

## Inside The Eagle



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# The Eagle

U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command

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## Army astronaut aboard ISS for six-month stay

By J.D. Leipold  
Army News Service

**WASHINGTON** — Col. Jeffrey N. Williams launched April 5 from Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on a two-day flight to the International Space Station some 230 miles from earth.

Flight engineer for Expedition 13, Williams is joined by Pavel Vinogradov of Russia and Marcos Pontes of Brazil.

The crew will conduct a variety of scientific experiments, to include studying the effects of long-term weightlessness.

"It is important that we dedicate time and effort to understanding the impacts of a weightless environment on the human body because the space station's primary purpose, of course, is ... to send crews back to the moon for a long

duration and, of course, on to Mars," Williams said in a preflight interview with NASA.

While Williams and Vinogradov will be aboard the station for six months, Pontes will spend eight days conducting research before returning with the Expedition 12 crew.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker and Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command Commander Lt. Gen. Larry Dodgen spoke live from the Pentagon with Williams and Retired Col. William McArthur (Expedition 12 crewmember) April 6 as they orbited the Earth aboard the ISS.

Later, space shuttle Discovery will bring astronaut Thomas Reiter of Germany to the outpost, which will restore the station's crew to three members for the first time since the Columbia accident in



Photos courtesy of NASA

Col. Jeffrey N. Williams waves at media representatives March 26 during a tour of the Soyuz assembly building at the Baikonur Cosmodrome.

February 2003.

As Discovery approaches for docking, Williams will take photographs of the shuttle doing a 360 degree somersault.

"Part of the aftermath of the Columbia accident was the realization that we need to understand that if damage occurs to the shuttle during ascent, it might endanger the vehicle during the subsequent part of the mission, and in particular, entry," Williams said.

"We don't have sensors or cameras on the ground during the ascent that can detect all of the potential things that may happen, particularly to the underside of the orbiter," he added.

Williams, who conducted a seven-hour space walk during

a ten-day mission onboard Atlantis in May 2000, will also conduct spacewalks to replace and install station components during his current stay.

The ISS is only half built, and has been under continuous construction since 1998.

"It's a privilege and honor to be a part of it. The steps are sometimes slower than we would like, but every step, I believe, and hope, is important," the astronaut said.

A West Point graduate, Williams began his Army career in the infantry but soon afterward attended flight school. He was selected for the astronaut program in 1996.

(ARNEWS editor's note: Information gathered from NASA press releases.)



Col. Jeffrey N. Williams is submerged in the waters of the Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory (NBL) at the Johnson Space Center.

# The Command Corner



**Lt. Gen. Larry J. Dodgen**  
Commanding General



**CSM David L. Lady**  
Command Sergeant Major

**T**he evolving security environment highlights the importance of our Nation's military forces being organized, trained and equipped to operate effectively as part of joint, interagency and coalition efforts. Supporting these efforts requires the synergistic effect of military and non-military partnerships and joint interdependence, a concept defined as "the meaningful reliance on other service and joint capabilities to maximize complementary and reinforcing effects while minimizing service vulnerabilities." Importantly, partnerships and joint interdependence enable military effects much greater than results produced by any nation or Service alone.

Our Nation's senior military leaders have long emphasized the vital importance of partnerships and joint interdependence. In recent remarks on the importance of international partnerships, Gen. Peter Pace, chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, noted: "There is no nation so large that it can do it all by itself." Gen. Peter Schoomaker, chief of staff, Army, stressed the importance for the Army: "We will retain our dominance on land by providing the combatant commander with agile, versatile and strategically responsive forces completely integrated and synchronized with other members of the joint and interagency team and with our coalition partners. The Army does not fight alone, and achieving joint interdependence must dominate all future aspects of the Army's culture, structure and operations."

Notably, the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command is at the forefront of many of the Army's partnership and joint interdependence efforts. Our relationships span across the Department of Defense, and also include the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, scores of research and development activities, and more than a dozen universities. All of these partnerships enhance our capability to support joint warfighters.

In the area of integrated missile defense, SMDC/ARSTRAT partners closely with the Missile Defense Agency, the other services, combatant commands, program executive offices, industry, and research and development activities. As an example, the Technical Center, serving as executing agent for the MDA, is pursuing development of an interceptor design that will accommodate the launch of multiple kill vehicles on a single booster. The MKV program will provide a significant increase in the robustness of ballistic missile defense layered defenses. We also partner closely with NASA in the areas of propulsion, system-of-systems, optics, and sensors. The unique capabilities resident with the Reagan Test Site on the U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll are vital to our Nation's missile tests in support of the BMDS. The RTS also supports the Air Force, NASA, and DoD and commercial satellite launches.

In partnership with the Air Force and Navy, the Technical Center is also executing the Joint High Power Solid State Laser program. The purpose of the J-HPSSL program is to develop a 100 kW-class laboratory solid state laser that meets performance requirements and a design capable of fitting on mobile platforms. This capability promises one day to enhance our defenses against rockets, artillery and mortars.

This command also provides contracting officers and matrix personnel in support of the acquisition and contracting processes for the MDA and the PEO, Space and Missiles. Contractor support is reciprocally important to local businesses and this command, as indicated by the relationship we have in Huntsville with the Small Business Innovative Research efforts.

See *Partnership* on page 4

**L**ast month, we reviewed the new annual rating requirement for officers and noncommissioned officers — that every rating include the Soldier's contributions to unit safety programs. The goal is for all leaders to take responsibility for instilling safety awareness in every Soldier. Safety awareness and risk reduction preserve combat power: they ensure that all Soldiers arrive at the battle, ready for the battle.

The danger of this specific initiative is two-fold: Firstly, leaders might believe that this emphasis creates a "zero-defect" command climate, in which any accident will count against one's annual rating; secondly, leaders might not take the instructions seriously enough, will not set a higher standard for junior leader safety leadership, and will have to invent comments that "check the block" at the end of the rating period.

In either case, the chief of staff's intent will have been badly missed, and unit safety programs will not improve.

As to these dangers, senior leader attitude is all important. We senior leaders must emphasize that Soldiers are expected to perform risky tasks, and to go into harm's way. Good leaders do not avoid training, exercises or missions because of the risk. These leaders analyze the risks involved and take steps to reduce the risks, but then go ahead to accomplish the training or the mission. Accidents do not necessarily mean leaders or programs are at fault. All reasonable actions to raise risk awareness and to reduce risks may have been taken, yet accidents do happen and Soldiers and civilians sometimes do stupid and dangerous things when off-duty and unsupervised. We senior leaders must emphasize that no one's career is to be ruined when all reasonable steps have been taken to help Soldiers to avoid accidents.

Senior leaders must also emphasize that every leader is important to improving safety in the unit. Every leader can contribute, within their span of influence, to improve safety awareness and risk reduction. Sergeants have a fairly small span of influence — the Soldiers in their squad or section. Company commanders have influence over one hundred or so Soldiers. Yet these junior leaders can dramatically influence Soldier attitudes and actions. This influence is the most important influence when improving unit safety programs.

In order to fairly rate a leader's contribution to unit safety, the rater must outline the standards to be met and review preferred methods and actions to achieve the standards. Developmental counseling is the best tool for conveying these expectations: quarterly and monthly discussions between rater and subordinate in which performance, progress toward achieving goals, and training accomplished are reviewed.

Using the Developmental Counseling Form (DA Form 4856-E) guides discussion and clarifies goals and methods.

"Key Points for Discussion" should always include a review of safety expectations, and relate them to forthcoming events, such as training exercises and long weekends.

"Plan of Action" comments should include the training that the Soldier is to accomplish or present, or the tasks that must be accomplished for the goals to be met.

"Leader Responsibilities" outline what the rater will do to assist the Soldier in accomplishing the tasks and meeting the goals.

Valid safety expectations can include: conducting vehicle inspections before long weekends, using the inspection checklists found on the Army's Combat Readiness Center Web

See *Safety awareness* on page 3

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### Vice chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff visits Huntsville, SMDC/ARSTRAT

Adm. Edmund P. Giambastiani Jr., vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was the guest speaker at a summit luncheon for Joint Integrated Air and Missile Defense in Huntsville, Ala., April 19.

Giambastiani, the nation's second highest ranking military officer, spoke on "Improving Government and Industry Collaboration for the Long War."

Following the luncheon, Giambastiani visited the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command at building 5220 on Redstone Arsenal for briefings with senior leaders.

Photo by Joe Ramirez

## What We Think

### The Eagle asks: What do you like best about the spring season?



I like the warm weather and lack of snow. Spring gives a new sense of adventure to get outside and enjoy everything that nature has to offer. It's a great time to get back in shape and catch a baseball game.

Maj. Tim Johnson  
ARSST Team 1 Leader  
2nd Space Company  
Colorado Springs, Colo.



I like the spring because it represents the passing of the old and ushering in of the new and the weather of course; not too hot not too cold, "just right!"

Dawayne Bacon  
Personnel Assistant  
G-1  
Arlington, Va.



The thing I like best about the spring season is the warmer weather and the pleasures associated with it — grilling out with friends, Huntsville Stars' day games, the beauty of dogwood trees, fresh air through open windows, and cheaper utility bills.

Debbie Elliott  
Internal Review Evaluator  
Internal Review and Audit  
Compliance Office



After being cooped up during the long winter months, I adore the spring season because I can get outside to work in the yard, and I can also enjoy all the beautiful blooming flowers. Each day when I leave work from my great job in the Command Suite, if the weather permits, I can always find something to do outside, and I love every minute of it.

Vivian Luker  
Maid  
Phoenix Service  
Huntsville, Ala.



I enjoy spring best of all, because of all the flowers coming into bloom, the trees that start budding out and the grass getting really green. I take my kids out to the park and have fun playing with them on the slides, swings and other playground equipment. This is the best season, because of the fresh air and warm breezes, and I get to enjoy the sun on my face.

1st Sgt. Virgil Ebrecht  
Headquarters, Headquarters  
Company  
1st Space Brigade  
Colorado Springs, Colo.



Spring gives me the opportunity to ride the Harley without having to worry about frost-bite and sand all over the roads. It also means my Koi come out of hibernation and go into a feeding frenzy.

Stephen Amacher  
Deputy G-4  
Colorado Springs, Colo.

### Safety awareness continued from page 2

site; conducting personal risk evaluations with Soldiers before they begin leave or pass periods; mastering the risk assessment process; and

employing formal risk assessment before every training event or exercise.

In this way, regular developmental counseling will reinforce safety as a value, and will emphasize that risk assessment and reduction are

life-skills. Attitudes can be influenced, and behavior can be modified.

We leaders are responsible to accomplish missions and take care of our Soldiers. We must set a high standard, demonstrate a high standard,

and use developmental counseling to ensure that our junior leaders and Soldiers understand their personal responsibility when enforcing safety standards and preserving combat power.

**ON POINT!**

# Mask confidence exercise leads to squad challenge

By Staff Sgt. Louis Coleman  
Unit reporter

**LANDSTUHL, Germany** — Charlie Company, 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON) conducted a CBRN (chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear) mask confidence exercise on March 21 and 22.

The gas chamber is a room that has a controlled concentration of CS (ortho-chlorobenzylidene-malonitrile) gas, more commonly known as tear gas. Tear gas is the active ingredient in Mace™ and is used for self defense and for riot control by the police. Tear gas is an irritant. It irritates mucous membranes in the eyes, nose, mouth and lungs, causing tearing, sneezing, coughing, etc.

For most, taking a few breaths of tear gas on a full stomach is not a good feeling. Before entering the gas chamber, Charlie Company trained on how to fit their protective mask and chemical gear properly. Learning how to clear a mask is important.

Sgt. Christopher Kyer, unit CBRN noncommissioned officer, led the instruction weeks in advance of the company entering the gas chamber, which helped guarantee that all of the company's masks were functioning properly.

Capt. Andre Reed and 1st Sgt. Martin Chaffee greeted each team of six as they entered the gas chamber. The room was very dark and foggy. Kyer positioned himself by something that looked like a coffee can next to a table. The coffee can had a flame inside — the CS gas burning.

The Soldiers reviewed the following important tips from ArmyStudyGuide.com on how to survive the gas chamber:

“As the NBC NCO touches your shoulder take in a deep breath, close your eyes, lift your mask, answer the questions in one breath, put your mask back on and clear the mask. This part of the gas chamber is not difficult if you stay calm. However, over the years, NBC NCOs have learned that recruits accomplish this without inhaling any CS gas. The NBC NCOs want you to inhale the gas and recognize the importance of chemical gear. As you are exiting the gas chamber, your eyes will fill with water, and mucous will fill your lungs and face. The best treatment is air. Immediately upon exiting the gas chamber, you should open your eyes. This will seem like a hard task under the circumstances, but keeping your eyes open in fresh air will allow any discomfort to dissipate very quickly. I cannot emphasize enough to not touch your eyes. You will no doubt feel the urge, but touching and/or rubbing your eyes is the worst thing you can do. Take deep breaths of air with your arms over your head, and you will be surprised how



Photo by Staff Sgt. Dawn Westrum

**Spc. Martin Jensen takes a bow after shattering the current record for the longest time in the gas chamber without the use of a mask during the Charlie Company, 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON) mask confidence exercise on March 22.**

quickly the CS leaves your system. In less than a minute you will be nearly, if not, 100 percent better.”

Chaffee issued a dare to see who could unmask and hold stay inside the chamber the longest. What started out as a standard task ended up to be a squad level competition of heart and desire.

Spc. Martin Jensen came out victorious with a commanding time of 1:19 almost 30 seconds longer than his next competitor, which for Jensen proved to be a gratifying end to a long day of common task testing.

## Mathews gets nominated for one-star promotion

### 35 Army colonels recommended for brigadier general

The Secretary of Defense's office issued an announcement on March 30 stating that the President had nominated 35 Army colonels for promotion to the rank of brigadier general.

U.S. Army Space and

Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command's own Col. (P) Roger F. Mathews, deputy commander for Operations, was among the nominees for a one-star promotion.

Mathews has been with SMDC/ARSTRAT since Jan. 17. His last assignment was as the deputy commander, U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and as the assistance commandant, U.S. Army Air

Defense Artillery School.

As the DCO for SMDC/ARSTRAT, Mathews oversees and maintains the operational side of the Command to include responsibility for the 1st Space Brigade and the 100th Missile Defense Brigade (Ground-based Midcourse Defense.)

He is also responsible for the operational missions assigned to SMDC/ARSTRAT from U.S. Strategic Command and the U.S. Army.



Col. (P) Roger F. Mathews

## Partnership

continued from page 2

Partnerships with universities have been vital to developments in multiple areas, including radar power and advanced electronic technology. The relationship between the Future Warfare Center and American University recently led to an agreement where graduates of the Space Operations Officer Qualification Course may now receive graduate credit towards a space operations degree. In addition, based upon our university partnerships, several highly qualified personnel will be joining the SMDC/ARSTRAT workforce.

SMDC/ARSTRAT's support of our Nation's partnership with Israel enabled development of the Arrow anti-tactical ballistic missile and technologies in support of directed energy applications. More recently, an agreement involving the United States, Germany and Italy is leading to a truly cooperative research and development effort for the Medium

Extended Air Defense System. These initiatives are all mutually beneficial.

In support of our Nation's warfighters, SMDC/ARSTRAT supports joint interdependence with the provision of in-theater Theater Missile Early Warning Detachments operating joint tactical ground stations, which provide the only direct early warning link that does not go through a relay station. Approximately one-third of the JTAGS operators are from the Navy; a Naval officer is also one of the detachment commanders. Partnering of SMDC/ARSTRAT, the Air Force, the Navy, and the Defense Information Systems Agency provides the U.S. Strategic Command a single all-spectrum point of contact — the Regional Satellite Communications Support Centers — for accessing and managing satellite communications resources.

Access to space-based products and services is provided by the 1st Space Brigade's Army Space Support Teams and

the Space Support Elements, all of which are trained by SMDC/ARSTRAT. These space-savvy Soldiers provide Army and Joint commanders, staffs, and units expertise, experience, and professional knowledge to ensure the space portion of the battlespace is fully understood. Our establishment of an Army liaison officer position with the National Security Space Institute serves as an important opportunity to ensure the Army space cadre is integrated and synchronized with other service cadres.

As we look to the future, I ask each of you to continue to bring forth the great ideas and creativity that have been the hallmark attributes of our past. In closing, this month, which signals the start of springtime for many SMDC/ARSTRAT locations, also serves as an important time to remind ourselves of the importance of continuous risk management both on and off duty.

**SECURE THE HIGH GROUND!**

## GMD's Alpha Crew takes part in successful flight test



Photo courtesy of Boeing

A successful flight test of the Ground-based Midcourse Defense system occurred Feb. 23.

By Maj. Martin Bortolutti  
GMD Operator

**SHREIVER AFB, Colo.** — A successful flight test of the Ground-based Midcourse Defense system occurred Feb. 23.

After two postponements, Flight Test 04-1 combined the efforts of the 100th Missile Defense Brigade (GMD)'s Alpha Crew at the Missile Defense Element, a Boeing-led industry team and the Missile Defense Agency.

"Everyday is a good day to be in GMD, but especially today — this flight test really helped endorse GMD's capabilities and role in our nation's defense against ballistic missile threats," said Staff Sgt. Jeremiah VanDorsten, Alpha Crew readiness officer.

The test demonstrated the capability of the newly upgraded radar located at Beale Air Force Base, Calif., confirming the radar's capability to track a long-range ballistic missile target launched from Kodiak, Alaska.

The Beale radar recently received hardware and software enhancements to enable it to precisely track and identify a threat missile's trajectory. The test resulted in

a successful interception of the missile threat target.

"This test has affirmed the confidence of the brigade's warfighting crews to work hand in hand with both the Joint Program Office and the prime contractor, Boeing," said Lt. Col David Meakins, Alpha Crew director. "We are proud to have been the crew on duty to have executed the test. It was especially nice to have received personal appreciation and a coin from Brig. Gen. Patrick J. O'Reilly, the MDA joint program director."

This test also served as a rehearsal for a future flight test from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. During the future test, an operational interceptor is scheduled to be launched from a GMD site for the first time. Also, a target will be launched from Kodiak during the test. The test's objective is for the interceptor launched from VAFB to collect data on the missile threat target.

Boeing is the prime contractor for the Ground-based Midcourse Defense system, which is the centerpiece of MDA's overall layered ballistic-missile defense architecture. Industry partners include Raytheon, Orbital Sciences and Northrop Grumman.

## New Technical Center director receives recognition, award

By Dottie White  
Editor, *The Eagle*

**REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala.** — A Senior Executive Service member of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command was recognized in a ceremony here April 13 for his duties as the new director of the Technical Center. He also received an honorary award for his previous contributions to the command.

Dr. Rodney Robertson, who was recently selected for the position, returned to SMDC/ARSTRAT after being detailed to the Program Executive Office, Missiles and Space, where he was the director of Joint Single Integrated Air Picture and System-of-Systems. Prior to the effective date of the detail Robertson was assigned to SMDC/ARSTRAT as the director of the Test and Evaluation Directorate, Technical Center.

Robertson received the Superior Civilian Service Award for these duties from Lt. Gen. Larry J. Dodgen, commanding general, SMDC/ARSTRAT.

Robertson was awarded for "... his knowledge, high level expertise and service in support of the sciences, engineering and management of both the Technical Center, Space and Missile Defense Command, and the PEO, Missiles and Space, System-of-Systems Directorate."

"The Technical Center has always been the engine of SMDC," Dodgen said. "They have almost 300 employees with broad projects reaching out to industry and intellect that is here in Huntsville."

The general said he chose Robertson as Jess Granone's replacement for the same leadership, intelligence and willingness to work long and hard for the good of our country.

The importance of the interceptor center of excellence for our country will change as we begin to face more and more sophisticated threats, Dodgen said. "Rodney will be the person who leads that

function in our command."

Robertson addressed Lt. Gen. Dodgen, his fellow SES members, friends and coworkers by saying, "It is because of the work you do everyday, supporting the Technical Center, that allows me to receive this recognition."

Robertson said he looks forward to working with the people in the command, the contracting community, the Huntsville community in general, and the missile defense community. He said these people are not satisfied with the status quo, and that is what makes the job so exciting and rewarding for him.

"It allows me to work with people who are involved in technologies that enable our Soldiers on the battlefield to take full advantage of space assets while denying our adversaries that same capability," Robertson said. "Our nation's defense capabilities would not be what it is today if it wasn't for the work done in SMDC and other organizations here in Huntsville," said Robertson.

Robertson has more than 25 years of professional experience in science, engineering and management. He earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Auburn University and a master's in engineering and a Ph.D. in industrial and systems engineering from the University of Alabama-Huntsville.



Photo by LuAnne Fantasia

Dr. Rodney Robertson, director, Technical Center, makes his way to the stage of the Bob Jones Auditorium on Redstone Arsenal, Ala., for a recognition and award ceremony in his honor.

# Delta Company conducts OPERATION FIRESTORM

By 2nd Lt. Clint Rutter  
Unit reporter

**CAMP ROBERTS, Calif.** — Soldiers from Delta Company, 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON), recently conducted Common Task Testing (CTT) for skill levels 20 and 30. Team leaders and squad leaders know that practice

makes perfect and enables them to complete their CTT requirements and to certify as "lane walkers" for their subordinates. Delta Company has been running CTT lanes to hone their skills for battle.

Soldiers began the day by navigating in teams of three across the quite hilly terrain on Camp Roberts. Each Soldier

was responsible for navigating at least one section of their team's course.

"During our leader's reconnaissance of the area, we visited each point before the Soldiers did to validate the course," 1st Sgt. Mark Gehrt stated. "As a lane walker on the testing day, I allowed my Soldiers to choose their own path to their next point. If they wanted to walk up the steep hills to get to their next point, I let them. However, I also encouraged them to use the terrain to their advantage."

After the land navigation, the Soldiers were presented with a situational training lane. They would maneuver themselves through the designated lane with an Observer/Controller (OC) beside them. When the Soldiers encountered a vehicle, they searched it for explosives. When they experienced simulated indirect fire, they reacted. When they encountered a Soldier with a simulated wound, they evaluated the casualty and sent the appropriate nine-line medical evacuation report. In all, the Soldiers validated their

training on 12 different tasks.

"We learn these things in basic training," said Sgt. Michael Griffin. "Doing this training with a realistic scenario keeps us combat ready and our knowledge current."

Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Plale, who served as an evaluator for the testing said, "The Soldiers going through the testing stations completed the tasks to standard. With the use of Improvised Explosive Devices, and direct and indirect fire simulators, we created a realistic training environment for our Soldiers. We added as many sights and sounds of the battle field as we could."

The intent of the exercise was to ensure all Soldiers complete the tasks appropriate for their skill level in a challenging environment, free from distraction of garrison activities.

Capt. Conway Lin, Delta Company commander stated, "Without putting together a realistic scenario to test our Soldiers, we would be doing them a disservice."



Photo by Capt. Ryan R. Renkin

Sgt. Taylor Roynon treats a simulated wound on Sgt. David Englehardt while Sgt. Michael Griffin (background) sends in a nine-line MEDEVAC request.

## The Army's newest RSCCE operators get certified

By Staff Sgt. Woody Scott  
Unit reporter

**LANDSTUHL, Germany** — One of the most significant challenges facing the satellite network control operating environment is the dwindling number of Soldiers certified to work the control payload (CPC) position. The CPC is responsible for monitoring the commanding of Defense Satellite Communications Systems (DSCS) satellites, which is one of the most crucial functions performed by a Wideband Satellite Operations Center (WSOC).

With the retirement of Elmer Lu Frazier, the operation of the Production Satellite Configuration Control Element (PSCCE) was no longer being taught. This meant that every PCS (permanent change of station) or ETS (end tour of station) that took a CPC certified Soldier out of the unit adversely impacted the ability of the unit to perform its mission.

Each squad felt the burden of maintaining their CPC qualified operators. When scheduling leaves or passes, Squad Leaders had to maintain the minimum number of workers certified to operate the operations center floor as well as the minimum number of CPC certified workers.

For Charlie Company, 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON), the first signs of relief came to in the form of a course called the RSCCE (Replacement Satellite Configuration Control Element) course. Charlie Company recently sent ten Soldiers to the RSCCE course. The four-week course taught by Josh Bonesz and Chris Savaglio from ITT Industries gave the Soldiers the skills and fundamentals of the RSCCE system with an emphasis on hands-on practical application. Much of their daily class time was spent on the actual RSCCE equipment in real world

scenarios allowing for realistic and effective training.

The new payload controllers of Charlie Company, 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON) are Sgt. Patrick Mann (Distinguished Honor Graduate), Spc. Shane Hillstead (Honor Graduate), Spc. Charles Keller, Spc. Quentin Kendall, Spc. Brandon Hayman, Spc. Ryan Morgan, Spc. Ryan Petersen, Spc. Michael McIntyre, Spc. Konrad Neid, and Spc. Michael Simpson.

The four-week course impacted the

mission in the same way that having 10 Soldiers on leave at one time does. The added strain and pressure on the operations floor manifested in shift schedule changes and extra hours for some Soldiers and leaders. However, the difficulty should prove well worth the added burden. Just as an uphill bicycle climb leads to a smooth downhill run, Charlie Company is slowly reaching the crest of the CPC hill and looks forward to a long downhill run of certified operators ahead.



Photo courtesy of Staff Sgt. Lawrence Lane

53rd Signal Battalion's (SATCON) Charlie Company commander, Capt. Andre Reed (far left) and 1st Sgt. Martin Chaffee (far right) with Sgt. Patrick Mann (center, right), the Replacement Satellite Configuration Control Element (RSCCE) Course Distinguished Honor Graduate and Spc. Shane Hillstead (center, left), the course Honor Graduate.

## Civilian News

### DoD attracts students with scholarships

Defense Department officials hope to attract applicants to the department's new SMART (Science, Mathematics and Research for Transformation) scholarship program for students in science and math disciplines. The scholarship program allows individuals to acquire an education in exchange for a period of employment with the Defense Department in the specified areas. More detailed information can be obtained by contacting: SMART Defense Scholarship Program, American Society for Engineering Education, 1818 N Street N.W., Suite 600, Washington, D.C., 20036. Program officials can be reached at: (202) 331-3516.

### OPM focuses on retirement claims process

One of the Office of Personnel Management's (OPM) main priorities this year is to improve the federal retirement claims process, OPM Director Linda M. Springer told the House Subcommittee on the Federal Workforce and Agency Organization on March 28. This process serves more than 2 million federal work force retirees. "This year, OPM is asking Congress to appropriate \$27 million to help us improve retirement administration using a new Information Technology system to process claims," Springer said. Springer said the new technology is necessary to replace the current, paper-based retirement administration process with a system capable of handling the increasing volume of claims being filed. "We have set goals of making final 90 percent of initial retirement benefits in 30 days by Oct. 1, and mailing notices in 10 working days for 80 percent of subsequent change requests by the same date," Springer said. Springer told the committee OPM wants to award a retirement systems modernization contract by May 1 and an Information Technology service contract by June 1.

### Pay increase through NSPS

Most of the first 11,000 Department of Defense civilian employees to convert to the new civilian personnel system in April will receive a pay increase. About 85 percent of people will see an initial bump in pay when they are enrolled in the new National Security Personnel System (NSPS), said NSPS Spokeswoman Joyce Frank. The first employees to make the switch will convert to the new system April 30. "No one loses pay" as they convert to the new pay-for-performance NSPS, Frank said. Employees in Step 9 or lower of their current GS grades and with acceptable performance will receive credit toward their next scheduled within-grade-step increases, Frank explained. The NSPS Web site will offer a conversion tool within the next few days so employees can determine where they will fall in the pay band system in NSPS. The site is: [www.cpms.osd.mil/nsps/](http://www.cpms.osd.mil/nsps/). SMDC/ARSTRAT employees will not be converting to NSPS at this time. Additional information will be released soon.

### TSP warns individuals of scam

Participants in the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) need to be on the lookout for an e-mail scam meant to deceive individuals into divulging personal information, according to a warning posted on the TSP Web site. Some TSP participants have received an e-mail claiming to be from the TSP, advising that a new e-mail address had been added to the account. Members are asked to click on a link that redirects them to a bogus TSP Web site, and asks them for their Social Security and personal identification numbers. TSP emphasized that members should not give out personal information in unsolicited e-mails. In addition, TSP would not request such information via e-mail. The fraud warning is posted at [www.tsp.gov/curinfo/emailsam.html](http://www.tsp.gov/curinfo/emailsam.html).

### ASMDA Space Camp scholarships available

The U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Association (ASMDA) is offering 15 scholarships to selected children to attend a one-week Space Camp July 2-7, at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Ala. Any child, age 9 - 11, of a parent or guardian currently assigned to SMDC, PEO-MS, STRATCOM and GMD JPO (Huntsville), including matrix personnel, is eligible. The scholarship includes round-trip airfare from parent's work location, a Space Camp flight suit, a Space Camp clothing package, a phone card, a small amount of spending cash, and any unaccompanied minor travel fee. The deadline to apply is May 5. Applications are available online at [www.smdc.army.mil](http://www.smdc.army.mil).

## Military News

### Campaign to benefit troops

The Ad Council has teamed with the Defense Department's "America Supports You" program at <http://www.AmericaSupportsYou.mil> to help drum up support for American Servicemembers. Recently launched, the ad campaign includes a series of public service announcements via radio, magazines and newspapers that highlight "America Supports You" and how the people can help military members around the world. More than 200 grassroots organizations and 25 corporations have joined "America Supports You."

### Corporate supporter extends free park visits

A national company's program that offers free amusement park tickets to the nation's troops and their families has become so popular it will be extended another year. Anheuser-Busch began the program, called "Here's to the Heroes," in February 2005. The program is open to active duty Servicemembers, active members of the Reserve or National Guard, and up to three direct dependents for one complimentary admission per year. Participants can go online to fill out a form for free admission at <http://www.herosalute.org/>.

### Exchanges recruiting military family members

Like other Department of Defense employers, AAFES offers employment preference to military spouses and family members. AAFES is currently recruiting for entry-level positions and management positions worldwide in retail, information systems, finance and accounting, logistics, food service/restaurant management, contracting and procurement, and occasionally other career fields. Military family members can find out more about AAFES' "Spouse Employment Preference" program, along with a listing of current job openings, at <http://odin.aafes.com/employment/default.asp>.

### Free magazines for troops

Stars and Stripes reports that a New York publishing firm wants to send troops free subscriptions to its magazines as a "thank you" for serving in the military. Primedia Inc. is making 47 of its magazines available for free to any active-duty Servicemember, regardless of where they are serving. The magazines include Guns & Ammo, Soap Opera Digest, Hunting, ATV Rider, Skateboarder and The Shooting Times, among other titles. To donate a subscription, visit <https://store.primediainc.com/soldier2/>. Troops looking for more information on how to sign up for the free subscriptions can send an e-mail to [information@subscriptionsforsoldiers.com](mailto:information@subscriptionsforsoldiers.com).

### TRICARE online assists beneficiaries

TRICARE Online.com is the Department of Defense Internet medical portal that provides TRICARE beneficiaries with secure, interactive, one-stop-shopping access to a host of unique and exciting services, tools and resources. Why a dotcom? Only a dotcom can provide unconstrained, universal access from any computer or laptop in the world — dotmil may not always be accessible because of geographic and security restrictions. For more information, beneficiaries may visit the TRICARE Web site at <http://www.tricareonline.com> or call stateside customer service at (800) 600-9332 or (210) 767-5250 (direct). Agents are available 24 hours a day to assist beneficiaries.

### Army offers \$1,000 referral bonus

The Army has implemented a pilot program which allows Soldiers to refer applicants to recruiters. Soldiers who make referrals may receive a referral bonus for referring anyone who is qualified, has no prior military service in the Armed Forces, and completes military training. Immediate family members do not qualify as a referral. The applicant must enlist in the Regular Component of the Army, Army Reserve, or Army National Guard, and complete Basic and Advanced Individual Training (AIT). Additional details about the program and eligible Soldiers may be obtained at [www.usarec.army.mil/smart](http://www.usarec.army.mil/smart) or [www.1800guard.com/esar](http://www.1800guard.com/esar).

# Fort Greely bids farewell to CSM Massullo

By Sgt. Jack W. Carlson III  
Unit Reporter

**FORT GREELY, Alaska** — Residents of Fort Greely and the surrounding area said farewell to Command Sgt. Maj. David Massullo in a ceremony March 21.

Massullo served in the Army more than 27 years and most recently served as the command sergeant major for the 49th Missile Defense



Command Sgt. Maj. David Massullo renders a salute to the color guard during his Change of Responsibility ceremony March 21.

Battalion (Ground-based Midcourse Defense). During the ceremony, Massullo received the Meritorious Service Medal for his exceptional service while assigned to the 49th.

"Twenty-seven years, one month and six days ago, I put on the uniform of a Soldier," Massullo said in his retirement speech. "For those of you here now and those of you on watch, I salute you. You are my heroes."

Additionally, the new 49th GMD colors were unveiled during the ceremony. The coats of arms were approved by The Institute of



Outgoing sergeant major, Command Sgt. Major David Massullo unveils the new battalion colors in a ceremony March 21.

Photos by Sgt. Jack W. Carlson III

Heraldry Aug. 17, 2005. Massullo has uncased both of the battalion's colors — the

first during the unit's activation ceremony in February 2004.

## Alpha Company Soldiers speak to cub scouts

By Staff Sgt. William Strong  
Unit reporter

**FORT DETRICK, Md.** — Two Soldiers from Alpha Company, 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON) served as guest speakers at the annual banquet for Cub Scout Pack 1815 in Frederick, Md., on Feb. 24. The appropriately themed title of the banquet was *Cub Scouts in the Future: A Space Adventure*. Nancy Dann, the Cub Scout Leader, contacted Alpha Company two weeks prior to the banquet asking if the unit would provide guest speakers who would be willing to talk about anything space related.

1st Lt. Patrick Smith, the company's Unit Public Affairs Representative, jumped at the opportunity. "We're always trying to stay involved in the community," he said. "Plus it sounded like a fun event."

Upon arriving at the banquet, guest speakers Smith and Sgt. Stuart Ransom were treated to an all-you-can-eat buffet.

Shortly after the dinner, the two addressed the group. Smith opened by describing the general mission of the 53rd Signal Battalion and what the Soldiers of Alpha Company do on a day-to-day basis. He was followed by Ransom, who shared the technical details of the upcoming Wideband Gapfiller Satellite. Ransom then wowed the audience with some amazing statistics about the DSCS III Satellites; one satellite has the equivalent weight of 10,440 McDonald's cheeseburgers, and one satellite costs the same as 58,698,444 Frederick County school lunches.



Sgt. Stuart Ransom speaks about the Wideband Gapfiller Satellite at a Cub Scout banquet in Frederick, Md.

Photo by 1st Lt. Patrick Smith



1st Lt. Patrick Smith and Sgt. Stuart Ransom gather with Cub Scout Pack 1815 in front of their homemade satellite, the "Cub Star 1."

Photo by Ray Loyd

After their speech, the two speakers asked the audience for any questions they had. Despite the youthfulness of the group (ages six to 10), they managed to ask some difficult and hard hitting questions. Their interests covered a wide range of areas including: How do you repair satellites? Is there fog in space? What kind of fuel do satellites use? Is there Pokémon in China?

"I was amazed at how well informed and enthusiastic the kids were about satellites and space. They almost stumped me a few times," said Ransom.

Following the question and answer period, the two speakers handed out old unit patches and 1st Satellite Control Battalion stickers to all of the very excited Cub Scouts. "It's one thing to talk about space and the Army," said Smith, "but as soon as you can hand out some free stuff, it takes it to another level." Following the banquet, the Cub Scout leaders thanked the Soldiers for their participation and provided contact information. Alpha Company looks forward to participating in future Cub Scout events including their summer camp later this year.



The University of Fairbanks Steel Drum Band entertains the crowd at the Annual Fort Greely Beach Party March 4.

Photo by Sgt. Jack W. Carlson III

## Fort Greely transforms frozen tundra into tropical paradise

By Sgt. Jack W. Carlson III  
Unit Reporter

**FORT GREELY, Alaska** — The temperature outside may have been only 20 degrees, but the air inside was decidedly tropical. Nearly 200 Soldiers and civilians celebrated the coming of spring with a beach party in the Allen Army Airfield

hanger here March 4.

The annual beach party was sponsored by the Morale, Welfare and Recreation department on Fort Greely and has become known as a highlight of the winter season.

A large part of the transformation to “tropical paradise” included covering the hangar floor with sand. The

sand measured nearly 1,000 square feet and was seven inches deep — deep enough to dig one’s toes in.

“The sand is really fun, and I like to dig for treasures in it,” said 5-year-old Zane Nesloney, son of Maj. Charles Nesloney, operations officer for the 49th Missile Defense Battalion (Ground-based Midcourse

Defense).

Attendees played in inflatable pools and enjoyed games of volleyball and limbo. Many people won prizes donated by the Fort Greely MWR. Prizes were geared toward the winner’s age and gender and ranged from guided snow machine tours to kids’ beach toys.

Partygoers also enjoyed the sounds of the University of Alaska Fairbanks Steel Drum Band. Made up mostly of Fairbanks community members, the Steel Drum Band plays all over interior Alaska.

“With the steel drums playing and the sand between my toes, I felt like I was back home in south Florida,” said Sgt. Gary Merschat, force protection noncommissioned officer. “The vibe was a nice change from the darkness of winter.”

The party lasted more than five hours, with the dining facility providing hamburgers and hot dogs with all the sides and dessert for a small charge. Tropical drinks adorned with little umbrellas were also available for purchase from the Sideline Sports Bar.

Richard Lester, MWR director, said the party was a huge success.

“We are really going to have to step it up a notch next year to outdo ourselves,” Lester said.



Photo by Michele Garrett

Maj. Wayne Santos, chaplain, 49th Missile Defense Battalion (GMD), ducks under the limbo stick during the annual Fort Greely Beach Party March 4.

## Construction continues

This photo, taken April 18, shows the progression of the Von Braun Complex on Redstone Arsenal, Ala., as construction continues. The project, which has been ongoing for six months, will eventually become home to the Missile Defense Agency. It will contain approximately 234,000 square feet and house nearly 1,000 employees. The contract was awarded to Turner Universal Construction Company Inc. of Huntsville, Ala., for more than \$30 million. The scheduled completion date is May 2007.



Photo by Dottie White

## Senior Executive Service gains new member

Judd Carpenter, chief engineer for the Ground-Based Midcourse Defense Joint Program Office, was officially inducted into the Senior Executive Service during a ceremony March 13. Air Force Lt. Gen. Henry "Trey" Obering, director of the Missile Defense Agency, officiated at the ceremony, which was held at the Sparkman Center on Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

As chief engineer, Carpenter is responsible for system engineering, testing and quality for the GMD system. GMD is a part of MDA's layered Ballistic Missile Defense System that is being designed to protect the United States, our deployed forces, allies and friends from hostile ballistic missile attack. Carpenter has more than 23 years experience in missile systems and came to his position with GMD from the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense System, where he also served as chief engineer. During his tenure with THAAD, he oversaw design, fabrication, manufacturing and testing of the system.

Carpenter holds a bachelor's of science in nuclear engineering from the University of Arizona and has completed electrical engineering degrees at the Fort Monmouth College, N.J., and at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, Ala.



Photo by Henry Norton

Air Force Lt. Gen. Henry "Trey" Obering administers the Oath of Office to Judd Carpenter during Carpenter's Senior Executive Service induction ceremony.

## Awards/Promotions

### Civilian Promotions

**Victoria A. Bien**, Colorado Springs, G3, Operations and Plans

**Michael L. Earls**, Tampa, Fla., G6, RSSC-CONUS (Regional Satellite Communications Support Center-continental United States)

**John G. Gard**, Colorado Springs, G3, Operations and Plans

**Bernard L. Kerstiens**, Huntsville, Technical Center, Space Division

**Deana R. Moller**, Colorado Springs, Directorate of Combat Development

**Rose M. Moore**, Huntsville, G2, Security Division

**Lisa F. Williams**, Huntsville, Future Warfare Center, Space and Missile Defense Battle Lab

**Pamela M. Willis**, Huntsville, Contracting and Acquisition Management Office, Acquisition Management Directorate

### Military Promotions

**1st Sgt. John Bruce**, Colorado Springs, 1st Space Battalion, 2nd Space Company

**Sgt. Terry Davey**, Europe, 1st Space Company, A Detachment

**Master Sgt. Jon Gregory**, Colorado Springs, 1st Space Brigade

**Lt. Col. Dennis Kater**, Colorado Springs, Joint Functional Component Command for Integrated Missile Defense

**Col. Thomas Mayfield**, Colorado Springs, G3, Plans and Exercises Division

**Master Sgt. Jerry Mobry**, Landstuhl, Germany, 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON), C Company

**Lt. Col. Gregg Sharp**, Huntsville, Staff Judge Advocate Office

### On-the-Spot Cash Awards

**Andrew L. Dobbs**, Huntsville, Research, Development and Acquisition Office

**Michael E. Leech**, Huntsville, Future Warfare Center, Missile Defense Division

### Special Act Awards

**Norman B. Blackwell**, Huntsville, Technical Center, MDA Matrix

**Richard C. Bowen**, Huntsville, Technical Center, Interceptor Division

**Terry L. Cash**, Huntsville, Technical Center, Matrix

**Jeffery A. Compton**, Kwajalein Atoll/Reagan Test Site, Office of the Garrison Commander, Safety Branch

**Steven T. Eacret**, Huntsville, Technical Center, Matrix

**Esam El-Din Gad**, Huntsville, Technical Center, Matrix

**Linda M. Goldman**, Huntsville, G8, Program and Policy Division

**Weldon H. Hill**, Huntsville, Deputy Chief of Staff, Engineer, Operations Branch

**Walter K. Ivey**, Huntsville, Technical Center, Matrix

**Mark J. Kilpatrick**, Huntsville, Technical Center, MDA Matrix

**Karen Larson**, Huntsville, Technical Center, MDA Matrix

**William R. Mull**, Huntsville, Deputy Chief of Staff, Engineer, Operations Branch

**David Payne**, Huntsville, Technical Center, MDA Matrix

**Ramona L. Ruh**, Huntsville, Technical Center, MDA Matrix

**Gail E. Sikes**, Huntsville, Technical Center, MDA Matrix

**Amarjit Singh**, Huntsville, Technical Center, MDA Matrix

**Billy G. Traweek**, Kwajalein Atoll/Reagan Test Site, Office of the Garrison Commander, Safety Branch

**Shad A. Tritt**, Huntsville, Kwajalein Atoll/Reagan Test Site, Office of the Garrison Commander, Safety Branch

**Gregory E. Walls**, Huntsville, Technical Center, MDA Matrix

### Time-Off Awards

**Deborah Teague**, Huntsville, Contracting and Acquisition Management Office, Acquisition Management Directorate

### Commander's Award for Civilian Service

**Donovan L. Etheridge**, Huntsville, Future Warfare Center, Space and Missile Defense Battle Lab, Missile Defense Division

**Michelle M. Smartt**, Huntsville, Future Warfare Center, Space and Missile Defense Battle Lab, Missile Defense Division

### Length of Service

#### 15 Years

**Cedric Bailey**, Huntsville, Research, Development and Acquisition Office

**Richard Herndon**, Colorado Springs, Contracting and Acquisition Management Office

#### 20 Years

**Patricia Hampton**, Huntsville, Chief Information Office, Communications and Visual Information Division

**Theresa Hornung**, Huntsville, G2, Security Division

**Nancy Jones**, Huntsville, Deputy Chief of Staff, Engineer, Construction Branch

**Bernard Kerstiens**, Huntsville, Technical Center, Space Division

**John Mason**, Huntsville, Contracting and Acquisition Management Office

**Timothy Murtha**, Arlington, G3, Operations and Plans

**Linda Ray**, Colorado Springs, G1, Civilian Personnel Division

#### 25 Years

**Janice Jean**, Huntsville, Technical Center, Directed Energy Division

#### 35 Years

**Linda Gray**, Kwajalein Atoll, Contracting and Acquisition Management Office, Contract Site Operations

**Kenneth South**, Colorado Springs, Ballistic Missile Defense System Manager, West

#### 45 Years

**Kay Plemons**, Kwajalein Atoll/Reagan Test Site, Office of the Garrison Commander

# Imaginations can lead to great benefits for warfighters

By Donna Braswell  
SMDC/ARTRAT  
Technical Center

It has been known and talked about for years: the services, and even programs within the services, have been less than excited to share extremely important technology and information. Two small town boys may have come up with *one* way to overcome this obstacle.

Brian Strickland and Leon Riley came from simple beginnings. Strickland moved from Florida to Brindlee Mountain, Ala., in 1965. Riley moved to Huntsville, Ala., from Headland, Ala. in 1961. They have proved that a wonderful mind and a bit of imagination, applied to real world situations, can reap great benefits for the future warfighter.

They have collaborated on patents in the past. They once again sat down and kicked around an idea for a sensor that can see beyond the horizon. How could it work? Is there current technology already out there? Would anybody want it?

It was mentioned earlier that technology and information are not readily shared, specifically, in this case, target track information from sensors. This is important because the Soldier in the field of battle wants the incoming enemy missile to be spotted and tracked as soon and as long as possible.

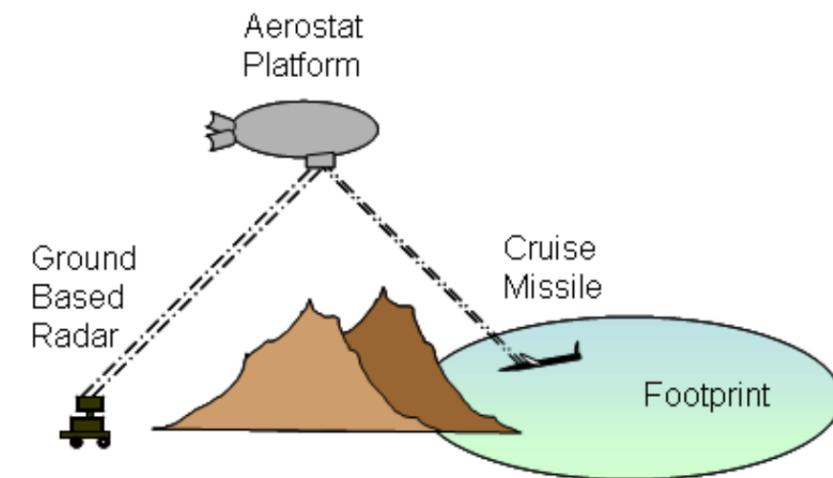
In so doing, our forces have a better chance of hitting and killing it before it has the chance to succeed in impacting on its target — our troops and other vital targets.

In general, this is called target acquisition and tracking, and enlarging the footprint (the area in which the target can be tracked). The crux of the problem is that field

commanders generally want to use only track data from their own sensor which is limited in its range (e.g., field of view). The way around this limitation is to enlarge the footprint and thereby acquire the target earlier.

One way to do this is to use data from remote sensors — those that may be closer to the incoming target. But again, to do this the field commander has to overcome his bias toward his own sensor data.

By using the technology laid out in Strickland's and Riley's patent, entitled, "Radar Beam Steering with Remote Reflectors/Refractors," the field commander can indeed have that extended footprint that is so vital, and not have to depend on outside sensor data. Their idea suggests that a signal is transmitted to a high level platform which redirects the signal to the intended, below horizon, target. In turn, the signal is then returned to the platform and continues back to the receiver. The platform

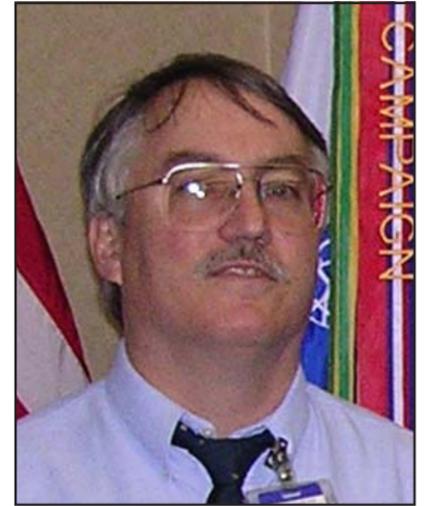


could be on a helicopter, an aerostat, or an unmanned aerial vehicle for example.

The process for a patent being granted isn't necessarily difficult. Strickland and Riley just put their imaginations to work and flushed out the idea.



Leon Riley



Brian Strickland

Photos by Dottie White

Riley and Strickland were recognized in a meeting March 14 with certificates for their recent patents from Dr. Rodney Robertson, director, SMDC/ARSTRAT Technical Center. Riley currently holds 15 patents, and Strickland has 14 patents.

Though the actual patent application may only take a few hours to write, it may take one to two years to go through the entire process. Strickland commended the SMDC/ARSTRAT legal department on its vital assistance with the patent process.

to secure and protect one's ability to make money from the production of the patented product. Though the government is not in the business of making money, it *is* in the business of producing this product for the warfighter at a reasonable cost to the taxpayer. Patents can do this.

For instance, if the government holds the patent on the majority of ideas, techniques, data etc. on their use of radar technology, as opposed to a contractor, the government is then free to compete the contract for production of the new technology. Thus, the taxpayer and the warfighter benefit.

Strickland would like to see this effort grow within SMDC/ARSTRAT. Young engineers may think everything that *can* be imagined and developed already has been. At the very least, however, there are many opportunities to improve on existing ideas. For instance, algorithms may be developed, materials could be made lighter, or perhaps combining ideas to improve an existing product is always a possibility.



Photo by Sgt. Jack W. Carlson III

## Soldier receives 'Coin of Excellence'

Col. Roger Mathews (right) deputy commander for operations, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, presents Spc. Duane Ostrowski, military police officer, 49th Missile Defense Battalion (Ground-based Midcourse Defense), the Deputy Commander's "Coin of Excellence." Ostrowski received the coin for giving a first-rate brief of the Missile Defense Complex Electronic Security Systems capabilities March 9.

## JTAGS Soldiers prepare for rotation to Qatar

Master Sgt. Dennis E. Beebe  
SMDC/ARSTRAT  
Public Affairs

**PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo.** — U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command will say farewell to the Charlie Two (C/2) detachment of our Joint Tactical Ground Station from Peterson Air Force Base at the end of April.

They will be rotating into Qatar and replacing the Bravo Two (B/2) team from Fort Bliss, Texas.

The team of 16 is comprised of officer in charge, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jerry Labrake, who will be joining from the JTAGS section in Europe, Sgt. 1st Class Luru Berry, Staff Sgt. Micah Fate, Staff Sgt. Ronald Morgan, Staff Sgt. Maurice Tucker, Staff Sgt. Jerry Richbow, Sgt. Jonas Moody, Sgt. Esgar Reyes, Sgt. Michael Pugh, Sgt. Christopher Crook, Sgt. Sawaner Tucker, Spc. Michael Reyes, Spc. Michael Scott, Pfc. Chad L. Yoder, Pfc. Shawn R. Johnston and Pfc. Maegan Thomas.

The Soldiers will be working on shift to provide 24/7 coverage of the Central Command (CENTCOM) Area of Responsibility (AOR) where they will be watching radar screens in preparation to give early warning of any tactical or strategic ballistic missile launches in the CENTCOM AOR to combatant commanders.

"I am going over there with a group of really great Soldiers," said Berry, NCOIC of the detachment. "I can say I really trust these guys to the utmost of their abilities. We have some very experienced

Moody, one of the veterans of the detachment said, "I am looking forward to returning to this area of which I know all about and getting back on mission using our training in a real world environment. We have been trying to explain to the new Soldiers how to adjust to a deployment. We are hoping to lessen the shock of going overseas and getting exposed to a different country with different cultures and values from our own."

"They really have lowered the stress which came upon us when we first found out we were going to be deployed," added Thomas. "They have laid out exactly what we will be doing day-to-day and are helping to prepare us mentally for what is going to be expected of us. This preparation and our training will let us perform what we need to do."

The team has been training up for this deployment for three months and will be traveling to Melbourne, Fla., soon for Gryphon training. The course, entitled Phase 1, Mobile Force Protection is put on by the Gryphon Group, a company whose instructors include former Special Forces Soldiers, former Force Recon Marines and former Highway Patrolmen.

Every day they will be learning to react to fire, drive vehicles in ambush situations, and learning the correct way to fire at oncoming vehicles and vehicles moving laterally to their positions. They will get exposed to taser zaps, pepper spray and paint ball pellets shot at them with higher than normal pressure.

The Soldiers will learn how to effectively use vehicles for cover and will also learn that the vehicle is a weapon, and they have to take care of it. They will obliterate at least six vehicles with live ammunition and by crashing into them while learning how to

react to ambush situations where cars are pulled in front of them in a blocking situation.

They will also have to be able to drag a buddy out of a vehicle while being fired upon and learn to search vehicles and to look for contraband and Improvised Explosive Devices.

The instructors will emphasize maintaining a situational awareness and the mental flexibility to choose a successful tactic in dealing with tough situations while under extreme pressure.

**'I am going over there with a group of really great Soldiers.'**

— **Sgt. 1st Class Luru Berry**  
**NCOIC**

Soldiers, and we are returning to the area where they have been stationed before. Five of us have already been deployed, and eight of us are fresh from Individual Qualification Training which has given them the training needed for this job."

"I am excited to go on this deployment as it is a new experience for me. This is something I can learn from and add to my life experiences," said Thomas, one of the newest Soldiers to the unit.



Photos by Sgt. Jack W. Carlson III

## Fort Greely force protection exercise tests unit readiness

A Fort Greely force protection exercise tested 49th Missile Defense Battalion (Ground-based Midcourse Defense) military police officers on their communication skills March 27. In this scenario, Lt. Col. Greg Bowen, commander, 49th GMD was involved in criminal activities — pictured here, military police officers intercept a "criminal" Bowen before he is able to leave the Missile Defense Complex.



Sgt. Fernando Sancgo, medic, 49th Missile Defense Battalion (Ground-based Midcourse Defense), treats a real-world injury during the force protection exercise on Fort Greely March 27.

# Safety

## Tornado safety tips:

### SMDC/ARSTRAT Safety Office

When a tornado is coming, you have only a short amount of time to make life-or-death decisions. Advance planning and quick response are the keys to surviving a tornado.

A tornado is a violent windstorm characterized by a twisting, funnel-shaped cloud. It is spawned by a thunderstorm (or sometimes as a result of a hurricane) and produced when cool air overrides a layer of warm air, forcing the warm air to rise rapidly. The damage from a tornado is a result of the high wind velocity and wind-blown debris. Tornado season is generally March through August, although tornadoes can occur at any time of year. They tend to occur in the afternoons and evenings: over 80 percent of all tornadoes strike between noon and midnight.

When a tornado threatens, individuals need to have a safe place to go and time to get there. Even with advances in meteorology, warning times may be short or sometimes not possible. Lives are saved when individuals receive and understand the warning, know what to do, and know the safest place to go.

### Before

Conduct tornado drills each tornado season. Designate an area in the home as a shelter, and practice having everyone in the family go there in response to a tornado threat.

Discuss with family members the difference between a "tornado watch" and a "tornado warning" — a *tornado watch* is issued by the National Weather Service when tornadoes are possible in the area; a *tornado warning* is issued when a tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar.

### Have disaster supplies ready

- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Portable radio and extra batteries
- First aid kit and manual
- Emergency food and water
- Nonelectric can opener
- Essential medicines
- Cash and credit cards
- Sturdy shoes

### Develop an emergency communication plan

In case family members are separated from one another during a tornado (a real possibility during the day when adults are at work and children are at school), have a plan for getting back together.

Ask an out-of-state relative or friend to serve as the "family contact." After a disaster, it's often easier to call long distance. Make sure everyone in the family knows the name, address, and phone number of the contact person.

### Learn tornado danger signs

- An approaching cloud of debris can mark the location of a tornado even if a funnel is not visible.
- Before a tornado hits, the wind may die down and the air may become very still.

- Tornadoes generally occur near the trailing edge of a thunderstorm. It is not uncommon to see clear, sunlit skies behind a tornado.

### During

#### If at home:

- Go at once to a windowless, interior room; storm cellar; basement; or lowest level of the building.
- If there is no basement, go to an inner hallway or a smaller inner room without windows, such as a bathroom or closet.
- Get away from the windows.
- Go to the center of the room. Stay away from corners because they tend to attract debris.
- Get under a piece of sturdy furniture such as a workbench or heavy table or desk and hold on to it.
- Use arms and hands to protect head and neck.
- If in a mobile home, get out and find shelter elsewhere.

#### If at work or school:

- Go to the basement or to an inside hallway at the lowest level.
- Avoid places with wide-span roofs such as auditoriums, cafeterias, large hallways or shopping malls.
- Get under a piece of sturdy furniture such as a workbench or heavy table or desk and hold on to it.
- Use arms to protect head and neck.

#### If outdoors:

- If possible, get inside a building.
- If shelter is not available or there is no

time to get indoors, lie in a ditch or low-lying area or crouch near a strong building. Be aware of the potential for flooding.

- Use arms to protect head and neck.

#### If in a car:

- Never try to out drive a tornado in a car or truck. Tornadoes can change direction quickly and can lift up a car or truck and toss it through the air.
- Get out of the car immediately, and take shelter in a nearby building.
- If there is no time to get indoors, get out of the car and lie in a ditch or low-lying area away from the vehicle. Be aware of the potential for flooding.

### After

- Help injured or trapped persons.
- Give first aid when appropriate.
- Don't try to move the seriously injured unless they are in immediate danger of further injury.
- Call for help.
- Turn on radio or television to get the latest emergency information.
- Stay out of damaged buildings. Return home only when authorities say it is safe.
- Use the telephone only for emergency calls.
- Clean up spilled medicines, bleaches, or gasoline or other flammable liquids immediately. Leave the buildings if you smell gas or chemical fumes.
- Take pictures of the damage — both to the house and its contents — for insurance purposes.

Remember to help your neighbors who may require special assistance — infants, the elderly and people with disabilities.

## The 25 deadliest U.S. tornadoes

Date	Place	Deaths
March 18, 1925	Tri-State (Mo., Ill., Ind.)	689
<b>May 6, 1840</b>	<b>Natchez, Miss.</b>	<b>317</b>
May 27, 1896	St. Louis, Mo.	255
<b>April 5, 1936</b>	<b>Tupelo, Miss.</b>	<b>216</b>
April 6, 1936	Gainesville, Ga.	203
<b>April 9, 1947</b>	<b>Woodward, Okla.</b>	<b>181</b>
April 24, 1980	Amite, La.; Purvis, Miss.	143
<b>June 12, 1899</b>	<b>New Richmond, Wis.</b>	<b>117</b>
June 8, 1953	Flint, Mich.	115
<b>May 11, 1953</b>	<b>Waco, Texas</b>	<b>114</b>
May 18, 1902	Goliad, Texas	114
<b>March 23, 1913</b>	<b>Omaha, Neb.</b>	<b>103</b>
May 26, 1917	Mattoon, Ill.	101
<b>June 23, 1944</b>	<b>Shinnston, W.Va.</b>	<b>100</b>
April 18, 1880	Marshfield, Mo.	99
<b>June 1, 1903</b>	<b>Gainesville &amp; Holland, Ga.</b>	<b>98</b>
May 9, 1927	Poplar Bluff, Mo.	98
<b>May 10, 1905</b>	<b>Snyder, Okla.</b>	<b>97</b>
April 24, 1908	Natchez, Miss.	91
<b>June 9, 1953</b>	<b>Worcester, Mass.</b>	<b>90</b>
April 20, 1920	Starkville, Miss.; Waco, Ala.	88
<b>June 28, 1924</b>	<b>Lorain &amp; Sandusky, Ohio</b>	<b>85</b>
May 25, 1955	Udall, Kan.	80
<b>Sept. 29, 1927</b>	<b>St. Louis, Mo.</b>	<b>79</b>
March 27, 1890	Louisville, Ky.	76

# Alternate Dispute Resolution — everyone wins

**SMDC/ARSTRAT  
Equal Employment Opportunity Office**

**W**hen disputes occur in the workplace, employees and management often become polarized. They have either been unable to initiate a productive dialogue or, if they are talking, have reached a seemingly insurmountable impasse. When this happens, several components of a good working relationship as well as a good working environment break down.

Alternate Dispute Resolution is a very valuable tool that can be used to bring the parties to an amicable agreement.

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission directives mandate that each Department of Army agency implement an ADR program. DA's preferred method of ADR is mediation.

Mediation offers an alternative to the traditional EEO counseling and/or investigative or protracted litigation process.

Mediation is an informal process in which a neutral third party, commonly known as the mediator, assists the opposing parties in reaching a voluntary, negotiated resolution to a charge of discrimination. The mediator does not resolve the charge or impose a decision on the parties. Instead, the mediator helps the parties to agree on a mutually acceptable resolution.

Although the decision to mediate is completely voluntary for the charging party and the employer, it is DA's practice that if

an employee is willing to mediate a matter, management will participate.

Mediation gives the parties the opportunity to discuss the issues raised in the charge, clear up misunderstandings, determine the underlying interests or concerns, find areas of agreement and, ultimately, incorporate those areas of agreements into mutually agreed upon resolutions.

The agency will ensure that a resolution official is present at the mediation proceedings. A resolution official is identified as the individual with authority to approve or enter into settlement agreements on behalf of the command. If the resolution official does not participate in the mediation proceeding, he/she must be immediately available to the command representative during the settlement discussions.

Mediation is inappropriate when there is a need to establish policies or precedents; when resolution would have a significant effect on other non-involved employees; where a full public record is important; where the command must maintain continuing jurisdiction over a matter; or where it would otherwise be inappropriate as decided by the EEO Officer.

The mediation process is strictly confidential. Information disclosed during mediation will not be revealed to anyone and any notes taken or information discussed by the mediator during the mediation process other than discoverable information must be destroyed.

## ADVANTAGES OF MEDIATION

- *Minimal cost as opposed to the litigation process.*
- *Fair and neutral because all parties have an equal say in the process and decide settlement terms. There is no determination of guilt or innocence.*
- *Saves time in that mediation usually occurs early in the charge process and usually completed in one day.*
- *Confidential because all parties sign a confidentiality agreement. Information will not be revealed to anyone.*
- *Avoids litigation and the uncertainty of judicial outcome.*
- *Improves communication by providing a neutral and confidential setting where both parties can openly discuss their views, discover "real" workplace issues and develop a better understanding of issues affecting the workplace.*
- *Design your own solution.*
- *EVERYONE WINS.*

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Is mediation a formal process used to assist parties in reaching resolution to issues raised by aggrieved persons?

**No. Mediation is an informal process used at the earliest stages of the resolution process ensuring swift closure, preserving working relationships, affording personal empowerment in the resolution, less costly in time, emotion and money and minimizes liability.**

2. Are parties to the issues raised required to mediate?

**No. In order for the mediation to work successfully, it is imperative that all parties be in agreement to participate in the mediation process. It is important that our managers and supervisors understand the importance of mediation and be willing to participate.**

3. What is a mediator?

**A mediator is a neutral third party with no vested interest in the outcome of the dispute and has no official, financial or personal conflict of interest with respect to the issues in controversy.**

4. During mediation should all parties sign agreements that keep everything revealed in the session confidential?

**Yes. The mediator and the parties must sign agreements that they will keep everything that is revealed during the mediation confidential. The mediator will destroy any records or notes offered or taken during the mediation process.**

6. Are parties discouraged from bringing an attorney or representative to the mediation session?

**No. Although it is not necessary, either party may choose to bring an attorney or representative to the mediation session.**

7. Will the parties be allowed to define their own resolution and agreement as a result of mediation?

**Yes. That is the beauty of the mediation process. All parties have a vested interest in the outcome if they have participated in the final agreement.**



# Black Dragons anxious for upcoming softball season

By Sgt. Albert Fatla  
Unit reporter

**FORT MEADE, Md.** — With spring upon us, the latest topic of discussion at Fort Meade is the upcoming softball season. Sgt. Andrew Sanders, an outfielder from

last year's Black Dragons' team, implored, "We need to start practicing now, so the rust is off."

The Black Dragons are trying to build on a better season than what they had the previous year, going 10 - 7, and missing out on the post championship tournament

by one game. "Looking over the team roster from last year, we should have a solid year with a few additions," said Sgt. Albert Fatla, one of Bravo Company's softball coaches.

Out of the ten players needed, eight Soldiers are returning from last season. The returning players are Capt. Jermaine Sutton, Sgt. Christopher Phaneuf, Sanders, Fatla, Sgt. Joshua Rodriguez, Spc. Theodore Howe, Staff Sgt. Alfred Rosenberg, Spc. Joshua Crandall and Spc. Alicia Brogden. This will be the second year for the softball team in Black Dragon country. Fatla and Brogden will again coach the team.

When Crandall was asked how he felt about the upcoming season he replied, "It ought to be a great year for us. We have built chemistry among the returning players to make us that much better."

The potential is always good for them, but it still comes down to the Black Dragons outplaying their opponents. Brogden says she is eager to play after a 2005 season-ending ankle surgery. This should shore up the catcher position. This is the year I get to show my ability and help us win more," said Brogden.

With Rodriguez back from Iraq, this also gives the Dragons the opportunity to stay with consistent pitching, which was a weakness last year. The team used more than eight different pitchers in 17 games of the 2005 season but does not plan on letting that happen again this year.

As spring is closing in on Maryland, the Black Dragons stand perched and ready for the upcoming softball season.



Photo by Sgt. Albert Fatla

Sgt. Zachary Strausser takes a pitch from Spc. Tyler Alcos during a preseason practice for the Bravo Company Black Dragons of the 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON). This will be the Black Dragons second softball season.

## Command welcomes new member to Sgt. Audie Murphy Club

By Staff Sgt. Christian Kovalski, Unit reporter

**FORT DETRICK, Md.** — Sgt. Alexander White was inducted into an elite group of noncommissioned officers during a ceremony here on March 13.

It is an organization that many have tried to enter but only the privileged few have made it. It is a club, not defined by mystique or secrecy but rather a foundation of principles and qualities that only the best NCOs possess. It is modeled after the life of Audie Leon Murphy, labeled as one of the most heroic and professional of leaders and the club fittingly bears his name.

NCOs wishing to earn membership in this prestigious organization must demonstrate to their unit, their leadership, a nomination board and ultimately a selection panel that they indisputably possess qualities of professionalism and demonstrated leadership potential.

For White, the journey began in October 2005, just weeks before the first nominative board. He performed superbly and was recommended to appear before the selection panel three weeks later.

When his supervisor Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Demars was asked how White was able to prepare so well, he quickly replied, "Sgt. White has been

preparing for this his whole life. His answers to those questions were either choices he has already made in his career or approaches to situations that he has learned from his leaders."

As expected, White's performance before the selection committee was stellar. He amazed the panel members with his extensive knowledge and his ability to think and react quickly to whatever situation he was placed in. White received the only unanimous vote from U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command for acceptance into the club at the semi-annual event.

The induction ceremony was an amazing event. His family, his leaders, his peers but most importantly his Soldiers were in attendance.

After Demars provided a brief history of Audie Murphy and the organization, Command Sgt. Maj. Daryall Sumpter said some fitting words about White. He talked about White's incredible performance and the accomplishments of a truly wonderful NCO.

His mother and father expressed their joy and pride for their son and thanked all of those who have helped White accomplish this task. "I knew that he had gone to some boards and had done well enough to be inducted, but I



Photo by Sgt. Jason Duffy

Sgt. Alexander White with his girlfriend Holly following the ceremony where White was inducted into the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club.

never really knew how significant of an accomplishment it actually was until today", said White's mother.

Sumpter closed with a few remarks to others who may aspire to earn induction into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club and charged White with a new mission ... "Prepare another Soldier to fill our ranks in the NCO corps and in the

club."

White accepted the challenge and replied that, "Good leaders breed good Soldiers who, in turn, become good leaders. In an environment such as this unit, it is easy to provide Soldiers the opportunities and the tools to succeed. I shall do my best to ensure that the trend continues."

## 49th Soldier competes in international ski championship

By Sgt. Jack W. Carlson III  
and Sgt. Sara Storey

**FORT GREELY, Alaska** — A Soldier from the 49th Missile Defense Battalion (Ground-based Midcourse Defense) competed in the International Military Ski Championship in Candanchu, Spain, March 3-12.

The 49th supply noncommissioned officer, Sgt. 1st Class Lauren Kostoff, has been stationed here for two years and has competed in biathlons since he started skiing in 1991. Living in Alaska has some benefits when it comes to training time, according to Kostoff.

"I try to get as much ski time as possible during the winter months," Kostoff said. "I can start on-snow training in October, while most people in the 'Lower 48' have to wait until December."

Biathlon events combine the physically demanding sport of cross country skiing with the intense precision of rifle marksmanship.

Typically biathlons are made up of four events — two team and two individual events. The team events are a three-person relay and a four-man patrol. Individual events can be a 10- or 20-kilometer sprint and a 25-kilometer cross-country race.



Sgt. 1st Class Lauren Kostoff, supply NCO, 49th Missile Defense Battalion (Ground-based Midcourse Defense), begins a cross-country biathlon race.

Courtesy photo

for each miss and then continues on the second two- to three-kilometer loop before arriving at another range where he fires five more rounds in the off-hand/standing position. He skis any penalty rounds incurred and then makes a final two- to three-kilometer loop before reaching the finish line.

Kostoff was selected to participate in the international competition because of his skiing reputation and his high placement in the Chief National Guard Bureau Biathlon Nationals in February.

Kostoff's four-person team represented both the Active and Reserve Components of the Army. Kostoff was the only Army National Guardsman on the team.

The Military Championship lasted four days and Kostoff

skied on a difficult, hilly course in the Pyrenees Mountains at an altitude of just over 5,500 feet.

Kostoff's team skied well, but not well enough to place in the competition. However, Kostoff said although it's a skiing competition, the main

purpose of this event was not skiing.

"We're building international friendships through this competition," Kostoff said. "I welcome the opportunity to promote this sport for the United States and the Army National Guard."

**'We're building international friendships through this competition.'**

— Sgt. 1st Class Lauren Kostoff  
49th Supply NCO

The shortest event, a 10-kilometer sprint, is still an intensely grueling event — Kostoff, with a rifle on his back, skis a two- to three-kilometer loop, then arrives at a range and fires five rounds in the prone position at a target 50 meters away.

If he misses the target, he skis a 150-meter penalty loop



Courtesy photo

Kostoff departs the range after firing during a cross-country biathlon race at Camp Ripley, Minn.



Photo by Sgt. Jack W. Carlson III

Kostoff was selected to ski in an international military competition in Spain.