

The Eagle

United States Army Space and Missile Defense Command

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Services explain realignment, closure changes

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The services have used the base realignment and closure process to realign active duty and reserve forces to better face the threats of the 21st century, Pentagon officials said May 13.

As part of this recommendation, the SMDC Headquarters component will

relocate from Arlington, Va., to Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

Each service worked closely with the other services and new joint cross-service groups to make sure the process produced a basing structure that will support the forces needed today.

On the active duty side, the Army has used the process to place brigade combat teams and to relocate units returning

from being based overseas. The service also has used the process to improve joint training and basing. For example, the 7th Special Forces Group at Fort Bragg, N.C., will move to Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. Army officials said this move will improve joint training and ultimately joint operations.

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Photo by Holly McClain, Huntsville Chamber of Commerce

Lt. Gen. Larry J. Dodgen, left, talks with Huntsville, Ala., Mayor Loretta Spencer during a break at this year's visit to the Capitol by the Huntsville Chamber of Commerce May 9. The Chamber of Commerce visitors received information briefings from Dodgen as well as Dr. Charles McQueary, Homeland Security undersecretary for science and technology, Department of Homeland Security; Maj. Gen. Mitchell H. Stevenson, deputy chief of staff for Logistics and Operations, U.S. Army Materiel Command and Knight Kiplinger, editor and chief executive officer, the Kiplinger News Letter.

U.S. Strategic Command transforming, decentralizing

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Along with the rest of the military, the U.S. Strategic Command has been transforming. The transformation has incorporated old missions, added new ones and worked to make the command more flexible and agile for the 21st century.

STRATCOM, as it is called, has its headquarters at Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha, Neb. The command maintains the U.S. nuclear deterrent. But since changes in the Unified Command Plan in 2002, it has gained a number of new missions.

These new missions called for the command to make fundamental changes in the

way it has conducted business, said Army Maj. Gen. Kevin Campbell, the command's chief of staff.

In 2002, the command received four additional missions: missile defense; global strike; information operations; and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance. The command retained, of course, the nuclear-deterrence mission. Officials added another mission — combating weapons of mass destruction — last year.

“Those missions, by and large, were about planning, coordinating and integrating,” Campbell said. “Execution is when directed — especially for global strike.”

Since Pentagon leaders announced the changes in

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Wall replaces ground in 'groundbreaking' effort

By Sgt. 1st Class Dennis Beebe
SMDC Public Affairs

SCHRIEVER AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — A whack of a sledgehammer May 2 started what is being called the deconstruction phase of the facility that will house the Joint Functional Component Command - Integrated Missile Defense at the Joint National Integration Center here.

“We have compressed this project down from a year to two, 120-day periods,” said Kirby Brown, director of the Space and Missile Defense Future Warfare Center's Battle Lab in Colorado Springs, Colo. Brown literally broke ground, or wall, as he swung the first sledgehammer in a ceremony that marked the start of the build-out phase of the operation.

“We took the first 120 days to lay the plans and set up the architectural details,” Brown said. “This next 120-day period will be for the construction of this 13,500 square foot facility which will be comprised of both the Operations Center and the Staff Center. Approximately 120 folks will be working here when it is finished on or

near the first of September. New Equipment Training (NET) will commence very soon after that.

“I just wanted to come out here and take the first whack to get this started. Smashing a wall may be as much effort as I get to expend on this project other than signing checks and worrying about the schedules.”

The facility at Schriever Air Force Base is one of several being built around the nation to support U.S. Strategic Command missions. STRATCOM exercises command authority over four joint functional component commands, also known as JFCCs. These commands are responsible for the day-to-day planning and execution of primary mission areas:

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Kirby Brown, director of the Space and Missile Defense Future Warfare Center's Battle Lab in Colorado Springs, Colo., swings his sledgehammer into the wall, signifying that the demolition and build out phase of establishing the Joint Functional Component Command-Integrated Missile Defense Center in Colorado has begun.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Dennis Beebe

The Command Corner



Lt. Gen. Larry J. Dodgen
Commanding General



CSM David L. Lady
Command Sergeant Major

In my March column, I noted the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) will likely be a protracted one. Our responsibility to support joint warfighters is all-encompassing. Not only is it vital for us to provide relevant and timely services and support, we must also have a comprehensive program to reduce costs on the institutional side of the Army. Reducing costs will free up resources that are essential to supporting our nation's warfighters in the GWOT.

The Secretary of the Army recently initiated a business transformation process to parallel the Army's major force transformation, focused around a concept called "Lean" that will enhance more efficient and effective use of resources. Starting this month, the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command (USASMDC/ARSTRAT) will initiate a program to implement Lean. Implementing Lean at this time is not only advantageous, it is essential.

The Army is at war and transforming. Lean thinking is a proven way to help us navigate through the changes we face because of the GWOT, Army Transformation and our responsibilities in support of U.S. Strategic Command. We are also likely entering a more fiscally constrained environment than what we were used to in the past.

Lean provides us the tools to make fact-based decisions. It lets leaders "lead," by championing change and teaching others to find the best answers. Lean will optimize cycle time and streamline processes. It will assist us in identifying areas where we can become more productive and efficient and get relevant products into the hands of warfighters faster. Lean will also enable us to focus our leadership, management and technology on our most critical systems and processes. Learning to use best business practices such as Lean will help us support joint warfighters, innovate and seek continuous measurable improvement. Lean brings a needed sense of urgency to improving our processes.

Lean deployment requires a culture of innovation and continuous improvement. We will be taking the smart path with Lean. Our Lean implementation effort is aggressive and demanding, but it's the right thing to do to meet the challenges we face in supporting joint warfighters in the GWOT and achieving our mission in the most effective manner possible.

We will deploy "Lean Champions" in each of our Major Subordinate Elements and the staff. These champions will be appointed by the MSE commander/director and the chief of staff for the staff. They will be proactive leaders and the focal point for Lean implementation within their respective organizations. We will begin formal Lean training with our senior leaders. I'm going through the training myself. In short order, all SMDC/ARSTRAT leaders and managers will receive Lean training.

At the last senior leader meeting on April 8, I directed our MSEs and the staff to select one process for "Leaning" and to report their results to me by the end of the year. At the executive training session to be held this month, MSE directors/commanders and the chief of staff will identify and prioritize all "value streams" in their respective organizations and select the value stream to analyze. After that, Leaning of processes will be a continuous event.

Lean has a successful record of accomplishment of improving efficiency in the Army, and my own experiences with it have been extremely positive. In the UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter program, we significantly improved quality, while at the same time reduced cycle time and cost. But, Lean is a people-driven concept and to be successful, it must be embraced and aggressively applied by the work force. It is a change in the way we do business, and I know that change can be stressful and

continued

must revisit the topic of Noncommissioned Officer Education System (NCOES) attendance, in a time of war. The backlog for Army NCOES courses is steadily growing and will only increase without focused attention from leaders at all levels. The most recent Army data indicates 27,748 Soldiers require the Primary Leadership Development Course and 26,206 noncommissioned officers require the Basic NCO Course.

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston is communicating the same message through the CSM/NCO chain. Stop movement, extended deployments, post-deployment stabilization, and pre-deployment training have restricted eligible Soldiers and NCOs from attending Professional Military Education courses ... all this makes it difficult for most major commands to fill the school quotas. Notwithstanding, this command has eligible personnel available to attend resident courses. SMDC can overfill its quotas.

The Training and Doctrine Command has dramatically adapted courses to ensure that NCOs receive the most relevant training and education possible; training that is adapted to the Afghani and Iraqi campaigns. Current lessons learned are incorporated into every level of NCOES, PLDC to the Sergeants Major Course. Technical instruction has been thoroughly reviewed and revised to ensure NCOs are better trained combat leaders when they return to their units.

Waiving NCOES requirements for promotion to the next grade was and is the right thing to do for our Soldiers, but this decision was made because we leaders promised to ensure that the NCO Corps still completed its professional development requirements under NCOES. Of note, NCOs with OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM/ OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM experience surveyed during Basic NCO and Advanced NCO Courses in FY04 did not support providing constructive credit for these courses, citing the enormous value of sharing diverse operational experiences in the classroom and on situational exercise lanes.

Nonpromotable Soldiers are now eligible to attend NCOES. I expect every leader, and especially first sergeants and command sergeants major, to be aggressive and send eligible Soldiers to school. Promotable Soldiers will not be deferred from an NCOES course for any reason but family emergency or operational deployment.

All fully eligible Soldiers will be placed on unit Order of Merit Lists for the particular course, whether they are promotable or not. First sergeants and command sergeants major will know each Soldier's eligibility and readiness to attend the next level of NCOES. This command can request extra funding from the Army G-3, to enable even more Soldiers to attend NCOES courses. It is imperative that SMDC commanders and senior NCOs emphasize NCOES course attendance to fill every available seat.

The current operational demands on our Army are great, but we must continue to build the Future Force today. The first sergeants and command sergeants major who will lead our formations for the next two decades are the great young Soldiers who stand in our ranks today ... we all know that. They must attend their requisite NCOES courses to develop fully as adaptive, agile, innovative and self-aware leaders.

The future of the Army is in our hands. We must not fail to develop our Soldiers into the best possible successors to the NCO Corps of today.

ON POINT!

Commander's Column continued

demanding. However, given the quality of our work force I am confident that Lean will be a full success here in SMDC/ARSTRAT. I look forward to receiving your full support of this important process.

SECURE THE HIGH GROUND!

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Army Posture Statement provides guidance, overview

The 2005 Army Posture Statement provides an overview of today's Army. It describes how the Army is executing four overarching, interrelated strategies needed to accomplish the enduring mission.

These strategies are:

- Relevant, Ready Landpower to support the Combatant Commanders and the Joint Force to sustain the full range of our global commitments.
- Training and Equipping Soldiers to

Serve as Warriors and Growing Adaptive Leaders who are highly competent, flexible and able to deal with 21st challenges they now confront.

- Attaining a Quality of Life and Well-Being for Our People that match the quality of service they provide.
- Providing Infrastructure to Enable the Force to Fulfill its Strategic Roles by establishing and maintaining the infrastructure and information network required to develop, generate, train and sustain the force.

The Army's strategic goal:

- To remain relevant and ready by providing the Joint Force with essential capabilities to dominate across the full range of operations.

The Army's mission:

- To provide necessary forces and capabilities to the Combatant Commanders in support of National Security and Defense Strategies.

To read the Army Posture Statement in its entirety, go to www.army.mil/aps/05.

What We Think

The Eagle asks:

On Mother's Day or Father's Day, what do you do to show them how special they are?



Capt. Gary Prater
ARSST Team 3 Leader
Colorado Springs, Colo.

I get my wife a gift certificate for a day spa complete with facial and massage to pamper her for a couple hours. I also take care of the kids, and I cook dinner as well on that day.



Jon Busick
Blue Force Tracking
Colorado Springs, Colo.

Usually phone calls, cards and flowers because for the past 23 months my wife has been deployed twice to Iraq. First time she went with the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment and this last time she has been with a Military Police unit from Texas. She just got back and now I am buying us a house so we can settle down with our three kids. That will be her Mother's Day present this year.



Ken Sims
Environmental Engineer
Engineering Office
Kwajalein Atoll

My father is deceased so I honor him by showing love and respect for my mother, not only on Mother's Day, but every day of the year. It is hard being so far away from her, but at 84 she still inspires with her zest for life as well as her faith, courage and energy. As they say, "She is a hoot."



Sgt. Matthew Zellmer
1st Space Company JTAGS
Colorado Springs, Colo.

I get my wife lots and lots of red roses, a huge bouquet of flowers. That is my standard every year and she loves them.



Mike J. Lackey
MACOM SSO/Security
Manager
Arlington, Va.

On both Mother's and Father's Day I ensure that at least I purchase and mail a serious card to them reflecting on what my parents mean to me, and if I am able to do so, telephone them. I come from a very close family, and even though they live in Seattle (where I am originally from) I let them know that I appreciate what they have done for me in the past, and what they do for me now.



Sgt. 1st Class Travis D. Tikka
Military Police Operations
Sergeant
Kwajalein Atoll

I send my Mother roses, call her, and say "I love you Mom!" I have been in the U.S. Army for over 21 years and have not been able to actually be there to tell her I love her in person on her special day. My father passed away April 21, 2004, but I do stop by the cemetery and tell him I love him very much.

Kick off celebrates new environmental impact capabilities

By Kim Gillespie
SMDC Public Affairs

With a backdrop proclaiming "NASA and DOD — together understanding and outperforming to benefit America," representatives from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Marshall Space Flight Center; the U.S. Army's Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command; Aviation and Missile Research, Development and Engineering Center; and

Defense Command; the Missile Defense Agency; the Naval Surface Warfare Center; and the Naval Air Warfare Center worked together with NASA to bring the Hydrometeoroid Impact Facility to Marshall Space Flight Center on Redstone Arsenal, Ala., after AT&T Government Solutions decided to donate the facility to the DOD. The common denominator for these organizations was the unique test and evaluation capability its two hypervelocity guns provide. The HIF was

endorsed this move and plan to utilize this now government-owned national asset.

SMDC became involved with this initiative through the Composites and Advanced Materials (CAM) Program administered through its Technical Center, which provides materials characterization testing for MDA and directly supports the new Kill Vehicle/Kinetic Interceptor Center of Excellence. "It's part of our collaborative efforts with AMRDEC to develop and insert new materials technology in support of improved performance

instrumental in developing the capabilities of the Hydrometeoroid Impact Facility.

Adler, later addressing the group attending the kickoff ceremony, said: "I have been involved with the development of this facility since the 1970s and its inherent capabilities for research and development in assessing particle impact effects on missiles and flight system materials are critical to both DOD and NASA. However, while this facility provides a useful means of supporting current system requirements, continuous improvements and modifications must be performed to support the future needs for both military systems and NASA Space Exploration. This requires a commitment from DOD and NASA to support the mission for developing systems with adverse weather encounter capability."

The kickoff also included a tour of the Impact Testing Facility's Gun Room, where visitors were able to view Marshall Space Flight Center's Light Gas Gun, new Small Ballistic Gas Gun and projections for the anticipated installation of the Hydrometeoroid Impact Facility which includes a Hydrometeor Impact gun, a Single/Multiple Particle Impact gun and an Exploding Wire Device.

The word heard most often at the kick off event was "opportunity." While NASA-Army collaborations were most often mentioned, private industry has also expressed interest in having access to the environmental impact capabilities to assess weather encounter performance of material technologies in support of military and commercial applications. These interests include missile radomes, infrared windows and thermal protection systems as well as aviation systems addressing helicopter rotor blade erosion. Specific to NASA, Orbiter has also been notified of the capability for potential rain, ice and sand impact testing.

The excitement of the kick-off was focused on future collaborations and multiple uses of the facility ranging from missiles systems, to space and aviation applications. But King brought the focus back to what was most important: "Our work is benefiting Americans today."



Photo by Kim Gillespie

George Snyder, left, deputy director of the Applied Sensors Guidance and Electronics Directorate, U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Research, Development and Engineering Center, Michael C. Schexnayder, deputy to the commander for Research, Development, and Acquisition, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command, view equipment and exhibits at NASA MSFC's Impact Testing Facility. The visit was part of an official "kick off" of the Impact Testing Facility's new environmental impact capabilities presented to NASA by the Department of Defense and AT&T Government Solutions, Inc., on May 12.

the U.S. Navy's Naval Surface Warfare Center, "kicked off" the new environmental impact capabilities presented to NASA by the DOD and AT&T Government Solutions, Inc. May 12. The kickoff event opening was held at Marshall Center's new Propulsion Research Center Exhibit Room, and concluded at the Marshall Center's Impact Testing Facility.

"The collaborative effort between NASA and DOD has been great and the relationships we have here are great ... and this facility will extend that relationship even further," said David King, director, NASA Marshall Center. King also emphasized that NASA's return to flight depends on initiatives and collaborations such as this for "testing its margins."

The U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Research, Development and Engineering Center; the U.S. Army Space and Missile

recognized as the only facility of its kind in the U.S. having the capability to support the DOD high velocity rain impact test and evaluation to simulate adverse weather effects on missile systems.

Michael C. Schexnayder, deputy to the commander for Research, Development, and Acquisition, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command, described the effort to save this "national asset" as truly a "bottom up" initiative by the engineers interested in preserving the capability. He noted that rather than letting this opportunity slip by, the collaborative effort has created new opportunities for the organizations involved.

"Both NASA and SMDC have space applications in mind," Schexnayder said. Schexnayder also mentioned the possibilities the HIF offers for cost efficiencies as services, and NASA has

the Applied Sensors Guidance and Electronics Directorate, AMRDEC, stressed the importance of investing in technology that can be used to validate engineers' estimates about what's going to happen, a counterpart to investments in simulation and modeling. He identified how this added capability complements the existing capabilities of the Army and University of Alabama Huntsville collaborative Aerophysics Research Center on Redstone Arsenal to provide hypervelocity impact testing and analysis throughout the full spectrum of velocity and impact scenarios. No other organizations have the exceptional capabilities and knowledge achieved through the collaboration, within such a close geographical area. Snyder also paid tribute to Dr. William Adler, Research Professor of Materials and Engineering Science Materials Department, University of California, Santa Barbara, Calif. Adler was

and/or affordability for missiles and missile defense systems. This facility provides important test capability coupled to our existing modeling and simulation core competency that supports the CAM Program goals and allows us to better support our MDA customer," explained Doug Deason, CAM program manager and deputy division chief, Advanced Systems, SMDC.

George Snyder, deputy director of

Groundbreaking

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space and global strike; intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance; network warfare; integrated missile defense; and the recently added mission of combating weapons of mass destruction.

The STRATCOM headquarters' mission is to provide command and control, to

integrate planning and ensure mission accomplishment and advocate for resources to fulfill component requirements.

"The team that is working this project has been amazing," Brown said. "They have really come together with no friction, driving forward with a total team effort

where everybody is unified to get this done for STRATCOM and Lt. Gen. (Larry) Dodgen. I am confident that we will get through this next part and finish pretty close to our set schedule. I know that when it does get finished, the folks working here will have a very high-speed place to do their work."

Holocaust Remembrance Day

Survivor shares his memories, message

By Ed White
SMDC Public Affairs

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — His message resonates through time and space. As he says, "hate is something that has to be learned."

Jack Adler, a teenage Holocaust survivor, spoke at the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command's "Days of Remembrance" celebration April 28. Adler detailed the trials he went through in surviving imprisonment, slave labor and near death at the hands of the Nazi SS forces, his captors and tormentors. A mere 10 years old when the Germans began rounding up Jews in 1939 and sending them to concentration and death camps, Adler survived by his youth, strength and wits.

Forced to wear the yellow Star of David, the boy was marked and eventually forced into the Jewish ghetto in Pabianice, Poland, where his family owned and operated a successful textile business. He lost his mother and older brother in the ghetto.

"Many people became sick and died because the daily ration was a piece of bread and some soup," he said.

The survivors of the Pabianice ghetto were shipped to Lodz, Poland, near his birthplace. This ghetto was larger, and it became even more difficult to survive. In 1944 the Lodz ghetto was liquidated. Adler, his father and two sisters were sent to Auschwitz-Birkenau. Both sisters were murdered in Auschwitz.

He and his father were selected to go to the work camp at Kaufering concentration camp and then to Dachau, Germany. As the war was drawing to a close, about 10,000 Jews were herded out of the camp by their Nazi guards. They were separated into groups of 2,000 and each day some of each group were executed. There were only about 4,000 living prisoners in the group on May 1 when the 3rd U.S. Army

liberated Adler.

"I had double pneumonia and would not have survived another day," he said. "I spent three months in the hospital and then was sent to the U.S. to be taken into a foster home in Chicago, Ill."

Only five of his extended family, numbering 83 before the Holocaust, survived.

"My father died six weeks before the camp was liberated. I was the only member of my immediate family to survive," Adler said.

Adler shares his story matter of factly,

however, the impact on his audience was tremendous. The message of his tale is to encourage all people to treat each other with basic human dignity and put an end to all forms of hatred.

"Whether we like it or not," he said, "there is only one race of people, the human race. We all need to observe the golden rule and treat each other with dignity and respect."

Having survived the largest mass murder in the history of the human species, Adler is uniquely qualified to bring this message to the world.



Photo by Ed White

Robert Howard, left, Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, Jack Adler and Col. Craig Whitehill visit after the presentation given by Adler, a Holocaust survivor.

STRATCOM

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2002, command officials have been doing the legwork on "developing the concepts for how we thought we would do these missions," Campbell said.

One aspect was to develop a new entity in the command — joint force component commands. These commands are a new construct and direction for STRATCOM, Campbell said. The nuclear mission will remain at the headquarters, but the component commands have migrated.

Campbell said the command has worked out a concept of operations that cuts across the command and has included input from the other combatant commands. "We're not at goal, yet but we have about a 60 percent (solution)," he said. The general said there is consensus on "how we do these missions, internally to STRATCOM and externally with the other combatant commanders."

Campbell said the command has established four joint force component commands to take on missile defense; space and global strike; network warfare; and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance.

The component commander for integrated missile defense is Army Lt. Gen. Larry J. Dodgen, who also commands the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command, Arlington, Va.

The space and global strike component is commanded by Air Force Lt. Gen. Bruce Carlson, 8th Air Force commander, at Barksdale Air Force Base, La.

Air Force Lt. Gen. Michael V. Hayden, director of the National Security Agency, commands the network warfare component. NSA is based at Fort Meade, Md.

The component commander for intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance is Navy Vice Adm. Lowell E. Jacoby, director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, headquartered at the Pentagon.

Campbell said it is important for people to remember that it "is not the director of DIA or the director of NSA that is in command of the JFCCs. These are separate and distinct hats that those gents wear for us."

The command still is working on the combating weapons of mass destruction mission and officials expect a decision sometime this month, Campbell said.

And STRATCOM still is working with the various component commanders in standing up the new organizations. Campbell said the parent command is scrubbing the lists to give the component commands joint billets. "The only source for the billets was Headquarters, Strategic Command," he said. "We've gone through a series of boards to identify requirements."

He said that in the end, the command's headquarters will be much smaller than the more than 2,000 members of the staff now in Omaha. And the reduction will force the

command to think differently. The nuclear mission, again, will remain unchanged and at the headquarters. But the command does not have the personnel to do that in the other areas, Campbell explained.

The general said this new organization also will force a cultural change. "We were an organization like an automobile factory, in that you placed raw materials in one end and out the other end pops a car," he said. "We were used to that, be it plans or whatever. The changing culture is you have to let go of one rope and grab on to another," he said. "(There) may be a period where you don't have your hands firmly on either of the ropes."

He said he believes taking the manpower positions out of the headquarters forces the issue. "You have to decentralize," he said.

The new construct creates bridges between the agency world and the combatant command world. "That was our vision," he said.

SMDC scientist receives Meritorious Rank Award

By Debra Valine
SMDC Public Affairs

Like many scientists, he quietly goes about his daily job looking for answers to perplexing questions, not expecting much in the way of recognition. For one scientist at the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command, his actions spoke volumes to the director of the Technical Center, who nominated him for the Presidential Meritorious Rank Award.

Dr. Bob McMillan, the senior research scientist for space in SMDC's Technical Center in Huntsville, Ala., received the award in a ceremony May 9 at the Pentagon. Jess Granone, director of SMDC's Technical Center, nominated him.

"I am so proud of Bob McMillan and all that he has done for SMDC and our people," Granone said. "He has established several self-development opportunities and has developed several state-of-the-art concepts for air and missile defense. Most of all, Bob is a model of integrity. Everyone should aspire to be like him when it comes to family and the people with whom we work."

Each year, the President recognizes a small group of career senior executives and high-performing senior career employees for exceptional long-term accomplishments. Those who receive this award are strong leaders, professionals and scientists who achieve results and consistently demonstrate strength,

integrity, industry and a relentless commitment to excellence in public service.

The Meritorious Rank Award is McMillan's highest level award to date, but is by no means his only accomplishment.

"When I worked at Georgia Tech, I received an outstanding research award," McMillan said. "Out of about 600 professionals, they gave out two awards. I got one of them." McMillan also is a Fellow in the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and a member of the Optical Society of America and the Society of Photo-Optical Instrumentation Engineers.

"Being named an IEEE Fellow is a real honor," said McMillan, who holds a doctorate in physics from the University of Florida in Gainesville. "It made a big difference in my career." Being named an IEEE Fellow led McMillan to a job at the Air Force Research Lab at Griffis Air Force Base, in Rome, N.Y. He worked on concealed weapon detection and radar and infrared sensors as an Intergovernmental Personnel Act employee. "It was one of the most interesting times I spent before coming to work at SMDC," he said.

Following his appointment to the Air Force Research Lab in 1998, McMillan retired from his position at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta and accepted a position with SMDC. At SMDC, his primary duty is to provide technical guidance on issues related to radar, infrared, laser and visible sensors used in space and missile defense platforms and systems.

"At Georgia Tech, I was the program manager for a radar system that was the highest frequency coherent microwave radar system built until that time," said McMillan, who carried his interest in radars to SMDC.

"I am a physicist by education, but an engineer by experience," said the Sylacauga, Ala., native. "I got into radars within the past 10-15 years. I think I probably like working with radars best."

But his experience is varied. As a physicist, McMillan has contributed to the understanding of the basic physics of semiconductors and laser materials, which was used to design lasers and other optical devices in actual systems used for warfighter applications.

He has published more than 150 articles in journals and conference papers. He also submitted four patent disclosures on radar and infrared polarimetry techniques.

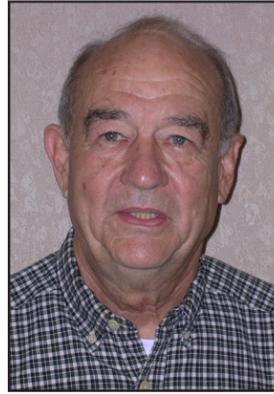


Photo by Debra Valine

Dr. Bob McMillan, the senior research scientist for space in the Technical Center at the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command in Huntsville, Ala., received the Presidential Meritorious Rank Award in a ceremony May 9 at the Pentagon.

Realignment

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The Army BRAC recommendations call for three brigade combat teams to return from overseas and move to Fort Bliss, Texas. Support units will return from overseas duty and be based at Fort Bragg; Fort Carson, Colo.; Fort Knox, Ky.; and Fort Riley, Kan. The plan also calls for a brigade to return from Korea to Fort Carson.

On the reserve component side, the Army will close 176 Army Reserve centers nationwide and build 125 new "multicomponent" armed forces reserve centers. "We're proposing to close some of our smaller 211 Army National Guard facilities and relocate their tenants and units into these new 125 armed forces reserve centers," said Gen. Richard Cody, Army vice chief of staff, during a Pentagon news conference.

Cody said the changes will help the Army transform the Army National Guard into brigade combat teams like those in the active component, and restructure the Army Reserve into the combat-support and combat-service-support structure that mirrors the active component. The restructuring fully embraces the Title 31 responsibilities that the governors and state adjutant generals have for homeland security and homeland defense, Cody said.

Army Lt. Gen. H Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, said the

changes should make the Guard more responsive. "At the end of the day, the Army National Guard will be a more ready, reliable and accessible force, and we'll be able to leverage the joint capabilities of both the Army and the Air National Guard so that the governors can protect their citizenry here at home better than they can now," he said. The changes, he added, will allow the states and territories to "do a better job providing Army and Air Guard units to the Army and Air Force, to the combatant commanders overseas."

Blum clarified a statement attributed to him that seemed to suggest he agreed with the notion that governors should challenge DOD's right to close National Guard bases. "All I said was governors ought to be interested and involved in what happens to their guardsmen," he said following the news conference. "The governors are the commanders of those troops."

Although the impact of the BRAC recommendations has been relatively light for the Marine Corps, officials are calling it a positive step in terms of reducing excess infrastructure and improving operational efficiencies.

One of the most significant changes involves centralizing its reserve elements and their associated management functions. According to Maj. Nat Fahy, a spokesman for Headquarters Marine Corps,

the recommendations call for consolidating the Marine Forces Reserve headquarters and the Marine Corps Reserve Support Command Element of Mobilization Command in Missouri to Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base New Orleans.

In addition to centralizing management of reserve elements and their associated management functions, this move will enhance joint-service interoperability, Fahy said.

Another recommendation involves consolidating correctional capabilities at Naval Support Activity Northwest Annex in Chesapeake, Va., and Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif.

Navy officials said the BRAC process attempts to set the infrastructure for the next 20 years. Navy officials said the BRAC recommendations go hand in hand with other major Navy transformation initiatives under way, including the Human Capital Strategy Plan, Sea Enterprise and Fleet Response Plan.

"A major part of this BRAC has been to (evaluate) excesses, try and look forward in years in terms of the programs that we'll deliver, the type of ships and submarines that we'll have in the fleet, and to try and match the infrastructure with a consideration for surge with that future naval force," Adm. Bob Willard, vice chief of naval

operations, said.

Willard stressed that across the range of Navy installations — the ports, the submarine bases, the industrial infrastructure — military value was "foremost in our consideration, and trying to get the size right of these installations relative to the fleet."

Lt. Christine Ventresca, a Navy spokeswoman, said the recommendations, once implemented within the Navy, will save more than \$1.5 billion a year.

Officials said the recommendations will make the Air Force more capable, efficient and effective while helping transform the Air Force to better meet future threats.

According to Air Force spokeswoman Shirley Curry, closing and realigning bases will consolidate aircraft and operations into larger squadrons, optimizing critical resources.

The BRAC recommendations affect 115 installations and facilities and involve closing 12. Officials said they end flying operations at 28 installations and reduce excess airfield infrastructure by 37 percent and excess building and facility infrastructure by 79 percent.

For more information about Base Realignment and Closure, go to <http://www.dod.mil/brac>.

(Donna Miles of American Forces Press Service collaborated on this article.)

Civilian News

Army Suggestion Program looking for ideas

The Employee Involvement Association (EIA) presented the EIA Anniversary Award to the Army Suggestion Program last year in recognition of the Army's long-term commitment to this valuable program. The Army participates in the Employee Involvement Association to continuously "benchmark" its suggestion program. The EIA is a non-profit service organization comprised of members from the public and private sectors dedicated to the worth, contributions and benefits of employee suggestion systems and other employee involvement processes. In FY03, the Army Suggestion Program received 2,301 suggestions; adopted 622; saved the Army an estimated \$13.3 Million and awarded \$116,000 to those who made suggestions. To submit your ideas and perhaps earn a cash award, log onto the Army Suggestion Program's Web site at https://armsuggestions.army.mil/services/asp/asp_home.cfm. You will need your Army Knowledge Online user name and password.

New TSP option announced

Rep. Jon Porter, R-Nev., chairman of the House Subcommittee on the Federal Workforce and Agency Organization, Rep. Chris Van Hollen, D-Md., and Rep. Tom Davis, R-Va., chairman of the House Government Reform Committee, introduced in April the "REITS" Act, which would add a real estate investment trust (REIT) fund option to the five existing funds in the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP). The goal of the legislation is to improve the retirement benefit available to federal employees. It will give TSP participants the choice to diversify their TSP portfolio with a real estate option to improve their long-term investment outlook for retirement.

TSP participants who are civilian, members of Ready Reserve can suspend loan payments

If you are a civilian TSP participant with an outstanding TSP loan and are placed in nonpay status to perform military service, make sure your agency provides the TSP with documentation to certify your status and suspend loan payments. The Internal Revenue Code allows the TSP to suspend loan payments for all participants placed in nonpay status for up to one year of nonpay. However, participants placed in nonpay status to perform military service for more than one year are authorized suspension of loan payments for the entire period of military service. For more information, see the Fact Sheet "Effect of Nonpay Status on TSP Participation".

New per diem rates announced

After reviewing hotel rates in 12 states, the General Services Administration (GSA) decided that the per diem given federal employees is not enough. The specific locations are in the following states: Arizona, Florida, Maryland, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Washington. Starting with travel on or after May 6, there will be new per diem rates. The new rates can be found at www.gsa.gov/perdiem. GSA made this announcement in the April 26 issue of the Federal Register.

Thrift Savings Plan open season continues

Civilian and military employees can sign up for, or change, their Thrift Savings Plan contribution amounts during the "open season" that continues through June 30. This open season applies only to regular TSP contributions. It does not include TSP catch-up contributions, as they are not tied to open seasons. Contribution elections and/or changes made between now and June 11 will take effect June 12, for service members and civilians. Changes made on or after June 12 will become effective at the beginning of the pay period following the one in which the election is made for civilians and the following month for military. Public Law 108-469, signed into law Dec. 21, 2004, will eliminate TSP open seasons. The Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board is implementing this law July 1. As a result, beginning July 1, civilian employees and service members may start, change, stop or resume contributions at any time. For civilians, the elections will be effective at the beginning of the pay period following the one in which submitted, and for military members elections will be effective the following month. For more information, visit the TSP Web site at <http://www.tsp.gov>.

Military News

Registration for 230th Army Birthday Ball under way

Registration is now open for the 230th Army Birthday Ball. This year's theme is "Call to Duty — 230 Years of Service to Our Nation." The ball will be at the Hilton Washington Hotel on June 18. All Army members, family members, Department of the Army civilians, retirees and veterans are invited for an elegant evening of dining, dancing and entertainment. Formal attire is required. Visit AKO at www.us.army.mil for more information and reservations. Seats are limited.

Spouses to Teachers Program unveiled

Spouses to Teachers, developed from a program to help service members become teachers, is helping military spouses already working as teachers to become certified in a different state. The program, now being tested in California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Texas and Virginia, offers several forms of assistance and financial help up to \$600 per person for testing and certification costs. Other areas of assistance include counseling and guidance to help people become certified, determine their employment potential and look for jobs. A Web site at <http://www.spousestoteachers.com> has been established to provide additional information. The site includes phone numbers, addresses and e-mail for contacts in the six states. Eligibility for the program is limited to spouses of active duty personnel, spouses of selected Reserve or National Guard members and spouses of members of the Individual Ready Reserve who have been called to active duty. For more information visit the Military Spouse Career Center at <http://www.military.com/spouse>.

Free admission to Sea World and Busch Gardens parks

As part of its "Heroes Salute" to honor the U.S. Armed Services, Anheuser-Busch is offering free single-day admission to its Sea World and Busch Gardens theme parks to active duty military, active reservists, U.S. Coast Guard, National Guardsmen and up to three dependents throughout 2005. All active duty, active reserve, ready reserve service members or National Guard are entitled to free admission under the program. Service members can register online at <http://www.herosalute.com/> or at the entrance plaza of participating parks. A DOD photo ID is required.

'Operation: Military Kids' launches

Operation: Military Kids, a collaborative effort between the Army and America's communities, has launched to help children and teens of military service members cope with the stresses and changes a parent's deployment brings into their lives. The program is open to all military connected children but is geared toward those children of the 150,000 deployed National Guard and Reserve members. These children may never have identified themselves as military kids until a parent's deployment rendered them "suddenly military." OMK programs are currently established in 20 states highly affected by military deployments — Alabama, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Missouri, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and Washington. For more information on the OMK initiative go to <http://www.operationmilitarykids.org>.

TRICARE makes numerous changes

TRICARE Standard beneficiaries who live within a 40-mile radius of a military medical treatment facility (MTF) will no longer be required to obtain a non-availability statement or pre-authorization from an MTF before receiving inpatient care (other than mental health services) or maternity care from a civilian provider. The rule exempting these beneficiaries was published in the Federal Register April 12. DOD, however, is still authorized to make exceptions under certain conditions through a waiver process. TRICARE also announced a new pharmacy Formulary Search Tool, which allows beneficiaries to find medication-specific information using either the drug name or medical condition. The Formulary Search Tool can be accessed through the TRICARE Web site at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy>.

Awards/Promotions

Civilian Promotions

Gwyne Y. Copeland, GS-11, Kwajalein Atoll, USAKA/Reagan Test Site, Directorate of Business Management
Paul L. Hester, GS-14, Huntsville, Technical Center, Data Analysis and Exploitation Directorate
Cynthia A. Nelson, GS-11, Huntsville, Resource Management, G-8, Program and Policy Division
Theresa A. Palazzolo, GS-9, Huntsville, PARC/Office of Contracting and Acquisition Management, Acquisition Management Division
David A. Parsons, GS-13, Huntsville, Technical Center, Test and Evaluation Directorate Matrix
Christina R. Ryan, GS-14, Huntsville, Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization Office
Terri Lynn Washburn, GS-15, Huntsville, PARC/Office of Contracting and Acquisition Management, Command Support Service Branch

Military Promotions

Capt. Alyssa Aarhaus, Colorado Springs, 1st Space Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Company
Capt. John Brock, Colorado Springs, Deputy Commander for Operations Office
Sgt. Daniel Coggins, Colorado Springs, 1st Space Battalion, 2nd Space Company
Spc. Berek Dollinger, Colorado Springs, 1st Space Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Company
Spc. Donald Eckels, Camp Roberts, Calif., 1st Satellite Control Battalion, D Company
Chief Warrant Officer 3 Christopher Hall, Colorado Springs, 1st Space Battalion, 1st Space Company
Sgt. Nathan Hutchison, Fort Detrick, Md., 1st Satellite Control Battalion, A Company
Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jerry Labrake, Fort Detrick, Md., 1st Space Battalion, 1st Space Company, Detachment A
Spc. Roy Lumsden, Fort Detrick, Md., 1st Satellite Control Battalion, A Company
Sgt. David McQuay, Colorado Springs, 1st Space Battalion, 2nd Space Company
Capt. Lauren Miller, Colorado Springs, 1st Space Battalion, 2nd Space Company

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jeffrey Robinson, 1st Space Battalion, 1st Space Company, Detachment B

On-the-Spot Cash Awards

Corinne M. Brown, Kwajalein Atoll, USAKA/Reagan Test Site, Directorate of Information Management
Harriet R. Clark, Huntsville, Resource Management, G-8, Program Support Division
William T. Coffey, Colorado Springs, Future Warfare Center, Space and Missile Defense Battle Lab, Experiments and Transformation Division
Harvey A. Falk, Arlington, Future Warfare Center, Directorate of Combat Development
Doris H. Ingram, Huntsville, Resource Management, G-8, Program Support Division
Mark T. Little, Huntsville, Technical Center, Directed Energy Division Matrix
Jeri K. Manley, Huntsville, Technical Center, Test and Evaluation Directorate
Norberto Soto-Fuentes, Arlington, Office of the Chief of Staff
Patrick A. Tilley, Huntsville, Technical Center, Data Analysis and Exploitation Directorate

Special Act Awards

Johnny E. Baldwin, Huntsville, Technical Center, Advanced Technology Directorate
William Betsayad, Huntsville, Technical Center, Advanced Technology Directorate
Bobby W. Cooley, Huntsville, Technical Center, Systems Directorate Matrix
Mary A. Hill, Huntsville, Technical Center, Advanced Technology Directorate
Allen W. Kirkham, Colorado Springs, Future Warfare Center, Space and Missile Defense Battle Lab, Experiments and Transformation Division

Time-Off Awards

Franklin R. Bowles, Huntsville, Technical Center, Data Analysis and Exploitation Directorate
Teresa Lockner, Colorado Springs, Operations and Plans, G-3, STO Cell

Albert L. Pardue, Huntsville, Technical Center, Data Analysis and Exploitation Directorate

Patrick A. Tilley, Huntsville, Technical Center, Data Analysis and Exploitation Directorate

Janice Williams, Colorado Springs, Future Warfare Center, Space and Missile Defense Battle Lab

Commander's Award for Civilian Service

Shirley M. Posey, Huntsville, Engineering

Length of Service Awards

20 Years

William Chaffin, Huntsville, Technical Center, Systems Directorate Matrix
Robert Douglas, Huntsville, Technical Center, Directed Energy Directorate Matrix
T. Hunter, Huntsville, Research, Development and Acquisition Staff, Command Integration Division
Rudolph Love, Huntsville, Technical Center, Data Analysis and Exploitation Directorate Matrix
Jeffrey Olson, Huntsville, Technical Center, Sensors Directorate Matrix

25 Years

Wanda Kucinich, Huntsville, Resource Management, G-8, Accounting Division

30 Years

Irene Lloyd, Huntsville, Resource Management
George Parsons, Huntsville, Technical Interoperability and Matrix Center, Integrated Missile Defense Simulation Directorate

35 Years

Roger Crowson, Huntsville, Future Warfare Center, Operations Division
Karen Schulz-Fortney, Colorado Springs, Deputy Commander for Operations Office

C Company goes platinum in Combined Federal Campaign

Charlie Company 1st Satellite Control Battalion

LANDSTUHL, Germany — Carrying on its tradition of the last two years, Charlie Company, 1st Satellite Control (SATCON) Battalion, once again had 100 percent participation from its Soldiers in the annual Combined Federal Campaign Program.

"The 2004 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) program was once again an overwhelming success for Charlie Company, 1st SATCON Battalion," said the company's 2004 campaign coordinator, Sgt. Lawrence Lane.

With only 60 Soldiers in the company, Charlie

Company gave more than \$5,500. That's \$500 over the per company average of U.S. Army, Europe (USAREUR). Having 100 percent participation qualified Charlie Company for the new platinum CFC award.

Within the 415th Base Support Battalion theater, only two companies earned the platinum award. Brig. Gen. Russell A. Frutiger, deputy chief of staff, G-1, USAREUR and Seventh Army, and deputy commanding general U.S. Army NATO, presented the award to Capt. Christopher Conway, Charlie Company commander, and Lane at a ceremony in Heidelberg.

"The company's Soldiers were very generous in their donations, with one person

giving \$600 to the charity of their choice," said Lane. "It is always amazing to see such generosity and caring given by Soldiers who are already giving so much."

In total, the Soldiers of USAREUR donated more than \$2 million dollars.

This is a great achievement and hopefully next year's total will surpass even this number.



Courtesy Photo

Brig. Gen. Russell A. Frutiger, deputy chief of staff, G-1, U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army, and deputy commanding general, U.S. Army NATO, presents Charlie Company Commander, Capt. Christopher Conway and company campaign coordinator, Sgt. Lawrence Lane with the CFC Platinum Award. Charlie Company was only one of two units in their theater of support to receive the award for 100 percent participation in the campaign.

Looking back

Captain remembers early days of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

By Debra Valine
SMDC Public Affairs

He says he doesn't think about the war in Iraq in terms of anniversaries, and finds it hard to believe it has been two years since his unit helped bring about the fall of Baghdad. But he said he does think about it and that the experience will always be with him like it happened yesterday.

Capt. Michael Belton, a space operations officer assigned to the Missile Defense Division, Future Warfare Center, served with the 3rd Infantry Division during those early days of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM. He commanded Alpha Company, 203rd Forward Support Battalion, from January through July 2003. His unit crossed the border between Kuwait and Iraq on March 20, 2003.

"We provided all the forward logistics support to the 3rd Brigade Combat Team," Belton said. "Our job was difficult because we didn't have the armor that the tanks and Bradleys had. We were mostly soft targets, but we were up there at the front with them." His unit provided supplies which included food, water and ammunition.

"We constantly had long supply routes where we had to reach back and pull logistics forward," Belton said. "The 3rd Brigade was moving really fast. We conducted non-stop 24-hour resupply."

The 203rd Forward Support Battalion was part of the element that led the attack on An Nasariya, then swept west and attacked As Samawah, then Karbala. "We were the brigade that went through the Karbala Gap," Belton said. "Then



Courtesy Photo

Capt. Michael Belton sits in his vehicle as it's being rearmed and refueled just after going through Karbala before pressing on to Baghdad in April 2003.

while 2nd Brigade was taking the Baghdad Airport, we swept around to the north side of Baghdad and secured that sector since the 4th Infantry Division was unable to come down out of Turkey, which was the original plan."

Through it all, Belton said they did not have access to space-based products, other than their global positioning system.

"I didn't know a lot about space products then," said Belton, who now helps integrate the space-based capabilities, provided by Space Support Elements, with missile defense. "We had GPS, but you don't think of that as being a space-based asset when you are using it. It wasn't until after we were ready to leave Baghdad that we received our first imagery map. It showed the route back to Kuwait, but by then we had been back and forth so many times we knew the way. It would have been awesome to have had some of these

space products."

In August 2003, Belton was assigned to the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command. He completed the FA 40 Space Operations Officer Qualification Course in July 2004.

"One of the things I was able to do since being back is that I helped prepare and establish the first Space Support Element that SMDC fielded to the 3rd Infantry Division," Belton said. "It was really great to go back to the division that I fought in the war with and give them the capability."

Belton said about 50 percent of the 3rd Infantry Division Soldiers he served with have returned to Iraq. Some of those Soldiers also served in Kuwait patrolling the border with Iraq for six months prior to the start of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM.

While not currently scheduled to be assigned to one of the Space Support Elements being fielded with the divisions, Belton said he would be interested in being one of the space operations officers to be assigned with the 82nd Airborne Division. He is airborne qualified and a jumpmaster who served three years with the Southern European Task Force in Italy. He also commanded a parachute rigger company at Fort Benning, Ga.

Since his return to the U.S., Belton sometimes speaks to groups about his war-time experiences and leadership. "We had a lot of convoys hit in Iraq, but it wasn't nearly as exciting as what Capt. Jason Conroy experienced in Iraq," Belton said. Conroy was the commander of the tank company that secured the Baghdad airport. He has since co-authored and published a book about his experiences entitled, "Heavy Metal."

"The important thing to remember when you are faced with going into combat is that you have a job you have to do," Belton said. "When you are standing on a border getting ready to go to war and you do not know what is going to happen to you over the next 24, 48 or 72 hours, how many casualties you will take, how you will deal with casualties if they occur, you are afraid."

"The leader has to show confidence no matter how afraid he may be on the inside. That confidence is contagious. The Soldiers will step up to the plate when they see a strong leader. I made sure that no matter how tired I was, I walked around checking on my Soldiers. I asked them if they were hearing from home, trying to calm them down and get them thinking about something besides going to war. Soldiers are scared in that environment. A good leader has to take that energy and



Courtesy Photo

Capt. William Poag, left, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 203rd Forward Support Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division; Capt. Jeremy Hoffman, commander, Bravo Company, 203rd FSB; and Capt. Michael Belton, commander, Alpha Company, 203rd FSB, pose with the sign welcoming Soldiers to Camp New York in June 2003.

focus it into something that will help Soldiers accomplish their mission."

Belton said he was lucky in that he had officers and noncommissioned officers in the company who echoed that philosophy, and he had six months to train his Soldiers for the fight.

"They believed in that philosophy as well so they made it a lot easier for me," Belton said. "I think it also helps that we had been there six months prior to the war. We had a lot of training prior to crossing the border and a lot of the tactics, techniques and procedures down. The Soldiers had a lot of training in the tasks we faced, and I think that helped with their confidence as well."

Belton stays in contact with his Soldiers through e-mail. Those Soldiers who are back in Iraq tell him about the changes that have taken place since Alpha Company was there two years ago. For instance, there are fixed structures now, where there weren't any then.

"But they are still afraid," Belton said. "They have a different kind of fear now. They cannot as readily identify the enemy. They have to react to insurgents whenever they strike. I do not agree that being there then or now is either harder or easier; it is just different. Both missions are vitally important to our mission over there: help the Iraqi people gain freedom and set up a democratic government."

In radio addresses marking the second anniversary of the start of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM, President George Bush remarked on the progress that has been made.

"Before coalition forces arrived, Iraq was ruled by a dictatorship that murdered its own citizens, threatened its neighbors, defied the world," said the president in the March 19 address. "Now, because we acted, Iraq's government is no longer a threat to the world or its own people. Today, the Iraqi people are taking charge of their own destiny."

On April 6, Iraq's Transitional National Assembly took a step toward that destiny by selecting its next president and two deputy presidents, representatives of the country's diverse population.

"Iraq's Transitional National Assembly took a momentous step forward in Iraq's transition to democracy," Bush said April 6 upon the election of Iraq's presidency council by an overwhelming majority.

"I believe what we did over there in 2003 was very important," Belton said, "and I believe what we are doing now is important."

Army sets new Strategic Planning Guidance

By Zachary M. Gildin
Army News Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Army released new Strategic Planning Guidance for 2005 that includes three new focus areas: homeland defense, irregular challenges and stability operations.

The Army Strategic Planning Guidance was approved by Secretary of the Army Francis J. Harvey in January.

"The ASPG is a long-range planning guide, with the purpose of defining the Army's strategy for the next 10 to 20 years," said Maj. Sue Bryant, an Army strategist who works in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3, and is the principal author of the document.

Bryant explained that while the document is only required to be rewritten every two years, there was a need for refinement after the 2004 release.

"The Department of Defense released their Strategic Planning Guidance, and there were requirements in it the Army needed to react to. That necessitated that we put out a new strategic planning guide to refine the areas of focus."

The new ASPG along with being a refinement of the Army's strategy and objectives also is the first major document Secretary Harvey has been a part of since he was confirmed.

"The secretary got involved and personally crafted pieces of it to ensure that it met with his intent and met with

his vision," Bryant said.

One of the major refinements to the document is the addition of 10 new Strategic Imperatives for the Army. They are:

- Implement Transformation Initiatives
- Improve Capabilities for Homeland Defense
- Improve Proficiencies Against Irregular Challenges
- Improve Capabilities for Stability Operations
- Achieve Army Force Capabilities to Dominate in Complex Terrain
- Improve Army Capabilities for Strategic Responsiveness
- Improve Global Force Posture
- Improve Capabilities for Battle Command
- Improve Joint Fires Capability
- Improve Capabilities for Joint Logistics

Three of these 10 — improve capabilities for homeland defense, improve capabilities for stability operations and improve proficiencies against irregular challenges — have been designated as new Army focus areas.

The irregular challenges are defined by the ASPG as, "unconventional methods adopted and employed by non-state and state actors to counter stronger state opponents." The document goes on to elaborate "Experiences over the last

decade from Mogadishu to the Sha-I Kot Mountains demonstrate the increasing frequency of the irregular challenge."

"The 10 strategic imperatives, are the things the Army needs to do in order to maintain its global commitments and fight and win the War on Terrorism," Bryant explained.

Along with the refining of focus for the Army, the new ASPG attempts to make it easier for the reader to understand the Army's strategic objectives and how the Army plans to achieve them.

"The document lays things out in terms of an ends, ways and means construct. We explain our objectives, how we are going to accomplish them and the resources available. We did this so the reader understands what our strategic objectives are and how we are going to achieve them," Bryant explained.

The wording "strategic objectives" is also new to the document, changed from the old document's "core competencies." The two strategic objectives of the 2005 ASPG are "Trained and Equipped Soldiers and Developed Leaders" and "Relevant and Ready Land Power to the Combatant Commander as Part of the Joint Team."

"Many of the changes that have been made in the past two ASPG documents are in response to the post 9/11 era," Bryant said.

"A lot of it has to do with the fact that we are not fighting traditional nation states anymore, and wars like the one we are fighting in Iraq are an expression of that."

Missile defense chief updates Huntsville audience on progress

By Debra Valine
SMDC Public Affairs

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — The Missile Defense Agency relies heavily on the Huntsville community for developing technologies that will increase the nation's ability to defend itself against ballistic missile threats, according to its director.

U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Henry A. "Trey" Obering III, director, MDA, visited Huntsville April 18 to provide an update on the program to members of the Army Space and Missile Defense Association.

Obering said North Korea and Iran are both countries with nuclear intentions that the U.S. needs to watch, which is why his organization has been building missile defense capabilities.

"First we worry about the North Koreans; we want to protect ourselves from them," Obering said. "Then second, our attention will move to the Middle East. President Bush set us on the course to do the initial fielding in 2004, which we did. We have to continue building the defensive capabilities, not only for us but for our allies. I believe we have demonstrated that it is technologically possible.

"We will continue to expand," Obering said. "We are building systems in the boost, mid-course and terminal phases of ballistic missile defense using a capabilities-based spiral development tact. We are

doing this differently and it is causing some confusion. Instead of long periods of time dedicated to development, testing and fielding, we will be developing, testing and fielding at the same time and making changes along the way. We build this flexibility into our contracts."

He said MDA's goals are to continue fielding interceptors and sensors, provide sustainment and warfighter support, develop totally integrated ballistic missile defense systems to meet the threat, execute an increasingly complex test program, and establish a robust international foundation for missile defense.

"We also will expand breadth and depth of protection by adding more sensors and interceptors," Obering said. "We will end up with 28 missile interceptors and upgraded radars in England and Greenland to cut off the Middle East threat."

After the current fielding is complete through 2010, Obering said MDA will move from fixed

interceptor and sensor sites to mobile systems. The road ahead also includes slowing long-range interceptor production and increasing test tempo and reducing program overhead and infrastructure by \$300 million per year.

"A little over 2 ½ years ago, we just had an empty field at Fort Greely, Alaska. I think it will be looked back on as a tremendous accomplishment what we have done there this past year. This year we plan to launch interceptors from

Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. We have eight interceptors (total) installed and checked out. We also have ships in place."

Obering said that since October 2004, MDA has been in a shakedown period, but that the hardware and software has been in place and the system has been placed into a launch capable status.

"We stubbed our toe on the Integrated Flight Tests for the ground-based midcourse defense," Obering said. "In

December, we discovered we had a software timing issue and we also found out that we had flown that system three times successfully. It was a major disappointment, but not a major setback. Then in February, we had one of three ground support arms — they are like drawbridge ramps — that did not pull back as quickly as it was supposed to and that kept the missile from firing. It showed us we need to pay more attention to component testing. What is really frustrating is trying to explain to both our critics and advocates that we have a great system."



Photo by Debra Valine

U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Henry A. "Trey" Obering III, director, Missile Defense Agency, visited Huntsville, Ala., April 18 to provide an update on the program to members of the Army Space and Missile Defense Association.

C Detachment — moving on up ... or is it down?

By Lt. Kent Meyer
U.S. Navy, commander

OSAN AIR BASE, Korea — The Soldiers and Sailors of C Detachment, 1st Space Company, are “moving on up.” Actually they’re moving on down, down the hill that is. Earlier this year, the detachment relocated into the newly renovated quarters, with the noncommissioned officers leaving behind Building 490, one of the oldest buildings on Osan Air Base, Korea.

What’s more, they have moved from muddy waters to clear sailing; well at least for

the plumbing.

For anyone who has spent any time in Korea, they should be familiar with the great plumbing of the peninsula. They should also know that the only thing better than clean water (except a beach) is new furniture. This is Korea after all.

Well, new furniture was part of the deal, too.

The long anticipated furniture was unfortunately delayed in transit due to shipping problems, but to the joy of C Detachment, it finally arrived and is being put to good



Courtesy Photo

New desks and chairs were put in each room for the Soldiers and Sailors of C Detachment, 1st Space Company, when they moved into their newly renovated quarters earlier this year.

use.

The Soldiers and Sailors were even given additional perks that included television sets and microwaves.

While better living

conditions do not make up for being separated from friends and family during a hardship duty tour, they at least help make the time away from home a little more comfortable.

Aircraft lighter ban also applies to service members

By Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Anyone — including service members — carrying lighters will be required to surrender them at U.S. airport security checkpoints before boarding aircraft under a new federal law that became effective April 14, Transportation Security Administration officials said.

The new law also applies to military and civilian passengers on commercially chartered U.S. military overseas flights, noted Army Lt. Col. Scott Ross, a spokesman with U.S. Transportation Command at Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

“Due to al Qaeda’s continued efforts to create improvised explosive devices, prohibiting lighters onboard aircraft and in

the sterile areas of airports will reduce current security vulnerabilities and add another layer of defense,” a TSA document stated.

President Bush signed the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 on Dec. 17, 2004.

The act mandates that butane lighters be added to the list of items prohibited from being carried aboard aircraft that depart from or land at U.S. commercial airports.

The new law applies to “anything that produces a flame,” said TSA spokesman Chris Jolma. However, aircraft passengers may still carry up to four books of matches, according to TSA documents.

“Wherever there’s a TSA (security) checkpoint, we’re responsible for enforcing the law,” Jolma noted, adding, “Folks

should definitely inspect their baggage before going to the airport, just to avoid the hassle.”

On Dec. 22, 2001, passengers aboard American Airlines Flight 63 en route from Paris to Miami stopped British citizen Richard Reid from lighting a fuse attached to an explosive hidden inside his sneakers.

Reid, a self-confessed al Qaeda sympathizer, was later convicted in a U.S. federal court of trying to blow up the plane. He is now serving a life sentence.

Jolma agreed Reid’s failed attempt to bring down Flight 63 alerted U.S. authorities of the need to tighten up airline security. And, he pointed out, global terrorists continue to look for “innovative means” to bring down aircraft.



Photo by Ed White

From gold to silver

Second Lt. Beth Thomas, a native of Scottsville, Va., was promoted to first lieutenant in ceremonies held in Colorado Springs. Thomas is the executive officer of the 2nd Space Company and is shown being promoted by her commander, Maj. Christopher Livingstone. A former enlisted National Guardsman, Thomas received her bachelor’s degree in mathematics from the College of William and Mary. She was also a distinguished military graduate of that college’s ROTC program. She was commissioned a second lieutenant May 10, 2003. She attended the Signal Officer Basic Course and served at Camp Red Cloud, Korea, from March 2004 to March 2005.

Paintball battles build unit



Photos by Sgt. Sara Storey

By Sgt. Sara Storey
100th Missile Defense Brigade
(Ground-based Midcourse Defense)
Public Affairs

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — The Soldier crouched behind several large planks of wood, trying to make himself invisible. He took a deep breath and peered around the edge of his cover, quickly scanning the area. He saw a flash of movement to his left. He wasted no time and began firing. As a round whizzed past his enemy's ear, the opponent turned and opened fire, but not quickly enough. Splat! The enemy was hit — as green paint spread across his chest he raised his weapon and surrendered, then slowly made his way to "Casualty Hill" and waited until the next paintball battle began.

Nearly one dozen members of the 100th Missile Defense Brigade (Ground-based Midcourse Defense) participated in the unit's morale day at Dragon Man Paintball Park April 6. The day included numerous paintball battles and a tour through the Colorado Springs Historical Military Museum.

Troops rented guns and face shields and headed to the paintball park. After loading approximately 100 paintball rounds each, Soldiers divided into teams — green vs. desert uniforms. Inadvertently, this also separated the forces into officer vs. enlisted. Before beginning the battle, the crew decided on double elimination for the first round — meaning after the first hit, each combatant returned to his/her team's starting point and had another "life" before final elimination. The team with the last "living" person on the field won. Additionally, the group decided that any paint splatter larger than a quarter qualified as a death hit. After being hit for the second time, the wounded made their way to Casualty Hill to observe the ongoing conflict and cheer on their team.

"The enlisted whooped the officers the first two games," said Staff Sgt. Eddie Negron, engagement control team leader, 100th Missile Defense Brigade. "We used military tactics and cover to keep from getting hit — and you don't want to get hit because it hurts."

Staff Sgt. Eddie Negron's "death" is signified by the green paint splattered across his face mask during the unit's morale day at "Dragon Man" Paintball Park April 6.



Staff Sgt. Eddie Negron nails a quickly retreating Capt. Timothy Shaffer with a paintball during the 100th GMD's morale day April 6.



Capt. Timothy Shaffer, right, Capt. Michael Hatfield, Maj. Brian Gary and 1st Sgt. Herbert Rodriguez load their weapons for a paintball war during the unit's morale day April 6.

morale

After the first two games, the group moved to a paintball field resembling an old junkyard with rusted cars and piles of tires. They also decided to switch the game — instead of green team vs. desert team, the next round was declared a free-for-all. Again, this match was double elimination, but the last Soldier standing took all the glory.

Warrant Officer Anita Thompson, information systems technician, 100th Missile Defense Brigade, began using military tactics, but swiftly found that alternate battle techniques served her better in this game.

“I quickly turned to ‘street’ tactics,” Thompson said. “I was sneaking up behind people and shooting them, and once I was used as the bait to fish an ‘enemy’ out of his hole.”

Thompson said she had such a good time that she’s planning a second trip to take her daughter, brother and members of her church to play paintball.

“After my daughter saw my bruises she said she didn’t want to go, but I know she’d enjoy it,” Thompson said.

However, the unit’s morale day wasn’t just about slaughtering one another with paintballs. Before becoming covered in paint and dirt, Soldiers toured the Colorado Springs Historical Military Museum. The museum boasts more than \$2 million of military artifacts from World War I to the present. Mel “Dragon Man” Bernstein, museum and paintball park owner, displays authentic military gear from U.S., British, German, Japanese and Vietnamese forces. Contained in 16,000 square feet, the museum has more than 70 vehicles, numerous guns, various equipment, uniforms and other memorabilia.

Between paint and military history, the morale day was declared a success.

Thompson, bruises still fading two weeks after the event, did issue one final warning to future would-be paintballers — “I recommend four or five layers of clothing because those paintballs hurt.”



Warrant Officer Anita Thompson, left, covers Maj. Brian Gary as Gary darts forward to slay an enemy paintballer during the unit’s morale day April 6.



Mel “Dragon Man” Bernstein gives 100th GMD Soldiers a tour of his museum — The Colorado Springs Historical Military Museum — that features more than 70 fully operational vehicles and many authentic guns, uniforms and other military items from World War II to the present during the unit’s morale day April 6. Pictured with Bernstein are Capt. Eric Everetts, Maj. Brian Gary, Warrant Officer Anita Thompson, Master Sgt. James Green and Staff Sgt. Eddie Negron.



Office members and paintball team members, Warrant Officer Anita Thompson, left, and Maj. Brian Gary, right, work together to exterminate the enemy during the unit’s morale day April 6.



Sgt. 1st Class Curtis Kimbrell, with paint-splattered head and face mask, admits defeat (but only for this round!) during the unit’s morale day April 6.

Bravo Detachment brushes up on basic Soldiering

Weapons, first aid, communications top critical skills

By Staff Sgt. James Henckel
Unit Reporter

FORT BLISS, Texas — Weapons proficiency, first aid, communications and especially convoy operations top the list of skills every Soldier needs.

Bravo Detachment, 1st Space Company, recently took advantage of two weeks of downtime to hone the convoy operations skills a warrior needs on today's battlefield. From March 26 through April 2, the section went to the Continental U.S. (CONUS) Replacement Center (CRC) at Fort Bliss, Texas, for convoy training exercises and Virtual Combat Convoy Training, or VCCT.

The training consisted of classroom instruction on tactics, techniques and procedures, as well as lessons learned from Iraq and Afghanistan. Then, two days were spent conducting virtual

patrols in the VCCT and the final day was a live-action practical exercise in a static convoy with an active Opposition Force (OPFOR). The Soldiers practiced individual movement and medical evacuation techniques.

The VCCT is designed to provide a realistic simulation of the dangers of moving in convoys in urban areas. The Soldiers had to learn how to lead a target while firing from a moving vehicle, while navigating the proper convoy routes to accomplish the mission.

"We used sand tables to determine the best routes to accomplish our missions," said Sgt. 1st Class Ricardo Bonilla, Bravo Detachment noncommissioned officer in charge. "We also worked on battle drills in the virtual center and then we carried them out against the OPFOR. We performed actions on contact including the low and high crawl, evacuation of wounded and how to make a field expedient litter."

In the VCCT, each simulated vehicle had five occupants: a

driver, truck commander, gunner and two passengers in the rear.

Communication between the occupants of the vehicle was essential to ensure threats were eliminated and the convoy followed the prescribed route.

The missions incorporated mounted land navigation, engaging targets from a moving vehicle and standard convoy procedures.

Classes were also taught on how to recognize Improvised Explosive Device (IED) threats. This training was based on intelligence and reports from Soldiers involved in OPERATIONS IRAQI FREEDOM and ENDURING FREEDOM.

The section was briefed on objects used to hide explosive devices as well as the materials used for the actual devices themselves.

The instructors welcomed input from members of the group who had previous experience in the theater of operations.

The final day of the convoy training helped refine the skills learned in the previous

days.

The Soldiers rehearsed battle drills that involved exiting a disabled vehicle under direct fire. They then moved on to evacuating casualties from a disabled vehicle, while under fire, and moving them to a 5-ton truck to continue on with the mission.

To finish off the training, the Soldiers were required to move tactically from one end of a defined lane of movement to the other while negotiating obstacles. This involved high crawling, low crawling and using the three- to five-second rush from cover to cover, and climbing over a low wall obstacle.

"The convoy training was a good base to build upon while preparing for a deployment. Some of the training was a good refresher of skills learned in basic training, while other information was new to many people in the section," Bonilla said. "The bottom line is we are 'Space Warriors,' and we must maintain the tools necessary to fight and win on today's battlefield."

193rd Space Support Battalion says goodbye to deploying team

By Sgt. Jillian Basso
128th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
Detachment 1

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Goodbyes are never easy. Just ask the members of the 193rd Space Support Battalion Commercial Exploitation Team (CET). Family members and fellow Soldiers said farewell to the 193rd CET March 8, before they deployed in support of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM.

The CET prepared for the deployment by doing everything from on-the-job training to live-fire exercises to learning what it's like to encounter pepper spray and a tazer.

One of the main jobs the team will conduct while deployed is acquiring satellite imagery to help the troops on the ground with their mission. Capt. Matthew Bowes, the team leader, says serving

others like this is never an easy task but so far his team has performed admirably.

"The Soldiers and families here today have sacrificed time with each other and felt the pain and satisfaction that goes along with doing something that truly matters," said Bowes in his farewell speech. "They have kept the war on terrorism away from our families' doorsteps."

Members of the chain of command were also at the ceremony to help with any last minute jitters family members were feeling. Lt. Col. Scot Cuthbertson, the commander of the 193rd Space Battalion, reassured family members that his staff and his family would be available for any trials that may arise.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Dennis Beebe

Capt. Matthew Bowes and his son at the farewell ceremony for the 193rd Space Battalion's Commercial Exploitation Team.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Dennis Beebe

Lt. Col. Scot Cuthbertson, commander, 193rd Space Battalion, shakes hands with Capt. Matthew Bowes, the team leader for the 193rd Space Battalion's Commercial Exploitation Team at the March 8 sendoff.

"Our job isn't to just put Soldiers out and wait for them to come back. We're here for the families too," said Cuthbertson. "There will be problems, and we want to help with the headaches."

Pvt. Brian Fitzgerald, a topographical analyst, has been with the team for only one year. He will be leaving his wife behind, but feels she is in good hands.

"The unit set up times for all the family members to meet," said Fitzgerald. "It gives them a support group they can hold onto while we're gone."

Tracy Fennern, wife of Sgt. 1st Class John Fennern, says she also believes the family readiness group will help — especially when someone just needs another person to talk to.

"I'm still in denial about John leaving," Tracy said. "It will hit me in two weeks. That's when it will be nice to have a contact of someone who is feeling the same emotions I am."

In one last meeting with the CET members and their families, Cuthbertson said that everyone was extremely proud of the team's accomplishments.

"I see great Americans here. I feel confident they will successfully complete their mission," he concluded.

It's not a military thing, it's a respect thing

By Dan Adler
Staff Writer
Kwajalein Hourglass

Commentary

I don't consider myself any more patriotic than the next guy. I just try to do what I was taught by my parents when I was a kid.

Things like standing still and removing my hat when the national anthem is played or holding my hand over my heart when the flag passes by me.

Standing still and facing the direction of the flagpole while retreat is played and the flag is lowered, is something new to me. I know some folks think it's "military" and since most of us are civilians, it doesn't apply to us.

I don't always stand still for retreat if I'm in a hurry to get somewhere. So, maybe I'm the stove calling the kettle black as the saying goes.

But don't you think it's kind of sad when Marshallese people honor our flag more than some of us do? Did you see the Thumbs Up section in the Hourglass about these people who stopped, got off their bikes and stood still while retreat was played and the flag was lowered? Imagine these Marshallese people, who owe no allegiance to the United States, showing more respect for our flag than some Americans do. I would like to shake their hands.

You see, in my opinion for whatever it's worth, retreat is not just a "military" thing. It's simple respect for a symbol of our country. It's not "corny" to

honor our flag and those who died for it.

There have been more than 1,500 American troop deaths in Iraq so far plus those who have died in Afghanistan. The Hourglass publishes some of their names in every Saturday's issue. We have received some e-mails and gotten comments that doing so is a downer and we should quit it.

I suppose it is a downer. But if putting a few names in our little paper honors these men and women in any small way, then I feel we shouldn't stop. We will when they are all safely home.

I've heard that some folks are upset because the playing of Taps interferes with movies at the Rich and softball games.

For all the men and women who have died in all of America's wars, popular or unpopular, for all the men and women who simply did what their country asked them to do and gave their lives, couldn't we listen to Taps and reflect upon its meaning? Maybe

play softball afterwards? Not hear 30 seconds of a movie?

Americans tend to be a slack bunch sometimes. It's not that we don't care. We're busy and have lots of things on our minds. We have hard days at work, kids and spouses and bosses. We don't really want to be reminded of war and death. We don't like to turn on the television and see images of dead and maimed Americans.

But if we don't even want to see their names in print or on

television, how can we say we support them? Take just a moment, read their names, who they were, where they were from, a little bit about them. We honor them by doing that.

When we're riding our bikes to work, playing those softball games, jogging or whatever we do on this island, we could take a moment and give a thought to what happened on this ground 60 years ago — maybe when Taps and retreat are played. It's just about respect.

It's not a military thing, it's a respect thing.



Courtesy Photo

The Tiger Cubs, part of Cub Scouts Pack 135, went on a "go see it" to Brandon Field to watch the Eleu Poi Dawg play Da Guys on March 8. The Tigers said the Pledge of Allegiance while at the game. Going to the softball game was part of their requirement to earn their Tiger badge. The Tigers, from left, Mike Greenbaum, Christopher Kulig, Brett Ritchy, Dexter Elliott, Noah Gray, R.J. Sieja and Wendi Gray, Tiger Leader.

Fort Greely Commissary nominated for 'Best Small Commissary in CONUS'

By Brad McMinn, Zone Manager and Michele Garrett, Fort Greely Public Affairs

On the frozen tundra of the great Alaskan frontier sits the Fort Greely, Alaska, Commissary — the only Army outpost for groceries within 100 miles. Outstanding customer service and a sales increase of more than 50 percent are several reasons why the Fort Greely Commissary was recently nominated as "Best Small Commissary in CONUS." The winner will be announced at the end of May.



Courtesy Photo

The Fort Greely Commissary staff, from left to right are Sandy Hecimovich (store administrator), Roberta Smith (store worker), Angie Taylor (teller), Amy Case (secretary), Mike Burcham (meat cutter), Glen Cotton (meat cutter), Ulysses Sims (store worker) and Richard Stillie (store director). Not pictured are Kimberly Case (cashier) and Christina Peters (support clerk).



Courtesy Photo

A pleasant atmosphere and bright, colorful displays make the Fort Greely Commissary an excellent place to shop.

Joint Tactical Ground Station-Pacific recognized for its generosity

By Sgt. 1st Class Gregory Hatfield
Unit Reporter

OSAN AIR BASE, Korea — During the Fall 2004 Combined Federal Campaign (Overseas), 1st Section Charlie Detachment, 1st Space Company, contributors made a total contribution of \$527, demonstrating the generosity of the caring Soldiers and Sailors that are part of the small detachment.

As a result of their efforts, the detachment received the Combined Federal Campaign (Overseas) Silver Award on Apr. 23. The award was



presented by U.S. Air Force Col. Steven Searcy, vice commander, 51st Fighter Wing, and is proudly displayed at the detachment Headquarters. C Detachment hopes to achieve the Gold Award in the fall of 2005.

Kinetic Energy Interceptor meetings gather user input for system development

By Ed White
SMDC Public Affairs

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — The Space and Missile Defense Future Warfare Center, Directorate of Combat Development, recently sponsored a series of meetings and briefings conducted by the Missile Defense Agency, Kinetic



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Dennis Beebe

Richard Izatt, right, Shafer Corporation contractor support to Missile Defense Agency - Kinetic Interceptor Directorate, gets direct user input on the proposed Kinetic Energy Interceptor operating system from Lt. Col. Daniel Reifschneider of U.S. Northern Command. Getting input during its evolution from the experienced military people who will actually operate a system makes sense to the developers of the Kinetic Interceptor.

Interceptor Directorate, in the Colorado Springs area.

Attendees included operational crews from the 100th Missile Defense Brigade (Ground-based Midcourse Defense) and Joint Functional Component Command-Integrated Missile Defense, and staff personnel from U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command and U.S.

Northern Command (NORTHCOM). The purpose of these sessions was to brief the GMD user community on proposed Kinetic Energy Interceptor System capabilities, and gather operator feedback that will be used in system development. These sessions are conducted quarterly.

"We were looking for Soldier support," said Harvey Falk, chief of the Missile Defense Branch, Capabilities Development Division. "Their input will provide us with practical feedback on the operational side of this system before any metal is bent. Having the people who may eventually operate the system give us their ideas up front just makes good sense. This saves us money and time by getting user input up front in the development process, allowing the Missile Defense Agency to

build an operating system that is based on actual operator needs and preferences, and linked to GMD displays to maximize commonality and minimize operator training requirements.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for us, and we intend to make the most of it. This is a big change in the way we do development. We are now software and screen driven instead of hardware driven," Falk added.

The Kinetic Energy Interceptor concept is not new. It has been around since the days of President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative, however development and fielding of mobile systems was precluded by the Antiballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty. Withdrawal from the ABM Treaty has allowed a revolutionary change from fixed to mobile basing, increasing operational flexibility. The intent is to maneuver interceptors onto likely threat lines of attack, destroy ballistic missiles during boost or early in midcourse and then redeploy remaining interceptors after elimination of the threat.

"We want to be able to kill them when they come up," Falk said. The Missile Defense Agency has declared its intent to conduct a shoot-off between the Kinetic Energy Interceptor and the Airborne Laser in 2008, leading to the possible fielding of the first land-based Kinetic Energy Interceptor fire unit early next decade.

Charlie Company proves ready in Soldiering skills

By Spc. Joshua Plyler
Unit Reporter

On a brisk and cold winter morning around the European countryside, a small unit of 1st Satellite Control (SATCON) Battalion Soldiers trudged through the ice and snow to arrive at their duty station like almost any other day. But this day was to be a little different; it was to be a day of testing — Common Task Testing (CTT) to be precise.

Each year, all Soldiers are tested on their common military skills they learned during basic training and at each of the noncommissioned officer schools. This ensures every Soldier remains proficient in the basics of Soldiering.

The Soldiers of Charlie Company, 1st SATCON Battalion gathered together at the small facility on the top of one of the tallest hills in western Germany prepared to be evaluated on their basic Soldier knowledge.

Up long before the rooster, the Soldiers were ready to confront not only the formidable weather but also themselves, as they would be carefully evaluated during each step of their testing.

After many weeks of training and honing their skills and knowledge, the SATCON Soldiers were ready to answer

the following questions: What would you do if you came across an unconscious person who was obviously hurt but with no visible wounds? How would you treat them if they were visibly hurt and their wound was life threatening? How would you search someone's vehicle thoroughly enough to ensure the safety of all those you were appointed to guard safely over? What would you do if you were searching a vehicle and found an explosive device hidden in the wheel well? If you found yourself lost in unfamiliar territory, would you be able to find not only where you currently were, but also which direction you needed to go using only a compass and a map?

Each and every Soldier should be able to answer these questions with a confident and proud, "HOOAH!" because each Soldier trains on skills like these on a constant basis.

For this particular day, the tasks included the decontamination of body and equipment after a nuclear, biological or chemical (NBC) attack, employing accident prevention measures and risk management process, maintaining the M-16 series rifle and M-9 pistol, planning convoy security operations, evaluating and evacuating a casualty, reacting to a possible Improvised Explosive Device (IED) and conducting a search/

seizure to name but a few. Along with these tasks, each Soldier had to navigate from testing point to testing point through snow and thick wooded hills using a compass, a map and plain navigational skills.

Soldiers being tested brought enthusiasm and motivation with them to accomplish the mission set before them with safety foremost on everyone's mind.

"The Soldiers were motivated despite the weather but we couldn't have asked for a better day for this time of year. We could have had our typical German weather; it could have been raining!" said Staff Sgt. Trinity Peterson, a member of the testing cadre.

It was a pretty cold morning but each Soldier brought enough cold weather gear to keep warm. During the safety briefing, the range safety officer, Staff Sgt. Darren Haynes emphasized that despite it being cold, staying hydrated was still a key component to each Soldier's health and safety for the day. A person can become dehydrated in a cold environment just as easily as in a hot environment, so each Soldier made sure to have plenty of water with them as they tested.

The safety officer also emphasized that the woods the Soldiers were testing in were thick with many fallen trees, brambles and bushes, with a

thick layering of snow making the terrain that much more perilous and ideal for injury.

As the day came to a close with nearly every Soldier at C Company walking away with a "GO," they all returned back to the unit headquarters with 100 percent accountability of all sensitive items, and more importantly, no injuries. They each returned in good, albeit cold, condition.

As each one returned, they found a hot cup of chicken noodle soup waiting for them, which many agreed was the best part of the day. After all the trudging in the cold, nothing hits the spot like a hot cup of soup.

During the after action review, the Soldiers and cadre discussed what went right, what went wrong and what to do in the future to make the next range better. There were a lot of good comments, a few bad, but some really good input from everyone on what could be done to make the next range run more efficiently.

In the end, the general consensus was that the day was a great success and the SATCON Soldiers went home knowing that if they ever were deployed to a place where skills like the ones they tested on today became the difference between life and death, they would go fully trained and ready to serve their country and their fellow Soldiers well.

Straight shootin'

By Sgt. 1st Class Dennis Beebe
SMDC Public Affairs

At the heart of all Soldier skills is the ability to shoot well. Recently members of the 2nd Space Company, 1st Space Battalion, had the chance to practice this basic competency with the M16A2. Nine members of the company went to the range at Fort Carson, Colo., and worked with elements of the 4th Infantry Division's 43rd Support Group that had scheduled the range for the day.

"I prefer the long rifle over the M-9 pistol or the M-4 weapons because of the rifle's range and versatility," said acting 1st Sgt. Timothy Drye. "The range of the M-9 allows the enemy to get too close to me before it becomes marginally effective, and the M-4 jumps around too much to keep on target effectively. I am still an infantryman at heart."

The morning was spent with familiarization fire and zeroing weapons on the 25-meter paper target range. Next the Soldiers broke for lunch and then moved to Range 57 for the final portion where they fired at pop-up targets for record.

The pop-up targets at the range were located between 50 and 300 meters and popped up either singly or in groups of two for the firing order to shoot and knock down.

A computer in the tower at range control kept track of the hits and printed out a scorecard for each Soldier.

Forty targets were exposed for each Soldier to fire on at the record fire range. The number of hits required for the different rifleman skill categories are: 23-28 hits on target for Marksman; 29-36 hits on target for Sharpshooter; 37 to 40 hits on target for Expert.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Dennis Beebe

Sgt. Tamika Lane watches Sgt. Kedrick Lanier as he adjusts his rifle to attain his battle sight zero at the rifle zero range at Fort Carson, Colo.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Dennis Beebe

The combined group of shooters from 2nd Space Company, 1st Space Battalion prepares to fire three rounds at zero range number 61 at Fort Carson, Colo. They shot under the watchful eyes of the range safeties from the 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized) who were also zeroing weapons at the range.

'Constant Vigilance' setting the standard

By JTAGS Central Command

CAMP AS SALIYAH, Qatar — In its first two months on station, 2nd Section Alpha Detachment (A/2), 1st Space Company, set a high standard in both physical fitness training and weapons qualifications.

Being the first APFT taken by the section as a whole, no one knew exactly what to expect. Whatever the expectations might have been, the section now boasts a 275 average — a feat that sets a high standard for everyone in 2nd Section, Alpha Detachment and 1st Space Company.

"I enjoyed the PT test. The environment here is nice, and the test was conducted very

professionally," said Staff Sgt. Tracey Rosser.

Along with the APFT, A/2 section also hosted an M-16/M-9 range for its Soldiers and Sailors. "We only had a little time on the range, but it was good to go out and get a chance to shoot our M-16s," said Sgt. Darrell Jones, one of the Soldiers who qualified at the range.

With only two short hours not everyone was able to qualify. Spc. Joshua Williams set the standard with a perfect 40 out of 40. The average for those who did qualify was 35 out of 40 targets hit.

To top off the month two individuals were honored. Spc. Nicolas Carpenter was awarded the Army Achievement Medal

for earning the distinction of Distinguished Honor Graduate in the Joint Tactical Ground Station Initial Qualification Course.

"It's a good thing when Soldiers get recognized for doing a good job," said crew chief Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Crane. "The fact that Spc. Carpenter was able to distinguish himself while simultaneously preparing for deployment says a lot about him as a Soldier."

Also, Frank Serio was promoted to the rank of Petty Officer 1st Class (Surface Warfare) in the U.S. Navy. "I owe it to everyone I have ever served with. The people around me make me who I am by pushing me to be the best," said Serio who has returned to his post in Germany.

A/2 section continues to strive and achieve success. By living their section motto of "Constant Vigilance!" they continue to set the standard for others to follow.



Photo by Sgt. Dawn White

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Christopher Hall, left, promotes Frank Serio, one of 2nd Section Alpha Detachment's Navy members to the rank of Petty Officer 1st Class.



Photo by Sgt. Dawn White

Spc. Nicolas Carpenter, right, of 2nd Section, Alpha Detachment is awarded the Army Achievement Medal by section leader, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Christopher Hall. Carpenter received his award for being the Distinguished Honor Graduate in the Joint Tactical Ground Station Initial Qualification Course.



Photo by Sgt. Alexander Appleby

Members of 2nd Section, Alpha Detachment, 1st Space Company, qualify at an M-16 range in Qatar.

'Lifecycle Funds' aim to maximize retirement savings

By Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Recent surveys show most people contributing to DOD-sponsored thrift savings accounts shun riskier investment options and aren't getting maximum returns to build bigger retirement nest eggs, a DOD thrift savings plan specialist said here April 20.

"The vast majority of participants do not fully take advantage of the Thrift Savings Plan," Army Lt. Col. Janet Fenton, executive director of the Armed Forces Tax Council, told Pentagon Channel and American Forces Press Service reporters during a Pentagon interview.

The Thrift Savings Plan, Fenton explained, is a 401k-type program designed to provide tax-deferred retirement nest eggs for service members and civilian employees. TSP managers have noticed that "very few" participants transfer money out of more stable TSP investment programs into riskier options, she said.

Fenton surmised some participants might be leery of riskier TSP investment options because they have little or no stock market savvy.

However, the new Lifecycle Funds program option slated for implementation

sometime in July will enable TSP participants to have experienced money managers make investment decisions for them according to 10-year plans.

The Lifecycle Funds program "is going to help address the issue of people who want to take advantage of the Thrift Savings Plan but maybe are a little bit intimidated by making investment choices and allocating their participation contributions between all of the various funds," Fenton explained.

The Lifecycle Fund program "is based on asset allocation within the fund, based on how long you are going to have that money in the fund until you retire," Fenton said.

Almost half the \$140 billion invested in TSP accounts — about \$60 billion — is currently concentrated in the less-risky Government Security Investment, or G fund. An almost equal number of TSP contributions — about \$61 billion — are now placed in the Common Stock Index Investment, or C fund. Riskier options offered by the Fixed Income Index Investment, or F fund; the Small Capitalization Stock Index Investment, or S fund; and the International Stock Index Investment, or I fund, contain far fewer dollars.

Through use of the Lifestyle Fund program "the money is allocated for you

amongst the five funds without you having to do anything," Fenton explained. The system "is automatic" and "changes as your time in the military (or government) continues," she said.

For example, Fenton said, typical investments early in a 10-year period would tend to be targeted toward riskier, but higher potential yield, TSP investment options. Investment choices would become more conservative as the end of the 10-year period nears, she added.

After July 1, participants will be able to change their investment options at any time, Fenton noted.

Although the TSP program doesn't guarantee participants will make money on every investment, Fenton cautioned, she noted riskier investment options usually produce higher returns over the long term.

Some people may feel safer to continue steering their TSP funds to safer investments, Fenton acknowledged. But "to really leverage your contributions and make the most of the thrift savings plan," Fenton said, "we need to encourage people" to move their money out of more conservative investment options and allocate it among the various funds that indicate potentially higher yields over time.

Charlie Company goes behind the scenes of a CI Call

By Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Newman, Unit Reporter

LANDSTUHL, Germany — Once a month Charlie Company, 1st Satellite Control (SATCON) Battalion, holds its Commanders Information (CI) Call. The unit uses this type of forum to recognize some of its outstanding Soldiers and to provide critical required training. CI Calls are very important to the battalion because its Soldiers work shifts and therefore do not have the opportunity to bring a majority or all of the company together very often.

The company held the February CI Call with the day's training beginning at 6 a.m. Capt. Christopher Conway and 1st Sgt. Ralph Martin gave their opening remarks and then acknowledged Soldiers who had earned an award or

certificate. Some of the Soldiers recognized during the February CI Call were Sgt. John Priebe, the noncommissioned officer of the month for January, Spc. Dane Kealoha, the January Soldier of the month, and Staff Sgt. Darren Haynes, Spc. Christopher Page and Kealoha for completing sections of the 1st SATCON Battalion Testing and Evaluation Program.

Following the awards were the classes. The classes trained for February were Risk Management and Safety, instructed by Haynes, tax preparation and assistance, given by 1st Lt. Marcus White and Prevention of Sexual Harassment, given by Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Demars. Next, all the NCOs were kept for professional development, where Staff Sgt. Robert Lewis provided training on the differences between NCOs and sergeants.

The planning for CI Calls begins six weeks before the event. Critical training, some from the brigade and some from the battalion, are identified and the instructors are carefully selected based on experience, knowledge and



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Newman

Spc. Dane Kealoha receives a battalion Certificate of Achievement from Charlie Company Commander, Capt. Christopher Conway, for being the company's Soldier of the Month for January.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Newman

Sgt. William Steiner receives a three-day pass from Charlie Company Commander Capt. Christopher Conway for his performance on his last record Army Physical Fitness Test where he scored a 289.

training. The unit also adds company-level requirements usually based upon events that occur during mission or while Soldiers are not on duty. Once a quarter there is also a Class A uniform inspection. At times, the unit also has bake sales, pastry auctions and breakfast fund-raisers to support the Family Readiness Group.

During the weekly company training meetings, the commander tracks updates to classes and instructors and also uses the time to resolve any issues. Instructors put the final touches on their briefs no

later than two weeks prior to the call and submit them to the training NCO, Sgt. Enrique Lopez. After the briefs are submitted, Soldiers begin to review the briefs online enabling the classes to go smoothly and efficiently.

CI Calls do not only happen in Charlie Company, but also all throughout the 1st SATCON Battalion. They are a continuous process that makes it possible for Soldiers to keep current on all requirements and information and gives the command the ability to have a forum with nearly all of the company present.

Echo Company goes Warrior at Camp Hansen Combat Town

By Sgt. Stuart Ransom, Unit Reporter

OKINAWA, Japan — Because of their real world mission requirements, satellite network controllers seldom have the opportunity to implement their warrior tasks and drills, combat task testing (CTT) and sergeants' time training scenarios into one combined hands-on block of instruction. In March, Echo Company had the opportunity to use the Marine Corps' Combat Town area at Camp Hansen for part of its first-ever realistic field training exercise (FTX).

This FTX was a different experience than normal for all involved. Soldiers qualified with M16A2 rifles, endured the nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) gas chamber and tested their knowledge and practical application on CTT. During the NBC portion of the range they cross-trained with members of the III Marine Expeditionary Force as they provided wartime scenario training and confidence building techniques that over-exceeded expectations.

Following the rifle range and gas chamber, Echo Company moved to occupy the Combat Town training center on Camp Hansen. The town is a series of buildings that allow units to practice operations in an urban setting. Echo Company began its operations by moving to secure the town and set up a base of operations. Individual noncommissioned officers were tasked

with training various skills and techniques that would be useful in a real world environment. Many of the Soldiers and NCOs who had recently returned from Southwest Asia were able to provide invaluable knowledge and personal experiences that would save time and lives. "This two-day exercise was more intense and motivating than any two-week exercise at Fort Stewart, Ga.," said recent arrival Spc. Aaron Schneider.

The training continued into the night when the Marines served as opposing forces (OPFOR) and with the aid of night vision goggles kept the Echo Company security forces on their toes.

"I slept in full battle rattle waiting for the OPFOR to attack," said Sgt. Brandon Lawson. Fortunately prior training gave the Soldiers the edge and they were able to repel all attempts at infiltration.

Echo Company demonstrated that not only do they have the intelligence to comprehend and provide satellite communications to the warfighter, but they also have the coordination, desire and training base to effectively use their soldiering skills as well. By the end of the exercise the consensus from the Soldiers who participated and the Marines who joined in, was one of accomplishment, success and newfound camaraderie.

Echo Company took from this experience a newfound respect for the Soldiers who are now deployed and a better understanding of the importance of

supporting the warfighter. And although these tactics are not normal for Echo Company, the Soldiers showed they have the spirit, training and skill to adapt to any challenging situation that may come.

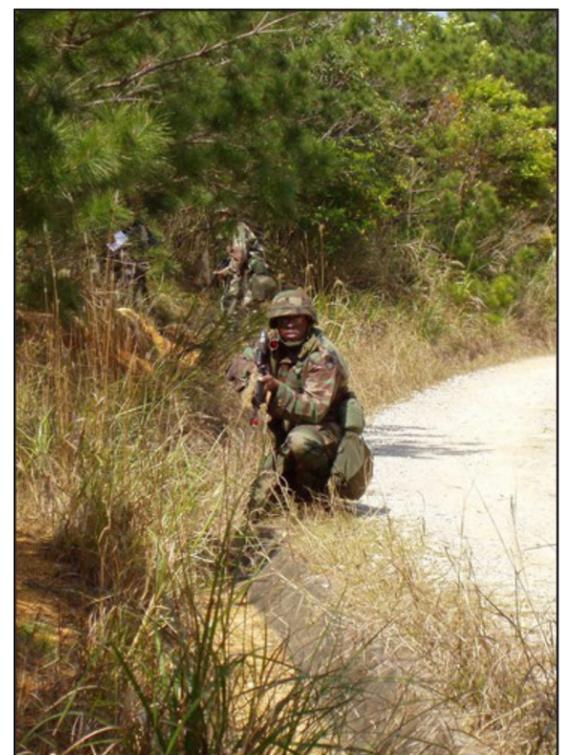


Photo by Lance Cpl. Jamaal Beard, U.S. Marine Corps

Spc. James Powell, Echo Company, 1st Satellite Control Battalion, takes the lead for his unit during a field training exercise with the III Marine Expeditionary Force at Camp Hansen in Okinawa, Japan.

Alpha Company field training exercise builds cohesion, emphasizes Soldier tasks, skills

By Sgt. Thomas Kepler and
1st Lt. Patrick Smith
Unit Reporters

Alpha Company, 1st Satellite Control Battalion, conducted the unit's second annual Field Training Exercise (FTX) at Fort A.P. Hill, Va., in April. The exercise was broken into two separate four-day rotations. First and second squads attended the FTX April 4 - 7, while third and fourth squads attended April 25 - 28.

The exercise provided realistic and challenging training emphasizing warrior tasks and drills.

"The FTX succeeded in building team cohesion and was a great opportunity for the Soldiers of Alpha Company to get outside the Operations Floor to further develop basic Soldier combat skills," said Capt. Joseph Schaefer, Alpha Company commander.

The first day of the exercise focused entirely on basic rifle marksmanship. After zeroing their M-16s, every Soldier qualified on their assigned weapon during the day range. After all the Soldiers completed firing for qualification, the command "Gas, Gas, Gas" was shouted out. They immediately donned their protective masks and conducted a Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (NBC) range.

Despite the challenge of firing while wearing their protective masks, all Soldiers again qualified with their assigned weapons. The NBC range "allowed us to become more comfortable with wearing our masks and firing our weapons under NBC circumstances," Spc. Mark

Tucker said.

The first day of training came to a close with an M-16 night fire range. After the day's training, one Soldier, Spc. John Campbell, qualified expert at the pop-up target range with a score of 39.

The second day of the exercise consisted of day and night land navigation exercises as well as Common Task Testing (CTT) for all the Soldiers. For land navigation, the Soldiers moved out in buddy teams and traversed the heavily wooded and hilly terrain of Fort A.P. Hill with maps and compasses. All the Soldiers succeeded in locating the majority, if not all, the points.

Pfc. Joshua Reis found the night course particularly challenging. "The level of difficulty was raised during the night course because we had to maintain strict light and noise discipline."

The common task testing included interacting with news media, evaluating casualties, requesting medical evacuation, weapons assembly and disassembly and functions checks. Having to perform these tasks in a field environment made them both more difficult and more realistic.

On the third day the squads engaged in a Situational Training Exercise (STX) which proved to be the most challenging and intense part of the FTX. The two squads were split up and had to execute four missions. The missions revolved around a movement to contact and seize an objective and eliminate any enemy threat. During the different missions the squads were



Photo by 1Lt. Patrick Smith

Pfc. Andrew Whirls and Command Sgt. Maj. Reginald Williams receive help over the "Belly Buster" obstacle from the 3rd Squad.

forced to react to a variety of scenarios including an enemy ambush, receiving indirect fire, a sniper attack, a chemical attack, and even a news reporter on the battlefield.

One highlight of the STX was the expert insight and guidance offered by observer/controllers Staff Sgt. Samuel Bright and Staff Sgt. Brandon Rans from the 3rd Infantry Regiment (Old Guard) at Fort Meyer, Va. The two NCOs from the Old Guard provided a wealth of knowledge on infantry tactics throughout the exercise. Their expertise was an invaluable resource to the Soldiers of A Company.

"After doing the STX lanes, I have an even greater respect for what the infantry does day in and day out" said Spc. Brandi L. Clapp.

The Soldiers competed as squads and then individually to traverse the obstacle course on the fourth and final day of the FTX. Staff Sgt. Eugene Bryant

II said of his squad, "Second Squad's motivation was at an all-time high as we worked together and encouraged each other to finish the obstacle course. I'm proud of them."

After the obstacle course the company conducted a tactical road march to the gas chamber.

Inside the chamber, every Soldier broke the seal on their mask while the CS riot agent flooded the small room. After a short interval, they resealed their masks, providing a confidence builder for the Soldiers.

Alpha Company conducted a final after-action review at the end of the exercise and then headed back to Fort Detrick, Md.

"Overall, Alpha Company's FTX was a tremendous success," Schaefer said. "The Soldiers were constantly motivated and conducted realistic and valuable training that sharpened their combat edge."

Range practice turns marksmen into sharpshooters

By Sgt. Jennifer Mroz
Unit Reporter

Charlie Company, 1st Satellite Control Battalion broke ground once again April 13, when the company

went out to qualify with their M-16/M-9 weapons. This was no ordinary range because the sole purpose was to take the marksmen Soldiers and give them the confidence, experience and coaching to make them permanent sharpshooters or even experts.

The range was a large success. Of the 12 Soldiers participating, all came back with an improved score. A large part of Charlie Company's success can be

attributed to Sgt. John Priebe, who worked one on one with Soldiers during their preliminary marksmanship instruction (PMI). Priebe taught and reinforced the basics — steady position, aiming, breath control and trigger squeeze. Priebe has a reputation for creating experts.

Under his tutelage two Soldiers became first-time experts and two habitual marksmen became strong sharpshooters. All four of the Soldiers credited their success to Priebe's PMI, so Charlie Company's commander decided to use Priebe's techniques to enhance the company as a whole.

Many Soldiers came to the unit not being able to qualify above a marksman, but with a little help their scores have improved dramatically. As it stands, 21 out of the 57 Soldiers assigned to Charlie Company are qualified as an expert on the M-16 rifle and out of those, seven shot 40 out of 40.

The majority of Soldiers, 34, are qualified as sharpshooters.



Courtesy Photo

Sgt. John Ames, left, range safety officer, Capt. Christopher Conway, company commander, and Sgt. Jonathan Maxwell, range safety, all look on using binoculars as firers attempt to zero their M-16 rifles.

Dining Out brings out 'joint' in Stuttgart

By Hugh C. McBride
6th Area Support Group
Public Affairs Office

The Soldiers and Sailors of the Stuttgart, Germany-based Joint Tactical Ground Station enjoyed a unique "dining out" experience April 2, in the Swabian Special Events Center on Stuttgart's Patch Barracks.

Though dining outs are usually service-specific celebrations, the Stuttgart celebration had a special twist, as both Army and Navy protocols were merged to

create a unique, yet still tradition-laden, event.

"We really try to promote the joint environment and teamwork in all we do," said Army Spc. Dan Everly, one of six Soldiers who served on the dining out committee. (Because last year's event was planned and hosted by JTAGS's Naval contingent at the Naval Network and Space Operations Command, Detachment Echo, the 2005 dining out was organized by Army personnel assigned to Alpha Detachment, 1st Space Company.)

Forging a new tradition "definitely

presented a number of challenges," Everly said. However, he noted, the result was an evening focused on camaraderie and shared accomplishments, rather than the differences that can divide service members of separate branches.

"Our mission dictates a unique relationship with the Navy," said Capt. Anthony Behrens, commander of Alpha Detachment (JTAGS), 1st Space Company. "Soldiers and Sailors work together every day and their families are very close. An event such as this, which celebrates our distinctive demographics, is appropriate for the JTAGS family."

With the U.S. effort in the Global War on Terrorism characterized by joint mission accomplishment, Everly said, the "new tradition" created by the JTAGS dining out seemed particularly fitting. Upon completion of the event, Capt. Behrens awarded the Army Achievement Medal to Staff Sgt. Eddie Goode for chairing the organization committee. Behrens commented, "Staff Sgt. Goode epitomizes the noncommissioned officer tradition of selflessness and commitment."

Special guests at the event included Command Master Chief Robert Munch (who was also the featured speaker), Naval Network and Space Operations Command; Army Capt. Christopher Conway, Charlie Company commander, 1st Satellite Control Battalion; Army 1st Sgt. Darren Hamilton, 1st Space Company; Navy Lt. Kelly Gannon and Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer Joseph A. Beierly from Detachment Echo, Naval Network and Space Operations Command.



Photo by Spc. Daniel Everly

Command Master Chief Robert Munch, right, tastes the first glass of the "Heroes Punch" with Sgt. 1st Class David Steele, Master of the Punch.

Re-enlistment in a birdbath?

By Capt. Conway Lin

CAMP ROBERTS, Calif. —

It was an amazing ceremony ... a re-enlistment in a birdbath.

The sky was overcast, but the glare from the birdbath was almost blinding. A kind of eeriness lingered as the select group at the ceremony realized where they were standing.

The birdbath in this case was a 52-foot satellite antenna pointed straight into the sky in the "zenith" position, and the group was there to celebrate Sgt. Thomas Schmenk's re-enlistment ceremony.

The company group gathered on the hilltop adjacent to Delta Company's building, however, one thing was missing ... the person re-enlisting.

After a few minutes spent waiting, somebody noticed the Operations NCO, Staff Sgt. Bryan E. Marines, wandering around the backside of the building where the antenna sits.

Word quickly spread that Schmenk was up in the dish. Initially, Schmenk had said, "I don't care where



Photo by Pfc. Michael J. Felix

Sgt. Valencia Hollobaugh, unit re-enlistment NCO, left, Capt. Conway Lin, re-enlisting officer, Sgt. Thomas Schmenk and Pfc. Michael Felix (with colors) enjoy the view from the 52-foot antenna at Company D, 1st Satellite Control Battalion after Schmenk's re-enlistment ceremony.

we do it, let's just do it," but based on the recommendation of Marines, Schmenk had decided to re-enlist inside the dish, which was inactive due to an equipment upgrade.

So, on Friday, April 8, five members of Delta Company, 1st Satellite Control Battalion, climbed up the unit's Satellite

Communications Terminal to re-enlist Schmenk.

After the climb to the dish, everyone removed his or her boots to prevent scuffing, denting or otherwise damaging the surface of the dish.

Sgt. Valencia A. Hollobaugh, the re-enlistment NCO and photographer; Pfc. Michael J.

Felix, the color bearer; Pfc. Joel H. Wilson, a witness; and Capt. Conway Lin, the unit re-enlistment officer, had the unique opportunity of standing in the birdbath and re-enlisting an excellent Soldier.



Photo by Dottie White

SMDC supports AER fund-raising effort

Deborah Asberry, left, equipment specialist, G-4, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command, and Sarah Trial, military personnel technician, SMDC and primary SMDC, Huntsville Army Emergency Relief Fund coordinator, prepare for an AER bake sale March 24 at SMDC on Redstone Arsenal. Along with the baked goods, the sale offered eight different types of deviled eggs and a variety of fruit. SMDC's three locations raised \$13,347 between March 1 when the campaign began until its conclusion May 15 for AER.

C Company continues retention excellence

By Sgt. Adrian Duran
Unit Reporter

Beneath the shadow of the historic tower, Bismark Turm, which overlooks the Ramstein and Landstuhl area of Germany's Rhineland-Pfalz region, three Soldiers once again raised their hands to continue their service with the U.S. Army. Sgt. James Garnett, Spc. James DeBroeck and Spc. Henry Eye from Charlie Company, 1st Satellite Control Battalion, re-enlisted on a perfect spring day in March. Each of them had his reasons for re-enlisting and despite popular belief the selective re-enlistment bonus was not on the top of the list.

Capt. Christopher Conway, commander of Charlie Company, has re-enlisted dozens of Soldiers, but was equally proud to see these Soldiers re-enlist under his command. Garnett chose the location; but unfortunately, the space on top of the tower was not suitable for everyone attending to fit. The ceremony was held at the base and pictures were later taken individually at the top with a scenic view in the background.

Garnett, having already re-enlisted once in Charlie Company, has bigger and better plans for this enlistment. He has

recently been promoted to sergeant and is now looking to become an officer for the U.S. Army. "I want to retire as an officer, whether as a warrant or not," said Sgt. Garnett. This is just one step to help him achieve this goal. His pride and willingness to succeed is exactly what the Army needs.

Eye and DeBroeck, friends since Advanced Individual Training, both re-enlisted for station of choice at the Wideband Satellite Operations Center at Fort Buckner, Okinawa, Japan. DeBroeck was not concerned with the amount of his bonus. "I don't even know how much of a bonus I'm getting," Debroeck said. "I just wanted to go to Japan." Eye followed suit by commenting, "I've always wanted to go to some place exotic, and why not go while I'm in the Army?"

Garnett re-enlisted for

six years, received a \$25,000 bonus and one-year stabilization in Charlie Company. Eye re-enlisted for three years and will later have to extend for four months in order to fulfill Army requirements. He will receive approximately a \$6,000 bonus. DeBroeck re-enlisted for 4 years and will also receive a bonus of about \$5,000. The re-enlistment of these Soldiers continues a long-standing successful retention program for the unit.

Staff Sgt. Franklin Barrett, the unit retention NCO, commented saying, "I've had the opportunity to counsel and re-enlist more than 15 Soldiers. Seeing the troops get what they want, while continuing their service, is a fulfilling responsibility."



Courtesy Photo

Spc. Henry Eye, right, Spc. James DeBroeck, and Sgt. James Garnett all raise their right hands and repeat the oath after Capt. Christopher Conway, left, during their re-enlistments for a combined total of 13 years of military service.

Committee reviewing military pay, compensation package

By Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A new committee is studying the military compensation system to come up with ways to bring it more in line with what service members want and operational needs demand.

The Defense Advisory Committee on Military Compensation held its first public meeting May 11 to explain its marching orders from Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld: to take a look at the current system and recommend how to make it better.

The committee will look at the whole compensation program for men and women in uniform in both the active and reserve components, explained retired Navy Adm. Donald Pilling, committee chairman and former vice chief of naval operations.

This includes basic, special and incentive pays; benefits ranging from housing to medical care; and deferred pay that includes retirement pay and survivor benefits, he said.

The committee will attempt to strike the best balance between cash and benefits, current and deferred compensation, and the need for flexibility during peacetime as well as war, Pilling said.

It will also consider the best way to compensate members of the National Guard and Reserve, who are deploying more frequently than ever before to support military operations, he said.

The goal is to ensure that the armed forces continue to attract and retain top-quality, highly motivated men and women and to ensure they and their families receive the compensation they deserve. Pilling said that's particularly important when they're burdened by multiple deployments and family separations.

One issue the committee will deal with is the fact that many military members are more interested in cash in hand than retirement or other benefits.

"They tend to value current compensation more than compensation that they will not receive for 10 or 20 years, or maybe not at all," he said.

Retirement benefits become more important later in a service member's career, when they become critical to military retention, Pilling said.

During May 10 meetings with service leaders, committee members heard "a range of views about specific changes" in the compensation package, all to be considered during the committee's deliberations, he said.

But one particular message came through loud and clear. "All asked for an architecture that allows flexibility rather than mandatory changes in compensation," Pilling said.

Flexibility will be a key goal as the military undergoes its longest period of sustained conflict since the all-volunteer force was conceived in the early 1970s, he said.

The committee plans to present Rumsfeld an interim report of its recommendations by late September and the final report in April 2006. The next of its public meetings is scheduled for June 7.



Lt. Col. Albert Scheckengost gets a twirl from his wife Louise.

Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Dennis Beebe

SMDC has a ball!

By Ed White
SMDC Public Affairs

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — More than 550 people dressed up in their finest and attended the annual SMDC Ball held in the Cheyenne Mountain Conference Center at the foot of Pikes Peak April 29.

The program included inspirational videos and a slide show showing the command's activities over the past year.

The guest speaker, Doug Sterner, Ph.D., is one of the nation's foremost Congressional Medal of Honor scholars and a former sergeant in the Combat Engineers. Taking the muddy boots view, Sterner extolled the audience to continue to support our deployed troops, those who are about to deploy and those coming back from deployments.



Linda Oellig of the G-1 and Diann Gilmore from G-8 lead the ladies in line dancing.



Guest speaker Doug Sterner, former sergeant in the U.S. Army, speaks to the crowd during the SMDC Ball held in Colorado Springs April 29. Sterner is a decorated, two-tour veteran of service in Vietnam. Following discharge from active duty he spent six years as a member of the Montana National Guard. Sterner is a popular author, speaker, Webmaster and historian who has dedicated his life to preserving and telling the stories of some of the Nation's greatest heroes.



Col. Jeffrey Horne, commander, Operations for the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command, demonstrates some low-level precision gliding at the SMDC Ball held in Colorado Springs at the Cheyenne Mountain Conference Resort April 29.

E Company proves to be dangerous underdogs

By Spc. William Reinhart
and Capt. Eric C. Setzekorn

OKINAWA, Japan — An underdog in almost every match-up, the E Company Eagles' basketball record hardly does the team justice. With only four wins this season, one might think that the Eagles were less than competitive. That thought would be incorrect to say the least.

Outmatched when it came to height and numbers, heart and determination drove the Eagles through every game. E Company suffered losses to 10th Area Support Group, last year's champion, and 505th Quartermaster Company, last year's runner up, by only two points in both games. With only two losses by more than five points, every game was a barnburner with the high-spirited Eagles. This gave rise to a loyal following of Eagle supporters who came out to root for the underdog, knowing that regardless of who won or lost, the game would undoubtedly be an exciting and unpredictable event.

Many people were surprised with the Eagles' strong showing this season. Coming out and winning their season opener against 347th Signal Company was a huge shock to all the fans that had already counted the Eagles out based upon last season's disappointing performance.

But, the Eagles proved themselves a tough team to beat down the stretch. Spc. LaQincey Mackey started at the point-guard position showing his dominant ball handling skills and flawless passing abilities. Sgt. Eveveta Crawford, formerly of the women's All Army Basketball Team, brought a quick shot ability that has yet to be defended against in the league. Spc.

Adam Fairchild was the resident three-point expert going 75 percent from the perimeter on more than one occasion. Spc. Deeraheem Wright and Spc. William Reinhart controlled the paint and handled the rebounding, showing what it meant to be an inside presence.

Capt. DeWayne Ingram's unparalleled jumping ability and speed, coupled with Spc. Darryl Rowland's quickness and agility made sure that there was never a shortage of turnovers for the Eagles to take advantage of. Lastly, Spc. Stephen Bahn and Sgt. Stuart Ransom provided the depth that the Eagles needed to complete each game.

The Eagles entered the Okinawa championship tournament on March 30. When asked about the tournament, Rowland said, "when we play as a team we can beat any team in the league. I don't see anything but victory ahead of us." Echo Company came into the tournament with high hopes of reaching the later stages of the playoffs. With a strong, confident and unified team coming off a long rest there was every reason to expect a run for the championship.

The Eagles started off by eliminating 1st of the 1st Special Forces Group, which had been heavily favored going into the playoffs. They rapidly built a comfortable lead based on strong outside shooting. The inside game was a draw but there were enough offensive rebounds to ensure that almost every time the Eagles came down the court they would put points on the board.

Standouts of the game included Reinhart who dominated in the paint and Mackey, the starting point guard.

Crawford had been the Echo Company secret weapon during the season, using her experience to confuse opponents and direct on-court play, but unfortunately, she twisted her ankle going into the game and was forced to remain on the sidelines instead, offering strong moral support.

The first game in the quarterfinals was a long draining struggle that took a lot of energy and emotion. The second game had Echo Company facing off against last year's defending island champions, the 10th Area Support Group, which is the largest Army unit on island and has many skilled and experienced players to choose from. They had easily won their first round game and switched in many new players from their deep bench to ensure everyone was fresh and rested.

Although play remained close during the first period, Echo Company was unable to keep up with the tempo and bold play of 10th ASG. It was difficult to control the lane and rebound well when faced with numerous taller opponents. The Eagles' valiant efforts were insufficient to pull out a victory, and the team was eliminated from the 2005 tournament.

In spite of the tournament loss, most of the players remain confident that Echo Company will put together a championship caliber team next year.

"Although we were outmanned physically, we were extremely competitive this season and have a strong foundation to build on for next year," said Wright, the starting forward. Most of the players will remain on island and can form the solid core of the 2006 team that will take from this event a spirit of motivation from the sorrow of defeat.

Bump, Set, Spike!

SMDC volleyball team wins league play

U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command's volleyball team took first place during league play with a 7-1 record. Their only loss was a forfeit, when they did not have enough players for a game because several members were TDY. The SMDC team finished the tournament in second place after an exciting three-game match. Members of the 2005 Team included: Team Captain — Master Sgt. Denny Skiles (G-3 Operations); Rhonda Skiles (G-6); Tim McDonald (G-6); Maj. Paul Madsen (G-3 Operations); 1st Lt. John Alban (100th Missile Defense Brigade); Sgt. James Smith (1st Space Battalion); Lt. Col. John Madrid (G-3 Plans); Mark Magee; Charles Schwarz; Capt. Axel Hernandez (100th Missile Defense Brigade); Capt. Orlando Cobos (100th Missile Defense Brigade); Sgt. 1st Class Richard Rogers (G-3 War Plans and Exercises); Mark Ayers (G-3 Plans) and Coach Sharon L. Hartman (Public Affairs Office).



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Dennis Beebe

Sgt. 1st Class Richard Rogers (#9) and Capt. Axel Hernandez (#12) block a hit from a member of the 21st Comptroller Squadron during the championship match of the Peterson Air Force Base recreation league volleyball tournament.