to the quarter board, won that and went to the company soldier of the year board, and I just kept on progressing. I certainly never expected to go all the way to the Department of the Army level," Swift said.

Once she was there though, she made sure everyone knew she belonged there. Especially during the six-mile ruck march that was part of the mystery event. Swift, as did all the competitors, had to carry a 25-pound backpack, but she had to do so on a 5'2" 120-pound frame compared to the larger physiques of the male competitors. Although the other three females were roughly close in size to Swift, what separated her from the other females was the fact that she crossed the finish line ahead of them by quite a margin, and beat several of the males to boot.

"The competition was not quite what I expected," she said. "The way they ran the whole thing was very rigid, but it was very, very professional."

"The ruck march was challenging and difficult mentally and physically, especially with my being short. I could not match the strides of the male soldiers because they have longer legs, so I would jog ahead of them and then walk a bit while they caught up, and would jog again for a bit then walk while they caught up again. I just basically kept doing that the entire time."

To make things even more complicated, the competitors had to cross the finish line within an hour and a half from the start to get a score on that portion of the



U.S. Army Photo

Sgt. Jennifer Swift participates in a two-mile run as part of the DA Soldier of the Year competition.

event. Although Swift missed the time limit by a mere minute and a half, she did not let it get her down.

"It was really difficult. Coming that close and missing it was frustrating and you get mad for awhile, but then you have to move on to the next event. You can't be a bad sport. Being competitive does force you to drive yourself a little bit harder to try to do better than the person that is right next to you, but if you've done your best, that's all that you can ask of yourself."

Swift has been told she will be traveling a bit over the next year representing SMDC as the soldier of the year. When that is complete, it will be close to time for her to head off to her next assignment.

"I would like to go overseas, maybe to Germany, but don't know if I will go to the SATCON Operations Center in Landstuhl or not," Swift said.

Future goals for this young soldier include an appearance in front of the Sgt. Audie Murphy board and continuing her education through eArmyU in pursuit of a degree in applied technology.



Sgt. Jennifer Swift prepares for the weapons qualification portion of the mystery event during the Department of the Army NCO and Soldier of the Year Competition. Competitors had already undergone a separate M16 qualification earlier in the competition, but were required to do it again with their protective gas masks as part of the mystery event.

Photo by Sharon L. Hartman

# Group seeks teddy bears for military children

By Donna Miles  
American Forces  
Press Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — It's not easy being a kid whose mom or dad is deployed overseas to a combat zone. It can be confusing and lonely, and sometimes, downright scary.

That's why a California-based nonprofit group wants to put into every affected military child's hands that quintessentially American yet internationally understood symbol of comfort and friendship: the teddy bear.

Operation TeddyCare, the labor of love of a disabled Vietnam veteran and his wife, already has donated 2,500 teddy bears to military children of deployed service members. Each bear, presented through military family service centers,

comes with a personalized certificate of appreciation "for being brave and helpful while your parent served in the line of duty."

Family service centers are so enthusiastic about the program that they've already requested another 6,500 teddy bears — but Operation TeddyCare has no bears left to donate.

"We've gotten to the point where we are flat-out of teddy bears," said Barbara Moran, who runs the program with her husband, psychologist Dr. Bob Baker. "And if there's one word in our vocabulary we hate when we get requests from military bases," Moran said, "it's 'no.'"

To help meet increasing requests for teddy bears, Operation TeddyCare is soliciting donations of teddy

bears as well as checks to purchase teddy bears and cover the cost of printing certificates of appreciation and shipping.

Moran and Baker go to great lengths to get teddy bears to military children. At one point, they drove two carloads of bears from their home near San Francisco to Camp Pendleton, Calif., when Operation TeddyCare had run too low on shipping funds to mail the requested bears.

"They were a big hit," said Robin Colangelo, family readiness coordinator for the Air National Guard in Phoenix, who presented teddy bears to children of the 161st Air Refueling Wing.

"Operation TeddyCare recognizes that kids share in the hardships when their parents are deployed," said Colangelo. "It's especially hard

on the very young ones, because they really don't understand what's going on."

Moran said Operation TeddyCare is committed to recognizing these children's sacrifices. "Military children are expected to be extraordinary — to be brave, to do their homework, to do their chores, and to handle the stress of their parent being away from home," Moran said. "Operation TeddyCare is a way to express appreciation to these kids, and to tell them, 'You're being a great kid.'"

To contribute, send teddy bears or checks to: Operation TeddyCare, Suite Q, 80 N. Cabrillo Highway, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019. Designate contributions "For military kids." For more information about the program, visit <http://teddycare.coastside.net>.



Photo by Joyce Duff

Tammy Powers, branch manager, is busy pricing items and stocking the shelves in preparation for opening day.

*Preparing for the grand opening...*

## Fort Greely Shoppette/Service Station back in business

By Joyce Duff  
Fort Greely, Alaska

Opening the Army and Air Force Exchange Service Shoppette/Service Station Aug. 26 was a milestone event in bringing back quality of life services at Fort Greely, Alaska.

"It was overwhelming to have everything happening all on the same day," said Tammy Powers, the branch manager. "The different vendors made deliveries, the gas pumps were worked on and a covering was constructed over the cooling system."

The shoppette is similar to a quick stop gas station. Patrons will be able to re-fuel their vehicles and pick up a quick snack.

Stocked items include sodas, chips, crackers, cookies, canned goods, frozen foods and Class VI (beer, wine and liquor). Also available is "Snack Avenue," an area where patrons can purchase coffee, cappuccino or heat-up a snack.

The main post exchange closed in April 2001 and the service station closed in July the same year. The closures were a result of the realignment of Fort Greely under Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC).

Powers was the manager of the service station prior to its closure. "I cried because there were so few patrons during the downsizing," said Powers. "It is nice to have the Shoppette/Service Station open."

### SMDC's Third Annual Security and Safety Awareness Day

## Arm yourselves for the security threats of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

In a world of uncertainty, one thing is clear — security and safety are more critical to our national well-being than ever before. This means that everyone's efforts in these areas are vitally important.

In light of our continued threat-intensive environment, the command will once again hold a series of Security and Safety Awareness Days beginning Oct. 30.

Operational commitments of command elements and desired speakers made it impossible for everyone to hold their events on the same day; but they all fall within a seven-day period as follows: Arlington Headquarters on Oct. 30; Kwajalein on Nov. 3; and Huntsville, Colorado Springs and the High Energy Laser Systems Test Facility (HELSTF) on Nov. 6. Each command location will separately publish its own individual agenda of speakers, displays or other security and safety activities. Attendance is mandatory.

Security and Safety Awareness Days are held to keep SMDC employees aware of the importance of the application of security, operations security, and safety measures during daily planning and execution processes.



# FFSMDC Year in Review

## November 2002

### Army Space soldiers compete in first ever Army Soldier, NCO of the Year competition

By Sharon L. Hartman  
Army Space Command

ARLINGTON, Va. — Two Army Space Command soldiers, representing the entire U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command, became a part of history as they competed in the first ever Department of the Army-level Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Year Competition.

Staff Sgt. Darrick Noah from Army Space's Regional Satellite Communications Support Center in the Pacific, and Sgt. Sherman Johnson of B Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Satellite Control Battalion, vied against 11 NCOs and 10 soldiers for the titles of DA Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Year.



Lt. Col. Steve Morris, chief, USAKA Plans, Training and Security, talks on the phone with the RMI ship *Lomor* as RSE Program Support Manager Dick Lupton, center, looks on. Meanwhile, Paula Weaver, below, reviews her records and tracks mission assets, including the *Lomor*.

In the end, Sgt. 1st Class Jeffery Stitzel, an infantryman with the Old Guard at Fort Myer, Va., and Spc. Justin Brown, a measurement and diagnostic equipment specialist from Baumholder, Germany, took top honors at the awards ceremony held during the Association of the U.S. Army Annual Meeting in October 2002.

"This is the first ever Armywide Soldier and NCO of the year competition," said LTG Joseph M. Cosumano Jr., SMDC commanding general. "It has been a long time coming because we've really never recognized the best of the best. This competition allows us to focus as an Army on those NCOs and soldiers who represent the vast differences that are put together in one army. Sgt. Noah and Sgt. Johnson represent the best we have at SMDC. They've gone through tough competitions just to be here."

### IFT-9 missile intercept test successful

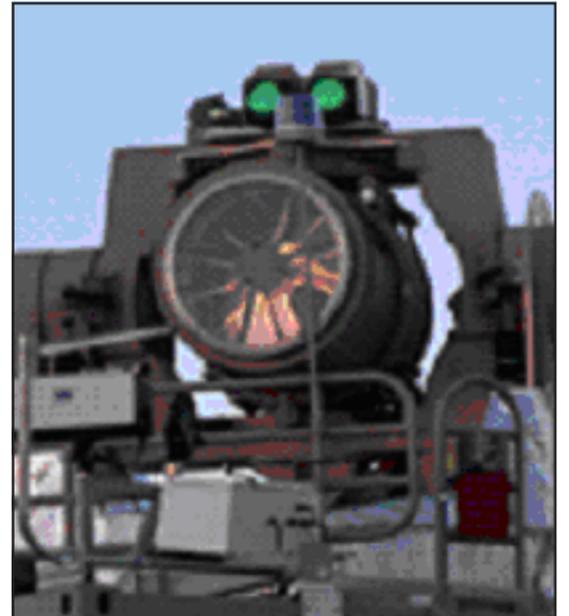
#### Defense Department release

The Missile Defense Agency (MDA) announced Oct. 14 it had successfully completed a flight test (IFT-9) of the Ground-based Midcourse Defense (GMD) development program, intercepting an intercontinental ballistic missile target. The test took place over the central Pacific Ocean in the Western Test Range. A modified Minuteman intercontinental ballistic missile target vehicle was launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., at 10 p.m. EDT, and a prototype interceptor was launched 22 minutes later and 4,800 miles away from the Ronald Reagan Missile Site Kwajalein Atoll in the Republic of the Marshall Islands. The intercept took place approximately six minutes after the interceptor was launched, at an altitude in excess of 140 miles above the Earth, and during the midcourse phase of the target warhead's flight. This was the fifth successful intercept — and the fourth consecutive — in seven flight tests since October 1999 for the GMD program.

### Laser concept getting high marks in testing

By Debra Valine  
Editor, The Eagle

In November, using the Tactical High-Energy Laser Advanced Concept Technology Demonstrator, the Space and Missile Defense Command conducted three successful tests using a laser to shoot down artillery rounds in flight over the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico. SMDC's High Energy Laser



The THEL demonstrator testbed beam director stands ready to conduct the test for the MTHEL laser concept study effort.

Systems Test Facility is located on White Sands.

The tests on Nov. 5 and 15 are part of a series being conducted for the Mobile Tactical High-Energy Laser concept system engineering effort, a follow-on to the THEL ACTD developed by TRW Inc. (now Northrop Grumman) of Redondo Beach, Calif. The MTHEL Test Bed (THEL Demonstrator) has successfully shot down 26 122mm Katyusha rockets and four 152 mm artillery projectiles and conducted a multitude of static engagements on the ground.

MTHEL will be designed to meet common U.S. and Israeli operational requirements, providing operational capability to address U.S. Army transformation objectives and to help with Israeli security requirements by providing a defense against short-range missiles, rockets and other air defense threats.

Congress appropriated \$13 million in FY02 for the MTHEL effort. Beginning this fiscal year, the U.S. Army has budgeted for the development of a U.S./Israel MTHEL weapon system prototype.

## December 2002

### AUSA El Paso to showcase Army ZEUS weapon system

By Debra Valine  
Editor, The Eagle

The U.S. Army's ZEUS — a laser-based weapon system developed to neutralize surface-laid landmines or unexploded ordnance — will make its AUSA debut at the association's conference Dec. 10-12 in El Paso, Texas.

The ZEUS high-power laser system — developed by Sparta, Inc., of Huntsville, Ala., for the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command — is self-contained on an unarmored High Mobility Multi-purpose Wheeled Vehicle. The system uses a laser beam to heat a target until the ordnance explodes in a controlled way, thereby reducing collateral damage.

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Atoll.

This test was conducted in support of research and development efforts for the Ground-based Midcourse Defense program.

## January 2003

### *IFT-10 incomplete due to booster rocket failure*

From the Department of Defense and staff reports

The Missile Defense Agency announced Dec. 11 it was not able to complete a test involving the planned intercept of a long-range ballistic missile target over the central Pacific Ocean when the exoatmospheric kill vehicle interceptor and the booster rocket failed to separate, preventing the EKV from engaging the target warhead in space.

A modified Minuteman II intercontinental ballistic missile carrying the target warhead was successfully launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., at 12:26 a.m. PST, and the booster rocket carrying the EKV was launched approximately 20 minutes later and about 4,800 miles away from Kwajalein

### *Army space support teams deploy*

By Maj. Laura Kenney  
Army Space Command

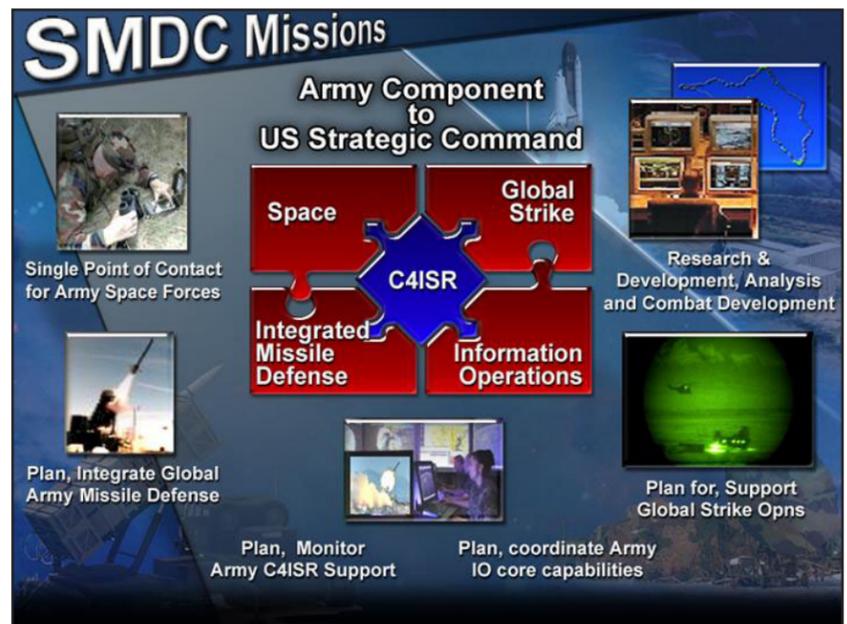
**PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo.** — Three Army Space Support Teams deployed recently to Southwest Asia. The deployments are part of the normal rotation schedule, but, with the uncertain, currently volatile nature of that area, the good-byes said at a ceremony Jan. 23 held an extra poignancy.

Team 1 deployed to support V Corps. The team completed certification training in September, supported EXERCISE VICTORY STRIKE in Poland in October, deployed to Kuwait to support V Corps during EXERCISE INTERNAL LOOK in November, and returned home just before Christmas. Their scheduled current deployment is planned to end in six months.

Team 3 journeyed to support U.S. Army Forces, U.S. Central Command, Combined Force Land Component Command. The team also had deployed to



Army Space Support Team 13 members show they have the right stuff as they exit the hangar with their gear.



Kuwait in early November for EXERCISE INTERNAL LOOK, and had returned home just before Christmas.

Team 5 left to support the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Expeditionary Force, in a move called “a unique opportunity for us to support our sister service” by 1<sup>st</sup> Space Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Scott Netherland. This team recently returned from a deployment to Southwest Asia, where they were part of the Global War on Terrorism. They also participated in INTERNAL LOOK, and returned home before Christmas.

## February 2003

### *White: SMDC remains unchanged*

By Debra Valine  
Editor, The Eagle

Secretary of the Army Thomas E. White announced Jan. 30 that the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command will remain unchanged as a Major Command (MACOM) and will become the Army Service Component Command to U.S. Strategic Command.

STRATCOM is responsible for:

- A global strike capability, conventional or non-conventional; air, naval or ground forces; able to respond anywhere in the world within hours or days rather than weeks and months;
- Planning and integration of global integrated missile defense requirements and operations, offensive and defensive;
- Strategic information operations campaign planning and information operations requirements, as well as

computer network operations;

- Space operations including launch and operations, satellite operations, as well as coordination and integration of space control and force application missions in support of other combatant commands.
- A globally focused command and control, communications and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance network (C4ISR) will tie the missions together.

As the Army component, SMDC will see an increase in responsibilities from its current three mission areas — commanding and controlling Army space forces, integrated missile defense and computer network operations — to five mission areas. The new mission areas are global in nature and include global strike, space operations, integrated missile defense, strategic information operations, and C4ISR as the enabler.

“Our community had been dealing with missile defense and space technology,” said LTG Joseph M. Cosumano Jr., SMDC commanding general. “The operations are broader now. We have yet to define our responsibilities in our new missions. We are looking at the size of SMDC and Army Space Command, and looking at the types of organizations we need to migrate to. We have a full operational date of Jan. 1, 2004.”

While operational missions grow, SMDC will continue its research and development, combat development, proponenty and other traditional missions.

“It is important to point out that our present RD&A and combat development roles will continue, in fact will probably grow,” Cosumano said.

“Oversight of requirements

and technology developments in the services is part of the STRATCOM mission, and keeping that synergy in place here at SMDC only makes sense. The SMDC technology base is key to developing state-of-the-art space and missile defense systems and will continue to be in any configuration SMDC takes."

Realigning the mission and scope of SMDC will not come without challenges.

Support to the nation's war on terrorism is a given, Cosumano said. "Army Space Command and SMDC soldiers have been deployed since almost Day 1, and will continue to support the warfighters in the area of operations as well as from Colorado Springs."

Stand-up of the Pacific Test bed capability, in coordination with the Missile Defense Agency and the other services, including the ground-based portion at Fort Greely, Alaska, will also proceed. "This test bed will not only give us a more robust, realistic testing environment, but will also have an emergence operational capability, if needed, probably by the end of 2004."

The Mobile Tactical High Energy Laser has progressed far enough, Cosumano said, that it is about to transition over to the Program Executive Office, Air and Missile Defense. And two major Advanced Concept Technology Demonstrations (ACTDs) were approved for 2003, and both have promise as technologies that can support transformation.

## March 2003

### **TRADEX begins new life after modernization**

By Jim Bennett  
Editor, Kwajalein Hourglass

TRADEX engineers wasted no time once their sensor gained initial operations capability status Feb. 26 by tracking items in space Feb. 27.

"Everything went really well and we're ready for [upcoming mission] GT-32," said Henry Thomas, TRADEX Kwajalein Modernization and Remoting Lead for MIT/LL.

"There's no real rest for the weary," said Mark Schlueter, TRADEX sensor leader. "We started fulfilling our commitment to U.S. Space Command for 10 hours of catalog tracking, and that started Feb. 28."

The completion of TRADEX marks the last item on the checklist for KMAR, a five-year program to modernize the radars, optics and telemetry sensors on the range, though planning for the project dates back to 1997.

For the radars, the program acts as "an enabler," because it opens the doors for future operational options, said Mohamed Abouzahra, MIT/LL site manager.

### **SMDC says farewell to CSM Adams**

On March 17, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command's Command Sgt. Maj. Wilbur V. Adams Jr. retired from his 30-year military career. He and his wife Diane will live in Northern Virginia.



CSM Wilbur V. Adams Jr.

"I joined the Army for a couple of reasons," Adams said. He stayed in the Army "because of the people."

"I have spent time with people in places like South Korea; Kuwait; Cairo, Egypt; Saudi Arabia; Bosnia; and Afghanistan," Adams said. "It was great to be able to sit down with people in a non-threatening environment and just talk. They put it all in perspective. Those are the things that you cannot put a dollar value on."

### **SMDC inducts members into Sgt. Audie Murphy Club**

By Rhonda K. Paige  
SMDC Public Affairs

ARLINGTON, Va. — Four U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command (SMDC) soldiers joined the ranks of the elite Sgt. Audie Murphy Club Feb. 28.

New members are Sgt. 1st Class Marc F. Van Horn, Battalion Operations NCOIC/Company 1st Sgt., Headquarters Headquarters Company, 1st Space Battalion; Staff Sgt. Barbara George, Personnel sergeant, HQ, SMDC; Staff Sgt. Desire'e Mubarak, Special Security NCOIC, HQ, USASMDC; and Sgt. Chris Hansen, Installation Personnel sergeant,



Sgt. Sabrina Bannister, Army Space Support Team 5, poses next to a border sign during a humanitarian relief mission she assisted with while deployed to Iraq.

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U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll (USAKA).

The four NCOs join five other SMDC soldiers who have been inducted into the club. In 2002, Sgt. 1st Class Earla Reddick, Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Tomlin, Staff Sgt. Darrick Noah and Staff Sgt. Devon Roy were inducted. Prior to 2002, only one other SMDC NCO — Sgt. 1st Class Chunka Smith — had been inducted into the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club.

The club, which originated at Fort Hood, Texas, in 1986, is named after one of the Army's most outstanding NCOs, the late Sgt. Audie Murphy.

## April 2003

### **General speaks about space role in current events**

By Maj. Laura Kenney  
Army Space Command

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — At an Association of the U.S. Army luncheon recently, Army Space Command Deputy Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Richard V. Geraci, spoke about the role Army Space Forces are playing, both in current operations in Iraq, and globally.

The quarterly AUSA meeting was held at the Sheraton Hotel just a few days after OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM began, so the topic was uppermost in the minds of the audience.

"The war in Iraq could not be waged as successfully as it is without the concerted efforts of Army Space Command," said Norm Anderson, Pikes Peak AUSA Chapter President.

"A day without space in the civilian world means no satellite TV. No tracking of floods or forest fires. No help with search and rescue. No Hubble telescope, no emergency

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broadcasting. Terrible, if any, cell phone transmission. No weather info., Geraci said.

"Now move to a day without space in the military world. You'd have to do long-haul commo. There'd be no Blue Force Tracking to help us identify friend from foe. There'd be no Global Positioning System to help our soldiers navigate in the desert, especially in the sand storms they're facing in Iraq. No imagery to prepare the combatant commanders before they hit the ground. There'd be no video tele-conferencing, and certainly no e-mailing home to families. There are a lot of other areas where space helps in the military, like early missile warning, which I don't believe you'd want to be without."

## Army Space Support Team prepares for post-war Iraq

By Lt. Col. Michael Yowell  
Army Space Command

**PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo.** — Army Space Command formally bade farewell to its latest Army Space Support Team, commonly referred to as an ARSST, during a departure ceremony March 31. ARSSTs allow today's warfighters to accomplish their missions using space-based assets. Capabilities are enhanced by satellites such as: communications; position, navigation and timing; intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance; weather, terrain and environmental monitoring; and missile warning.

Unlike every other team that is supporting the warfighter, this team will support the humanitarian aid and reconstruction of Iraq after the war. The Office of

back to 1997.

Under the program, the Kwajalein Mission Control Center underwent a facelift in the summer of 2000, paving the way for the remoting projects to come. ALCOR



Joint Tactical Ground Station members OS2 Kevin Ceuvas, Staff Sgt. Michael Gross, and Spc. Christopher Heretzog man the watch at Central Command in Doha, Qatar.

Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance (ORHA) will work the relationships with all those involved in the humanitarian and reconstruction activities: the United Nations, nongovernmental agencies and various expatriate Iraqi groups. Team ORHA will provide space expertise and access to space assets to help bring peace and stability to the Iraqi people.

## KMAR software top quality

By Jim Bennett  
Editor, *Kwajalein Hourglass*

The recently completed Kwajalein Modernization and Remoting (KMAR) project has earned recognition as one of the U.S. government's top five quality software projects, according to CrossTalk, The Journal of Defense Software Engineering.

The program competed against 70 other entrants for the honor, according to the magazine.

KMAR, completed in February, was a five-year program to modernize the radars, optics and telemetry sensors on the range, though planning for the project dates

became the first radar remoted to KMCC in October 2000, followed by MMW in 2001, ALTAIR in June 2002, and TRADEX in February 2003.

The project upgraded optics and moved telemetry assets from outer islands to Roi-Namur and Kwajalein, bringing four fixed antennas to Roi-Namur, three fixed antennas to Kwajalein's Mount Olympus, or what is now known as Telemetry Hill.

With KMAR upgrades, engineers use the same data format for each radar and the same off-the-shelf tools to analyze the data, regardless of the source. Display screens will offer engineers point-and-click ease as they monitor and track objects. Furthermore, the same people can analyze data from any source, because they're all trained on the format and tools.

The open architecture aspect of the project and other standardized measures could take hold at other ranges, particularly, within the Pan-Pacific test bed, currently under development by the Missile Defense Agency and tying together Kwajalein, Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, Pacific Missile Range Facility in Kauai, and bases in Alaska.

## SMDC senior executive civilians awarded Presidential Rank

By Rhonda K. Paige  
Arlington, Va.

Dr. Henry C. Dubin, chief scientist, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command (SMDC), and Jess Granone, director, Space and Missile Defense Technical Center, SMDC, were among 19 Army Senior Executive Service (SES) leaders awarded the Presidential Rank Award for such contributions during a March 14 Pentagon ceremony.

Among the numerous outstanding achievements Granone was recognized for was his key role in the "cradle to grave development" of several missile defense programs as well as space and missile defense technology initiatives, such as the Joint Tactical Ground Station, the PATRIOT Advanced Capability-3 system, and SMDC's first integrated technology program for Directed Energy.

Dubin's innovativeness has also resulted in substantial improvements in the effectiveness of numerous combat, combat support, combat service support, and automated information systems. Dubin continues to provide visionary guidance and support to key Defense Department officials on the ongoing transition to the Objective Force.

## Fort Greely, Alaska, graduates 16 police officers from the DA Police Academy

After eight weeks of training, the 16 newest members of the Fort Greely police force, are prepared to assume responsibility for law enforcement and security of the installation.

Family and friends gathered Feb. 26 for the graduation of the first Department of the Army Civilian Police Force in Alaska, Class 01-03.

Maj. Marie Grimmer, garrison commander, presented certificates to the graduating police officers. Officer Cal Hepburn graduated with top honors and Officer Robert Dickerson received the leadership award. Dickerson also was promoted to the rank of sergeant along with Jerry Zachgo and Dave Wyckoff. The three sergeants will lead four to five officer squads.

The training curriculum

included federal, state, local and military regulations and laws; mock situations; arrest authority; radar, DUI detection; and self defense measures.

## May 2003

### **Army space on target in OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM with command-wide effort**

By Maj. Laura Kenney  
Army Space Command

**COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.** — Sandstorms, heat, insects, worry about the war, personal hygiene, homesickness ... all these things affected Army space soldiers supporting OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM just as they affected the troops waging direct war. Like their infantry brethren, Army space soldiers persevered and were an essential part of the war effort.

Every element of the command was fully engaged, from the Army space soldiers working hand-in-hand with combatant commanders in the desert, to the Space and Missile Defense Command Operations Center here tracking movement of soldiers and providing reach-back support for all deployed space teams.

Five space teams were deployed and directly involved in IRAQI FREEDOM. Since the beginning of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM, Army space has deployed 10 space support teams to the U.S. Central Command region. Teams served in Iraq, Oman, Kuwait and elsewhere in the Central Command area of operations. The teams provided space capabilities, expertise and products in support of theater commanders.

The teams moved with those combatant commanders, sharing the same dangers and hardships while providing up-to-the-minute space force enhancement. This enhancement included satellite communications health and welfare status and analysis; global positioning system accuracy predictions; strategic and theater ballistic missile early warning; weather terrain and environmental monitoring awareness; and intelligence, reconnaissance and surveillance products.

Maj. Daniel Cockerham, Team Leader of Army Space Support Team (ARSST) 5, traveled with the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Expeditionary Force as they took Baghdad. Prior to entering the city, he e-mailed his unit.

"We're fully integrated with the Marines and are treated as family since we've been living and operating with them from the beginning. Our soldiers pull duty with them in addition to performing our mission. We haven't had showers in weeks and are filthy, but, hey, we're on the outskirts of Baghdad! We're all very proud to be part of this effort," said Cockerham.

A Joint Tactical Ground Station (JTAGS), which provides direct downlinked, in-theater, early warning of missile launches, was deployed to the Central Command region. Together with its European-based sister units, the

JTAGS provided an encompassing, 24-hour continuous in-theater processing of missile alerting and early warning on tactical ballistic missiles and other infrared events.

The JTAGS monitored infrared signatures coming from hot spots within Iraq to provide critical information to maneuver commanders regarding the timing and operational employment of their units.

One specific incident illustrates the value of early warning. JTAGS operators presented early warning of hostile aircraft approaching a Predator surveillance mission. Thanks to the timely warning, commanders were able to divert the mission, thereby averting potential loss of the vehicle and maintaining the secrecy of the mission.

Lt. Col. Scott Netherland, 1<sup>st</sup> Space Battalion commander, commented, "Many

planning.

Working in tandem with ARSSTs, SORC (Rear) and (Forward) provided detailed change-detection assessments to identify potential enemy locations. Archived satellite imagery was merged with more recent spectral imagery to identify changes. The noted changes, identifying potential hidden enemy assets and assisting in the targeting process, were

passed on to combatant commanders. The technology also assisted with locating enemy mine fields.

Bo Dunaway, chief, Remote Sensing Branch, said, "This is the first time we've been able to put all the pieces together and deliver spectral products from start to finish in a timely relevant manner. From units forward requesting products to downlinking unclassified imagery via Eagle Vision I and delivering digital products within 24 hours, all are a significant milestone for the commercial imagery arena. The use of SORC (Forward) ensured continuity and mission focus for all Army space elements using commercial imagery

products."

Another vital piece of the Army space effort could be found in the 1<sup>st</sup> Satellite Control Battalion (SATCON). Although not forward deployed, the SATCON companies were as integral a part of IRAQI FREEDOM as their desert-located sister units.

The 1<sup>st</sup> SATCON supported the ground units involved in IRAQI FREEDOM since they first entered theater. SATCON units enabled satellite communications, connectivity, and voice and video teleconference capability to the combatant commanders of CENTCOM, V Corps, 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division, 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Expeditionary Force, and other deployed forces.

The two primary units involved in this support were B Co., Fort Meade, Md., and C Co., Landstuhl, Germany. They controlled the satellite links for tactical and strategic warfighter communications networks.

Together, they supported more than 140 terminals and more than 50 tactical missions. These missions allow combatant commanders to maneuver their units without breaks in communications.



Capt. Bo Taylor, Operations officer, Army Space Support Team 3, poses with a backdrop of Iraqi oil fires near the border of Kuwait. Taylor watched as professionals worked at putting out the fires.

people consider the first Gulf War as the first space war. Our ability to exploit space capabilities for communications, navigation and precision-guided munitions, detection of relevant infrared events, imagery products, blue force tracking, and weather all give the U.S. warfighter a tremendous advantage over our adversaries. Our experiences with OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM and OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM have revalidated the need to continue close integration of space forces and capabilities with the warfighter."

The Spectral Operations Resource Center (SORC) was also a key player. An element of the SORC was forward deployed to CENTCOM and, in tandem with home base, produced more than 300 products in support of IRAQI FREEDOM.

The SORC (Forward) produced imagery that provided spectral analysis of vegetative areas and rugged terrain to eliminate unsuitable sites for airborne assault operations during the planning process. Standard image maps were created to conduct standard mission

Year in SMDOC Review

# 1 Year in Review

Maj. Stephen Elle, executive officer, 1<sup>st</sup> SATCON, said, "We are extremely proud of the responsive and proactive support our units gave to forces on the ground. With the rapid pace of the war, and the rapid movement of ground forces, maintaining communications was absolutely essential. Our units enabled them to do that."

The space-based Blue Force Tracking Mission Management Center enhanced the tactical commander's ability to maintain visibility of his deployed forces. The SB-BFT MMC worked closely with Special Operations Forces in theater to monitor their aircraft and ground forces, especially in emergency situations.

And at the logical, if not geographic, center of all this energy and accomplishment, the SMDC Operations Center (OC) functioned.

As of May 7, the OC had processed more than 96 requests for information that were then routed and monitored for deployed units. Requests for SORC imagery were sent to the forward elements. Questions about maintenance and operational support of communications equipment were answered after the OC researched the problem.

## Army Space Command to get new commander

**PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo.** — Brig. Gen. Robert P. Lennox, deputy commanding general, U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss, Fort Bliss, Texas, has been named to replace Brig. Gen. Richard V. Geraci as the deputy commanding general, U.S. Army Space Command/deputy commanding general for Operations, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command, at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

Lennox assumed command June 23.

Lennox, deputy commanding general of the U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss since July 2001, received his commission as a second



CSM David Lady, left, accepts the baton from SMDC Commanding General LTG Joseph M. Cosumano Jr. during a ceremony May 19 in Arlington, Va.

lieutenant in the ADA upon graduating from the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. He earned a master's degree in business administration from Stanford University and a master's degree in national security and strategic studies from National Defense University. His military education includes the Air Defense Artillery officer basic and advanced courses, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and the National War College.

During his 26 years of active service, Lennox served in numerous Air Defense Artillery leadership positions, as well as two years with the Missile Defense Planner, Sea, Air and Space Superiority Assessment Division, J-8, The Joint Staff in Washington, D.C.

Among his awards are the Legion of Merit (with Oak Leaf Cluster), the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (with 5 Oak Leaf Clusters), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Parachutist Badge, Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge and the Army Staff Identification Badge.

## CSM David Lady takes over as top SMDC enlisted soldier

**ARLINGTON, Va.** — On May 19 in a ceremony in Arlington, Va., Command Sgt. Maj. David L. Lady will become the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command's top enlisted soldier. He replaces Command Sgt. Maj. Wilbur V. Adams Jr. who retired in March.

Lady, 50, comes to SMDC from Heidelberg, Germany, where he has served as command sergeant major, U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army since Feb. 10, 2000. Previous assignments include command sergeant major, U.S. Army Armor Center and Fort Knox, Ky.;

command sergeant major, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 68<sup>th</sup> Armor, 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division, Baumholder, Germany; command sergeant major, operations group, Hohenfels, Germany; and command sergeant major, 7<sup>th</sup> Army Training Command in Grafenwoehr, Germany.

He enlisted in the U.S. Army as an Armor Crewman in 1974. He holds a bachelor's degree in history from Wittenberg University, Springfield, Ohio. His military education includes the Primary Leadership Development Course, Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course, Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course, First Sergeant Course and The Sergeant Major Course.

While stationed in Germany in 1983, Lady was selected as USAREUR and 7<sup>th</sup> Army's Noncommissioned Officer of the Year. He is also a member of the prestigious Sgt. Morales Club, the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club, the Order of St. George, and the Order of St. Barbara.

Lady's awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters, Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Army Commendation Medal with four oak leaf clusters, Army Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters and the Good Conduct Medal (ninth award).



CSM Reginald Ficklin holds the Army Field Flag as it is unfurled by LTG Joseph M. Cosumano Jr., commanding general, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command, symbolically activating the 1<sup>st</sup> Space Brigade (Provisional). The 1<sup>st</sup> Space Brigade Commander, Col. David Shaffer, observes.

## Army leadership releases new Space Policy

*(Editor's note: In April, Gen. Eric K. Shinseki, Army Chief of Staff, and Thomas E. White, Secretary of the Army, signed a new policy enhancing Army space capabilities. The complete policy can be seen on the Web at <http://www.smdc.army.mil>.)*

## Ceremony marks activation of 1<sup>st</sup> Space Brigade (Provisional)

By Maj. Laura Kenney  
Army Space Command

**PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo.** — A significant milestone in the history of Army Space Command took place April 11, with the activation of the 1<sup>st</sup> Space Brigade, (Provisional) in a ceremony held at the command headquarters here.

The ceremony marked the creation of the Army's first and only space brigade. Currently, elements of the brigade's three battalions are deployed in Iraq and the surrounding theater in support of the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Expeditionary Force, V Corps and Central Command.

"This activation represents a huge step forward in the normalization of Space," said LTG Joseph M. Cosumano Jr., commanding general, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command. "And what better time to do it, than these historic times we find ourselves in, with Army Space forces deployed on critical missions, supporting the warfighters of IRAQI FREEDOM.

"The new 1<sup>st</sup> Space Brigade (Provisional) is the first and only space brigade in the Army. Army Space Command just marked its 15<sup>th</sup> birthday, although the history of the Army in space is much longer than that. We've postponed celebrating that anniversary while our soldiers are in harm's way, but, this is still a great time to stand up the new brigade."

The mission of the 1<sup>st</sup> Space Brigade is to "conduct continuous, global space support, space control and space force enhancement operations in support of U.S. Strategic Command and supported combatant commanders enabling the delivery of decisive combat power."

Under Army Regulation, a provisional unit may be organized and designated by the commander of an Army field command. Provisional units may be organized for a limited period of time, not to exceed two years. At the end of the two-year period, the commander will make a recommendation whether or not to permanently organize the unit.

## June 2003

### **U.S., Marshall Island officials sign new Compact**

By KW Hillis  
Associate Editor, *Kwajalein Hourglass*

With a quick flourish, the two signatures penned on the amended Compact of Free Association opened a new era "of enhanced cooperation, oversight and accountability for our two people," said co-signer Albert Short, U.S. Compact negotiator.

"As we sign these documents, each of our respective governments steps over this threshold together for the mutual benefit of our nation and our people," said fellow signer Gerald Zackios, RMI Foreign Affairs minister, to the audience in the elegant *Nitijela* Chamber of Majuro's Government Building.

Although the Compact of Free Association between the United States and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, in effect since 1986, will not expire, some of the Title II funding involving economic assistance of the Compact does at the end of this fiscal year. In addition to amending Title II to include a 20-year economic grant and establishing a trust fund to provide revenue at the end of the 20-year period; amendments were made in the areas of immigration, Title I; defense, Title III; and administration, Title IV. In 2004, according to the Compact terms, \$37 million will go to the RMI for economic assistance, and a trust fund will be set up with a beginning balance of \$8 million.

Over the course of 20 years, the amount given to the assistance fund will decrease by \$500,000 each year, that money going instead into the trust fund. Title III provides the United States with a long-term lease extension until at least 2066 for the use of Kwajalein Atoll.

Title I allows RMI citizens to enter and live in the United States with a valid passport and without a visa or employment authorization document. It provides other protections for RMI citizens, while still addressing U.S. Homeland Security issues.

Title IV adds auditing oversight and overview to all Compact grant funding.

### **New fire trucks arrive at Fort Greely, Alaska**

By Joyce Duff  
Fort Greely, Alaska

Smiling faces watched as Engine 18 and Engine 19 rolled through the main gate of Fort Greely, June 30.

Fort Greely Fire Chief, Tommy Oldham, Captain James Williams, and firefighter John Lyons happily made the trek to Anchorage in return for the adventure of driving the new trucks the 360 miles to Fort Greely.

The trucks are each 1,250 gallons per minute structural fire apparatus. Engine 18 holds 1,000 gallons with Engine 19 holding 3,000 gallons.

Engine 18 and 19 are new inventory added to the current two very much older 750 gallon, 1,000 gallons per minute, structural fire fighting trucks.

Each year Fort Greely and the surrounding community of Delta Junction are in danger of wildfires. Because of this danger, the Fort Greely firefighters are trained to fight wildland fires due to the extreme threat to life and property these fires present.

## July 2003

### **Program Executive Office Air and Missile Defense changes name, gains Army Space Program Office**

**HUNTSVILLE, Ala.** — In a ceremony June 20, the Program Executive Office Air and Missile Defense (PEO AMD) became Program Executive Office Air, Space and Missile Defense (PEO ASMD). The ceremony also recognized the transition of the Army Space Program Office (ASPO) from the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command (SMDC) to PEO ASMD.

"Today is a day of historic proportions," said LTG Joseph M. Cosumano Jr.,

commanding general, SMDC. He likened transferring ASPO to losing a teen-ager who has matured to the point of moving out of the house. He discussed the history of ASPO up to its success in OPERATIONS ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM.

"Without them (ASPO), the conflicts of recent months would not have been as successful," Cosumano said.

"Today we are renaming PEO AMD to PEO ASMD," said MG John M. Urias, Program Executive Officer, Air, Space and Missile Defense and SMDC's deputy commanding general for Research, Development and Acquisition. "It's a small change in name, but a significant change in mission.

"PEO Air, Space and Missile Defense is the Army's first Space Program Executive Office," Urias said. "Having a single PEO to manage and integrate these systems will help institutionalize the use of space products in the Army. It will also provide a transition point for mature space technologies developed in SMDC to be brought into the formal acquisition cycle and incorporated into future space products.

The Honorable Claude M. Bolton Jr., the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, signed the memorandum transferring operational control of ASPO and designating the new PEO ASMD in May.

Gaining the operational control of ASPO will include Blue Force Tracking,

# Year in SMDC Review



Photo by Joyce Duff

Fire Captain Rick Jones, left, and Firefighters Erle Miller and John Lyons discuss training activities conducted on Engine 18, a new fire truck at Fort Greely.

# FA SMDC Year in Review

Situational Awareness and the Army's Tactical Exploitation of National Capabilities (TENCAP) Program. Also included in the transfer is the Tactical Applications (TAC APPS) Program, previously handled by SMDC.

The transition is being made for several reasons, including consolidation of space control and synergy of program development. These moves are also being made to comply with the October 2001 Chief of Staff of the Army guidance to realign acquisition programs to the PEO structure.

The PEO ASMD takes weapon systems developed by SMDC and moves them into acquisition and eventually the hands of the warfighter.

## Fourth FA 40 class begins

**COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.** — Twenty Army officers proved they had nothing to be superstitious about on Friday, July 13, as they began their instruction in the Functional Area 40 Space Operations Qualification Course offered by the Force Development and Integration Center-West.

This class is the fourth to take the intense eight-week instruction designed to build a corps of space experts.

Graduating officers will assist combatant commanders in using space to support the warfighters.

## August 2003

*Exercise tests new strategic links in support of SMDC additional roles*

**COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.** — The U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command

(SMDC) held its first exercise as the Army Service Component Command to U.S. Strategic Command (STRATCOM) from July 21-25 July at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

The staff level exercise (STAFFEX) was the first in a series of exercises that will prepare SMDC to provide integration and coordination of Army capabilities in support of new STRATCOM missions which are: Space Operations, Global Missile Defense, Information Operations, Global Strike, and Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (C4ISR). The exercises, including GLOBAL ARCHER, GLOBAL GUARDIAN and TERMINAL FURY, will culminate in a fully operational capability for the Army Space and Missile Defense Command by January 2004 in support of STRATCOM's new missions.

To help establish working relationships with key Army elements that will support STRATCOM missions, participants in the STAFFEX included the U.S. Army Forces Command, U.S. Army Special Operations Command, 1<sup>st</sup> Information Operations Command, NETCOM, and representatives from STRATCOM and SMDC.

The STAFFEX was organized around mission-area-oriented interactive seminar sessions that focus on the STRATCOM missions. A "walk-through" of a fictional scenario followed; designed to help define the roles of each staff section and functional area.

This exercise was the first in a series that essentially trains up the new service component.

Bill Furr, deputy chief of Plans and Exercises, described the progression.

"This first exercise was step one, to bring all the applicable Army forces together. It was an Army specific enterprise, to see how we as a service are going to plan, coordinate and integrate our support to STRATCOM. We may not be



Photo by Jim Bennett

Lt. Col. Anne R. Daugherty returns the flag to Master Sgt. Stephen Lopez for safe keeping during the change of command ceremony July 24.

the organization that executes, but we will be the link. The STAFFEX enabled us to meet face to face with the mission experts who will perform the mission, as we talked through how we'll do the planning and procedures.

"Next up will be the STRATCOM level exercise, GLOBAL ARCHER, a command post exercise," he said. "We'll be the only service component represented in this long running exercise. It's a three-day exercise testing the Unified Command Plan missions assigned by the President to STRATCOM, and we'll be testing our internal procedures, policies and formats.

"After that is GLOBAL GUARDIAN, a more robust and longer in duration exercise involving the Joint staff," Furr said. "We'll take the lessons learned from GLOBAL GUARDIAN and GLOBAL ARCHER to our own SMDC command exercise, in the November time frame. We'll make any fixes necessary, to prepare for what will be, basically, our graduation exercise. TERMINAL FURY, with Pacific Command serving as the supported combatant commander, takes place in December. At that point, we'll be able to assess our progress."

The STAFFEX was considered successful in meeting its goals of developing and validating the draft SMDC Concept of Operations (CONOPS) to integrate the new mission areas.

## TRICARE for retirees tops issues presented at AFAP conference

By Debra Valine  
Editor, *The Eagle*

**CRYSTAL CITY, Va.** — TRICARE as primary payor for retirees topped the five issues agreed to by delegates at the conclusion of the fourth annual U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command's Army Family Action Plan Conference held July 29-Aug. 1 in Crystal City, Va.

Other issues included the estate tax on non-U.S. citizen spouses, increase funding for Army-wide creative arts programs, RESUMIX shortfalls, and worldwide dental coverage for Department of the Army Civilians.

## Daugherty takes over command at the Range

By KW Hillis  
*Kwajalein Hourglass*

Lt. Col. Anne R. Daugherty assumed command of the Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site at Kwajalein Atoll July 24 in a morning ceremony at Island Memorial Chapel.

She replaces Lt. Col. Clarence Johnson. During Johnson's tenure, the range planned and executed 17 separate missile defense tests, seven meteorological rockets and supported seven NASA space missions.

## HHC 1<sup>ST</sup> SATCON steps up and out during national exercise

By Pfc. Jesse Childress  
Unit Reporter

**COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.** — Dedicated newshounds might have heard recently about the nationwide terrorist response exercise known as DETERMINED PROMISE.

A less widely publicized fact is that 1<sup>st</sup> Satellite Control Battalion's own Headquarters and Headquarters Company played an important role in this national level exercise.

DETERMINED PROMISE 2003 was a Homeland Defense and Northern Command exercise to determine the nation's response capabilities to terrorist attacks in various regions of the United States, as well as other important events, such as natural disasters.

A biochemical attack on the city of Las Vegas, raging wildfires in the Northwest or a devastating hurricane in Florida were just a few examples of scenarios that were used to test the strength of our nation's emergency responses in national and state government agencies.

Taking place Aug. 12-28, DETERMINED PROMISE 2003 was the largest coordinated exercise of

terrorism response to date. Involved were 15 federal agencies, several state and local organizations, a number of military units, and the American Red Cross.

That long list of support agencies included a group of HHC, 1<sup>st</sup> SATCON soldiers and contractors. These satellite technicians deployed to an undisclosed location, and worked 24-hour shifts providing satellite support functions to keep leaders talking and data flowing. One participant, Sgt. Robert Smedley, said, "I feel that this was a great opportunity for everyone here to learn and 'train as you fight.' It also shows everyone involved in the exercise what HHC has to offer and proves what we are capable of providing."

Another involved SATCON soldier, Spc. Terry Clough, said, "Exercises like this give the soldiers an opportunity to work in an operational environment that creates stress, which improves crew cohesion and mission focus."

Reflecting on "playing" on such a large stage, HHC 1<sup>st</sup> SATCON's Commanding Officer, Cpt. Daniel Gager commented, "HHC 1<sup>st</sup>



Photo by Capt. Daniel Gager

Spc. Terry D. Clough works on satellite terminal equipment under the tutelage of Richard Hamer of ILEX Corporation during the national level terrorism response exercise called DETERMINED PROMISE.

SATCON's participation in DETERMINED PROMISE 2003 was a great training opportunity for all involved. The soldiers adapted to operational and communication challenges without any problems and identified new areas in space support where they can be useful to the Northern Command staff. It was also a testimonial as to how

important contractor support is to the Satellite Control mission.

"Without the contractor support we had, there would have been a gap in the operation of our more complicated control systems," Gager said. "The teamwork displayed between all of the exercise participants was truly exceptional."

### Busch Gardens' 'Operation Salute'

## Theme parks offer free admission to service members, families

By Cadet John Thompson

**FORT MEADE, Md.** — Members of B Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Satellite Control Battalion, enjoyed a day of fun and excitement at the Anheuser-Busch Adventure Park in Williamsburg, Va., in late summer.

The event was dreamed up by B Co.'s Family Readiness Group. Both soldiers and their families were able to take advantage of a free admission program offered to service members and their family members.

"It was a good opportunity to get to know each other outside of work," said Spc. Kevin Feimster. "The Family Support Group did a great job as always."

Soon after arrival, B Co. members found themselves appropriately "above the rest" on top of the world's tallest, most twisted inverted roller coaster. The aptly named Alpengeist reaches a height of 195 feet

and a speed of 67 mph. Another roller coaster, Apollo's Chariot, has a 210-foot drop and goes about 73 miles an hour. Most of the older members of the group went on the roller coaster rides at least two or more times.

The park also featured a special show called "Haunted Lighthouse," a 4-D adventure based upon the original story written by noted children's thrill writer, R.L. Stine. It was a state-of-the-art visual effects extravaganza that made you feel like you were part of the story.

Most of the younger kids of the group went on Da Vinci's Cradle, which looks like a Viking ship going around in a cradle motion. For the very young kids in the group, there was the Land of the Dragons, which has a three-story tree house filled with dragons.

Themed areas such as Aquitaine, which has a variety of shops; antique-style racing cars at the LeMans Raceway, and evening shows at the Royal Palace Theatre drew adults.

"Everybody had a great time there. I'd like to thank Anheuser-Busch Operation Salute for the free tickets," said Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Matthew Frias.

Several parks have extended special offers to military personnel and their families. Anheuser Busch offers a free pass for

Busch Gardens, Sea World and Sesame Place. The special offer started May 23 and will be available until Veterans Day. See Buschgardens.com (Under Special offers "Operation Salute") for details.

To obtain a complimentary one-day admission to an Anheuser Busch park, visit the military ticket office and pick up an Operation Salute form. Complete it for yourself and your immediate dependents (up to four).

Take the completed form and your military and military dependent identification cards to ticket windows at the SeaWorld, Busch Gardens and Sesame Place parks where you will receive your admission tickets. Operation Salute forms are also available online at [www.seaworld.com](http://www.seaworld.com), [www.buschgardens.com](http://www.buschgardens.com), [www.sesameplace.com](http://www.sesameplace.com), and at the participating theme parks.

Disney has also extended special offers to members of the Armed Forces. "Disney's Armed Forces Salute," which will last through Dec. 19, 2003, offers active U.S. military personnel a chance to enjoy complimentary, multi-day admission into Disney's U.S. theme parks and discounts for Disney Cruise Line, with additional special offers for family members and friends.

Disney also is offering discounted resort rates to service members. To acquire the Five-Day *Disney's Armed Forces Salute* Ticket, active military personnel must present their valid and active military IDs at any Walt Disney World Theme Park Ticket Window prior to Dec. 19, 2003. Activated members of the National Guard or Reservists also must show active duty orders. More information is available by visiting the Web site at [www.disneyworld.com/military](http://www.disneyworld.com/military).



Photo by Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Matthew Frias

Nakia Maxon Jr., son of Staff Sgt. Nakia Maxon, B Co., 1<sup>st</sup> SATCON, enjoys a ride during the Family Readiness Group's trip to Busch Gardens.

# Awards/Promotions

## Civilian Promotions

**Adam M. Aberle**, GS-14, Huntsville, Space and Missile Defense Technical Center, Kinetic Energy Interceptor Directorate Core  
**Bonnie Draper**, GS-13, Huntsville, Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations and Plans, G-3, Command Evaluation Branch  
**Clara L. Moore**, GS-12, Huntsville, Deputy Chief of Staff, Resource Management, G-8, Management Division  
**Roger C. Phillips**, GS-14, Huntsville, Office of Legal Counsel, Legal Counsel  
**Simone U. Philson**, GS-11, Huntsville, Space and Missile Defense Battle Lab, Battle Lab Operations Division  
**Beverly W. Wills**, GS-12, Huntsville, Office of PARC/Contracting and Acquisition Management, Contract Operations Division

## On-The-Spot-Cash Awards

**Peggy N. Adams**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Test and Evaluation Directorate Matrix  
**Allen Alexander**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Sensors Directorate Matrix  
**Beverly B. Atkinson**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Test and Evaluation Directorate Matrix  
**David C. Bissell**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Systems Directorate Matrix  
**Thaddeus T. Brown**, Huntsville, Space and Missile Defense Battle Lab, Battle Lab Operations Division  
**William L. Burrows**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Space Technology Directorate Matrix  
**Nancy E. Byrd**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Kinetic Energy Interceptor Directorate Core  
**John F. Crawford**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Systems Directorate Matrix  
**James D. Deaton**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Kinetic Energy Interceptor Directorate Matrix  
**Andrew L. Dobbs**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Directed Energy Directorate Matrix  
**Luther W. Drennan**, Huntsville, Space and Missile Defense Battle Lab, Battle Lab Operations Division  
**Milan K. Dutta**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Kinetic Energy Interceptor Directorate Core  
**Gladys Y. Erskine**, Huntsville, Office of PARC/Contracting and Acquisition Management, Branch K  
**Mario Flores**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Kinetic Energy Interceptor Directorate Matrix  
**John Fussell**, Huntsville, Deputy Chief of Staff, Information Management, G-6, Plans and Operations Support Division  
**Marilyn V. Holmon**, Huntsville, Deputy Chief of Staff, Resource Management, G-8, Program and Policy Division  
**Russell C. Hutcherson**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Information Science and Technology Directorate Matrix  
**Jennifer L. Jones**, Huntsville, Office of Technical Integration and Interoperability  
**Paula A. Kennedy**, Huntsville, Deputy Chief of Staff, Resource Management, G-8, Program Support Division  
**Frances C. King**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Data Analysis and Exploitation Directorate Matrix  
**Bryon K. Manley**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Kinetic Energy Interceptor Directorate Core  
**Yancy C. Mitchell**, Huntsville, Space and Missile Defense Technical Center, Tech Center Operations  
**Elizabeth A. Morgan**, Huntsville, Office of Technical Integration and Interoperability  
**Elizabeth H. Moulder**, Huntsville, Office of PARC/Contracting and Acquisition Management, Branch K  
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**Mona P. Neal**, Huntsville, Deputy Chief of Staff, Resource Management, G-8, Management Division  
**Hector Olague**, Huntsville, Office of Technical Integration and Interoperability, Extended Air Defense Testbed Directorate  
**Paula C. Parker**, Huntsville, Office of PARC/Contracting and Acquisition Management, Branch K  
**Ricardo L. Parks**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Kinetic Energy Interceptor Directorate Core  
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**Philip M. Patterson**, Huntsville, Space and Missile Defense Battle Lab, Battle Lab Operations Division  
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**Jane B. Price**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Kinetic Energy Interceptor Directorate Core  
**Deloise J. Ragland**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Kinetic Energy Interceptor Directorate Matrix  
**Richard A. Runyan**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Kinetic Energy and Interceptor Directorate Core  
**Katherine M. Schaper**, Huntsville, Deputy Chief of Staff, Information Management, G-6, Plans and Operations Support Division  
**Jeffrey M. Shields**, Huntsville, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-8, Management Division  
**Lornette W. Stokes**, Huntsville, Deputy Chief of Staff, Information Management, G-6, Administrative and Technical Information Library  
**Dianne F. Trimble**, Huntsville, Office of PARC/Contracting and Acquisition Management, Branch N  
**Sharon P. Upton**, Huntsville, Space and Missile Defense Battle Lab, Battle Lab Operations Division  
**Andrea A. Weathington**, Huntsville, Space and Missile Defense Technical Center, Tech Center Operations  
**Annie J. Williams**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Advanced Technology Directorate Core

## Performance Awards

**Gilbert E. Adams**, Huntsville, Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations and Plans, G-3, Command Evaluation Branch  
**Gary M. Adams**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Data Analysis and Exploitation Directorate  
**James R. Alexander**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Directed Energy Directorate Matrix  
**Carol D. Alkhafi**, Colorado Springs, Office of PARC/Contracting and Acquisition Management, Arspace Contracting Division  
**Larry L. Altgilbers**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Advanced Technology Directorate Core  
**Kathleen Anderson**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Directed Energy Directorate Matrix  
**William L. Andre**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Advanced Technology Directorate Core

**Beverly B. Atkinson**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Test and Evaluation Directorate Matrix  
**Johnny E. Baldwin**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Advanced Technology Directorate Core  
**Robert A. Barker**, Huntsville, Space and Missile Defense Battle Lab, Combat Applications Division  
**Terrance J. Bauer**, Huntsville, Space and Missile Defense Technical Center, Joint Center for Test and Evaluation  
**Gary W. Baumann**, Colorado Springs, Force Development and Integration Center, Space  
**Latika S.R. Becker**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Advanced Technology Directorate Core  
**Robert S. Becker**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Kinetic Energy Interceptor Directorate Core  
**Thomas M. Belcher**, Arlington, Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations and Plans, G-3, Current Operations Branch  
**David C. Bissell**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Systems Directorate Matrix  
**Connie B. Black**, Arlington, Deputy Chief of Staff, Information Management, G-6, Information Management Division  
**Norman B. Blackwell**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Test and Evaluation Directorate Matrix  
**Kaye K. Blankenship**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Space Technology Directorate Core  
**Heidi L. Bowman**, Huntsville, Space and Missile Defense Technical Center, Joint Center for Test and Evaluation  
**Rhonda L. Brock**, Huntsville, Office of PARC/Contracting and Acquisition Management, Policy and Pricing Branch  
**Stephen W. Brodersen**, Arlington, Force Development and Integration Center, LNO's Ft. Leavenworth  
**James R. Brothers**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Directed Energy Directorate Core  
**John F. Broussard**, Huntsville, Space and Missile Defense Battle Lab, Exercises and Training Division  
**Richard H. Brown**, Huntsville, Office of Technical Integration and Interoperability  
**William H. Brown**, Huntsville, Office of Technical Integration and Interoperability  
**Stafford Brown**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Advanced Technology Directorate Matrix  
**Randy D. Buff**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Directed Energy Directorate Core  
**Phillip M. Burroughs**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Kinetic Energy Interceptor Directorate Matrix  
**William L. Burrows**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Space Technology Directorate Matrix  
**James D. Bush**, Colorado Springs, Command Counsel  
**Kevin L. Call**, Huntsville, Office of Legal Counsel, Legal Counsel  
**Jackson G. Calvert**, Huntsville, Command Analysis Division  
**John A. Calvert**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Information Science and Technology Directorate Matrix  
**Kathy H. Carpenter**, Huntsville, Space and Missile Defense Technical Center, Joint Center for Test and Evaluation  
**Gerald L. Caruso**, Huntsville, Missile Defense Agency-TCD  
**Pamela W. Caruso**, Huntsville, Space and Missile Defense Battle Lab, Combat Applications Division  
**Joseph S. Chambers**, Huntsville, Space and Missile Defense Battle Lab, Simulations Directorate  
**Gary N. Chambers**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Systems Directorate Core  
**Frances A. Cheek**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Information Science and Technology Directorate Matrix  
**Shanmukhan V. Chiyarath**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Advanced Technology Directorate Core  
**Marla R. Cobbs**, Huntsville, Command Analysis Division, Cost Analysis Branch  
**Vicky J. Cody**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Information Science and Technology Directorate Matrix  
**Thomas A. Coleman**, Colorado Springs, Force Development and Integration Center, Training Support  
**Timothy J. Cowles**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Kinetic Energy Interceptor Directorate Core  
**David F. Crawford**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Advanced Technology Directorate Matrix  
**Jacqueline R. Crepeau**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Kinetic Energy Interceptor Directorate Matrix  
**Roger D. Crowson**, Huntsville, Space and Missile Defense Battle Lab, Battle Lab Operations Division  
**Russell W. Curran**, Arlington, Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations and Plans, G-3, Operations Division  
**Richard A. Curtis**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Advanced Technology Directorate  
**Charles A. Daigle**, Hawaii, G6, Communications, RSSC-Pacific  
**James C. Davenport**, Arlington, G6, Communications, RSSC-Conus  
**Terry S. Day**, Huntsville, Space and Missile Defense Technical Center, Tech Center Operations  
**James D. Deaton**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Kinetic Energy Interceptor Directorate Matrix  
**Thomas W. DeLong**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Test and Evaluation Directorate Core  
**Ronald L. Dickerman**, Arlington, Force Development and Integration Center, Combat Development  
**Albert A. Dillman**, Huntsville, US Army Kwajalein Atoll/Reagan Test Site Office of the Garrison Commander, Program Support Division  
**William R. Dionne**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Space Technology Directorate Matrix  
**William L. Dobbs**, Huntsville, Office of Technical Integration and Interoperability  
**Robert S. Douglas**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Directed Energy Directorate Matrix  
**Grasham G. Downs**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Systems Directorate Matrix  
**Edgar E. Dugger**, Colorado Springs, G3, Operations, Space Policy/Requirements Branch  
**Joan L. Duvall**, Huntsville, Space and Missile Defense Technical Center, Associate Director, Technology  
**Douglas E. Engle**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Kinetic Energy Interceptor Directorate Core  
**Jerry E. Esquibel**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Data Analysis and Exploitation Directorate Matrix  
**Jeffrey A. Faunce**, Colorado Springs, Space and Missile Defense Battle Lab, Experiments Division  
**Thomas G. Fisher**, Arlington, Force Development and Integration Center, TAMD Division  
**Gloria H. Flowers**, Huntsville, Space and Missile Defense Battle Lab, Simulation Development Center  
**Steven D. Fox**, Huntsville, Space and Missile Defense Battle Lab, Simulation Development Division  
**Duane A. Fulton**, Arlington, Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations and Plans, G-3, Plans Branch  
**Janet Fuqua**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Systems Directorate Matrix  
**Dennis R. Gallien**, Huntsville, Deputy Chief of Staff, Intelligence, G-2, Environmental Policy Compliance and

Remediation Branch  
**Eduardo B. Garcia**, Huntsville, Space and Missile Defense Battle Lab, Exercises and Training Division  
**Camilla H. Gean**, Huntsville, Space and Missile Defense Technical Center, Associate Director, Technology  
**Melisa H. Gilbert**, Huntsville, Command Integration Division  
**John N. Glidewell**, Huntsville, Missile Defense Association-TCD  
**Norven L. Goddard**, Huntsville, Space and Missile Defense Battle Lab, Missile Defense Directorate  
**Robert S. Goodman**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Systems Directorate  
**Thomas A. Gray**, Arlington, Force Development and Integration Center, LNO's Ft. Leavenworth  
**Linda H. Hagerdon**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Data Analysis and Exploitation Directorate Matrix  
**Juliette P. Hanson**, Huntsville, Test and Evaluation Center  
**Wheeler K. Hardy**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Directed Energy Directorate Core  
**Carolyn B. Harris**, Huntsville, Office of PARC/Contracting and Acquisition Management, Policy and Pricing Branch  
**Hudson D. Harris**, Huntsville, Space and Missile Defense Battle Lab, Combat Applications Division  
**David C. Hasley**, Huntsville, Deputy Chief of Staff, Engineer, National Environmental Policy Act Compliance Branch  
**David A. Hayes**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Sensors Directorate Matrix  
**Michael J. Hersh**, Colorado Springs, Force Development and Integration Center  
**Paul L. Hester**, Huntsville, US Army Kwajalein Atoll/Reagan Test Site Office of the Garrison Commander, Program Support Division  
**Robbie J. Holcombe**, Huntsville, Office of Technical Integration and Interoperability  
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**Hazel P. Hyde**, Huntsville, Space and Missile Defense Technical Center, Joint Center for Test and Evaluation  
**Terri L. Innes**, Huntsville, Space and Missile Defense Battle Lab, Simulation Development Division  
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**Bernard L. Kerstiens**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Space Technology Directorate Core  
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**Pamela J. Knight**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Test and Evaluation Directorate Core  
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**Brenda R. Kyle**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Information Science and Technology Directorate Matrix  
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**Dimitrios P. Lianos**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Advanced Technology Directorate Core  
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**Harriet L. Matthews**, Colorado Springs, Force Development and Integration Center, Training Support  
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**Curtis D. Miller**, Huntsville, Space and Missile Defense Battle Lab, Exercises and Training Division  
**Osborne Milton**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Systems Directorate Core  
**James M. Miskelley**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Kinetic Energy Interceptor Directorate Matrix  
**Michael T. Moore**, Colorado Springs, G6, Communications, Information Management Division  
**David R. Morrell**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Sensors Directorate Matrix  
**David J. Newberry**, Colorado Springs, G3, Operations, Plans and Exercises Branch  
**Denise G. Owens**, Huntsville, Office of PARC/Contracting and Acquisition Management, Branch N  
**George M. Parsons**, Huntsville, Office of Technical Integration and Interoperability, Extended Air Defense Testbed Directorate  
**Noel J. Pashcal**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Kinetic Energy Interceptor Directorate  
**Diane D. Patch**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Sensors Directorate Core  
**Kachewar M. Pathak**, Huntsville, Associate Director, Technology, Advanced Technology Directorate Core



Photos by Dennis Plummer

Young dancers from the Ballet Folklorica de la Raza, a local ethnic dance troupe, whirled gracefully during a Hispanic heritage celebration at SMDC-Colorado Springs Sep. 24.

## Colorado Springs mayor helps soldiers celebrate Hispanic Heritage

By Maj. Laura Kenney  
SMDC Public Affairs

**PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo.** — Who more appropriate to invite as guest of honor and giver of speeches during Hispanic Heritage month, than the first ever Hispanic mayor of one's own city?

That's exactly what Robert Howard, Equal Employment Opportunity Adviser for Space and Missile Defense Command-Colorado Springs, thought, so he invited Lionel Rivera to be the keynote speaker at the unit's celebration of Hispanic Heritage.

Rivera was an appropriate choice for the largely military audience in other aspects too. A former Army captain who'd served seven years on active duty, largely at nearby Fort Carson, Rivera, as the son of a WWII, Korea and Vietnam veteran, could speak to the soldiers, civilians and family members of the command who attended, on many different levels.

The most important shared characteristic, he said, however, "is that we are, first and foremost, all Americans."

Rivera gave his speech following a dramatic and colorful ethnic dancing display

by the Ballet Folklorico de la Raza, in which three young couples offered a sampling of Mexican dances.

The mayor took the podium saying, "Two things get my heart pumping — one, being around men and women in uniform while hearing patriotic music (referring to the playing of the national anthem which had opened the ceremony) and two, hearing that great Mexican music, and knowing there's great Mexican food to follow!"

Sobering quickly, Rivera detailed his own thoughts on service, that of today's military, his own and his father's.

"I am fiercely proud of my service. No, I didn't stay in to make general as I once thought I would, but the Army offered a great place to start, and I owe much of where I am today to the discipline the Army offered, both to me as a family member, then later as a young officer.

"I don't think of myself, or other Hispanics, as 'minorities.' I actually prefer the term 'people of color,' because we're all just a little bit darker. And, if you think about it, the people of color are actually, globally, the majority."

Rivera said he didn't realize he was a minority until he went to college because he looked like everybody else in El Paso, Texas.

"As the world becomes more global, and 'minorities' make up an increasing percentage of the work force, we as a nation

must welcome diversity and foster a culture that embraces everyone. As the fastest growing 'minority,' it behooves us to make sure we are as competitive as others — there is much to be proud of in our culture and values. But there are also areas we need to address, like our high drop-out rate from high school. Here again, mentoring can provide an answer. I am part of the Big Brother program locally, and recommend it highly.

"It is special for me to be the first Hispanic mayor of Colorado Springs. But I did not run on a 'minority' ticket. Instead, I just thought I was the best person for the job. The military rewards performance and merit, and by doing so has always been a role model to me of what can be accomplished without focusing on race or color.

"I challenge you to work toward the future instead of focusing on the many mistakes of the past," concluded Rivera.

Hispanic Heritage month celebrates the anniversaries of freedom for many Latin American countries. It is also a time to honor the contributions of Hispanic Americans to their country, which are as numerous and diverse as the many ethnicities that make up the term Hispanic.

In the words of the opening speaker, Executive Director, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Colorado Springs, Deana Romero — "Vamos a celebrar!"



Brig. Gen. Robert P. Lennox, deputy commanding general, Operations, SMDC-Colorado Springs, shows Colorado Springs Mayor Lionel Rivera some imagery produced by Space assets. Rivera, the first Hispanic mayor elected in the city, was the guest of honor for the unit's Hispanic heritage celebration. Lennox briefed him on Space capabilities prior to the festivities.

## Women's Equality Day

# Mentors and their students help each other grow

By KW Hillis  
Associate Editor, *Kwajalein Hourglass*

Familiar Kwaj faces — lab technician, architectural designer, administrative assistant, veterinary technician, food service worker and range commander — accompanied by Dolly Parton's song "Eagle When She Flies," welcomed residents to the Special Emphasis and Equal Opportunity Programs Women's Equality Day luncheon.

"When I see something like this, I get encouraged," said luncheon speaker Dr. Linda Gentle, acting director of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command's Test and Evaluation Center, as she watched the slide show of local women filling a variety of jobs.

"I want to emphasize achievement, working hard [and] helping people," she said. "If we weren't doing this Women's Equality Day, there would be no reason to have a lecture. So because we celebrate certain events ... we have excuses to let people present things.

"It is the fact we need to encourage each other," she said. "It is an opportunity to encourage."

SEEOPS is an Armywide program designed to set aside each month to recognize an ethnic or social group. The Army set aside August to recognize "the pioneering women" of the past and "the innovative" women of today, said Twilyn Sheet, Public Affairs intern and event organizer, before introducing Gentle.

Gentle reviewed a few facts from the history of women's rights, including that it took 72 years for women to gain the right to vote after the beginning of the movement. Sixteen other countries gave women the vote before the United States, and her great-grandmother was a 1920s suffragette who was called both immoral and radical. Gentle then transitioned into encouraging others, men and women, by the use of mentoring.

That morning's walk on the Kwaj Lodge



Photo by KW Hillis

Dr. Linda Gentle speaks to Lise Sheet, left, and Maryanne Lane after the luncheon.

beach made her notice that when she walked by "critters" in their shells, they froze what they were doing, she said. If someone stops when you watch them, as a mentor, you should help them start moving again.

She outlined what mentors need to be and do — role model, listener, trustworthy observer and encourage goal setting.

Since she is raising her 11-year-old grandson, Gentle admitted she had to become a better role model by slowing down when she drove.

A person looking for a mentor must focus on finding someone they can trust and share their goals with, she said. They also must listen and sort out the options

from their mentor. Finally, they need to be trustworthy and honest themselves, just like the mentor.

Mentoring and support can take place among unrelated or related people, she said.

One of the techniques that three women, in a recently read book, used to help mentor each other was for each to pick a word that they would aspire to for the next 12 months, Gentle said. She said with a smile that her daughter, Amy, recommended "stamina" as Gentle's word.

"Your task is to think about a word that you can use in your life that will help you in your life ... for the next 12 months," Gentle, as a mentor, challenged the audience.



Photo by Kelli Peck

## SMDC women honored during Women's Equality Day program

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — Two U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command (SMDC) employees received Outstanding Achievement Awards during a Women's Equality Day program Aug. 26 at the Bob Jones Auditorium on Redstone Arsenal.

Gail E. Sikes, left, and Linda W. Teetz received Federal Women's Program Outstanding Career Achievement Awards. Sikes, a general engineer in the Technical Center, received the award for her exceptional job performance, initiative, leadership, self-development efforts and services performed in the community. Teetz, an office automation assistant in the Technical Center, received the award for her outstanding accomplishments, sound judgment, initiative and ability to work well with others.

## D Co., 1<sup>st</sup> SATCON soldiers receive valuable training

By Spc. Glen Jones  
and Sgt. Logan Maynard  
Unit Reporters

**CAMP ROBERTS, Calif.** — This summer, the soldiers of D Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Satellite Control Battalion Operations Center, had the rare opportunity to participate in a Ground Mobile Forces satellite communications training exercise with the California Air National Guard.

The training was coordinated by the 149<sup>th</sup> Combat Communications Squadron out of the 162<sup>nd</sup> Combat Communications Group and conducted at Camp San Luis Obispo, located in the central coast area of California about a 45-minute drive from D Co. This is one of the few GMF training exercises that are conducted close enough for the soldiers of D Co. to attend.

Seizing the opportunity to work closely with the GMF terminals that they control, D Co. personnel contacted the 149<sup>th</sup> CBCS to see if they could send soldiers to participate in the exercise. Getting the go-ahead, two soldiers from D Co. were then selected to participate in the two-week exercise. Spc. Glen Jones and Spc. Jarrod Mantz were chosen because of their strong initiative to learn and their willingness to pass that knowledge on to their fellow soldiers.

Mantz said, "I enjoyed working with the Air National Guard, they were very helpful and informative, as well as eager to learn."

The focus of the training was to familiarize the soldiers of D Co. with the daily operations of a GMF mission and refresh

their already extensive knowledge of the equipment.

The first week of training was hands-on with the equipment. The Air National Guard had four types of communications terminals. Three types of terminals were satellite based, including two hub terminals; a TSC-85B and a TSC-100A and two spoke terminals — both TSC-94A. The fourth type of terminal was a TRK-170, a line of sight microwave communications terminal.

The soldiers of D Co. had never had the opportunity to work with line of sight communications, but were eager to learn about it. In one instance, Mantz was able to set up and then troubleshoot a line of sight link using the TRK-170. Jones and Mantz were able to help the National Guard soldiers further their understanding of radio frequency theory as well as how the satellites are controlled and how the Operations Center views their carriers.

The second week of training consisted of an actual GMF training mission running over the same DSCS III satellite that the two SATCON soldiers control at the Operations Center on a daily basis. This afforded them the opportunity to experience what soldiers in the field go through.

Daily operations that the D Co. soldiers participated in included setting up the dish, taking readings, dealing with user data and troubleshooting equipment problems. All of these actions were new to the two, as unit members typically have never participated in a ground-level GMF mission.

## New U.S. Ambassador to Marshall Islands hits the ground running

By Jim Bennett  
Editor, Kwajalein Hourglass

**W**ith the Compact of Free Association nearing a vote in both Congress and the *Nitijela*, and a measles outbreak that has hit the Marshall Islands, new U.S. Ambassador Greta Morris had no warm-up time before starting her new job representing the U.S. government in the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Morris visited U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll shortly after taking over the new post from outgoing Ambassador Mike Senko.



Greta Morris, U.S.  
Ambassador to

Morris met with officials and toured Ebeye, where she met *Iroij* Michael Kabua.

"Building on that human relationship is going to be very important," she said.

This is her first posting as an ambassador, but Morris isn't new to the State Department, coming to the Marshalls from a posting at the U.S. Embassy in Indonesia.

"It's always in the back of your mind, that it would be nice, but you don't expect to be nominated," Morris

said, adding her experience in the field, "prepares you with the basic diplomatic skills."

"To be a successful ambassador and diplomat you have to learn about your country of assignment," she said.

Along with the history of the Marshall Islands, she said she recently has read about the relationship of the Marshall Islands and the United States.

"You have to know the people you're going to deal with," she said. "You need to try to communicate with the people."

Morris said communication has been key as RMI government officials have written and spoke positively of the amended Compact of Free Association, due up for approval in both Congress and the *Nitijela*.

"I feel very confident that when the Marshallese people understand the Compact they will support it," she said. "It's a good compact that addresses well the interests of both the United States and the Marshall Islands ... One of the things this compact addresses is education and health. And that is critical. You're building on your human resources."

A former teacher, before embarking on her State Department career, Morris said "education is a priority."

Throughout it all, however, Morris points to a primary goal of "building on the very strong relationship we enjoy."

## NCO Induction Ceremony welcomes prestigious new member

By Chief Warrant Officer Garth Hahn  
Unit Reporter

**COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.** — In recognition of the importance of the NCO in the U.S. Army, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Satellite Control Battalion, recently held an NCO Induction Ceremony to welcome Sgt. Jennifer Swift, winner of this year's Space and Missile Defense Command Soldier of the Year competition, into the hallowed ranks of the noncommissioned officer.

The noncommissioned officer is the backbone of the Army, the implementer of policies and the enforcer of standards. The NCO Creed embodies the importance of the NCO in its words "No one is more professional than I."

In a small unit like HHC, 1<sup>st</sup> SATCON Bn., the NCOs provide critical purpose, motivation and direction to junior enlisted soldiers, while advising the officers and warrant officers on mission status.

The induction ceremony was planned

and presented by Master Sgt. Travis Adams, first sergeant of HHC, and was attended by Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Mearen Bethea and Battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Ricky Judy.

Judy spoke about the impact NCOs have on the force, and the importance of NCO leadership. After the recitation of the NCO Creed with her fellow NCOs of the unit, Swift was welcomed into the NCO ranks by all present at the dignified ceremony.

Staff Sgt. Joshua Bonesz, Swift's supervisor, felt that the induction ceremony is an important rite.

"It welcomes a soldier to the NCO ranks in a solemn manner that imparts the gravity and scope of responsibility that the new NCO possesses, while signifying the break from the junior enlisted ranks," summed up Bonesz.

Swift's auspicious start to her career as an NCO — the winning of the SMDC Soldier of the Year competition — was followed by her status as competitor and SMDC representative in the Department of the Army Soldier of the Year competition in Washington D.C.

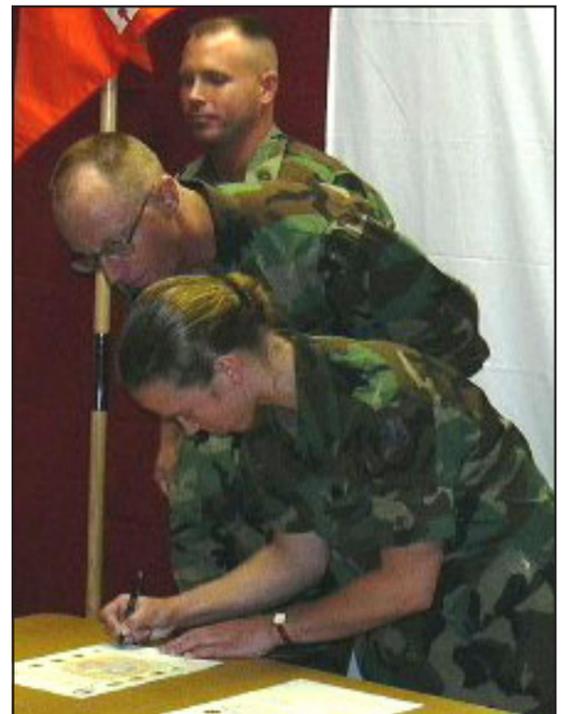


Photo by CW2 Garth Hahn

Sgt. Jennifer Swift, HHC, 1<sup>st</sup> SATCON Bn., signs the NCO Creed under the benevolent eye of Battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Ricky Judy, and Master Sgt. Travis Adams, unit first sergeant.

## Message in a bottle

# Note finds friend across 413 miles of ocean

By KW Hillis  
Associate Editor, *Kwajalein Hourglass*

A beachcomber for almost 40 years, Dennis Baker has found some surprising things on uninhabited islands in the Pacific — but he didn't expect to find a letter in a bottle from someone he knew washed ashore on a tiny uninhabited island 413 miles from Kwajalein.

"I was absolutely amazed. What are the odds of finding a letter in a bottle, let alone a letter in a bottle from somebody you actually know," Baker said. "I picked it up

and saw rice in it and thought it was Japanese. I opened it up and it was from [the] *Cherokee*."

The bottle and its contents were cast overboard on Nov. 29, 2002, by Carl McGrew who was aboard the trimarin *Cherokee* with his son Paul and crewmate TC Cardillo.

Baker found the clear glass wine bottle containing a tattered, darkened note and some rice to keep the note dry on the shore of Sibill Island located in Taongi Atoll on the morning of Aug. 26. Baker and eight other people went to the atoll to look for glass balls, dive and set up a

temporary ham station since two people aboard Baker's boat were ham radio operators from the states.

"It was morning; we had come across the island from lagoon side to ocean side, and walked along checking out stuff," he said. "It was 15 feet above sea level."

This serendipitous find happened at a very unusual time since when Baker's crew left Kwajalein, Paul McGrew was on island entertaining residents with a

slideshow of the 2½-year *Cherokee* voyage.

"I knew Paul was back on [Kwaj]," Baker said. "He was doing his spiel up there at the CRC while we were on our way to Taongi. Then he left by the time we got back, so I e-mailed him."

"We are 400 miles southeast of Hawaii at latitude N 15 degrees 20' and longitude W 150 degree 10'," wrote Carl McGrew on the lined notepaper dated Nov. 29, 2002.

The bottle had to float almost 2,500 miles to reach Sibill Island, Baker said. "It could have drifted that far in two months," he added after doing some calculations.

The letter continued, "We have been sailing for 2 ½ years and have put many messages out to sea to see where the currents take them. I am interested where it is found. If you send me a letter I will send you a picture of our sailboat." Baker counts this find as one of the most unusual in almost 40 years of beachcombing.

"This is my fourth trip to Taongi," he said. "This is the first time I've ever found a letter in a bottle anywhere."

"I've been walking beaches since I was 16," he said. "It's cool ... especially on an uninhabited atoll you see so much diverse stuff. We've found scuba tanks, washing machines, refrigerators, chopped up surfboards [and] floats."

Baker e-mailed Paul McGrew to tell him about the find, but has yet to hear from him, but plans to joke with McGrew about the lack of postage stamp or money in the bottle.

"Most of the time people will at least put a postage stamp in it so you can mail them," Baker said with a smile. "I'm going to kid Paul that he was too cheap to put a buck in there."



Photo by KW Hillis

Dennis Baker reads the tattered note from the bottle, right, he found on Sibill Island, Aug. 26. Sibill is 413 miles from Kwajalein and 2,500 miles from where it was thrown off of the *Cherokee* by crewmember Carl McGrew on Nov. 29, 2002.

## Yea, Team!

Technical Center employees in Huntsville, Ala., decided to do something different the last week of August. With no one away on temporary duty, it was prime time for accomplishing some necessary tasks and have a little fun.

"This is no travel week," said Brenda Rains, a business operations analyst in the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command Technical Center. "We are using this week to complete mandatory training, ensuring internal controls are in place, and build esprit de corps within the Technical Center."

"And it is also giving us an opportunity to clean things out and get ready for the upcoming move to the Von Braun Complex," said Yancy Mitchell, business assessment adviser.

During the week, Technical Center employees dressed in various themes, i.e., Monday - Patriotic Day; Tuesday - Fifties Day; Wednesday - Hawaiian Day; Thursday - Team Day; Friday - Favorite Character Day. Each day contests were held and prizes awarded.

"It was a very successful week; we got so much accomplished," Rains said. "One of the best things, though, was that we had so much interaction with other groups in the building."



Photo By Kelli Peck

On Favorite Team Day, Bunnie Scales, Sharon Crawford, Brenda Rains and Jon Bridges rally around their school colors.



Photo by Debra Valine

Charlotte Green took center stage on Hawaiian Day.

## B Company, 1<sup>st</sup> SATCON Battalion gets new commander

By Cadet John Thompson

**FORT MEADE, Md.** — Capt. Thaddeus Underwood passed the colors for B Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Satellite Control Battalion, to Capt. Timothy Root in a change of command ceremony Aug. 1.

B Co. experienced several leadership changes in September. 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Joey Thornburg arrived to take over for acting first shirt Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Gary Waguespack, who made a permanent change of station to Hawaii, and Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class David

Combs took over the Operations Platoon from Staff Sgt. Harry Osborne.

Upon relinquishing command, Underwood will move to Columbia University in New York City, where he will earn his master's degree in business administration followed by an assignment as an economics instructor in the Social Sciences Department at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

Root was previously assigned as the platoon leader for B Company, 32<sup>nd</sup> Signal Battalion at Darmstadt, Germany. He later served as the assistant operations officer for the 32<sup>nd</sup> Signal Battalion.



Combat Camera photo

Capt. Timothy Root, incoming B Co., 1<sup>st</sup> SATCON commander, returns the guidon to Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Gary Waguespack (acting 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant) as Lt. Col. Mearen Bethea, battalion commander, and Capt. Thaddeus Underwood, outgoing commander, look on. The soldiers of B Co. stand in formation behind them.

# SATCON soldiers, NCOs aim for German marksmanship medal, *Schutzenschnur*

By Staff Sgt. Franklin Barrett  
Unit Reporter

**LANDSTUHL, Germany** — For almost two years, soldiers and NCOs from C Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Satellite Control Battalion, have been yearning for the chance to earn the famed "shoots and snare," or "*Schutzenschnur*," as it's known in German. That long coveted opportunity finally knocked late this summer.

Spc. Shawn Michaud, a team leader and Satellite Network Controller at C Co., working in concert with contacts at the DISAEUR Regional Network Operations Security Center, made all the arrangements. Michaud's efforts proved fruitful as he lined up eight slots for C Co. to fill. Three soldiers and five NCOs were selected to compete.

To break up the long trip to a remote range in the southern reaches of Germany — Garmisch — the team made a pit stop the night prior at Kelly Barracks in Stuttgart for a few hours sleep. In the early morning hours, the eager and anxious team met up with local units, including the DISA RNOSC and RSSC, and Marines from a support element.

A long journey from Stuttgart to Garmisch, the city shadowed by the famous mountain, Zugspitz, could not break the resolve of this group. More than 40 men and women came in hopes of that shiny medallion hung from the distinctive light blue cord. For C Co., only two successfully qualified. Sgt. Jacob Holmes and this writer both earned the Bronze badge.

Before stepping onto the range, the soldiers and Marines were briefed by personnel from the German 1<sup>st</sup> Objektschutzstaffel, a unit assigned to defense of U.S. and German installations. German Lt. Robert Ruehfel, the range officer in charge, explained the functioning of the two weapons that would be fired that day, the G36 and MG3. His NCOs, acting as his demonstrators, gave the Americans a close look at the functioning and capabilities of the weapons.

With the firing orders in place, the soldiers and Marines started out with the G36, an assault rifle equipped with a dual-range optical scope. The weapon fires standard NATO 5.56mm ball rounds, and unlike the M16A2 and M4 used by soldiers



Photo by Staff Sgt. Franklin Barrett

Spc. Shawn Michaud, C Co., 1<sup>st</sup> SATCON, wields the German G36 during the challenging competition to earn the coveted German marksmanship award, the *Schutzenschnur*.

and Marines in the United States, it can fire fully automatic.

The range for the G36 consisted of multiple stages. First, the soldiers and Marines fired in a prone unsupported position. At this stage, soldiers fired three rounds at silhouettes approximately 150 meters away. All three rounds had to hit their targets, which were un-timed throughout the duration of the qualification.

The remaining three stages were identical. Soldiers and Marines moved closer to the targets in 25-meter increments, at each point firing kneeling and standing, two shots each position. In order to qualify, two targets had to be successfully engaged at each point, which isn't as easy as it may seem. Many walked away with only seven out of 15 hits.

As firing orders continued on the G36 range, soldiers already qualified at that phase moved on to a more challenging weapon, the German machine gun. The MG3 used today by German troops is essentially the same weapon used in

World War II against the Allied Forces. The only major modifications were improvements to the barrel and the aiming sights. The MG3 fires standard NATO 7.62mm ball rounds, much like our M-60 and M-240.

Qualifying on the MG3 was a bit more complicated than the G36. Not only did the weapon have more forceful recoil than the machine guns Americans are used to, it fired at a higher cyclic rate. So, the familiar three- to five-second trigger-squeeze is just long enough to fire the 15 rounds each person is given.

Targets for the MG3 consisted of a large painting of a field of fire, complete with buildings, trees, underbrush and small bodies of water. Marking this scenic masterpiece were thin circles 10 centimeters in diameter, with barely visible silhouettes encased in smaller circles in the center. The objective is to fire into only three of these circles, with at least one round hitting the smaller circle of each. The remaining rounds must be within larger circles of the three chosen targets. Essentially, the qualifications required that only three targets be engaged, each target have at least one shot in the small center circle, and there be at least six rounds in the larger circles.

The third phase of qualification was also at the MG3 range. At this phase, each person had 20 seconds to fire 15 rounds. The targets were still stationary, but the challenge was to successfully engage the required targets within the time frame. It was far from easy. Some who fired well enough for Gold in the G36, were only firing well enough for Bronze at the MG3. In fact, many who qualified on the assault rifle couldn't qualify at all with the machine gun.

Suffice it to say, the guidelines for earning the prestigious decoration are complicated and tricky. In the end, of course, the event was all about having a good time. As the day drew to a close, all shared laughs and handshakes with their new German friends.

To show thanks for the experience, C Co. invited the Germans to accompany them at a future M16A2 qualification range. Hopes are high that this will prove to be the start of a long-lasting professional and friendly relationship between host nation allies and the soldiers and NCOs of Company C.

# Amateur astronomy becomes family friendly hobby for one Space officer

By Lt. Col. Max Corneau

**Wanted: Exciting, inexpensive, safe, time traveling machine that accommodates any size family. Must cost less than \$500 and cannot require any special training.**

This ad may sound absurd, but the answer is amateur astronomy, a family-friendly hobby currently enjoying great popularity in America and throughout the world.

Astronomy is no longer the exclusive domain of professional astronomers and cosmologists. Thanks to improved manufacturing, digital technology, robotics, and some great 21<sup>st</sup> century gadgetry, just about anyone can now gaze through starry tranquility deep into the heavens. According to a May 12, 2003, Time Magazine article: "Amateur astronomy isn't just for science fairs. Americans' backyards are turning into high-tech observatories."

My own journey started in earnest on Christmas Day 2002 when my wife decided I might enjoy a book on astronomy. She found something with *Backyard Astronomer* in the title and decided that was me and snatched it. Nine days later I bought my first really serious telescope for less than \$900. You don't have to spend that much on a telescope. Good scopes that can take you millions of light years into the past are available for under \$500.

The best way to get started in amateur astronomy is to attend a star party. Star parties are free, open to the general public, and are the heart and soul of just about every astronomy club. Bring the whole family to a star party. Typical star parties include a lot of people and telescopes, no alcohol or smoking, dark skies, whirring telescope motors and lots of "oohs" and "ahhhs" from the old pros and new guests alike.

My duties as the SMDC-Colorado Springs Senior Space Officer to 14<sup>th</sup> Air Force at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., mean that's where most of my time is spent.

The Central Coast Astronomical Society

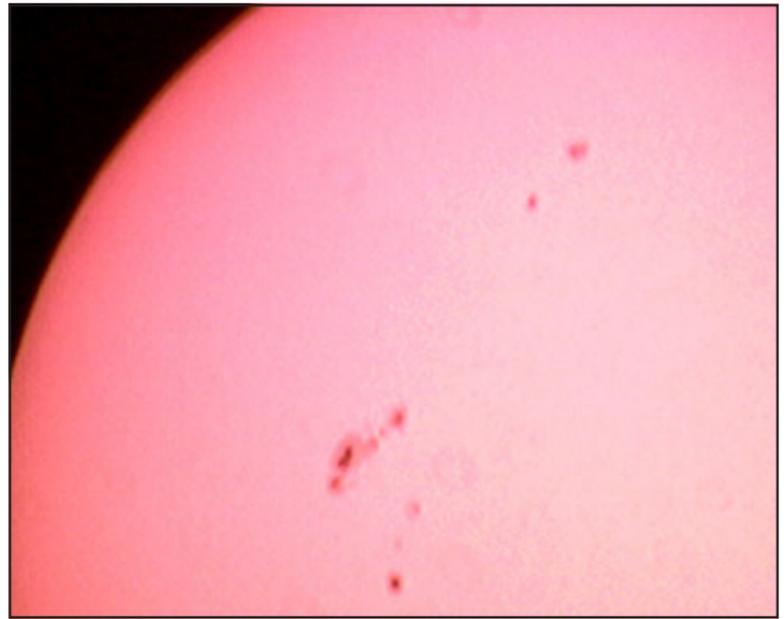
is now my "club-away-from-home" and I recently set up my scope at a Club sponsored star party in Santa Margarita, Calif. At this star party we had more than 50 attendees and 14 telescopes ranging from a 20" monster Dobsonian to my little 5" Maksutov-Cassegrain robot. For party pictures, see the Web site [http://www.ccastronomy.org/photos\\_starparties\\_ccas.htm](http://www.ccastronomy.org/photos_starparties_ccas.htm).

CCAS members range from a professor who helped invent the first robotic telescope to young students who are now coming of age in the Milky Way with the rest of us.

Gaze into lots of scopes at a star party and ask the club members how to get started in the hobby. You may find that you are deeply satisfied by the planets like Mars, Jupiter and Saturn in our home solar system, or made anxious by the hundreds of planet-killing comets roaming about.

Perhaps like me, you may lose yourself in deep thought over thousands of globular star clusters. These giant starfields are galactic orphans who never met up with a black hole to form a galaxy. Finally, there are countless nebulae, the gaseous clouds that are galactic incubators, stuffed with imploding gasses and particulate.

At my duty station at Vandenberg, I have hopped from galaxy to galaxy, across many nebulae, and through hundreds of open and globular clusters of stars. Stargazing is as much the stuff of imagination and wonder as it is the science of today. Let your children loose with a sketchpad some night and see what they draw while looking heavenward. Try to comprehend what lies beyond our universe. I have my own theory about that...



Sunspot groups from Colorado Springs, September 2003

One important point is that amateur astronomy is not limited to nighttime observing activities. And thank goodness for this fact because since April at Vandenberg, the infamous Pacific Ocean marine layer of cold air causes a deep blanket of fog throughout the night. My answer to what many call the "Vandenberg Nebula" was to spend a few dollars on a top-notch solar filter so I could observe the Sun, our nearest star during the crystal clear days. Above is an astro-photo I made during a lunch break of the current FA-40 Space Officer Qualification Course in Colorado Springs, Colo.

It was great to treat the class of future Space officers to a hands-on view of the Sun during our class on Solar weather! Hopefully by now, you might feel that astronomy is for you and can become a deeply meaningful hobby that is fun for the whole family as well as good for the soul.

(Lt. Col. Max Corneau, SMDC-Colorado Springs, on temporary assignment at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., has found a home-away-from-home at CCAS star parties. His monster go-to scope is a 5" Maksutov-Cassegrain.)

## R&R approved for soldiers, civilians in OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

By John D. Banusiewicz  
American Forces  
Press Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Service members and Defense Department civilians on Iraq and Jordan supporting OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM now have a rest and recuperation leave program that will allow them to take up to 15 days, excluding travel time, to visit family or friends in the United States or Europe.

David S.C. Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, approved a U.S. Central Command request for the program Sept. 23.

Participants have the

choice of traveling free from Iraq to gateway airports in Atlanta, Baltimore, Dallas, Los Angeles or Frankfurt, Germany, and return, according to Chu's approval memo. Travel beyond those points would be at the members' expense.

CENTCOM officials said the program's trial period, now under way, will accommodate up to 270 people a day, with hopes of expanding that number significantly as the program matures, perhaps to as many as 800 per day.

"U.S. Central Command thinks quite a bit about the readiness of its forces," said Marine Corps Maj. Pete Mitchell, a CENTCOM spokesman. "When it was determined that U.S. forces

were going to be spending 12-month tours in Iraq, the first thing we thought about was providing for the welfare of these forces, because providing for their welfare is improving readiness."

Mitchell explained that each local commander in Iraq will have a specific number of allocations for the program at any given time, and will invoke operational requirements in deciding who goes and when. But, he added, CENTCOM's goal is to accommodate as many people as possible without affecting operations.

Though the program is new for OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM, it's by no means new ground for the U.S. military services.

"R&R leave has been a tradition in the U.S. military

for hundreds of years," Mitchell said. "When U.S. forces are in a combat area for an extended period of time, it is extremely important from a leadership perspective to give these young men and women an opportunity to rest, recuperate and reunite with their families, even if for a short time."

CENTCOM officials said R&R periods are limited to one per 12-month period. Because of the small scale of the initial part of the program and the fact that some units will return to their home bases before everyone is able to participate, not everyone will be able to take advantage of the program.