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The Eagle

United States Army Space and Missile Defense Command

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SMDC among first to use revised civilian personnel system

SMDC Public Affairs

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — The Defense Department announced Dec. 15 that the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command will be among the first organizations to take part in the initial implementation of the National Security Personnel System. NSPS is a new human resources management system that establishes rules for how civilians are hired, assigned, compensated, promoted and disciplined.

SMDC's approximately 1,000 civil service employees in Huntsville, Ala.; Arlington, Va.; Colorado Springs, Colo.; and White Sands Missile Range, N.M.; will take part in Spiral One scheduled to be rolled out in July 2005.

"SMDC is fortunate to be among the first Army organizations to convert to this new system. We volunteered because we have a dedicated, adaptable work force ready to take on new challenges," said SMDC Commander Lt. Gen. Larry J. Dodgen.

For more information on NSPS, visit the CommandNet or the Internet at www.cmps.osd.mil/nsps/index.html.



Photo by Becky Proaps

It's beginning to look a lot like holiday time

Frankie Yarbrough, right, and Michelle Smartt put the finishing touches on the SMDC Christmas tree in Huntsville, Ala. Yarbrough is the chairman for the SMDC in-house holiday party. Others involved in decorating the tree included Angela Dawkins, co-chairman of the in-house holiday party, Shelby Rich and Jean Williams.

Situational awareness software showing promise for U.S. homeland security

By Debra Valine
Editor, *The Eagle*

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — You get the best of both worlds when a product developed for use by warfighters can also be used to

defend the homeland.

Representatives of the Innovative Ventures Office of the Space and Missile Defense Future Warfare Center and the Space and Missile Defense Technical Center participated

in the Tennessee Valley Corridor Summit Nov. 4-5 in Somerset, Ky. The theme was "Technology: Linking Homeland Security and Hometown Prosperity."

"There was great cooperation between the Technical Center and the Future Warfare Center," said Dr. Glenn Priddy, the associate director for space in the Space and Missile Defense Technical Center, and the assistant director for science and technology, Alabama Department of Homeland Security. "We are working together for the common good."

SMDC put together a technology demonstration featuring the Total Municipal Awareness System (T-MAS) capability. The T-MAS is based upon the Battle Lab's Advanced Warfare Environment (AWaRE) situational awareness capability and an agreement with Quantum Research to

develop the Tactical Emergency Asset Management (TEAM) communications van. The TEAM van was selected by Alabama DHS to become part of the state's interoperable communications network architecture.

"We took mature technologies and leveraged them for homeland security," Priddy said. "T-MAS is a good example of taking something already developed for the military. We did this out of hide to show Homeland Security we are serious about leveraging Defense Department investments to address homeland security issues."

The T-MAS provides a means to integrate various individual technologies into a situational awareness showcase capability that can

See **Awareness**, page 5



Courtesy photo

The Total Municipal Awareness System demonstrated by SMDC personnel during the Homeland Security Summit held Nov. 4-5 in Somerset, Ky., provides enhanced situational awareness and can be scaled from the full capability shown here down to a laptop version.

The Command Corner



Lt. Gen. Larry J. Dodgen
Commanding General



CSM David L. Lady
Command Sergeant Major

“Our Army at War ... Relevant and Ready — Today and Tomorrow.” This statement, the Army’s strategic theme, succinctly captures the importance and urgency of our actions during a time of war. In support of this theme, Gen. Peter Schoomaker, the chief of staff, Army, has emphasized, “The Army will remain relevant and ready by providing the joint force with essential capabilities to dominate across the full range of military operations.” Winning the Global War on Terrorism and transforming the force remain the Army’s overarching strategic priorities. As we end a momentous and challenging year, the Army’s strategic theme and priorities provide a fitting focus on our accomplishments and the challenges that lay before us next year.

In 2004, the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command was instrumental in supporting the Global War on Terrorism and enhancing operational capabilities for joint warfighters. Joint forces deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq and serving in the Central Command (CENTCOM) area of responsibility (AOR) had ready access to an extensive array of satellite communications, theater missile warning, imagery and Blue Force Tracking capabilities. More than two dozen forward deployed SMDC Soldiers and hundreds of other SMDC professionals working around the world on a 24/7 basis ensured space-based products and services were available in a timely and reliable manner. Joint warfighters participating in training exercises also received extensive support.

Throughout this year, SMDC developed capabilities and cutting-edge technological solutions and then accelerated their delivery to the current force. The Space Support Element organic to the 3rd Infantry Division — the Army’s first Unit of Employment, or UEx — was fielded with SMDC assistance. We also upgraded the Space Support Element Toolset, enhanced our delivery of commercial imagery, modernized the SMDC Operations Center, and deployed multiple Advanced Concept Technology Demonstrations (ACTDs) to provide prototype capabilities to warfighters. For instance, the Overwatch ACTD was deployed to the CENTCOM AOR to provide ground forces with actionable information of hostile fire (e.g. direct fire weapons and rocket-propelled grenades) in real-time to counter attacks.

To assure our continued relevance, SMDC has transformed and will continue to transform to fulfill mission requirements in support of the joint force. The 49th Missile Defense Battalion (Ground-based Midcourse Defense) or (GMD) was activated in January this year and is now on station in Alaska prepared to support the GMD mission. The first six ground-based interceptors have been emplaced at Fort Greely, and an extensive series of staff and planning exercises have been conducted to refine our command and control procedures. SMDC is also internally restructuring to execute space and GMD proponenty and our research, development and acquisition functions.

Elsewhere, we have conducted multiple iterations of the FA-40 Space Officer Qualification Course and undertaken a top-down review of the Space Acquisition process. We are now conducting an in-depth analysis of our space cadre with the conduct of the Army Space Cadre Force Management Analysis (FORMAL).

Finally, our new building on Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Ala., provides an enhanced facility for the research, development and acquisition work force and the potential for expanded capabilities in the future.

See **Commander’s Column**, page 3

Let us have the best of holiday seasons. Let us all enjoy the holiday season and return to duty, fit for duty. Safety is a matter of leaders and Soldiers living the Warrior Ethos 24 hours a day:

- I will always place the mission first.
- I will never accept defeat.
- I will never quit.
- I will never leave a fallen comrade.

Here is an example of a Soldier who failed to live the Warrior Ethos:

The Soldier was on leave in the United States, having completed 16 months of duty in Iraq. The Soldier wrecked his auto, killing himself and paralyzing his passenger from the waist down. Autopsy results showed that the Soldier had alcohol, cocaine, marijuana and oxycodone in his system at the time of his death. The accident investigation revealed that the Soldier was driving over twice the posted speed limit, and was not wearing his seatbelt.

The Soldier’s irresponsible behavior and disregard for Army standards and the Warrior Ethos directly contributed to his own death and the injury of his passenger. This Soldier forgot his mission for that evening: bring himself and his comrade safely home. This Soldier accepted personal defeat by lowering his standard of personal behavior. He quit living Army values and quit his oath to uphold the law by using alcohol irresponsibly, by polluting himself with controlled substances, and by operating the vehicle unsafely. This Soldier left his comrade behind, fallen and paralyzed.

As leaders we need to define and demonstrate acceptable behavior, and ensure that our Soldiers know what constitutes acceptable behavior. We must ensure that our Soldiers understand that when it comes to demonstrating and enforcing the Warrior Ethos and Army standards, we are never off duty.

Leaders, become even more actively involved in the lives of our Soldiers, both on and off duty. Seek out and identify Soldiers who engage in high-risk activities, and demonstrate commitment to their welfare by arranging counseling for them when appropriate. In developmental counseling sessions, make verbal safety contracts with your Soldiers. Ensure that they know what constitutes safe behavior and that they abide by their contracts.

Soldiers, I ask you to make a personal commitment to uphold Army standards at all times — whether in combat, in garrison or on leave. Live the Warrior Ethos. You are ultimately responsible for your own safety. Look out for your fellow Soldiers and provide assistance in times of need. Remember — professional Soldiers never take illegal drugs, drive under the influence of drugs or alcohol or needlessly place their lives or the lives of others at risk.

ON POINT!



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What We Think



The Eagle asks:

What is one of your favorite holiday traditions?



Dory McQuerry
Resource Management Office
Kwajalein Atoll

Going to church as a family on Christmas Eve is my favorite holiday tradition. It is important to have family traditions to tie the family together and also make lasting memories. Celebrating and rejoicing in the birth of Jesus, knowing that he was born, lived, died and rose for each and every one of us is the greatest present we can receive.



Sarah Trial
G-1, Personnel Division
Huntsville, Ala.

Christmas is a wonderful time of the year, in which we can praise God. Every time we “pray”, we are always asking God for something, but on Christmas we celebrate his birth. “Thanks to God” for our families, friends and co-workers, our health and so much more. This is the time so many people realize they are truly blessed and give thanks to God. The most important thing to remember when you’re thinking about Christmas is that it’s not just about presents or Santa Claus or singing carols. Christmas marks a very important historic event. You can read the actual Christmas story in Matthew or Luke in the Bible, and maybe this Christmas you can think about the holiday in a slightly new way.

Our hands down favorite is decorating the Christmas tree. Our family has collected ornaments from all over the world. On the day after Thanksgiving, our family tradition is to put up the Christmas tree, then unwrap and hang the ornaments. Our children have a great time with this activity, and it is a wonderful way to recall Christmases past and all the good memories we share as a family.



Robert C. Williams
Studies and Analysis Division
Future Warfare Center
Huntsville, Ala.

On Christmas morning we all gather around the Christmas tree and pick out two maybe three gifts each to open. The rest of the gifts are opened after dinner. This prolongs the excitement of the spirit within our children. Knowing they still have gifts to open keeps them excited.



Oriell L. Brooks Sr.
G-3, Operations/Taskers
Arlington, Va.

I like decorating the tree as a family because when my wife was younger she didn’t get to do it, so it’s really important to her now.



Master Sgt. James G. Green
100th Missile Defense Brigade
(Ground-based Midcourse Defense)
Colorado Springs, Colo.



Gina Korecki
SYColeman Corporation
G-3, Operation Support
Division
Arlington, Va.

My family celebrates Christmas. We decorate the Christmas tree together while listening to Christmas music, hang stockings on the fireplace mantel, go to church on Christmas Eve, roast a turkey and exchange gifts. We try to incorporate traditions and foods of our heritage (German, Irish, Italian and Polish). Our Christmas Eve dinner is some kind of seafood, usually shrimp (no meat is eaten on Christmas Eve in some parts of Poland and Italy). Our New Year’s Eve dinner is bratwurst and sauerkraut (and German beer for the adults). I think it’s important to have traditions and to stay connected to one’s heritage. What better way than with food!



Angie Weiner
Resource Management, G-8
Colorado Springs, Colo.

My fondest family tradition to date was that my father would turn the heat on every Christmas Day. He was born and raised in Finland and preferred the cold. Growing up in Massachusetts, it got pretty chilly in our house with the heat set at only 54 degrees. But on Christmas Day, he would kick the heat up to a whopping 70 degrees and we would all be nice and toasty. To this day, that distinct dusty smell that comes with the first time you turn the heat on at the beginning of the winter season still reminds me of Christmas.

Commander’s Column

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In addition to supporting our joint warfighters, 2004 provided an opportunity to acknowledge publicly two renowned Soldiers for their distinguished military careers. Lt. Gen. (retired) C.J. LeVan and Brig. Gen. (retired) Robert L. Stewart were recognized as “Pioneers,” and now have their portraits residing in Building 3, Colorado

Springs, Colo. Spc. Daniel Everly and Staff Sgt. Curtis Kimbrell were recognized, respectively, as the SMDC Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer of the Year. SMDC named Tom and Karen Coleman and their family as the Great American Family in August this year.

The past 12 months have challenged both Army and American resolve. The New

Year will be one of additional challenges and opportunities for our Army and SMDC. Military operations will continue in the cause of protecting America from global terrorism. SMDC’s capabilities and contributions will continue to expand with our role as the Army Service Component Command to the U.S. Strategic Command and as a vital member of the GMD Team.

As we close 2004, I want to thank you and your families for your great work and sacrifices. You are the best at what you do and you can be justly proud of the achievements made this past year. Best wishes to each of you and your families for health, prosperity and happiness in the future.

SECURE THE HIGH GROUND!

New Secretary of the Army Harvey visits installations

By Staff Sgt. Carmen Burgess
Army News Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Within two days of being sworn into his new position, the 19th secretary of the Army began his term by visiting installations in Alaska, Korea and Hawaii over the Thanksgiving holiday.

"One of the objectives I set for my first 60 days in office was to quickly get up to speed on the Army, particularly from the bottom up," Dr. Francis J. Harvey said. "I wanted to get a feel of the Army from the Soldier's perspective."

During his weeklong tour, the secretary visited more than a dozen installations and was briefed on unit transformation, readiness, family support systems and quality of life issues.

Harvey's first stop on his trip was Alaska, where he met with Soldiers from U.S. Army Alaska and the Alaska Army National Guard. He also toured the ground-based Missile Defense System at Fort Greely.

"This system is an outstanding example of cooperation between the Guard and the active duty force," Harvey said.

'This system is an outstanding example of cooperation between the Guard and the active duty force.'

— Dr. Francis J. Harvey
Secretary of the Army

The secretary also discussed equipment capabilities and received feedback from members of the Stryker Mobile Training Team, who have been training Soldiers of the 172nd Infantry Brigade during their conversion to the brigade combat team organization.

Harvey spent the majority of his trip in the Republic of Korea visiting more than a dozen installations, which he was told were a microcosm of the Army.

"After 24 hours here on the ground, I know they are right," he said. "The first thing I learned here was that commanders wear many hats."

The secretary said his number one priority is to provide for the well-being of troops and their families, because Soldiers are truly the center of everything the Army does.

Following a visit to the Joint Security Area, Harvey told commanders in the 2nd Infantry Division that the importance of their deterrence mission is even more evident.

"Your mission of keeping North Korea in check is important not only to preserving the peace and security of the Republic of Korea, but also to helping win the Global War on Terrorism," he said.

Harvey assured troops that "while in Washington I will be thinking of you and your mission here. I will do my job to ensure that you have the resources to do that successfully."

The Army's top official spent Thanksgiving Day visiting dining facilities within 2ID before eating the holiday meal with troops.

"There's no place I'd rather be on Thanksgiving than with Soldiers," he



Photo by Spc. Jack W. Carlson III

The new Secretary of the Army, Francis J. Harvey, shakes hands with Command Sgt. Maj. David Massullo, command sergeant major, 49th Missile Defense Battalion (Ground-based Midcourse Defense) at Fort Greely, Alaska, Nov. 22. Also pictured are Lt. Col. Greg Bowen, commander, 49th MDB, and Col. Tom Katkus, assistant adjutant general, Alaska Army National Guard. Harvey braved the sub-zero temperatures at Fort Greely to check out quality of living for Soldiers stationed there.

replied.

The secretary shared more than a meal with the troops; he also shared his near-term goals for the Army, which starts with developing a vision for the future.

"As part of the position of secretary of the Army, I have established a transition team which will help me develop this vision as well as address key issues."

He said this team is comprised of experienced individuals ranging from active-duty Soldiers and retirees to experts from the private sector.

"I'm going to ask them to help me form a vision for our Army," he said. "I want a

clear visual guide by which we provide a strategy to focus everyone on an end result."

Harvey said he plans to join together with Gen. Peter Schoomaker to lead the Army to successfully meet the dangerous and difficult challenges of the 21st century security environment.

"I look forward to establishing a partnership with both the Army chief of staff and the secretary of Defense," he said. "Since his appointment, the chief has done an outstanding job at providing the forces required to win the Global War on Terrorism, all while transforming the force."

New secretary of Army sworn in

Army Press Release

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Dr. Francis J. Harvey was sworn in Nov. 19, at the Pentagon as the 19th Secretary of the Army.

The Senate confirmed President Bush's nomination of Dr. Harvey Nov. 16 with an 85 to 12 vote.

As secretary of the Army, Harvey has statutory responsibility for all matters relating to Army manpower, personnel, reserve affairs, installations, environmental issues, weapons systems and equipment acquisition, communications, and financial management.

Secretary Harvey is responsible for the department's annual budget of \$98.5 billion. He leads a work force of more than one million active duty, Army National Guard, and Army Reserve Soldiers, 220,000 civilian employees, thousands of contractors, and has stewardship for more than 15 million acres of land.

Prior to his appointment, Harvey was a business executive with broad experience centered on the defense industry. He held various professional, management and executive positions within the Westinghouse Corporation from 1969 to 1997, including president of the Electronics Systems Group, president of the Government and Environmental Services Company, and chief operating officer of the \$6 billion

Industries and Technology Group.

Most recently, Harvey was a director and vice chairman of Duratek, a company specializing in treating radioactive, hazardous and other wastes. In his career, he has been involved in one or more phases of more than 20 major Department of Defense programs.

Harvey earned his doctorate in metallurgy and material sciences from the University of Pennsylvania and his bachelor of science degree at the University of Notre Dame in metallurgy engineering and material science. He was a White House Fellow at the Department of Defense in the late 1970s.

Harvey succeeds Les Brownlee, who served as the acting Secretary of the Army for the past 18 months.

"I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Secretary Les Brownlee for his leadership and stewardship of the Army over the past 18 months," Schoomaker said. "I speak for the entire Army family when I say his tireless efforts — to build a campaign-quality Army with joint and expeditionary capabilities, to equip our Soldiers with the best equipment and to improve their quality of life — will have an impact on the Army and ensure we remain relevant and ready for decades to come."

Ending war, enforcing peace in Bosnia

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The stabilization mission in Bosnia is complete and American service members who served in the region can look with pride on their accomplishments, Defense Department officials said.

European Union soldiers officially took over the Bosnia mission Dec. 2. U.S. Soldiers and their NATO allies have finished an almost nine-year mission in the Balkan country.

Nathan Bein, DoD's country director for Bosnia-Herzegovina, said the NATO force had accomplished all of its missions. The force, which started with 60,000 Soldiers, was to separate the warring factions, disarm them, place heavy weapons in cantonment facilities and to set up demilitarized zones between the parties.

In December 1995, the force went in to end the civil war between the Bosnian Serbs and Croat/Muslim federation. The Dayton Agreement created a joint multiethnic and democratic government. But there were two entities roughly equal in size: the Bosniak/Croat Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Bosnian Serb-led Republika Srpska.

The first NATO force into the country confronted a destroyed infrastructure and a refugee crisis. Areas of the country had been pounded by war and many areas contained ghost towns.

NATO forces arrived ready to enforce a

peace if need be or to simply separate the forces. The opposing sides were tired of war, and except for some local problems, both sides cooperated with the NATO force. An American general commanded the NATO force, with the allies having different sections. The U.S. section was centered in Tuzla.

The area around Tuzla is primarily agricultural and contains both Federation and Republika Srpska territory. American Soldiers immediately set about making life better for the residents.

Today, the area around Tuzla is peaceful. While there remain some local problems, "they are past the stage of wanting to kill each other," Bein said.

What is key to the process is that there are jobs for people and there is stability.

"They can hope for a better life for themselves and their children," Bein said. And it is like that throughout the country. The Republika Srpska is a bit behind the Federation as far as recovery goes, but the improvement even there is startling. "In Sarajevo, it is starting to look much like the rest of Western Europe now," he said.

The street lights work, there are hotels and grocery stores and gas stations, just like anywhere else. "It's not Nirvana, but the contrast of what's there now and what was there in [1995 and 1996] is like night and day," Bein said.

It was in Bosnia also that the U.S. reserve components showed their worth. Military civil affairs professionals — mostly reservists — handled delicate

negotiations among warring parties. Combat service and combat-service support units deployed to the country and worked in the mud to ensure operations ran smoothly.

As the mission went on, National Guard units — notably the 49th Armored Division of the Texas Guard and the 29th Infantry Division of the Virginia/Maryland Guard — took over major portions of the mission in the country. The 49th had the first Guard brigade to serve in country, while the 29th was the first Guard unit to command the entire American sector. The 28th and 35th Infantry divisions and the 38th Infantry Brigade were among other Guard units that served as part of Task Force Eagle.

The end of the NATO mission does not mean the end of U.S. interest and concern in Bosnia, Bein said. NATO will maintain a small headquarters unit in Sarajevo. Its three missions are to assist the unified Bosnian government in defense reform as it prepares to enter NATO's Partnership for Peace program. The headquarters will also continue to pursue and apprehend remaining war criminals and, finally, the headquarters will work on counter-terrorism programs to ensure terrorists do not find a foothold in the country.

Bosnia has also asked the United States to maintain a presence at the Tuzla base. The base will be maintained and ready to expand if needed. All told, there will be about 150 U.S. service members in Bosnia.

Awareness

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augment E911/Emergency Operations Centers.

"The T-MAS demonstration received praises by Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge, during his dinner speech at the summit," Priddy said. "The total capabilities provided by T-MAS and the TEAM communications van would cost about \$500,000. This capability can be packaged to support a variety of municipality requirements, ranging from a full-sized capability down to a single laptop that provides an integrated situational awareness for a small municipality. Interest was expressed by several summit attendees."

"The command came through with flying colors," said Norven Goddard, director of the Innovative Ventures Office. "The command did a good job of demonstrating the integration of technologies. We were the only group mentioned in Tom Ridge's speech."

The summit was hosted by Kentucky Congressman Hal Rogers. Attendees included: Secretary Tom Ridge, Dr. Charles McQueary (undersecretary for Science and Technology, Department of Homeland Security), Kentucky Governor Ernie Fletcher, Tennessee Congressmen Jimmy Duncan and Zach Wamp, as well as representatives from SMDC and the Aviation and Missile

Research, Development and Engineering Center (AMRDEC).

"Congressmen Bud Cramer and Robert Aderholt from Alabama and several congressmen from Tennessee are supporters of the Tennessee Valley Corridor Initiative," Priddy said.

"The intent was to pull together regional capabilities and demonstrate them for broader based support for economic development. Rogers is the chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security, so he served as the host."

The Tennessee Valley Corridor Homeland Security Consortium consists of partners across SMDC, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Alabama Department of Homeland Security, AMRDEC and a number of supporting contractors from Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky and Virginia.

"The team pulled together a demonstration of the Total Municipal Awareness System (T-MAS) by using AWarE as the centerpiece, and integrating sensor technologies, geographical information systems, wireless communications technologies and situational awareness capabilities," Priddy said. "We took existing commercial-off-the-shelf/government-off-the-shelf capabilities — things that were already developed and paid for by the military — and integrated those into T-MAS to demonstrate the ability to



Courtesy photo

Tom Ridge, right, then-secretary of the Department of Homeland Security; Dr. Robin White, Director, University of Tennessee, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Center for Homeland Security and Counterproliferation; Kentucky Congressman Hal Rogers; Governor of Kentucky Ernie Fletcher; and Dr. Glenn Priddy, the associate director for space in the Space and Missile Defense Technical Center, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command, and the assistant director for science and technology, Alabama Department of Homeland Security attend the Tennessee Valley Corridor Summit Nov. 4-5 in Somerset, Ky.

improve situational awareness at an operations center."

This demonstration represented a two-month effort led by Goddard. In addition to SMDC, Oak Ridge, and the Alabama Department of Homeland Security, the team consisted mostly of Huntsville-based contractors and a few universities: University of Alabama in Huntsville, Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University, and the University of Tennessee. It demonstrates homeland security capabilities to address awareness, prevention, protection, response and recovery across a range of homeland security and natural disaster scenarios.

"Secretary Ridge and several Congressmen saw the T-MAS

demonstration," Priddy said.

"Tom Ridge made the comment that 'this is exactly the type of thing we need to do to integrate existing capabilities into a broader capability for homeland security applications'.

"We received a great amount of interest from a number of parties who would like to buy a tailored version of T-MAS," Priddy said. "Our intent is to provide the T-MAS as a DHS test bed and keep it operational in Huntsville for two purposes: 1) bring in emergency planners and operators so that we can demonstrate for them what technology can provide them for the future, and 2) get the Department of Homeland Security to bring us on board to help evaluate the value of future technologies."

U.S. Strategic Command reorganizing

By Capt. Cristina Oxta
U.S. Strategic Command
Public Affairs

U.S. Strategic Command, located at Offutt Air Force Base near Omaha, Neb., has begun a comprehensive reorganization of its headquarters element and a realignment of its supporting commands. STRATCOM will continue to combine the synergy of the U.S. strategic deterrent mission and the recently integrated space missions with four previously unassigned missions: global strike; information operations; integrated missile defense; global command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance.

During the first phase of the reorganization, begun on Nov. 15, the command is aligning functions to more closely resemble those at the Department of Defense's Joint Staff and other unified combatant commands.

The new organization incorporates the warfighting skills of intelligence, logistics, command and control, communications and computer systems under the control of the Director of Global Operations, commonly known in military terms as the "J3."

Maj. Gen. Kevin Campbell,

STRATCOM chief of staff and leader of the reorganization team, said he is confident that the changes will improve STRATCOM's effectiveness and efficiency.

"Our J3 construct places all current operations-related activities under one director," Campbell said. "This particular configuration ensures our operators, regardless of where around the world they may be deployed, are all focused on the same set of command priorities."

In addition to the director of Global Operations or "J3," the new headquarters structure also establishes an Office of Manpower and Personnel (J1), a Directorate of Plans and Policy (J5), and a Directorate of Capability and Resource Integration (J8). This will posture the command to plan, integrate and provide leadership for the command's unique mission set.

Realigning headquarters functions is just one step in an overall strategy to streamline STRATCOM's operations to better support the warfighter.

The command has also taken steps to create subordinate commands or Joint Functional Component Commands (JFCCs) that will take over some current STRATCOM functions like day-to-day planning and execution for STRATCOM's primary

mission areas. The missions of the four JFCCs will be space and global strike; intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance; information operations; and missile defense.

STRATCOM will exercise overall command and control of the subordinate commands, integrate planning across all mission areas and advocate for needed capabilities to fulfill component requirements.

Precise timelines for establishing full operating capability of the subordinate commands are still being developed.

Because STRATCOM will provide some civilian and military staffing to facilitate the establishment of these subordinate commands, Campbell and his staff are anticipating additional headquarters organizational changes.

"We are working closely with the JFCC commanders to identify how many people they will need to fulfill their mission responsibilities," he said. "The initial staffing for the JFCCs will be derived from the existing commands, both Headquarters STRATCOM and the Army and Air Force service commands. The stand-up of these organizations will require minimal additional manpower, with some additional JFCC presence at

Offutt."

Additionally, STRATCOM will leverage Department of Defense agencies in standing up the JFCCs for information operations and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance.

Although this phase of the realignment will develop more slowly, Campbell said the changes are part of the evolution of the organization and a necessary step in maintaining STRATCOM's relevance in today's global security environment.

"In the past, our complex organizational structure caused the services to struggle to pull together the various organizations supporting our missions. While each of our missions is clearly distinguishable, they are all global in nature — spanning across multiple levels and lines of authority, across regional boundaries and intersecting with various national agencies," Campbell said. "I believe the new construct reduces the layers within the headquarters, introduces an opportunity to reduce our footprint by moving functions into the Joint Functional Component Commands, focuses the services on a single service-led component and establishes permanent commands dedicated to a mission."

Seek and ye shall find

SMDC Public Affairs

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Eleven teams met in the grand hallway of building three on Nov. 18 and listened to their mission instructions from Tom Callaghan, chief of the G-8 section.

"There are 30 clues. At each site there is a number that corresponds to the clue number. Take a sticker and place it in the box next to the clue. You have one hour. The winner is the team that has the most stickers in the least time. Good luck. Go!"

This was the kick-off to the first ever SMDC scavenger hunt. The teams of two scattered and followed their instincts,

their noses, their best guesses and the other teams until the clock wound down. At the end of an hour, eight teams had all the clues and tags matched. The winners were determined by who returned first with all the clues properly labeled on their sheets.

Bob Little and Derrick Richeson of the G-6 finished in first place and each won a certificate for a full Thanksgiving dinner. Second place team members Staff Sgt. Megan Fowler and Staff Sgt. Michelle Shockley of the SATCON battalion each won certificates for a turkey, and the third place team of Linda Oellig and Staff Sgt. Ella Richardson from the G-1 each won a certificate for a pie.

The scavenger hunt, however, was not the only highlight of the afternoon. After the announcement of the scavenger hunt winners, a dessert social was held along with a best dessert contest.

Of the 10 homemade entries, the cake by Pam Fuhrman of the G-6 took first place. Second and third place went to Fred Prince, G-6 and CW2 Sam Hunt, G-2 respectively.

"The entire event was a pleasant diversion for an afternoon," said Mike Howard of the SMDC Public Affairs Office and co-sponsor of the



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Dennis Beebe

Judges for the homemade dessert contest included, front to back, Staff Sgt. Megan Fowler, Col. Jeffrey Horne, Hugh Mason, Lt. Col. Dan Garcia and Master Sgt. Frances Sanchez-Jones.

event with the G-8. "Everybody who entered the scavenger hunt had fun, and the desserts were all terrific."

The event is one of a series planned by SMDC leadership to increase fellowship, provide a more diverse social contact within the command and to just plain have some fun. Future events will include events such as the annual golf tournament, the summer picnic, the SMDC birthday ball, and, next in line, a Christmas event.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Dennis Beebe

Pam Fuhrman of the G-6 shows off her prize for first place in the homemade dessert contest.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Dennis Beebe

The graduates of Space Operations Officer Qualification Course, class 04 – 02, with Col. Jeffrey Horne, middle, deputy commander for Operations, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command.

Newly qualified Space Operations Officers graduate

SMDC Public Affairs

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Eighteen Army officers and one senior non-commissioned officer ranging in rank from sergeant first class to lieutenant colonel became some of the newest Space Operations officers after completing the 10-week qualification course.

Space Operations is a functional area within the information operations career field. These new graduates will provide support to commanders with expertise and guidance on the conduct of space operations. These operations are designed to enhance the commander's ability to monitor, assess, plan and execute space operations in support of their mission.

Col. Jeffrey Horne, deputy commander for Operations, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command and U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command (SMDC/ARSTRAT), spoke at the graduation. He

encouraged the graduates to build relationships in the joint space community, to understand how the Army is changing and to tell the "Soldier" story.

"You can do nothing without your joint partners," Horne said. "This isn't about having an Army space program. We partner with the Air Force for



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Dennis Beebe

Maj. Kurt Hoch, right, is the honor graduate of Space Operations Officer Qualification course 04-02. He receives his diploma from Col. Jeffrey Horne, deputy commander for Operations at the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command, during a Nov. 19 graduation ceremony.

this course. We are all in this space business together with our sister services.

"Our Army is changing. What this means to us comes down to two things: helping commanders save warfighter lives and winning faster and more decisively on the battlefield," Horne said. "You need to know how using space assets can help the commander do that, and you need to be able to communicate that in terms the field commander can understand.

"Finally, always remember we are a nation at war. If you are not doing it now, I challenge you to follow the 'Soldier' story told in the news media. You need to understand the emotion of how our nation is embracing our Soldiers on the battlefield."

Graduates include Capt. Gary Blount, Maj. Scott Gensler, Capt. Travis Gilbert, Maj. David Harriman, Maj. Kurt Hoch, Lt. Col. Kevin Janes, Capt. Rain Jones, Capt. Sang

Lee, Sgt. 1st Class Robert Miller, Maj. Joseph Papenfus, Maj. Michael Pepe, Maj. Tod Pingrey, Lt. Col. Jorge Rangel, Maj. Robert Redding, Maj. Andy Riter, Capt. Paul Sanders, Maj. Brian Soldon, Maj. Phil Speth, and Lt. Col. Richard Wolfe. Hoch was the distinguished honor graduate. Miller is only the second enlisted Soldier to complete the course and soon will be the only enlisted Soldier on active duty to hold the qualification.

Space Operations officers train in the areas of orbitology; satellite communications; space-based intelligence collection, surveillance and battlefield characterization; missile warning; obtaining and processing weather, terrain and environmental monitoring data; joint and interagency space operations; support to joint space infrastructure and operations; and space control operations, including the areas of surveillance, negation, protection and prevention in support of space operations.

Army updates sexual assault prevention policy

By Sgt. 1st Class Shaun Herron
Army News Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Army released new guidance on sexual assault prevention and response Nov. 12, which will be included in the upcoming revision of AR 600-20, Army Command Policy, in 2005.

The new guidance is one of several steps the Army recently has taken to re-emphasize that any offense of sexual assault is inconsistent with Army Values and Warrior Ethos, officials said.

In addition to the new policy guidance for commanders, the Army launched a Web site at www.sexualassault.army.mil, to promote steps leaders and Soldiers at all levels can take to prevent and respond to instances of potential sexual assault. Included in this Web site are links to training materials developed by Training and Doctrine Command.

Sexual assault prevention training will be part of initial entry training, semi-annual training, installation in-processing

and pre-deployment training for all Soldiers. The Web site also includes links to additional resources for victims of sexual assault, and a checklist for commanders to help the recovery of sexual assault victims.

The newly launched Sexual Assault Web site and incorporation of the new Army guidance into AR 600-20 reinforces Army leadership's ongoing commitment to ensuring that adequate prevention programs and policies are in place, said Col. Paris Mack, chief, Human Factors Division, Human Resources and Policy Directorate, G-1.

It also will ensure that Soldiers who are victims of sexual assault receive proper treatment, medical and psychological care; that the chain of command will provide full support, dignity and confidentiality to victims; and that any reported incidents of sexual assault will be, "fully investigated and acted upon through the military criminal justice system," Mack said.

These efforts are the first steps at incorporating the recommendations of an

Army task force that conducted a 90-day detailed review of the Army's policies and programs on sexual assault. That task force issued an 80-page report with 24 recommendations to improve the system.

When looking for ways to improve the Army's policies and programs, the task force sought advice from outside agencies to include the Department of Veteran Affairs; National Organization of Victim Assistance; Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network (RAINN); The Miles Foundation; Navy; Coast Guard; the University of Arizona and Purdue University in Indiana.

Both universities were given grants from the Department of Justice for their prevention programs, and the age category for Soldiers who report assaults and their assailants are in the same age category as the university students.

Nearly 84 percent of alleged perpetrators were identified as junior Soldiers, and 95 percent of the victims were Soldiers in the rank of staff sergeant and below.

Awards/Promotions

Civilian Promotions

Anjoleen Y. Baca, GS-12, Colorado Springs, Information Management, G-6, Consolidated Wideband SSE and Transformational Communications
Chad L. Daly, GS-11, Huntsville, Battle Lab, Studies and Analysis Division
Stephen L. Donnelly, GS-14, Huntsville, Engineering, Technology Branch
Timothy R. Huwe, GS-13, Huntsville, Engineering, Operations Branch
Timothy E. Kirchner, GS-15, Kwajalein, USAKA/Reagan Test Site Command and Staff
Lynn A. Kroeger, GS-11, Colorado Springs, Logistics, G-4, Supply and Transportation
Dianne W. Nichols, GS-11, Huntsville, Office of Technical Integration and Interoperability
Kathy A. Simmons, GS-14, Huntsville, Intelligence, G-2, Security Branch

Military Promotions

Lt. Col. Chris Colombo, Arlington, Secretary to the General Staff
Lt. Col. Carl Randal, Huntsville, Resource Management, G-8
Maj. Joel P. Humphries, Colorado Springs, Battle Lab, COS
Maj. Jeffrey T. Douds, Arlington, Operations, G-3

On-the-Spot Cash Awards

Regina M. Abernathy, Huntsville, USAKA/Reagan Test Site, Directorate of Resource Management (FWD)
Sandra C. Brock, Huntsville, Resource Management, G-8, Program Support Division
Janice M. Christopher, Huntsville, Resource Management, G-8, Program Support Division
Harriet R. Clark, Huntsville, Resource Management, G-8, Program Support Division
Bobby W. Cooley, Huntsville, Tech Center, Systems Directorate Matrix
Robie W. Darnell, Huntsville, Logistics, G-4, Logistics and Supply Branch
Sherry F. Fincher, Huntsville, Resource Management, G-8, Program and Policy Division
Almeida A. Green, Huntsville, Resource Management, G-8, Program Support Division
Seyed M. Hamidi, Huntsville, Tech Center, Information Science and Technology Directorate
Doris H. Ingram, Huntsville, Resource Management, G-8, Program Support Division
Molly I. Krisher, Huntsville, Resource Management, G-8, Program Support Division
Shirley A. Mayes, Huntsville, Resource Management, G-8, Program Support Division
Kay H. New, Huntsville, Resource Management, G-8, Program Support Division
Phillip S. Palmer, Huntsville, Tech Center, Information Science and Technology Directorate Matrix
Edward A. Sangalang, Huntsville, Resource Management, G-8, Program Support Division
Janet L. Siersma, Huntsville, Resource Management, G-8, Program Support Division

Shad A. Tritt, Huntsville, Tech Center, Data Analysis and Exploitation Directorate
Sharon M. Witczak, Huntsville, Tech Center, Systems Directorate

Special Act Awards

Philip H. Avery, Huntsville, Tech Center, Directed Energy Directorate
Carol R. Bates, Huntsville, Resource Management, G-8, Program and Policy Division
Richard C. Bowen, Huntsville, Tech Center, Information Science and Technology Directorate
Sandra C. Brock, Huntsville, Resource Management, G-8, Program Support Division
Paula R. Brumlow, Huntsville, Personnel, G-1, Civilian Personnel Division
Robert L. Burks, Huntsville, Tech Center, Directed Energy Directorate
William L. Burrows, Huntsville, Tech Center, Space Technology Directorate
Ulpala L. Chiyarath, Huntsville, Technical Center, Directed Energy Directorate
Donna H. Davis, Huntsville, Personnel, G-1, Civilian Personnel Division
Jim O. Griggs, Huntsville, Technical Center, Directed Energy Directorate
Thomas K. Hamilton, Huntsville, Technical Center, Directed Energy Directorate
Connie M. Hannaford, Huntsville, Personnel, G-1, Plans, Policy and Training Division
Weldon H. Hill, Huntsville, Engineering, Operations Branch
Donald M. Hodge, Huntsville, Tech Center, Test and Evaluation Directorate
Russell C. Hutcherson, Huntsville, Tech Center, Information Science and Technology Directorate
Gary F. Indihar, Huntsville, Tech Center, Systems Directorate
Timothy E. Kirchner, Kwajalein, USAKA/Reagan Test Site Command and Staff
Jeffrey A. Lea, Huntsville, Intelligence, G-2, Intelligence Branch
James F. Longe, Huntsville, Resource Management, G-8, Management Division
Marion L. Martin, Huntsville, Resource Management, G-8, Management Division
Shirley A. Mayes, Huntsville, Resource Management, G-8, Program Support Division
Daniel W. McCauley, Huntsville, Engineering, Engineering Division
William R. Mull, Huntsville, Engineering, Operations Branch
Cynthia A. Nelson, Huntsville, Resource Management, G-8, Program and Policy Division
Jeffrey C. Olson, Huntsville, Tech Center, Sensors Directorate
Kay L. Platter, Colorado Springs, Logistics, G-4, Supply and Transportation Branch
Joel Shady, Huntsville, Tech Center, Test and Evaluation Directorate
Henry E. Sikes, Huntsville, Tech Center, Directed Energy Directorate
Bruce A. Smith, Huntsville, Tech Center, Test and Evaluation Directorate
Timothy L. Smith, Huntsville, Tech Center, Test and Evaluation Directorate
Zachary A. Stovall, Huntsville, Tech Center, Directed Energy Directorate
John M. Tomkovich, Colorado Springs, Battle Lab, Concepts and Initiatives Division
C. Phillip Watson, Huntsville, Tech Center, Space Technology Directorate

Time-Off Awards

Wayma R. Akins, Huntsville, Resource Management, G-8, Management Division
Jeanetta G. Burwell, Huntsville, Research, Development and Acquisition Staff, Command Analysis Division
Alison K. Bush, Kwajalein, USAKA/Reagan Test Site, Directorate of Logistics and Community Activities
Sharon J. Crawford, Huntsville, Tech Center Operations
David W. Crouch, Huntsville, Internal Review
John W. Davis, Huntsville, Intelligence, G-2, Intelligence Branch
Bonnie Draper, Huntsville, Business Initiatives Office
Deborah J. Elliott, Huntsville, Internal Review
Steven R. Elliott, Huntsville, Battle Lab, Simulation Development Division
Barbara M. Elmore, Huntsville, Resource Management, G-8, Program and Policy Division
Christopher M. Embry, Huntsville, Research, Development and Acquisition Staff, Command Analysis Division
Gloria H. Flowers, Huntsville, Battle Lab, Simulation Development Division
Dana P. Henslee, Huntsville, Business Initiatives Office
Chris P. Leblanc, Huntsville, Resource Management, G-8, Program and Policy Division
Carolyn H. Lucas, Huntsville, PARC/Office of Contracting and Acquisition Management, Acquisition Management Division
Sandra F. McAnally, Huntsville, Business Initiatives Office
Yancy C. Mitchell, Huntsville, Tech Center, Tech Center Operations
Catrina L. Murry, Huntsville, Resource Management, G-8, Program Support Division
Rachel H. Ramey, Huntsville, Technical Center, Tech Center Operations
Patricia I. Shifflett, Huntsville, Resource Management (FWD), G-8, USAKA/Reagan Test Site
Kenneth R. South, Colorado Springs, GMD TRADOC Systems Manager Office
Laura K. Wolfson, Huntsville, Test and Evaluation Center

Invention Award

Johnny E. Baldwin, Huntsville, Tech Center, Advanced Technology Directorate

Length of Service Awards

30 Years

Cheryl Humbolt, Huntsville, Tech Center, Systems Directorate
Gary Chambers, Huntsville, Tech Center, Systems Directorate

25 Years

Donald Green, Huntsville, CIO, Communications/Visual Information Division
Theodora Stewart, Huntsville, Research, Development and Acquisition Staff, Command Integration Division

20 Years

Rhonda Norris, Huntsville, Resource Management, G-8, Program and Policy Division
Timothy Smith, Huntsville, Tech Center, Test and Evaluation Directorate

Fourth force protection exercise blends old and new

Fort Greely integrates new Soldiers into routine

By Spc. Jack W. Carlson III
Unit reporter

FORT GREELY, Alaska — November has been a busy month for Soldiers here in the frozen North.

The 49th Missile Defense Battalion (Ground-based Midcourse Defense) conducted its fourth training exercise on the Missile Defense Complex Nov. 18.

The evaluation lasted four days and tested the military police and newly mobilized Soldiers on day-to-day operations.

“The purpose for this month’s evaluation was to integrate new Soldiers with the old and promote team building,” said 2nd Lt. Jason St. Germain, platoon leader, Alpha Battery.

The new Soldiers were taught daily site operations and response procedures for security violations. Part of their training included interpersonal communication skills because much of their time is spent working with civilians.

“The interaction with civilians is an interesting part of my day,” said Sgt. Erik Myers, Bravo Company, 297th Support Battalion. Myers is part of a mobilized support battalion from Fort Richardson, Alaska. The unit was mobilized to help augment the force already at Fort Greely.



Photo by Spc. Jack W. Carlson III

Sgt. Michael Nelson, shows new Soldiers room clearing procedures during force protection exercises held in November at Fort Greely, Alaska.



Photo by Spc. Jack W. Carlson III

A Soldier stands guard as opposing forces attempt to enter the Missile Defense Complex during a force protection exercise at Fort Greely, Alaska.

Sixth interceptor missile goes into ground at Fort Greely

Missile Defense Agency
Press Release

The Ground-based Midcourse Defense (GMD) element of the U.S. Missile Defense Agency emplaced the sixth interceptor missile designed to intercept and destroy a long-range ballistic missile into its underground silo at Fort Greely, Alaska, Nov. 11.

This is the final planned interceptor emplacement planned for Fort Greely this year. Ten additional interceptors will be emplaced at Fort Greely in 2005.

One interceptor was emplaced Dec. 10 at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., with another emplacement scheduled for

the end of the month.

The interceptors are part of an integrated system of sensors, ground- and sea-based radars and an advanced command and control, battle management and communication system designed to detect, track and launch an interceptor to destroy a target warhead before it can reach its intended target in any of our 50 states.

Although the system will initially have a limited capability when it becomes operational later this year, it will mark the first time the United States has a capability to defend the entire country against a limited long range ballistic missile attack. For more information go to <http://www.acq.osd.mil/mda/mda.info@mda.mil>.



Courtesy of Missile Defense Agency

The sixth ground-based interceptor missile is lowered into its underground silo at Fort Greely, Alaska, Nov. 11.

Civilian News

Free anti-virus software available to Department of Defense employees

To add an extra layer of defense against unauthorized intrusion, Department of Defense Web sites offer free anti-virus software intended for use on members' home computers. The software is licensed for DoD employees, both military and civilian, courtesy of the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA). Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center (SPAWAR) provides the software in association with Naval Network Warfare Command's Navy Computer Incident Response Team (NAVCIRT). The use of anti-virus software at home can stop viruses before they can be transferred to DoD systems. For more information, see http://www.military.com/NewsContent/0,13319,usn2_110104.00.html.

Contractor hired for TSP lifecycle funds

The Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board (FRTIB) announced Nov. 17 that Mercer Investment Consulting, Inc. (Mercer), an investment consulting firm, has been selected to help develop lifecycle funds for the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP). Lifecycle funds are portfolios with investment mixes tailored to a participant's "target time horizon," which is generally when the participant intends to withdraw the funds. As the withdrawal date approaches, the fund's investment mix automatically becomes more conservative (i.e., less risky). Participants who select lifecycle funds do not need to reallocate their account assets; the lifecycle investment models automatically do it for them. "From an investment perspective, it was the only material gap in the TSP and the next logical step in keeping the TSP consistent with the best plan designs in the industry," said Gary A. Amelio, FRTIB Executive Director.

Thrift Savings Plan open season extended

Because of the federal holiday, the TSP Open Season will run through Jan. 3. To make an election, please click on the Benefits/EBIS button, enter your POE and PIN, and click on *Transactions*. During this time you are able to increase the maximum amount you contribute to your TSP account. Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) maximum is 10 percent; Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS) is 15 percent. The overall maximum allowable contributions are \$13,000 for 2004. To make elections for this open season, you must use the Army Benefits Center — Civilian (ABC-C), a centralized service center for Department of the Army civilian employees. You can access the ABC-C by telephone via toll-free number, 1 (877) 276-9287. Hearing Impaired 1 (877) 276-9833 or through the Internet at <https://www.abc.army.mil/>. The ABC-C automated systems are available almost 24 hours a day and benefit counselors are available to assist employees between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. Central Standard Time (CST).

Senate approves dental and vision benefits

The House on Dec. 6 approved the Federal Employee Dental and Vision Benefits Enhancement Act, which establishes a voluntary program under which federal employees and annuitants can purchase dental and vision coverage. The House vote represented final Congressional approval of the bill, which will now be sent to the president for his signature into law. The current health benefits program for federal employees provides reimbursement for a fraction of dental care and no reimbursement for the cost of eye exams or eyewear. Federal employees wanting to participate would be responsible for 100 percent of the premium cost but would benefit from group rates.

House approves eliminating TSP open season

The House on Nov. 19 approved a proposal written by Senate Governmental Affairs Committee Chairman Susan Collins, that gives federal employees more access to the federal retirement saving program, the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP). The House legislation, is based on original legislation written by Collins that was approved by the Senate in July. The House bill must now be considered in the Senate. Under current law, newly hired federal workers can sign up to contribute to the TSP during the first 60-days of their employment. If employees choose not to join the plan at that time, they then have to wait for "open seasons" to join. Employees who are enrolled in the TSP can only make changes to their plan during these open seasons. The new bill would eliminate open season and allow employees to initiate, modify or terminate contributions to the TSP at any time.

Military News

The Living History Project: Veterans' stories

Veterans' Stories is a part of Military.com's Living History Project, which is committed to telling the history of the men and women in uniform by preserving their own stories and photos. Soldiers can submit stories, letters and photos about their wartime (and peacetime) military experiences. Their service to the country made history — share it with current and future generations. Send letters, stories and images using the online submission tool (<http://www.military.com/Resources/NewVeteransLetters>) or write to: Veterans' Stories, Military.com, 799 Market Street, Suite 700, San Francisco, CA 94103. Please include in all correspondence permission to reprint the letters or information. To visit the Veterans' Stories section, go to http://www.military.com/History_Content.

Authorization Act funds 3.5 percent troop pay raise, cuts housing costs

Money contained within the 2005 National Defense Authorization Act will fund a 3.5 percent troop pay raise and eliminate service members' out-of-pocket costs for family housing. The January troop pay raise will be applied across the board to all service members and won't feature pay hikes targeted to specific ranks as in past years. The targeted raises issued to mid-level officers and noncommissioned officers over the past two years, "have fixed," for now, most pay-disparity issues involving those ranks. And money is contained in the 2005 act to boost allowances that now eliminate service members' out-of-pocket expenses used for on- or off-post family housing.

Records correction form available online

You may feel that your records need correcting or amending for any number of reasons. Correction boards consider formal applications for corrections of military records, which also includes reviews of discharges. The Records Correction Process requires using DD Form 149, Application for Correction of Military or Naval Record. In order to justify correction of a military record, the applicant must prove to a Corrections Board that the alleged entry or omission in the record was in error or unjust. This board considers all applications and makes recommendations to the appropriate branch secretary. To learn more, see www.military.com/Resources/ResourcesContent/0,13964,31766-,00.html. To download DD Form 149, go to www.military.com/Resources/Forms/DD_149.pdf. For more military forms, go to www.military.com/Resources.

Service members may now carry more than 120 days of leave

A new Defense Department rule lets military personnel carry more than 120 days of leave — 60 days more than previously allowed — across fiscal years. The new regulation applies to all branches of service. American troops have deployed often in the last three years, making it difficult for some to take all the time off they have on the books. Eligible personnel who want to carry their leave to the next fiscal year must request it from their command. Requests must be submitted no later than the end of the first quarter of the following fiscal year.

U.S. Postal Service offers free packaging material for military families

The U.S. Postal Service is offering free packing materials to spouses and families of military members who are deployed overseas. To take advantage of this service call 1 (800) 610-8734 (press 1 for English and then 3 for an operator). They will send you a free kit that includes 10 boxes, packing materials, priority mailing tape and mailing labels. These products are to only be used to mail care packages to service members. You must still pay normal postage.

New exhibit honors America's veterans

A new Smithsonian Institution exhibit that pays tribute to the service and sacrifice of the nation's battle-worn men and women opened Veterans Day. The exhibit (<http://americanhistory.si.edu>) includes more than 800 artifacts, from the 18th-century's French and Indian War to the current global fight against terrorism and the conflict in Iraq.

Familiar phrase has double meaning

D Company works hard at maintaining R&R

**By Capt. Stacy Godshall
Commander D Company
1st Satellite Control Battalion**

When one thinks of the old phrase R&R, one normally thinks of rest and relaxation. But R&R also stands for something that means almost as much to the Army and our country — recruitment and retention.

Most of the time the Army focuses on recruiting young adults normally at high school age and retaining Soldiers who can be directly counseled and educated about the benefits of re-enlisting and continuing their service to the country. These are effective; however there are additional courses of action that affect recruiting and retention of those who continue to ensure our freedom and liberty.

The additional courses of action are ones that allow us to broaden our scope and reach outside our normal sphere of influence. They include setting an example in the community and educating civilian families. The Soldiers of D Company, 1st Satellite Control Battalion continue to do both.

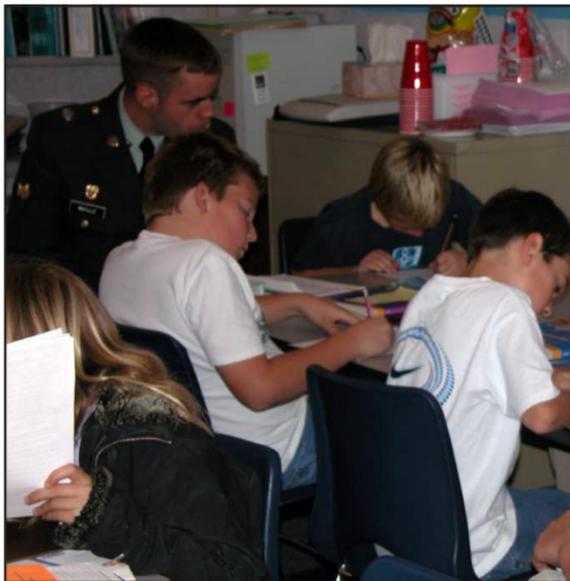


Photo by 1st Sgt. Ottis Pledger, D Company, 1st Satellite Control Battalion

Spc. George Maille assists in the classroom at D Company's adopted school.

During the past year Soldiers from D Company have contributed greatly to the community by volunteering in a variety of ways, to include adopting a local elementary school and writing letters to other school children. Through the adopted school program, the Soldiers have gone to the school, assisted in the classroom and told the students about life in the Army.

Many Soldiers in the unit have also responded to letters other school children have written to service members. These contributions enabled the Soldiers to be involved in the community and at the same time, plant a seed in the hearts and minds of hundreds of young people. Through their efforts the Soldiers hope the seed will sprout and grow into

something that will result in many of those young people having a desire to emulate our Soldiers and serve the nation as our Soldiers are now.

Several months ago, the Soldiers of the unit gave a tour of the facilities to a local Boy Scout Troop and explained what it does.

Sgt. 1st Class Alfredo Martinez marched the troop to the building from the parking lot in typical noncommissioned officer fashion — to a cadence.

Once the scouts recovered from the march, they were given a tour of the outside of the facility and educated by several NCOs about some of the equipment used and the mission conducted in support of the warfighter.

Inside the facility the Scouts viewed the battalion's video produced by the Public Affairs Office and through this, gained additional insight into the battalion's role in the Army.

After completing the Operations Center tour and briefings, the troop was escorted to the Training Support Center to participate in some training the Soldiers do to maintain their "warrior" skills. They executed basic

rifle marksmanship training on the Engagement Skills Trainer. This is an automated system with a large screen that allows the trainee to practice marksmanship on either a simulated range with silhouettes or scenario-based interactive squad drills. The scouts preferred the scenario-based drills and much to everyone's surprise did well as a fire team and squad at engaging the simulated enemy. This is most likely because at least half of them had already earned their shooting merit badge. They fired approximately 5,000 simulated rounds on weapons ranging from the M9 to the M249.

The Soldiers of D Company have also conducted training that will help and educate families of those currently assigned to the unit. These include becoming certified to teach the classes that make up the Army Family Team Building (AFTB) program offered by Army Community Services (ACS). This program is designed to build families as a strong team and thereby become more self sufficient, which leads to an overall stronger total unit and Army

team. AFTB provides a program of instruction that is modularized into three different levels to address a variety of people from spouses

ACS support. This certifies them to teach these classes in a variety of different forums such as Command Information calls, NCO development



Photo by 1st Sgt. Ottis Pledger, D Company, 1st Satellite Control Battalion

Sgt. 1st Class Alfredo Martinez cadence marches a visiting Boy Scout Troop from the parking area to the Operations Center.

and Soldiers new to the Army to spouses and Soldiers that have been in the Army for a while.

The program also teaches spouses how to become leaders in the community as well, whether it is in the military community or other volunteer activities in the civilian community.

"The AFTB is a wonderful program," said Jackie Rennirt, D Company Family Readiness Group president. "The education, support and knowledge they provide enhance the lives of all our Soldiers and spouses."

The family is central to retention efforts. When the family members are involved and proactive in Army life and related activities, they are more likely to continue life within the Army. This leads to the Soldier being more likely to re-enlist and continue to serve the Nation.

To support this program three of the company's NCOs, two spouses and one officer recently attended the AFTB Instructor Certification course at Presidio of Monterey, which is where D Company gets its

programs and family readiness group meetings. They can tailor their instruction to the specific group they are teaching. This training process continues because certified instructors are eligible to attend the AFTB Master Instructor Course held annually. The Master Instructor Course certifies individuals, who can then go back to the unit or installation and certify other potential AFTB instructors.

This pattern parallels the train the trainer process used in most other Army training programs and has proven very effective.

Jena Jones, an FRG officer, is attending this training in December and when she returns, she will be able to train other spouses to become AFTB instructors, and they in turn will be able to train all other spouses in the AFTB program. It is also interesting to note that AFTB celebrated its 10th year of building Army families Dec. 16.

D Company looks forward to being able to continue this process for some time to come and strengthen families!

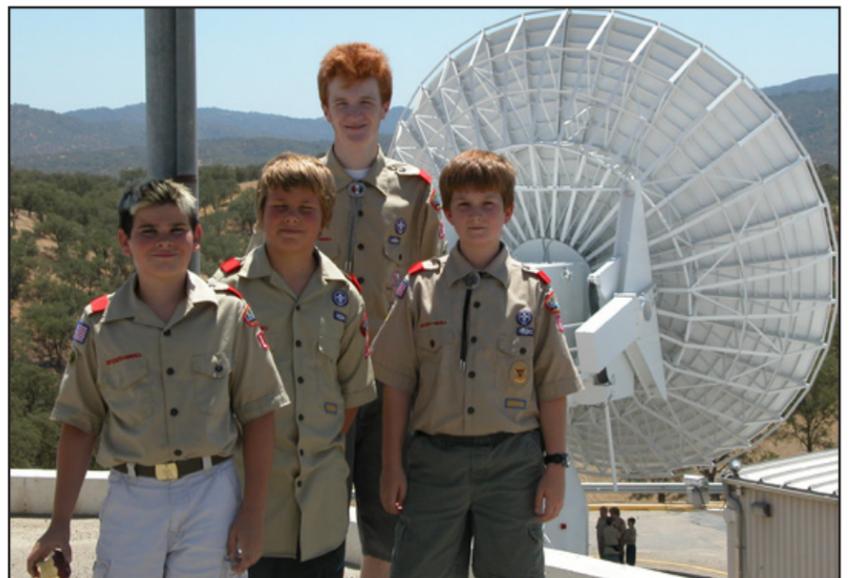


Photo by 1st Sgt. Ottis Pledger, D Company, 1st Satellite Control Battalion

Members of a visiting Boy Scout Troop stand in front of an AN/GSC-52 antenna while other members of the troop are given a mini class on satellite control at the base of the antenna.

Safety, security awareness are SMD

'Grim reaper' sends message

By Cheryl Humbolt
SMDC Safety Office

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — The safety and health fair held Nov. 10 included static displays and provided information such as ergonomics, driving safety, fire prevention, winter safety, cancer, stress, home safety, and child safety. The American Red Cross also provided an automated external defibrillator demonstration. The U.S. Army Safety Center set up a static display that promoted risk management and driving safety. Madison County Health Department and Fox Army Clinic provided medical testing that included human immunodeficiency virus, tuberculosis and bone density testing and blood pressure checks. Attendees were invited to participate in a safety "giveaway" by answering safety questions on a certificate to use as an "exchange" ticket for a giveaway ticket.



Photo by Cheryl Humbolt

The single most important subject during this festive holiday season is drinking and driving. More lives are lost because of drinking and driving during the winter holidays than any other holiday season. This year, the command's holiday safety briefing was presented by a live performance of "The Grim Reaper" emphasizing the hazards of drinking and driving during the holidays. The cast included LaJeannia Lacey, left, as Sue, Sgt. Fullblame's injured wife; Laura Wolfson, as Bernice, the friend who likes to party; Doug Deason as St. Peter; Lt. Col. Herman Fitzgerald as Sgt. Fullblame; Steve Donnelly as the Grim Reaper; Wayma Akins, as Phyllis, the party hostess; and Col. Jeffrey Smith as Col. Halftrack, Fullblame's unit commander. The narrator, Mickey Beavers, is not pictured. The performance was videotaped and sent out to SMDC subordinate commands.



Photo by Debra Valine

Summer Wilson, right, Chief, Information Office, Huntsville, gives blood for an HIV test. She participated in the health and safety fair sponsored by the SMDC Safety Office Nov. 10.



Photo by Debra Valine

Col. John Frketic, deputy commander, U.S. Army Safety Center, Fort Rucker, Ala., talks about safety and risk assessment at the SMDC-Huntsville Security and Safety Education and Awareness Day training Nov. 10. He identified the five top safety hazards as slips, trips and falls, automobile accidents, sports and physical training, fires and back injuries.

Exciting Russian speaker brings training lessons home

By Ed White
SMDC Public Affairs

Every Soldier and Department of the Army civilian understands that "necessary" training is sometimes "boring" training.

This was not the case with the Security Education and Awareness Day training put on by the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command G-2 security section. This training featured a unique speaker.

Valentin P. Aksilenko left Russia after the fall of communism. Looking and

speaking like a benign grandfather, this author, U.S. citizen and former colonel with the infamous KGB told a mesmerized audience about his recruitment, his training and some of the missions he accomplished.

Aksilenko, as a living, breathing, thinking former enemy gave a lively and humorous presentation. Working against America for almost three decades, Aksilenko met Che Guevarra in Cuba, negotiated the redeployment of Russian troops from Afghanistan and saw Top Secret materials delivered through the U.S. mail system to the Russian Embassy in Washington, D.C.

The disparity between his grandfatherly looks and professional intent was not lost on the audience. He spent a lengthy amount of time explaining how he recruited and handled an agent in Washington, D.C., who turned a hobby of "garbology" (collecting other people's trash) into an asset for the former Soviet Union. This really brought home the point of how Americans need to be less casual in discarding information that others with intent to harm can use.

Aksilenko spoke in Colorado Springs, Colo., Huntsville, Ala., and Arlington, Va. The theme "Security Strategies for



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Dennis Beebe

Col. Valentin Aksilenko, retired KGB Foreign Intelligence Service agent, and now U.S. citizen, speaks to SMDC Soldiers and civilians during the Security Day briefings held Oct. 27, at Building 3 on Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. He related his espionage activities while he was stationed in Washington D.C. allegedly working for TASS, the Russian news agency. He also spoke to SMDC employees in Huntsville, Ala., and Arlington, Va.

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DC's top priorities



Photo by Larry Allen

Col. Beverly Stipe, commander of Kwajalein Atoll receives an overview of the Mini Andros II robot by Liz Collier, an explosive ordnance disposal technician, during the Safety and Security Day activities on Kwajalein Nov. 10.

Kwajalein has Safety and Security Day activities

By Mig Owens
Assistant Editor
Kwajalein Hourglass

KWAJALEIN ATOLL — Despite a tropical rain storm pounding Kwajalein Nov. 10, many of the Security and Safety Awareness Day activities went on as planned, but under tents and overhead covers. One of the highlights of the day was an overview of the Mini Andros II robot given by Liz Collier, an explosive ordnance disposal technician.

The Mini Andros II is used in response to a suspect package in place of an EOD technician for safety reasons. It features remote control and numerous mountable cameras. According to Craig Eisele, EOD technician, the robot is among the equipment required for a federally sanctioned bomb squad.

Kwajalein Police Department representatives displayed SWAT gear, the marine police were on hand to discuss boating and water safety, and the pest control office disseminated information on vector control and the do's and don'ts of pest control.

Training

continued from page 12

Uncertain Times" emphasized in a world of uncertainty that security and safety are more critical and complex than ever.

SMDC, Arlington, held their Security Day activities Nov. 17. Jacqueline Richeson from the

The Heavy Equipment Department brought with them a man lift to enable attendees to see the upper atmosphere and the Fire Department had a display while emergency medical technicians offered blood pressure checks.

Col. Beverly Stipe, USAKA commander, presented certificates of appreciation for employees who supported the USAKA Safety Program. Awardees included employees from Heavy Equipment, Marine Department, Kwajalein Police Department and the Fire Department.

"Awardees were recognized for using personal protective equipment, following risk management procedures, having a positive safety attitude and through demonstrated duty performance — helping to make Kwajalein a safer place to work and live in," said Mike Moore, USAKA/RTS Safety Office.

Awards were also presented to the Marine and Construction Departments in recognition of their outstanding work in safety and while working hazardous operations.

National Capital Region Detachment of the 902nd Military Intelligence Group briefed on "Protecting Loss of Defense Information." Cheryl Humbolt from the SMDC Safety Office, also briefed the Arlington employees about office safety.

MDA conducts missile defense flight test

Missile Defense Agency

The Missile Defense Agency announced Dec. 15 that it was unable to complete a planned flight test after the interceptor missile experienced an anomaly shortly before it was to be launched from the Ronald Reagan Test Site, Republic of the Marshall Islands, in the central Pacific Ocean.

A target missile carrying a mock warhead was successfully launched from

Kodiak, Alaska, at 8:45 p.m. Alaska Standard time, Dec. 14 (12:45 a.m. EST, Dec. 15). This was the first time a target missile was launched from Kodiak to support an integrated flight test.

As the ground-based interceptor at Kwajalein Atoll was preparing to launch approximately 16 minutes later, it was automatically shut down due to an unknown anomaly. Program officials will review pre-launch data to determine the cause for the shut down.

Schedule of release for tax statements

ARLINGTON, Va. — The end of the calendar year is quickly approaching and that means only one thing in the tax world, tax statements (W-2, 1099R). The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) has compiled a schedule of dates when service members, military retirees and annuitants and defense civilian employees can access their tax statements through myPay and when they can anticipate to receive the hardcopy delivery by mail.

Military members, retirees/annuitants and Department of Defense civilian employees will once again have access to view, save and print their tax statements from myPay at <https://mypay.dfas.mil>.

DFAS delivers personal pay information and provides the ability to process pay-related transactions timely, safely and securely to all its members through myPay. The Web-based system eliminates the risks associated with postal delivery by allowing members to access electronic tax statements and other financial information online. myPay matches existing industry standards for the highest level of encryption and security. This prevents customer information from being accessed by others on the Internet.

Tax statements will be available as follows:

	Available	Dates received in mail
Retired Annual Statement	12/04/04	12/17/04 - 12/29/04
Retired 1099R	12/13/04	12/17/04 - 12/29/04
Annuitant Annual Statements	12/13/04	12/28/04 - 12/29/04
Annuitant 1099R	12/14/04	12/27/04 - 12/29/04
Air Force, Army and Navy Reserve W-2s	12/27/04	01/04/05 - 01/05/05
Civilian W-2s	01/06/05	01/10/05 - 01/14/05
Marine Corps Active and Reserve W-2s	01/10/05	01/18/05
Air Force, Army and Navy Active W-2s	01/14/05	01/18/05 - 01/24/05

Below are statements that are available by mail only

Special Compensation for Severely Disabled 1099Rs	12/17/04
VSI/SSB W-2s	01/04/05 - 01/05/05
Travel W-2s	01/10/05 - 01/11/05
Savings Deposit 1099INTs	01/10/05 - 01/11/05

"During January, February and March 2004, an average of 1.4 million myPay users viewed their tax statements each month, and we continue to encourage users to view and print their statements online," said Jim Pitt, director of Electronic Commerce, DFAS Military and Civilian Pay Services. "Earlier access to W-2s and other tax statements is another way myPay gives users control of their pay information."

Best friends tackle Appalachian Trail

By Debra Valine
Editor, *The Eagle*

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — Huntsville natives Glenn Green and Rick Williams have always done things together from the time they were born just three months apart in 1954.

Their parents were friends living in the Redstone Park military housing area so it is easy to see how the two grew up as best friends. Each married Army brats and had two daughters. They have a lot in common.

Green is a visual information specialist with the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command, Williams owns A & H Plumbing in Huntsville.

With that 50th birthday milestone approaching, the two decided it was time to tackle the Appalachian Trail — at least part of it.

“Rick was born just three months before me,” said Green, who turned 50 on Nov. 29. “All our lives we have been like brothers. We always enjoyed camping at Monte Sano and hiking at Bankhead — both are parks in Alabama. We had always talked about hiking the Appalachian Trail (AT in hiker lingo), but we have been raising our children and didn’t get around to it. We decided that to celebrate our 50th birthdays we would take on the AT.”

So, the pair set out from Springer Mountain, Ga., the southern terminus of the trail, Oct. 6, planning to spend the next four days hiking. They hiked nearly eight miles each day for a total of more than 31 miles of the trail, ending at Neel’s Gap, Ga. At the end of their journey, they hired someone to drive them back to their car at Springer Mountain. That’s usually how it’s done.

Springer Mountain is 3,782 feet above sea level and the start point for the 2,155

mile trail that ends in Katahdin, Maine. During their trek, Green and Williams crossed Blood Mountain, the highest point on the trail in Georgia, at 4,461 feet.

“This portion of the trail in Georgia on a scale of 1 to 10 is probably a 6 level of difficulty,” Green said. “For someone my age, it was a hard trail. We went up several hundred feet in a short time.”

The timing was perfect for the hike. In early October it was neither too hot nor cold. The trees were starting to change colors. And the trail was less crowded than it would have been in the summer.

“The trail is very well marked,” Green said. We didn’t take a tent; we stayed in the shelters at night. We packed as light as possible, but we did have a plastic tarp for emergencies. We packed as much water as we dared, but there are moving streams along the way where you can get water. You should filter it before you drink it, though, otherwise you could get sick.”

Green said on their second night on the trail they met a young woman from the University of Illinois who had spent four months hiking the trail from its northernmost point. Someone who walks the trail from one end to the other is called a thru hiker.

“This young girl was on her second to the last stop of finishing the trail,” Green said. “She had a lot of interesting stories to tell about the people she met, but she said her parents were not real thrilled with her adventure. We didn’t have an opportunity to hike with her — she probably would have made the old men look bad! She was about 24 years old and had averaged between 22 and 25 miles a day and on occasion she would hike 30-32 miles. But even being an experienced hiker, she said that was too much for her.”

Green said he recommends hiking the trail to others, as long as they are in



Glenn Green works as a visual information specialist in the Chief Information Office.

shape. “If you are not in shape, do not attempt it. I did not experience it, but I understand the trail levels out at some point. At the start it is a tough hike.”

At the end of the trail, Green and Williams stayed in a hostel. “We got a hot shower, which was nice. It was the first time I had stayed at a hostel. It was kind of bunkhouse and only \$17 a night.

“We had a great time. We are already planning to pick up at Neel’s Gap next year and see how far we can go in the time we have. You can subtract 32 from the total miles and see that we have a long way to go. If I know us, we will probably make it a yearly thing.”



Courtesy photos



The Appalachian Trail extends from Springer Mountain, Ga., north to Katahdin, Maine.

Rick Williams, left, and Glenn Green, take a break along the trail.

European Satellite Communications Working Group meets

By Master Sgt. Shawn Auble
Unit reporter

GARMISCH, Germany — Each year the Regional Satellite Control (SATCOM) Support Center (RSSC) Europe and the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) Europe team up to co-host the European Satellite Communications (SATCOM) Working Group, an event hailed as the premier satellite communications forum.

The theme for this year's working group was "Meeting Tomorrow's Challenges Today" symbolizing the focus and establishing the content of information provided and discussed. Not only did the agenda adhere to the principal of this theme, many sidebar discussions took place to help focus the satellite communications community.

The keynote speaker was the U.S. European Command, J-6 — Brig. Gen. Thomas Verbeck (U.S. Air Force) who set the tone of the event. Verbeck outlined U.S. European Command's strategy for stability throughout its area of responsibility. He articulated how this plan will assist in the Global War on Terrorism thus providing a peaceful interdependence of nations.

"The discussions held during this conference emphasized the need to bring otherwise disparate systems into one common umbrella of operation, one that is

transparent to any user on ground, air or sea," said Master Sgt. Xavier Montero, one of the attendees from the 1st Satellite Control Battalion.

The objective of the working group was to bring together policy makers, program managers, operations and management staff agencies and warfighters in a productive forum to inform, discuss and resolve satellite communications issues. Members from the Joint Staff and Unified Combatant Commands to include U.S. Strategic Command, U.S. European Command, U.S. Central Command, U.S. Pacific Command, Special Operations Command and Joint Forces Command were represented.

Not only were these joint elements in attendance but service specific commands that play a vital role in satellite communications were also represented.

The SATCOM systems experts of the Naval Network Warfare Command, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command, Air Force Space Command and DISA provided in-depth details and information regarding their respective "spectrums" of responsibility.

By having representation from these organizations in attendance it ensured that the full range of satellite communications, which encompasses wideband, narrowband, protected band and commercial SATCOM issues were addressed. This was achieved by all key organizations combining their efforts and talents in presenting or facilitating more than 60 briefings and workshops.

"The importance of having a medium in

which users at all levels can communicate is a tremendous asset; many issues that would otherwise go unnoticed by the SATCOM community are brought to light," Montero said.

To achieve this goal, a target audience of officers, noncommissioned officers and civilians who manage, operate and maintain these SATCOM systems were specifically invited. For the past three years, the number of attendees has steadily grown. This year's forum set a record with 368 military and civilian personnel participating in the conference.

To enhance this working group even further, Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines from U.S. Army Europe, U.S. Navy Europe, U.S. Air Force Europe, U.S. Marine Forces Europe, and

Special Operations Command — Europe were asked to provide feedback on their experiences within their operational environment.

Key units and personnel were instrumental in providing equipment in support of this working group to include Master Sgt. Terry Waiters, Staff Sgt. Josh Griffin and Sgt. Ricky Hurtado of U.S. Army Europe and Staff Sgt. James Baker, Sgt. Robert Valadez and Sgt. Levi Wood of Special Operations Command — Europe, Signal Detachment.

The rationale of RSSC-Europe acting as a co-host for this forum is based on its mission. The RSSC staff is comprised of communications planners and network managers, representing the Army, Navy, Air Force and commercial segment, providing an integrated single focal point for accessing and managing SATCOM resources within their area of responsibility.

The RSSC is the day-to-day operational interface with the user. RSSC-Europe supports U.S. European Command and other users in managing their apportioned SATCOM resources and real-time allocation of nonapportioned resources.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Harbach

U.S. European Command, J-6 — Brig. Gen. Thomas Verbeck was the guest speaker at the 2004 European Satellite Communications Working Group held in Germany.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Harbach

Personnel are trained on the Single Channel Anti-Jam Manportable (SCAMP) equipment.



Photo by Larry Allen

U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll and Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site celebrated Veterans Day with a parade through the streets.

An occasion for a parade

It only takes a few people with a lot of spirit to make a parade at the U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll and Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site. On Veterans Day, residents of the missile test site in the Pacific Ocean didn't let lack of resources stop them from parading from the oceanside flagpole to the Marine Department, for the traditional Veterans Day ceremony.

This year, the ceremony included a christening of a new catamaran, the Pvt. Richard Sorenson, named for a World War II veteran of OPERATION FLINTLOCK, and Medal of Honor recipient. Sorenson died this past October, but his wife and five adult children attended the ceremony as guests of the command.

The U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll is a subordinate element of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command.

C Company in Germany gives thanks

By Sgt. Michael Trowbridge
Unit reporter

LANDSTUHL, Germany — A slight pall hung over this year's Thanksgiving Dinner at C Company. Our comrades deployed, in harm's way, were on the top of everyone's minds, and it was evident from the first step inside the headquarters building.

Quite literally in fact, because just inside the front door was a banner that C Company's Soldiers and their families were making to show appreciation for the sacrifices of their fellow service members.

An annual tradition, C Company holds a large Thanksgiving dinner at the SATCOM Compound, across the parking lot from the Operations building. Each section brings a dish, all carefully assigned and varied to create a feast that takes almost as many tables to serve up as it does to seat guests.

Soldiers on shift rotate out to share Thanksgiving dinner with both their immediate family and their unit family. It never fails to pack people in and is easily the most popular unit function year after year.

Even though it seems incredibly normal at first glance, there are two main reasons

that it is so popular. The first is that it is one of the few times in a Soldier's career his or her commander(s) will wait on the Soldiers hand and foot. The other (and more uniting reason) is because it expresses one feeling people from different backgrounds all agree on — gratitude.

"The Control Warriors will not lie — we have it great here," said Sgt. Jamie Thomas when she gave the invocation. She prayed of the unit's thankfulness for the service of fellow Soldiers, for the newer family members, and for the community that they all belong to, both at C Company and within the 1st Satellite Control Battalion.

Lt. Col. Hae-Sue Park, 1st Satellite Control Battalion commander, spoke to the group before the dinner striking a lot of the same chords Thomas did in prayer, but Park also expressed a personal gratitude for her Soldiers. She was grateful that she could trust the Soldiers of C Company to execute their mission flawlessly and relentlessly. She was grateful they share her focus on supporting their "brothers and sisters in arms

downrange." And in closing, perhaps the one that stuck most in the minds of the Control Warriors was how thankful she was that her Soldiers could share this holiday with their families.



Photo by Cindy Martin

1st Satellite Control Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Hae-Sue Park and C Company Commander, Capt. Christopher Conway prepare to carve the turkey for C Company's Thanksgiving gala in Landstuhl, Germany. As is tradition, the commanders served the company Soldiers and their families during the festivities.

E Company celebrates Thanksgiving in Japan

By Spc. Robert Adanitsch
Unit reporter

FORT BUCKNER, Japan — Being far from home during the holidays, it is often difficult to get into the proper mood to celebrate and give thanks. On Okinawa, Japan, many Americans have the material possessions of the holidays such as decorations and traditional foods, but not always the mood and spirit of the season. This is partially because of being away from loved ones and families back in

the states. Echo Company, 1st Satellite Control Battalion celebrated Thanksgiving together as a unit in order to give every member of the unit a chance to have a good meal and help establish that special holiday atmosphere.

Some things never change no matter where in the world a person is, such as the lengthy process of preparing a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. Preparations for the dinner, which started at 6 p.m. began 12 hours earlier. Third squad had volunteered for this tedious task, and each member contributed one of the staples of the meal. Staff Sgt. Clayton Vanlangendonck and Spc. Robert Adanitsch prepared two 15-pound turkeys, one in the oven and one smoked and seasoned on the grill.

"At home my family and I always

cook together, but I was happy to be able to cook for all of my fellow Soldiers and their families," Vanlangendonck said. His special recipe that included apple cider and pure maple syrup made the turkey a delicious treat.

When family members began to arrive, they were taken into the classroom area that had been set up and decorated for the occasion with Thanksgiving colors and turkey-shaped table decorations.

Children were given several games and toys to keep them occupied while the food was brought out. Despite the large number of guests, there was more than enough food to go around. For many of the single members of the unit this is the only opportunity to eat certain types of foods and desserts, and they definitely made the most of the opportunity.

Once the meal was finished, it was time for entertainment. There were eight video gaming systems

linked together to create a LAN game of the newly released video game. Every one in the company had a chance to play. Even the commander, Capt. Dewayne Ingram got in on the action. Children also amused themselves with a pin the waddle on the turkey game, which was a big hit.

To work off the succulent dinner, there was the highly competitive second annual Echo Company Thanksgiving Day football game. Being a day ahead of the U.S., there are no football games to watch, so the group made their own. It was a hard fought battle, with the older Soldiers scraping out a narrow victory and continuing a 2-year winning streak. 1st SATCON's Command Sergeant Major Reginald Williams was on island and participated in this year's game.

Being 6,000 miles from the United States makes it difficult to spend time with family and friends, but a little teamwork and cooperation made a big impact on bringing Thanksgiving to Okinawa.



Photo by Sgt. First Class Michael Leiby

Staff Sgt. James Vanlangendonck brings out the turkey at Echo Company's Thanksgiving feast in Okinawa, Japan.

Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 1st Satellite Control Battalion gives thanks for each other

By Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Shockley
Unit reporter

On Nov. 22, the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Satellite Control Battalion Family Readiness Group held its annual Thanksgiving Dinner in the training rooms of Building Three on Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

To begin the evening, Spc. Charles Strauch said a blessing over the food, gave thanks for good fortune and asked for strength and protection over those unable to be home for the holidays.

The HHC families then quickly devoured the traditional foods brought as part of the potluck.

The dinner was an ideal way and opportune time for them to come together, socialize and give thanks for all the support they have given each other throughout the year.

Michala and Daniel Perry, children of Maj. Michael Perry, 1st Satellite Control Battalion S-3 (Operations) play "peek-a-boo" during the battalion headquarters and headquarters company Thanksgiving celebration held in the Building Three training rooms at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.



Photo by Sharon L. Hartman

Horne recognizes individuals in coin ceremony

SMDC Public Affairs

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — “The entire SMDC/ARSTRAT team does a fantastic job,” said Col. Jeffrey Horne, deputy commander for Operations, in initial remarks leading to a coining ceremony.

Horne described important changes taking place in the Army, the importance of space to today’s forces and the pride he has for the work of everyone on the SMDC/ARSTRAT team.

“We live in challenging and demanding times, and it is good to be able to recognize quality and outstanding efforts,” Horne said. “We are here today to honor individuals for their great work on several vital projects.”

Eleven people received commander’s coins from Horne during the ceremony. They included Tom Coleman for his work on the FA-40 course; Wayne Henry, Logistics operations chief for the Joint Functional Component Command (JFCC) Integrated Missile Defense (IMD); Lee Hensel, for his work with the 49th Ground-based Missile Defense Battalion force protection and



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Dennis Beebe

Receiving commander’s coins are Tom Coleman, left, Wayne Henry, Lee Hensel, Col. Larry Lentz, Maj. Kim Bodoh, Heather Macias, 1st Lt. Leisl Hammond, Staff Sgt. Ella Richardson, Randy Threet and Joe Kahoe. (Lt. Col. Rick Dow not pictured.)

logistics exercises; Col. Larry Lentz, for his efforts on the JFCC-IMD; Maj. Kim Bodoh, for her work on the JFCC-IMD; Heather Macias, also for her efforts on the JFCC-IMD; 1st Lt. Leisl Hammond for her efforts as the SMDC Combined Federal Campaign manager; Staff Sgt. Ella

Richardson as NCOIC of the Combined Federal Campaign effort; Randy Threet of the G-3 PLEX for his work on EXERCISE GLOBAL STRIKE; Joe Kahoe for his work on EXERCISE GLOBAL STRIKE as well; and Lt. Col. Rick Dow for fielding and training the Space Support Element.

JTAGS Central Command celebrates Thanksgiving

By OS2 Frank Serio
Unit reporter

CAMP AS SAYLIYAH, Qatar — Thanksgiving is a joyous time of year for giving thanks and praise for all the wonderful things in life. For the men and women fighting hard away from their loved ones, this day was difficult not only for the service

members bravely fighting and supporting the war but also for the families back at the home front.

On this special day Maj. J. Dave Price, the company commander, came from Colorado Springs to visit the Joint Tactical Ground Station Central Command (JTAGS CENTCOM). He spent his

Thanksgiving holiday away from family and friends in order to share a meal and give thanks to his troops. JTAGS leadership which included Price, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Andrew Wimberly and Sgt. 1st Class Lloyd Wesley lead the charge in serving troops in the dining facility service line.

Officers and leadership

servicing the Thanksgiving meal is a long-standing tradition in the military whether stationed stateside, overseas or even on a ship. The leaders will always be out front showing their dedication and support for their troops.

The food service department went all out this Thanksgiving by decorating the dining facility and preparing whole turkeys, stuffing, corn, beans, mashed potatoes and gravy, an assortment of breads, cookies, pies and cakes. A giant table in the center of the room was decorated and covered with candy bars and sweets for all the troops to fill their pockets with.

A special prayer and thanks went out to the men and women on the front lines that did not have the opportunity or luxury of having a decent Thanksgiving Day meal but instead had their meals out of a Meals Ready to Eat (MRE). The sacrifice of those who serve their country is magnified on holidays in ways the public cannot easily see. Families gather together missing a son, daughter or spouse. For some, this is their first time away from home; for others it is their second or third time away. While downrange although you can never substitute family, the Soldiers and Sailors of JTAGS look to each other and call themselves family.

Thanksgiving Day should be remembered as a day when we give thanks for our abundance.



Photo by Maj. J. Dave Price

Sgt. Keith Taylor, kneeling left, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Andrew Wimberly, Spc. Brian Pepin, Sgt. 1st Class Lloyd Wesley, OS1 Jeffery Kryski, standing left, Staff Sgt. Michael Curtman, Sgt. Jerry Richbow, Sgt. Christopher Pernel, Staff Sgt. Gaylon Hensley, Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Crane, OS2 John McKee, members of the Joint Tactical Ground Station Central Command, celebrate Thanksgiving in Camp As Sayliyah, Qatar.

C Company in Germany celebrates Hawaiian style

By Sgt. Donald Amos, Spc. Henry Eye and Spc. James Debroeck

The Company C Family Readiness Group (FRG) based in Landstuhl, Germany, sponsored a luau at the company barracks for all Soldiers and family members Sept. 24.

The event was a great way to enhance unit cohesion, morale and to just simply gather around and enjoy some quality time together.



Photo by First Sgt. Ralph Martin

Sgt. John Priebe and his wife Dawn scan the buffet line to decide the best way to fill their plates.

This was a rare treat for a unit performing 24-hour-a-day, 7-days-a-week operations through shifts. The FRG planned the event with Becky Newman, wife of Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Newman taking the lead. Before the luau started, designated drivers volunteered their services for the night so no one would have to worry about a ride home.

The FRG decorated the barrack's first floor and exterior in a tropical theme. Staff Sgt. Darren Haynes set up a "Tiki" bar outside near the grill where he served pina colodas in coconut shells.

Sgt. 1st Class Jerry Mobry spent a portion of the night as the "grill master" making hamburgers and hotdogs for everyone. Mi-Jung, wife of Sgt. Woody Scott made some of the most delicious homemade egg rolls ever tasted.

Various food items were brought for the buffet, which was excellent and as any single Soldier will tell you, a free meal is always appreciated.

There were also other attractions at the celebration. The barrack's game room was open for a night game of Halo® on the Xbox® game system. Everyone that night could plainly see that Pfc. Ryan Morgan was the undoubted champion of that game.



Photo by First Sgt. Ralph Martin

Annika Marsac, wife of C Company's Maintenance NCO Staff Sgt. Jeremy Marsac, helps their son, Benjamin prepare his plate at a luau sponsored by the company Family Readiness Group.

C Company Soldiers and family members also participated in games of darts, foosball and pool, and Spc. Todd Graham was a hero with the children by allowing them to watch movies in his barracks room.

The attendance for the luau was great. Several contractors who work with C Company also came to the luau adding to the sense of community and teamwork.

ALCOR sees 10,000 hours of action over past 35 years

By Mig Owens
Assistant Editor
Kwajalein Hourglass

Supporting all missile-related missions and some space identification tasks since 1969 is the ARPA Lincoln C-Band Observables Radar — otherwise known as ALCOR.

The radar is situated on Roi-Namur Island at the Millimeter Wave (MMW)/ALCOR complex next to the Tracking and Discrimination Experiment (TRADEX) and is operated by "a team of people dedicated to national security," said Benjamin Davenport, MMW/ALCOR antenna leader.

Their teamwork paid off in November when the antenna reached 10,000

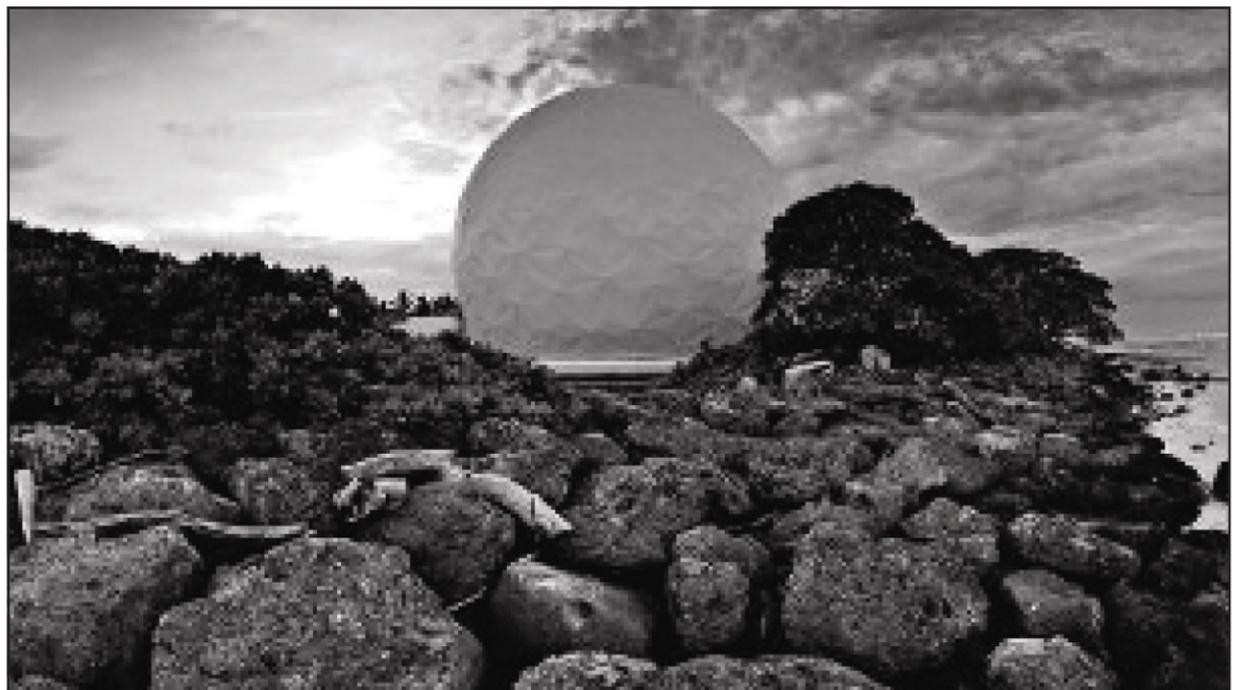


Photo by Kerry Young

The ALCOR radar on Roi Namur Island has logged 10,000 hours looking into space.

hours of "drives-on" work, which means time spent tracking and looking out into space. Davenport believes this feat was accomplished because of the dedication of an outstanding team.

"The ALCOR team truly has a never-give-up work ethic," he

said. "If no one hears about ALCOR we know our work was done right." According to Davenport, most antennas in remote locations do not normally see as much action and are often replaced or upgraded to newer sensors.

"The fact that ALCOR has

been working hard since 1969 without any major upgrades is attributed to the hard work of many people throughout the years, most recently to the dedication of antenna mechanics Greg Howson and Arcadia Orillo," he said.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Dennis Beebe

Senior NCO shares her love of Spanish language

By SMDC Public Affairs

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Master Sgt. Frances Sanchez-Jones is not afraid to share. With other Soldiers she shares her experiences and hard won lessons and with the SMDC community she shares her language. She shares it by teaching it.

"Language is how we describe our world," she said. "If you know more than one language you end up with more ways

to describe all your life's experiences."

With that in mind, Sanchez-Jones has taken to teaching Spanish to a small class every Wednesday at noon. And even though the class may be small in number, the results are large.

Her students come away from the class with several things, such as homework — Sanchez-Jones is a senior NCO after all.

The students also get a sense of community and an understanding of a language and culture that have become a dynamic force in American life.

Students learn the importance of taking new words and breaking them down phonetically in Master Sgt. Frances Sanchez-Jones' Spanish class.

Interns learn first-hand about missile recycling technologies

By Patricia Vail

The U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command Contracting and Acquisition Management interns recently toured the Missile Recycling Center (MRC) at the Anniston Defense Munitions Center (ADMC) located at the Anniston Army Depot (ANAD). Gordon L. Williamson, director of the ADCM; Dr. William S. Melvin, U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Research, Development, and Engineering Center (AMRDEC); and Dr. Earl Hughes, Amtec Corporation were the tour guides.

The tour provided first-hand exposure of missile recycling technologies that protect the environment, provide jobs to the local region and save taxpayer money by avoiding costly environmental remediation. This MRC does not handle chemical, nuclear or biological products and has no relationship to the Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility also located at the ANAD.

The MRC is an example of AMRDEC technology transitioned to production. The MRC is designed to recycle tactical missile systems. To support missile recycling operations, a 34,000 square foot building, that had been vacant for several years, was

renovated. The building contains 16 bays suitable for conducting explosive operations. Recycling operations began in mid-Fiscal Year 2003 under a Low Rate Initial Production (LRIP) effort.

Currently, the facility is capable of recycling the Tube-launched, Optically tracked, Wire-guided (TOW) missile, of which 98 percent of its components are recyclable into commercial and military reuse products. The center processed 5,085 TOW missiles during the FY03 LRIP effort. During FY04, 9,640 TOW missiles were processed under a limited production effort. Typically, 15 government and Amtec contract employees were required to perform these missile disassembly and reclamation processes.

During the current full-scale production effort, 15,000 TOW missiles will be processed annually. Also, MRC technology is currently being developed for the Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) and related ammonium perchlorate (AP) based missile systems. Production scale equipment is being designed and fabricated to accommodate the larger MLRS size requirements.

More than 600,000 TOW missiles were manufactured beginning in the 1970s, and the oldest versions have exceeded their shelf life. For all practical purposes, they have become obsolete and unusable. Missile warhead and rocket motor components, launch tubes, guidance and control components, airframe components and shipping containers are recovered during missile demilitarization operations and available for reuse or recycling.

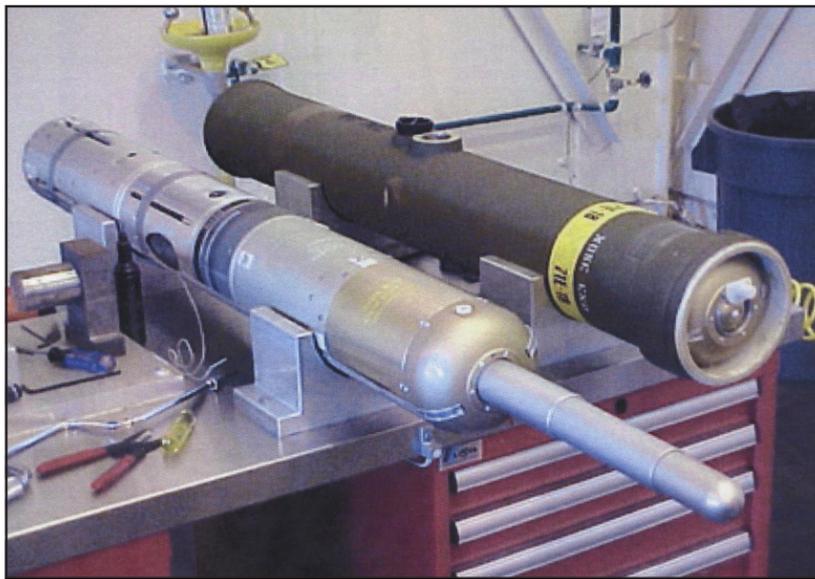
Missile launch tubes, for example, are currently being reused in new missile builds for Foreign Military Sales (FMS). During FY04, Raytheon, Inc. accepted delivery of 2,325 missile launch tubes, and an additional 5,000 tubes annually will be shipped for reuse in FMS and Army new missile builds.

Negotiations are currently under way with Raytheon for the reuse of 36

individual parts in new missile builds including actuator parts, bulk head control surfaces, aft wings and wire bobbin shrouds.

The missiles scheduled for demilitarization have either been kept in storage or returned from overseas locations. Previously, obsolete missiles were detonated in the ground. This Open Burning/Open Detonation (OB/OD) process causes pollution and subsequent remediation responsibility for the government.

Missile recycling is a pollution



This Tube-launched Optically guided Wired (TOW) missile is in the beginning stages of disassembly at the Missile Recycling Center at Anniston Defense Munitions Center at the Anniston Army Depot.

prevention process and provides a cost-effective source for missile parts that are not currently available. The MRC process also provides a source of revenue to the government that helps to offset MRC operation costs. Several NATO nations have expressed interest in sending their obsolete missiles to the facility for recycling.

The ADCM MRC received an Honorable Mention Award for the FY01 Secretary of the Army Environmental Award for Environmental Excellence in Weapon System Acquisition, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) 2003 Pollution Prevention Award, and a 1st Place Army Environmental Center (AEC) Award for Pollution Prevention in FY03.

Federal government agencies and government-operated facilities are subject to environmental protection laws. Severe penalties could result from violating environmental regulations. The ADCM MRC employees, government contracting officers and technical monitors must all be particularly vigilant that the recycled components are completely free of energetic materials.

The SMDC interns observed the various processing stations, and the processes that occur at each station were explained by ADCM MRC employees. The missile is initially disassembled into its major subsystem components to include rocket motors, warheads and inert hardware components.

The missile disassembly process is performed at several workstations. After removal from its shipping container, the missile is extracted from the launch tube, the wires are disconnected and the launch motor is removed. In subsequent disassembly operations, the crush switch and probe are removed from the warhead. The warhead is then removed from the missile and the copper wires are separated. Next, the flight motor is removed from the missile. After missile

disassembly, the aluminum cartridge screws, actuator, gyroscopes and electronics are all that remain. A visual/physical inspection is performed on each launch tube. An automated system verifies that the electrical wires and connectors of the launch tube are functional for reuse purposes. The warhead and rocket motor sections are transported to their appropriate disassembly stations.

Flight and launch motor nozzle removal, propellant removal, warhead explosive removal, and energetics size reduction are

non-attended processes that are performed on remotely operated machines. The rocket motor propellants and igniters are removed from their metal cases using computer-controlled operations. Cartridge-loaded propellant grains are used as feedstock material for the Slurry Explosive Module (SEM).

Case-bonded propellants are mechanically machined and removed from their metal casing. The size-reduced propellant is used as feedstock for the Energetic Processing Module (EPM). The warhead explosive is removed using a billet press-out machine. The warhead billet is subsequently separated from its copper liner and size reduced using the warhead billet splitting machine. In this area of the facility, static

electricity is a concern given the presence of explosive materials. Rubber mats are used to reduce static electrical charge, and the building is locked down during thunderstorms. The SMDC interns observed the various energetic separation and removal processes on a computer monitor. After processing, the MRC employees remove the rocket motor and warhead subcomponents from the machines and prepare for repeat operations.

The function of the EPM is to recover high value, energetic oxidizer ingredients (i.e., HMX, RDX, and AP) from size-reduced propellant and warhead feedstocks. The energetics are recovered, by extraction, using liquid ammonia processing solvent within a closed-loop system. No pollutants are released into the environment. The recovered energetics will support new munitions production and commercial reuse applications. The function of the SEM is to convert low value energetic feedstock into commercial mining explosives.

The function of the Hardware Decontamination Module (HDM) is to remove trace amounts of energetic material from aluminum, copper and steel missile hardware components. These hardware components include items such as rocket motor cases, warhead cases, igniter hardware, nozzles and related items that have been exposed to energetic materials.

The metals are decontaminated, by thermal flashing, to 5X cleanliness (i.e., no significant amounts of explosive remain to present a safety hazard). The HDM is limited to five pounds of net explosive weight (NEW) per batch. Several hundred pounds of metals that contain trace amounts of explosive materials can be decontaminated in a single batch.

The SMDC interns found the site visit interesting and rewarding. It was an excellent opportunity to see how the SMDC contract scope of work for the MRC is executed.

Chickasaw Nation citizen keeps history alive

Retired sergeant major, Phoenix Services employee recognizes Native American Heritage month

By Kim Gillespie
SMDC Public Affairs

Terry Henry not only recognizes Native American Heritage month in November each year, he proudly displays his Chickasaw Nation identification card that proclaims him a citizen and enables him to participate in Chickasaw Nation activities year round.

"Native Americans were the first people here on this land. It is important that we remember this history and share it with our children," Henry emphasized.

Henry, who now works for the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command's contractor, Phoenix Services, is a retired U.S. Army sergeant major with 28 years of active duty service. He is one of nine children raised in Stonewall, Okla., where he and his siblings attended predominantly Chickasaw schools.

"The area is not a reservation, but a jurisdictional territory that includes 13 counties in the south-central Oklahoma countryside. This is where the Chickasaw Nation relocated after it was forced by the U.S. Government to leave its original homeland around Tishomingo, Miss. Almost everyone in the area is part of

the Tribe," explained Henry.

Henry and one other brother, also retired military, are the only two of the nine children who reside outside the area. The other siblings all reside near Ada, Okla., and work for the Chickasaw Nation in some capacity.

Henry's mother is the source of his Chickasaw heritage.

Henry's German grandfather came to the United States and settled in Oklahoma Territory, where he met a young Chickasaw woman named Kate Stick, Henry's maternal grandmother, and married her. Henry's father is part Cherokee and was born in Bibb County, Ala. After several moves, the family settled in Oklahoma, where Henry's father met and married his mother. While Henry does have a significant Cherokee heritage, he is not a Cherokee citizen. Henry's Chickasaw citizenship was established at a young age.

According to Henry, to obtain Chickasaw citizenship, his parents submitted his family history, birth certificate, and a photo to the Bureau of Indian Affairs for verification for citizenship to the Chickasaw Tribe. Once verified, he was

issued a certificate stating his Degree of Indian Blood (blood quantum requirements vary from tribe to tribe). Having Chickasaw citizenship gives Henry voting privileges, and he receives a copy of the monthly newspaper which allows him to stay up-to-date with social, economic and political events.

Henry stays informed both through family and frequent visits. He usually votes by absentee ballot, but he also knows most of the candidates personally. "Chickasaw Nation Gov. Bill Anoatubby attended my late father's funeral," Henry said. "When Dr. Judy Goforth Parker was running for Chickasaw Tribal Legislature, I told her she had my vote if she made sure she would take care of our elderly Chickasaw citizens, and once elected, she followed through on her promise," said Henry. "The lieutenant governor, Jefferson Keel, is also a former Army captain," he added.

Each year, the Chickasaw Nation hosts its annual meeting in Tishomingo, Okla. Henry regularly attends the gathering, which includes cultural and social activities that allow the citizens to practice the Indian ways.

"The elders also discuss politics and other relevant

issues," Henry said. He is proud of the tribe's past, but he is also proud of their current economic status and independence. "The Chickasaw Nation is currently financially sound and its businesses include everything from smoke shops to gaming centers," said Henry.

In another acknowledgement of the importance of his heritage, Henry collects arrowheads and other Indian artifacts. Some of the artifacts have been passed down through his family and others he has purchased. He and another Native American friend who works on Redstone Arsenal, Ala. have loaned artifacts for events such as the Indian Centennial, hosted by Redstone Arsenal last year.

Henry says that Redstone Arsenal sees many Native Americans come through its gates and he has met a number of Navaho Soldiers who have attended the Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School on post. He also noted that when area cultural events feature Native American dancers, he sometimes has relatives come to town. "Two of my aunts are on the Chickasaw dance team," he said.

Henry encourages everyone to learn about Native American heritage. The Chickasaw Nation Web site can be found at http://www.chickasaw.net/alivecity/servlet/NavForward?sid=96&appactive=yes&req=mHomePage_cn4.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs Web site is located at <http://www.doi.gov/bureau-indian-affairs.html>.

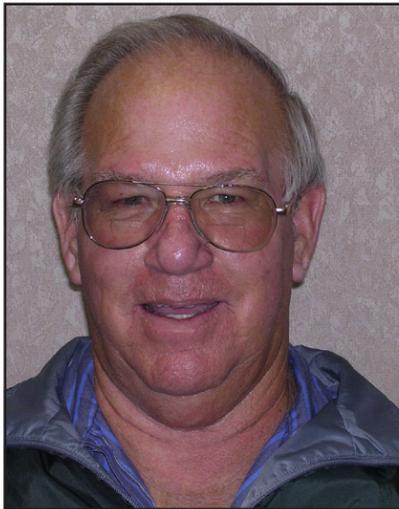


Photo by Kim Gillespie

Terry Henry, a retired sergeant major and Phoenix Services employee is proud of his Chickasaw Nation heritage.



Photo by Debra Valine
Mason Lawrence, front, and Brad Maslowski, fancy dancers, practice some moves.

Celebrating Native Americans

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — Team Redstone, which includes the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command, celebrated Native American Heritage Month with its first ever powwow Nov. 19-20 on the parade field at Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

The event featured fancy dancers and storytellers, the award of a Medal of Valor for service in the Korean War to Walter "Horse" Longfeather, and food and merchandise vendors.

Longfeather, who also served in World War II, said he was very pleased to receive the medal that was designed for Native Americans.

Lee "Tatewachie" Lawrence, a member of the Lakota Tribe from Ponka, Okla., told of how he was adopted into the tribe as a youngster. He learned how to fancy dance and has been performing for 28 years.

"The fancy dance used to be a war dance," Lawrence said.

Levi Walker, the storyteller, told the gathering of long ago events.

Shawn Longfeather sat feeding deer roast to his brother, an Akita named Shadow Hunter.

Shadow Hunter is a service dog; he predicts when Shawn will have a seizure. "Sometimes up to an hour in advance of the seizure," Longfeather said.

Supporting deployed troops has never been easier

By Samantha L. Quigley
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — One often-repeated question from forward-deployed troops today is some form of: "Does America support what we're doing over here?"

Judging by the number of Web sites devoted to that support, the answer is a resounding, "Yes!"

But as times have changed, so have the ways to support the troops. Just because the old way — no more "Any service member" mail — doesn't work anymore, that doesn't mean that troops can't receive mail and care packages from patriotic souls. It simply means finding an organization to help you get that morale-boosting mail to the troops.

Dozens of independent organizations are ready and willing to help those who want to support the troops. They generally fall into two basic categories. The first is the organizations that collect cash or goods to create care packages to be sent to troops who wish to receive them.

One such organization is Freedom Calls Foundation, which uses state-of-the-art communications technology to keep service members connected with their families. Because of Freedom Calls' efforts, service members have "been there" for milestone events such as weddings (sometimes their own), births and graduations.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars offers "Operation Uplink" that connects service members with family and friends. The program, begun in 1996, provides pre-paid phone cards to active-duty service members and hospitalized veterans.

Again, Operation Uplink accepts cash donations that are used to purchase the pre-paid phone cards. Donations can be made online, via phone or through the mail.

Another supporter of deployed U.S. troops, the United Service Organizations, has a program called "Operation USO Care Package." The program lets well-wishers sponsor a care package for a monetary donation. USO makes the donation part easy too. All it takes is a mouse click, a phone call or a stamp to mail a check.

The second-type organization pairs supporters with service members who

have given permission to release their contact information to an individual. Most of the sites offering service member "adoptions" require a minimum commitment of one piece of mail a month.

AdoptaPlatoon, not only provides the means to "adopt" an individual service member, but an entire platoon. The requirements for each adoption are a little different. Supporters can also ask to be matched with a service member as a pen pal.

Operation Military Pride is another group that focuses on care packages. However, to obtain mailing information for a service member, supporters are required to sign up through the site. Like many organizations, Operation Military Pride has several different campaigns in the works to support deployed troops.

There also are a smaller number of Web sites dedicated to allowing a supporter to send an electronic greeting to service members and some that have compiled a list of links to various support Web sites.

Care packages are always nice, but letters are just as good. And sites like Operation Dear Abby and Letters From Home make that very easy to do. Operation Dear Abby provides the means to send an electronic greeting to a service member and Letters From Home works with the old-fashioned variety.

If the legitimacy of a site is a concern, check out the list on the Defend America Web site. While the Department of Defense does not endorse organizations, a DoD official said that the groups listed on Defend America are checked routinely to make sure they are doing what they say they are.

It's also important to remember that some Web sites are easier to use than others. So don't get discouraged, the links are there. It may just take a little looking to find them.

Sites helping troops

These are just a small sampling of organizations that offer Americans the means to remember and appreciate our troops. There are many, many groups offering many, many ways to show deployed troops that yes, America Supports You!

Some related sites include Defend America [www.defendamerica.mil]; Defend America: Support Our Troops [www.defendamerica.mil/support_troops.html]; Freedom Call Foundation [www.freedomcalls.org]; United Service Organizations [www.usocares.org]; Veterans of Foreign Wars [www.operationuplink.org]; AdoptaPlatoon [www.adoptaplatoon.org/new/]; Operation Military Pride [www.operationmilitarypride.org/]; Operation Dear Abby [<http://anyservicemember.navy.mil/>]; Operation Homefront Hugs [www.homefronthugs.com]; America Supports You [www.americasupportsyou.mil]; Letters From Home [www.lettersfromhomeprogram.org/].

Dynamic Duo leads team over the top on CFC donations

SMDC Public Affairs

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Sixteen Soldier and civilian volunteers under the leadership of 1st Lt. Leisl Hammond and Staff Sgt. Ella Richardson surpassed the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) goal set for the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command in Colorado Springs. The campaign ran Sept. 30 through Nov. 5.

"Our goal was \$30,000 but we reached \$45,000 by the end of the drive," Hammond said.

"SMDC will be receiving a Gold award for success in meeting our goal for the second year in a row," Richardson said.

CFC supports charitable agencies throughout the United States and is a voluntary donation program.

Contributors can name the charity they want to support or they can give the donation to the CFC organization



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Dennis Beebe

Staff Sgt. Ella Richardson, right, helps Joshua Silver of the G-3 decide what charities will receive his donation. Seated at the rear is 1st Lt. Leisl Hammond who is the overall coordinator of the CFC drive this year.

and CFC will divide the donation between the charities.

The Gold award is achieved for meeting 90 percent of an assigned goal. The award was guaranteed by the generosity of the SMDC team.

"We want to thank all of the members of SMDC for their giving donations,"

Hammond said. She also stated that she appreciated the support from the key workers.

"The success of the campaign is due to the key workers' willingness to make CFC a priority and their dedication to 100 percent contact within their sections," Hammond said.

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta conveys Archangel Michael Honors Medal to SMDC employee

The prestigious Archangel Michael Honors Medal is given once a year to honor and celebrate this patron saint and the lives of one adult and one youth from each parish who are living examples of the Orthodox Christian life and journey to Theosis.

His eminence Alexios the Metropolitan of Atlanta presented Will Dennis, a foreign disclosure officer with U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command in Huntsville, Ala., with this prestigious Archangel Michael Honors Medal at the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta in Atlanta, Ga., Nov. 6.

Along with 159 other award winners, Dennis was nominated by the Greek Orthodox Church of Saints Markella and Demetrios of Fort Walton Beach, Fla., for church and civic activities. Over the last

20 years, Dennis has been the Narthex greeter/usher coordinator, president, vice president, treasurer and member of the Parish Council, security liaison for all festivals and photo historian. He assisted in fundraising for Bob Hope Village, NCO Club Chief's Group, provided Christmas food baskets for the needy and was a mentor throughout Okaloosa County Schools.

Dennis was assigned to SMDC in March 2003. He is a 30-year Air Force veteran; was a security officer with BAE at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., for three years, and was hired within civil service in 1991 at Eglin Air Force Base. He has almost 47 years of federal service, all within the security field.



Courtesy photo
Will Dennis, right, a foreign disclosure officer with SMDC, receives the Archangel Michael Honors Medal from his eminence Alexios the Metropolitan of Atlanta at the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta, in Atlanta, Ga., Nov. 6.

B Company Soldiers learn quick reaction techniques

Spc. Savern Phoumysavanh
Unit reporter

FORT MEADE, Md. — Two "Black Dragons" from B Company, 1st Satellite Control Battalion had the unique opportunity of participating in Tactical Training International exercises Oct. 18 - 22.

The TTI course taught the fundamentals of tactical shooting, building clearing and much more. Fort Meade's Marine Quick Reaction Force, the Military Police, and Fort Myers' Special Reaction Team also participated in the TTI course.

"It was more productive than any conventional tactical training I've experienced," Spc. Robert Wright said.

The realism of the tactical shooting portion of the course was a real eye opener for the participants.

"Many of our Soldiers are typically accustomed to lying down in the prone position and waiting for the 'ready left, ready right' type range. This training was a surprise," said 1st Lt. James A. Manes, the company executive officer who was an observer of the training.

"They literally learned how to shoot, move and communicate. They trained on how to identify and shoot multiple targets while moving, and how to communicate and shoot while moving as a unit."

The Soldiers conducted quick reload and immediate action drills. They shot from inside a vehicle and also trained how to shoot accurately under stress with an elevated heart rate.

"I don't know what the situation is like in Iraq but this training seems a more effective simulation of real scenarios when comparing it to any of the training I've received in the past," Manes

said. "These are necessary skills needed to survive combat."

The building-clearing portion of the training was conducted in an empty barracks on Fort Meade. For this training the Soldiers used simulated 9mm ammunition, instead of the inaccurate and cumbersome Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System (MILES) gear they have become accustomed to.

Training consisted of clearing corners, entering doorways, scanning for explosives and much more. All the training was conducted with an elevated heart rate and rushes of adrenaline by sprinting and dodging simulated enemy fire before entering the building.

While in the building, the Marines played the enemy and the instructors did their best to cause confusion.

"To clear up any misconceptions, simulated ammunition does hurt," Wright said. "This is a perfect example of 'battle focus' type training."

One of the most important aspects of the training is the mental preparation and the lectures on how to be, think and train like a warrior. To be a warrior one must know his or her own weakness and train to eliminate it.

"Firing a qualifications course twice a year is not training; it does not evaluate the firearms proficiency," Wright said.

"I qualify 37 out of 40 in the M16 range, which is not bad at all, however, that gave me the illusion I was combat ready. The TTI course gave us a wake up call. I realized I have a lot more training to do, and the course combined with everything the Army has to offer, has given me the basics to train with."

SMDC chief of staff leads inspection team to Kwaj

By Nell M. Drumheller
Editor, Kwajalein
Hourglass

Col. Jim Bedingfield, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command chief of staff, culminated a five-day visit to Kwajalein Nov. 20. He was on island leading a command inspection team for SMDC.

The team looked at a number of things, principally to ensure compliance of existing SMDC, Dept. of the Army and Dept. of Defense directives, policies and regulations.

Over and above that was to bring the U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll and Reagan Test Site message to SMDC and the Army, as well as bringing the SMDC and Army message to Kwajalein.

Bedingfield has been the chief of staff since mid-July and this is his second visit to Kwajalein.

While here he conducted sensing sessions for Soldiers and Dept. of the Army civilians.

Recognizing that the demographics on Kwajalein are not typical for an Army installation he advised Soldiers, government civilians and contractors that they can bridge any gaps by "communicating with each other, by understanding you're on an Army installation and living in a time where the Army and our nation are at war. That should remain foremost in all our minds." He added that we all need to understand the Army's role in the Global War on Terrorism.

"The fact that you are

physically separate from the Army shouldn't negate the fact that we are a part of SMDC and the Army whose primary duty is to support the commander in chief in the Global War on Terrorism," he continued.

"I'm not saying that everyone should be planting victory gardens and that walls are crumbling around us, but in a battle with scarce resources please consider your wants and needs in the context of the wants and needs of those in harm's way."

Bedingfield added though the Soldier contingent here isn't large, the part they play is important. If questioned about maintaining a Soldier's morale here he said he would ask, "Are you a glass half full or half empty person? One might say that what they do here doesn't matter [in the overall scope of the current military situation], but I wouldn't say that. I'd say your glass is half full; your contribution is very important to the strategic role that Kwajalein plays in national defense."

"Missile defense and space matter a great deal to the Army and our nation regardless of whether you are sitting on Kwajalein or in the Middle East," Bedingfield said.

Bedingfield also said he was delighted with the hospitality, openness and welcoming spirit he and his team received on Kwajalein. "It's always a pleasure to come here and examine a dedicated group of professionals. Your professionalism shows in every endeavor."

Afghanistan's first elected president takes oath in triumph

By Kathleen T. Rhem
American Forces Press Service

KABUL, Afghanistan — The first freely elected president in Afghanistan's 5,000-year history took the oath of office Dec. 7.

"Nothing makes me more hopeful to the future of this country and my ability to serve it than the incredible experience of our country's participation in recent elections," President Hamid Karzai said in his inauguration speech, according to an English translation provided by the Afghan government.

It was a day of great pomp and ceremony in the country's capital.

Afghanistan's bright red and green flag could be seen everywhere, and a bold red banner proclaiming "December 7th Celebrates the Decision of the Afghan Nation" was hung at the entrance to the Salaan Khana ceremonial building where the inauguration was held.

Shortly before the ceremony began,

Karzai met with U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld in the presidential palace after Cheney and Rumsfeld visited U.S. troops at Bagram Air Base before flying by helicopter to Kabul.

"We're gathered to mark a historic moment in the life of the nation and in the history of human freedom," Cheney said in a joint news conference with Karzai following the meeting. "Scarcely three years ago, a tyranny ruled Afghanistan, and this ancient and beautiful country was a haven for the enemies of civilization.

"Yet the spirit of the Afghan people would not be broken," he said. "Now the tyranny is gone. The terrorist enemy is scattered and the people of Afghanistan are free."

Also while visiting U.S. service members earlier in the day, Cheney said, the whole world — and the Middle East in particular — is watching today's events.

"Across the broader Middle East, people look to Afghanistan and see something new and hopeful in the world's most troubled region," he said.

Before the official ceremony, Karzai thanked the United States for helping to make this day possible. He said that because of the help the United States provided, Afghanistan is now at peace, rebuilding, and sending children to school, and is again a respected member of the international community.

"Without that help, Afghanistan would be in the hands of terrorists, destroyed, poverty-stricken and without its children going to school or getting an education," Karzai said. "We are very, very grateful ... to the people of the United States of America for bringing us this day, a day of peace, a day of democracy, a day of the empowerment of the Afghan people."

This empowerment, he said, is the United States' greatest gift to the Afghan people.

Delegates address Armywide concerns at AFAP conference

By Margaret McKenzie
Army News Service

ARLINGTON, Va. — Delegates at the 21st Army Family Action Plan conference, Nov. 15 through 19, evaluated 94 issues and prioritized 16 for adoption.

The top five AFAP conference issues were family member eyeglass coverage, expiration of TRICARE referral authorizations, childcare fee category, calculation of continental United States family subsistence supplemental allowance and leave accrual.

The issues, which originated at installations throughout the world, addressed force support, mobilization and deployments, employment, entitlements and medical and dental, all elements that support better quality of life for Soldiers and their families.

The deployment policy for the surviving dual military parent topped the list of five issues agreed to by attendees at the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command's Army Family Action Plan Conference held in Arlington, Va., Aug. 3-6. The five issues were forwarded to the Department of the Army for

consideration.

Other Army-wide issues were stabilization between deployments; transportation of remains for deceased military family members; retirement points for Reserve Component Soldiers; and lack of standardized youth outreach programs to attract high school students to Army careers.

"It's all about taking care of the Soldier whether he is in Afghanistan or Iraq," said Gen. Richard Cody, the vice chief of staff of the Army. "It's important that he doesn't have to worry about what is happening at Fort Bragg or Fort Polk with his family. He knows his family is being taken care of back here."

The 120 delegates, broken down into eight groups, spent the week narrowing the issues to the top five. After which, spokespersons shared the highest two with the Army Vice Chief of Staff, several senior Army leaders, spouses and officials from the Department of Defense.

This year's issues touched all areas from Soldiers to civilians, retirees to family members. Victor Arias from Fort Riley, Kan., Chris Pitcher from Schweinfurt, Germany, and Jeff Ashmen, from Fort

Stewart, Ga., represented the voice of the youths at the conference.

The delegates also voted for the four most valuable services and the top six critical active AFAP issues, which were reported to the director of the Army Staff at the closing session of the conference. In addition two new categories were added: The top five mobilization/deployment and family support challenges and the top five mobilization/deployment family support strengths.

Four Most Valuable Services:

- Medical/Dental
- Army Community Service
- Commissary
- Army Family Action Plan

Six Most Critical Currently Active AFAP Issues:

- Distribution of Montgomery GI Bill benefits to dependents(s)
- In-state tuition
- Modification of weight allowance table
- Inferior shipment of household goods
- Army Community Service

manpower authorization and funding

- Basic allowance for housing for activated reserve-component tied

Top Five Mobilization/Deployment and Family Support Challenges:

- Soldiers not being paid on a timely basis
- Length of rotation/deployments
- Lack of positive media coverage from downrange
- Pay system for reservists
- Replacement of obsolete equipment, equipment shortages and upgrade of parts

Top Five Mobilization/Deployment and Family Support Strengths:

- Army Community Service
- Army Family Action Plan
- Army One Source
- Family Readiness Group Participation
- American Red Cross

(Editor's note: Margaret McKenzie writes for the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center.)



Photo by Debra Valine

Re-enlisting for another two years in the Army

Sgt. La Keshia Dunigan, center, assistant special security officer in the G-2 (Intelligence Division), repeated the oath of re-enlistment to Capt. Jason Conroy as he read the solemn and important words Dec. 7, in the foyer of the Von Braun Complex in Huntsville, Ala. Dunigan's daughter, Gwendolyn Michelle Niles-Dunigan, left, along with her brother Pdraic Hunter Allan Dunigan, not pictured, attended the ceremony. Dunigan's other son Mackenzie Nial Dunigan was unable to attend the ceremony. Dunigan re-enlisted into the regular Army for two more years.

Alaska's senator tags along with Santa in visit to Fort Greely

By Maj. Laura Kenney, 100th GMD Public Affairs and Maj. Mike Haller Alaska National Guard Public Affairs

FORT GREELY, Alaska —Winds blew a brisk whirling chill across the tundra. Temperatures had departed far, far south. Snow was falling. But the hearts of children and adults here were merry and bright at an early Christmas party Nov. 6 — when some very important people came for a holiday visit.

The VIPs were none other than Saint Nick and Alaska's U.S. Senator Ted Stevens. The order of importance for the two gentlemen probably depended on the age of the viewer.

For the children of 49th Missile Defense Battalion (Ground-based Midcourse Defense) Soldiers, it was hands down Santa of course. But the adults were equally impressed with the senator.

"It very definitely showed that our

government leadership cares about what's going on up here," said Maj. Wayne Hunt, executive officer of the 49th. "We appreciated the senator taking the time to come and share the holiday with us."

Stevens traveled with the jolly old elf during the latter's traditional sweep of Alaskan remote sites, part of the state National Guard's "Operation Santa." Since 1956, Santa and a retinue of elves, aided by Guard helicopters and staff, have delivered gifts and staples to the farthest-flung corners of the state. In a typical year, more than 3,000 youngsters receive packages of holiday cheer because of the operation.

The post's Christmas party had a huge turn-out.

"It was basically "Team Greely," said Hunt. "Contractors, Soldiers, family members — everyone showed up so it was a great community event."

Elves provided and served a holiday banquet buffet style, aided and abetted by 49th family members, who added the sweet touch by bringing home-baked desserts. Santa handed out presents to the good little children, which meant all little ones present. Gifts ranged from building block kits to dolls to school supplies.

"The kids had a wonderful time, said Maj. Charles Nesloney, who had brought his family to the event. "It was a

terrific way to start the holiday season, and the senator and our state Guard officials attending really added to the feeling of team effort."

Santa himself appeared to have a splendid visit, and thanked the Guard's efforts in helping him reach so many different children so early in the season. He still put in a plug for the old-fashioned way of doing things.

"We want folks to know that just because the Alaska Air National Guard use their mighty C-130 Hercules aircraft and the Alaska Army National Guard use their rugged UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters and the C-23B+ Sherpa fixed-wing aircraft, doesn't mean the reindeer get a free ride in any of this," said the chief elf. "Dasher, Dancer, Donner, and Blitzen are older, but they've not lost a step of quickness to get airborne at the right time when it's their turn."



Photo by Spc. Jack W. Carlson III

Senator Ted Stevens, the senior U.S. Senator from Alaska, cradles eight-month old Mariah Christenson, appropriately dressed for a Fort Greely, Alaska Christmas party, which the Senator attended with Saint Nick himself, seen to the right. Mariah is the daughter of Spc. William and Clarissa Christenson. The specialist is a member of the security forces at the Missile Defense Complex.



Photo by Maj. Laura Kenney

Three-year-old Justin Pennell, happy child on Santa's right knee, looks on in amazement at the very different reaction of his 1 year-old brother, Andrew Pennell, as father Maj. Bert Pennell tries to pose him for that must-have family picture during the 100th Missile Defense Brigade's Christmas party. The senior Pennell is the unit's adjutant.

B Company Black Dragons accept flag football challenge

By 1st Lt. James A. Manes
Unit reporter

For the first time in several years, B Company, 1st Satellite Control Battalion, put together a flag football team to play in the Fort Meade, Md., intramural flag football league.

This in itself was quite a feat for the company in that they are very different than most units at Fort Meade. B Company sustains a 24-hour-a-day, 7-day-a-week operation to fulfill its everyday real world mission.

To compete in the league each team needed seven members to play. Most teams in the league were able to field a complete offense and defense; those who were able to, had subs fill in to give one another a break.

The Black Dragons were usually only able to get seven, sometimes eight players per game. This meant that each player had to play both offense and defense (Iron man football). Although there were only a few players on the team, it took the support of the entire company to compete.

Another challenge for the Black Dragons was they never had the same players at each game, because their mission required them to be elsewhere, not to mention the many Soldiers who are working toward degrees at local universities.

The other teams had players who played every game with each other and were able to build a solid foundation of teamwork with one another.

B Company had to depend on their strong everyday unit cohesion, which fortunately transferred to the field and allowed them to be as successful as they were.

"I am very proud of the team's accomplishments and the pride that the Black Dragons displayed," said B Company Commander

Capt. Timothy J. Root. "Every Soldier who played on the team gave everything they had each and every game."

The team's record of 6-8 does not give a fitting indication of the team's performance or potential.

Another positive for the Black Dragons was their use of the additional time for physical training, which helped tremendously when it came time to take their PT tests.

The average PT score for the company increased from 264 to

266 out of a possible 300.

The Black Dragons are now starting a basketball team to play in the upcoming intramural league.

"I look forward to supporting the basketball team with the same passion as the football team," Root said.

The Black Dragons hope to build on the success of the football team and use the same drive, dedication and sacrifice of the entire company to be just as successful on the basketball court.



Photo by Spc. Stacylyn De La Hoz

The B Company Black Dragons set up a play just before the ball is snapped on a long scoring drive. The team participated in the Fort Meade, Md., intramural flag football league.