

Inside The Eagle



Missile defense flight test successfully completed, page 6



Safety tips, page 7



Delta Company completes Operation Hellfire, page 15

The Eagle

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

Volume 13, Number 1, January 2006

Horne heads to Iraq

Mathews assumes duties as deputy commander for operations

By Sharon L. Hartman
SMDC Public Affairs

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Without the customary flare of the passing of a flag, a new era began within U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command, as the torch of the operational arm of the command was placed in the hands of Col. Roger F. Mathews during a ceremony on Jan. 4. Mathews comes to SMDC/ARSTRAT from Fort Bliss, Texas, where he

served as the assistant commandant, deputy commander for the U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss, Texas.

Lt. Gen. Larry J. Dodgen, commanding general, SMDC/ARSTRAT, hosted the ceremony that welcomed Mathews to the command and bade farewell to Mathews' predecessor, Brig. Gen. Jeffrey C. Horne, who's next assignment is as the Joint Fires and Effects Chief, Multi-National Corps-Iraq. During his remarks, Dodgen

commended Mathews on his past accomplishments and encouraged him in his future role within the command.

"I challenge you, and I charge you with the responsibility of maintaining the operational side of this command and the welfare of Soldiers, their families and civilians, and the operational missions from STRATCOM and from the United States Army. So even though we have not passed a piece of a flag, you are hereby officially charged with those responsibilities," said Dodgen.

Upon accepting his new responsibility as the deputy commander for operations, Mathews remarked on his previous dealings with SMDC/ARSTRAT and his excitement in joining the command.

"General Dodgen, I thank you for the trust and confidence for allowing me to serve in this dynamic and important organization ... it's an outstanding organization that is bringing cutting edge space technology to warfighters to enable them to decisively win our nations wars.

I had a chance to witness SMDC's contributions first hand during OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM. While deployed in Israel with the 69th ADA brigade, the best Army Air Defense brigade, SMDC Soldiers provided first class support. They did a fantastic job of using space operations, space-based capabilities and missile warning to help us and other coalition forces succeed in battle. It's great to be joining a command that makes such a difference," said Mathews.

Dodgen also spoke of the many successes achieved under Horne's leadership as deputy commanding general for operations.

"From ensuring space-based capabilities are embedded at critical levels in support of joint warfighters, to laying the foundation for the future of the Army space cadre, to establishing a credible capability for the defense of our homeland, deployed forces, friends and allies from a ballistic missile attack, to integration with U.S. Strategic Command planning efforts, you can be extremely proud of what your team has accomplished during your tour here in Colorado Springs," said Dodgen.

See *Mathews assumes duties* on page 4



Photo by Sharon L. Hartman

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey C. Horne, outgoing deputy commanding general for operations, SMDC/ARSTRAT, presents Col. Roger F. Mathews, incoming deputy commander for operations, SMDC/ARSTRAT, with a token during a Jan. 4 ceremony.

SMDC/ARSTRAT, MDA employees learn about Huntsville, surrounding area

By Diane Schumacher
SMDC Public Affairs

ARLINGTON, Va. — "Be sure to take advantage of all the information available. Ask questions," said Lt. Gen. Henry A. "Trey" Obering III, director of the Missile Defense Agency, as he welcomed employees and family members from MDA and the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command Jan. 10 shortly before Tennessee Valley business and community representatives began their first briefings on what area communities have to offer.

"We [MDA] want you to make an intelligent decision, based upon information, not ignorance," Obering said, adding, "I don't want to influence you because I'm from Alabama and I think it's a pretty good place."

More than 500 military members, civilian employees, and family members from MDA and SMDC/ARSTRAT attended one-hour briefings— presented four times over two days— followed by an opportunity to visit exhibits featuring a plethora of information about real estate, education, medical care and employment in the Tennessee Valley. Representatives from each community offered fact sheets and brochures that focused on the benefits associated with moving to those areas.

Dave Hargrove, Bell South communications regional

See *Huntsville* on page 13



Photo by Marco Morales

Awaiting his turn to meet and speak with human resource representatives is Norberto Soto-Fuentes, assistant to the secretary to the general staff, headquarter, SMDC/ARSTRAT.

The Command Corner



Lt. Gen. Larry J. Dodgen
Commanding General



CSM David L. Lady
Command Sergeant Major

A new year brings with it the potential for great change. Earlier this month, significant change took place as USASMDC/ARSTRAT bid farewell to Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Horne, deputy commanding general for operations (DCG-O), and his wife, Terri. General Horne's contributions as DCG-O, and earlier as the Training and Doctrine Command system manager for the Ground-based Midcourse Defense System, will have lasting and substantial impact for our Nation's missile defense system. We wish him well in his next assignment as effects coordinator, Multi-National Corps-Iraq, OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM.

Col. Roger Mathews, assuming the position of deputy commander for operations, and his wife, Connie, have arrived to the command from their assignment at Fort Bliss, Texas, where Col. Mathews was the deputy commander of the U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and assistant commandant of the U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery School. Col. Mathews' extensive experience as a leader, trainer, and planner will serve him well in his new assignment.

This New Year also brings with it an extraordinary opportunity to assess past accomplishments, evaluate progress, establish new goals, and resolve ourselves to "Making a Difference Every Day." Perhaps there is no better way to making our daily contributions count than ensuring our efforts – individually and collectively – are fully focused in support of our Nation's warfighters engaged in the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT). As Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld recently stated: "We are all in this together. And what we do today will not only impact us, but it will surely impact our children and our grandchildren, and the kind of world they will live in."

The war on terrorism is being waged against an enemy driven by a fervent desire to destroy social and economic structures put in place by the civilized rule of law. Combating this threat will be difficult and protracted. In laying out his vision for the GWOT, President George W. Bush stated: "Given the nature and reach of our enemies, we will win this conflict by the patient accumulation of successes, by meeting a series of challenges with determination and will and purpose." This war is one in which the warrior ethos, professionalism of our Soldiers, and technical expertise are enabling great success. The liberation of two nations with a combined population of more than 50 million people and the conduct of multiple free and fair elections are but the most visible achievements. Other successes, large and small, are being achieved every day.

USASMDC/ARSTRAT space and missile defense professionals have provided extraordinary capabilities in support of our Nation's joint warfighters. Army Space Support Teams, Theater Early Warning Detachments, and spectral imagery teams have made multiple deployments. The Regional Satellite Communications Support Centers and the Defense Satellite Communications System Operations Centers, in the Continental United States and overseas locations, are still providing reliable and responsive satellite communications support. The USASMDC/ARSTRAT Operations Center maintains around-the-clock situational awareness of deployed elements, responds to requests for information, and provides reach-back connectivity with technical subject matter experts. We have also had 33 civilian employees activated for service to support a variety of National Guard and Army Reserve missions.

See *Change* on page 3

Safety is my topic, for this and several future articles. The Army and SMDC have lost too many Soldiers in POV and other accidents during 2005.

Safety is Soldier business. Safety is a matter of leaders and Soldiers living the Warrior Ethos 24 hours a day:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ON POINT!

Don't drink and drive!!

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What We Think

The Eagle asks:

As we observe the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. this year, what would you tell your younger relatives (i.e., nieces, nephews, children, grandchildren, etc.) about who Dr. King was and what he contributed to our society and Nation?



Pam Fuhrman
G-6, SMDC/ARSTRAT
Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

Dr. King forced a critical rethinking in America—that although our heritage is precious to each of us, and is an integral part of our makeup, an individual’s actions and integrity should form the basis of how others judge us, or how we judge others. Dr. King’s efforts made us realize that our attitude toward others should be based on personal interactions and/or communications—not preconceived notions based on race, gender, religion, political affiliation, etc. We’ve made progress in all of these areas due in large part to Dr. King’s efforts. It’s up to each of us to put this attitude into practice each day in our own personal walk through life.



Maj. Keith Stone
Strategy and Policy Division
Arlington, Va.

I want my children to understand that even though Martin Luther King faced physical and violent opposition, he maintained a pacifistic approach in his fight for equal rights. He was a visionary whose hopes for the future become closer to reality with every generation. He was a Soldier of sorts, fighting for people that he would never meet and for a future that he would never see, and like many other good Soldiers, was killed during his fight.



Stanley Cole
Network Analyst
ASD Inc.
Huntsville, Ala.

I would tell my younger relatives that Dr. King was a man of courage who stood up for the equal rights of all Americans in a turbulent time, without regard to the color of their skin. He was a man who unfortunately gave his life for his beliefs, but his ideals live on. Many Americans take their rights for granted and do not think of the sacrifices that others have made for the benefit of others. The Martin Luther King holiday is one of the holidays that all Americans should really take stock in the rights that we all enjoy and keep in mind the cost of those rights.



Barb Miskell
Office of the Chief Scientist,
Operational Support Office
Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

I have told my children and grandchildren that he was a man who wasn’t afraid or ashamed to speak out about his heritage, dreams and goals. I have taught them as I was taught from early on, that God loves all people, no matter what color their skin may be; what’s in their heart is what counts. Unfortunately, racism still exists, but Dr. King certainly brought to light the many contributions African-Americans have made, and continue to make, to our free country and the world.



Ivory Stewart
Force Develop Analyst
Directorate of Combat Development
Future Warfare Center
Arlington, Va.

Dr. King was a civil rights leader who supported non-violence and equal rights for everyone. He helped eliminate segregation with a dream that one day all people will be able to live and work together without hatred and violence among them. Dr. King led many marches in the south and Washington D.C., speaking for equality and justice for all. He lived and died speaking for freedom for all people.



Tony Austin
Management Assistant
G-1, Personnel
Huntsville, Ala.

Dr. King was great man, not only in Black History, but in American History. Dr. King wanted a world that did not discriminate because of the color of your skin. He wanted harmony for the entire human race. As African Americans, he has open the doors for us to prosper in today’s society.

Change

continued from page 2

An extensive range of innovative technology has been developed and fielded. Joint warfighters obtain great operational benefit each day from the capabilities provided by the Space Support Enhancement Toolset, Joint Tactical Ground Station, JLENS RAID, and technologies employed at the Joint Mission Management Center in Colorado Springs to merge Blue Force Tracking data

for development of a common operating picture. The Overwatch Advanced Concept Technology Demonstration and deployment of the Zeus Laser Ordnance Neutralization System will fuel development of more capabilities in the areas of situational awareness and directed energy.

Although no one can accurately predict the future, we can be reasonably sure that 2006 will include events that test our mettle. The manner in which we respond

to the challenges will be the testament to our legacy. Staying focused on the operational needs of the Soldier – the centerpiece of our efforts – is paramount. As noted recently by President Bush, “We must always make sure that America’s Soldiers are well-equipped and well-trained to fight this war on terror.” Have a great 2006 and make safety a part of everything you do this year.

Secure the High Ground!

Missile Defense Agency is welcomed to Huntsville, Ala.

By Jan Burke, Contracting and Acquisition Management Office

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — Under the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Act, Missile Defense Agency operations will move from various locations in northern Virginia to the Von Braun Complex at Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

The week of Dec. 6, 2005, employees from the MDA Contracting Office participated in a three-day off-site in Huntsville, Ala.

Mark Lumer, director, Contracting and Acquisition Management Office, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command, briefed MDA employees, answered questions, and presented them with welcome packages from the Huntsville/Madison County Convention and Visitors Bureau and Chamber of Commerce.

The off-site included a "meet and greet" introduction between SMDC/ARSTRAT CAMO and MDA Contracting personnel as well as discussions on the MDA transition to Huntsville.

Lumer made the following comments about the MDA visit:

"It was a pleasure to host Mr. Barney Klehman, Col. Dwight Thomas and the rest of the MDA Contracting staff on their visit to Huntsville. MDA Contracting has a critical role to play in protecting this nation, and my folks and I promised to do whatever we

could to make their transition to Huntsville as seamless and as easy as possible.

"Since I have lived in both the Washington, D.C., area and in Huntsville," Lumer said, "I spoke from experience when I told them that Huntsville is a great place to work and raise a family. Also, the lower costs of living in Huntsville would be a pleasant surprise to them, especially when they buy a house."

The MDA agenda also included a visit to the U.S. Space and Rocket Center with a guided tour of the museum by Linda Long.

The center's executive manager and chief operations officer, Cliff Broderick, presented a brief history of the complex and answered questions about U.S. Space Camp.

Afterward, the special events manager, Amelia Flanigan, accompanied several employees on a tour of the new state-of-the-art S&RC Education/Training Facility.

Larry Capps, chief executive officer, stated, "The Space and Rocket Center has the unique ability to give visitors a taste of what Huntsville is all about, as well as a glimpse at the quality of life we enjoy here. So naturally we're delighted to help the Missile Defense Agency welcome newcomers to northern Alabama, and we'll do all we can to make them feel at home."

More information about the U.S. S&RC and U.S. Space Camp can be found at



Photo by Jan Burke

Employees of the Missile Defense Agency Contracting Office receive a guided tour of the U.S. Space and Rocket Center museum.

www.ussrc.com and
www.ussrc.com/hr.

Prior to their tour, the Honorable Loretta Spencer, Mayor of Huntsville, and Dallas Fanning, director of Urban Development and Planning, met with the MDA employees at the S&RC and graciously welcomed them to Huntsville.

After providing the employees with a community profile, Spencer and Fanning answered several questions from the group of potential northern Alabama residents.

Several employees were surprised at the quality of life and the cultural diversity in the Huntsville community ranging from Broadway productions and fine arts to concerts and professional sports. Many also commented about the tax base being appreciably lower in Alabama than elsewhere.

During a later interview with Spencer, she made the following comments about her opportunity to meet with the MDA employees:

"It was a great pleasure to welcome the employees of the MDA Contracting Office and spend some time with them talking about Huntsville. I was pleased to hear Mark Lumer say during his introduction of me that seeing the mayor was something that the group would never see in Washington!

"While I appreciated the compliment very much," she said, "I believe that it is the responsibility of my office to promote Huntsville as much as possible, especially to those who are considering relocating

here.

"I was very impressed with the dialogue that took place during my visit with the group, Spencer said. All the questions were well thought out as well as pertinent to the situation of making a significant move. I am grateful for the opportunity to give them a snapshot of what Huntsville is all about. This was my first chance to talk directly with the group, and I am certainly looking forward to many more.

"The recommendations of the BRAC Commission represent one of the most important opportunities that Huntsville has ever had," Spencer added. "Because of this, I intend to make myself available to talk about the possibility of relocation to our area."

More information about the city of Huntsville and surrounding areas can be found at www.ci.huntsville.al.us. The web page includes several Huntsville community video clips about education, real estate and relocation, arts and cultural events, tourism and accommodations, recreation and things to do, shopping and dining, business and industry, healthcare and senior living.

You can also find information at the Huntsville/Madison County Convention and Visitor's Bureau at www.huntsville.org; or request a package by mail at HMCCVB, 500 Church St., Suite One, Huntsville, Ala., 35801; telephone (256) 551-2230; or email at info@huntsville.org.



Photo courtesy of U.S. Space and Rocket Center

The U.S. Space and Rocket Center, shown here, is one of many attractions in North Alabama.

Mathews assumes duties

continued from page 1

In his farewell remarks to the members of SMDC/ARSTRAT, Horne gave his thoughts on Iraq and his vision of the U.S. role in the war as he prepares for his next assignment there.

"We're bringing freedom to a people that have not experienced it in a very, very long time," Horne said. "We're working to

give every citizen there an opportunity to raise their children in a safe environment, to be able to play in their front yards without fear of gunfire, ... to be free to practice (his or her) faith, ... to be free to build their country. These are simple goals and goals we founded our country on."

As deputy commanding general for operations, Horne played a key role in the

positioning of the first ground-based midcourse defense brigade, the creation of the Joint Functional Component Command for Integrated Missile Defense, the integration of the former SMD Battle Lab and the Force Development and Integration Center into the SMDC Future Warfare Center, the expansion of the space cadre and the placing of trained space Soldiers into divisions.

Civilian News

DOD civilian pay raises take effect

The upcoming pay period for Department of Defense civilian General Schedule employees will reflect a 2.1 percent across-the-board pay raise, plus a range of locality pays that bring the overall pay hikes between 2.83 and 5.62 percent, according to the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). The 2006 federal pay raise goes into effect with the first full pay period of the year, which for most DOD employees began Jan. 8. Pay charts on the OPM Web site (www.opm.gov) show new annual and hourly rates for GS workers, DOD's white-collar work force, and workers in 31 designated locality pay areas. Wage-grade or blue-collar workers, who make up a small percentage of the DOD work force, will receive comparable increases for their areas.

Mileage reimbursement drops 4 cents

In the Jan. 6 issue of the Federal Register, the General Services Administration (GSA) issued a final rule regarding the mileage reimbursement rate for federal workers who use privately owned automobiles on official travel. The reimbursement rate is dropping 4 cents—from 48.5 cents per mile to 44.5 cents. The reason: the IRS recently established a 44.5 cent rate, and GSA is prohibited from exceeding the IRS rate. The final rule is effective for travel performed on and after Jan. 1, 2006.

DOD to restrict cell phone use on military bases

Cell phone use is now prohibited in moving vehicles on all Department of Defense installations, unless used with a hands-free device. A \$50 fine applies to all offenders who are caught. Vehicle operators on a DOD installation and operators of Government-owned vehicles shall not use cell phones unless the vehicle is safely parked or unless they are using a hands-free device. The wearing of any other portable headphones, earphones, or other listening devices (except for hand-free cellular phones) while operating a motor vehicle is prohibited. Use of those devices impairs driving and masks or prevents recognition of emergency signals, alarms, announcements, the approach of vehicles, and human speech. DOD component safety guidance should note the potential for driver distractions such as eating and drinking, operating radios, CD players, global positioning equipment, etc. Whenever possible this should only be done when the vehicle is safely parked.

Employee survey can shape Army

The Army civilian attitude survey is open to all Army civilian employees, supervisors, and managers. It can be filled out online at <http://cpol.army.mil/survey/dasurvey>. More than 230,000 Army civilians are being asked to provide input on major issues of the day. The survey asks hard-hitting questions about leadership and management, performance culture, morale, retention, training and development, fairness, and other hot-button topics. The results of this survey provide baseline attitudes and opinions that are used as the starting point to evaluate the effectiveness of Army programs. The survey is voluntary, strictly confidential, and no names are used. Employees can take it during normal duty hours at work since the survey is considered official business. The survey is available online until Jan. 31.

TSP returns for G, F, C, S and I funds

Rates of return were updated on Jan. 3.

December 2005		Last 12 months (1/1 - 12/31/05)	
G Fund	0.45%	G Fund	4.49%
F Fund	0.95%	F Fund	2.40%
C Fund	0.07%	C Fund	4.96%
S Fund	0.37%	S Fund	10.45%
I Fund	4.64%	I Fund	13.63%

Military News

New Year brings 3.1 percent pay raise

The 2006 3.1 percent pay raise for all military went into effect on Jan. 1 along with a host of other pay and benefits changes contained in a new defense bill, the 2006 Defense Appropriations Act, which President Bush signed into law Dec. 30. Military personnel will see a 3.1 percent salary increase starting with their January paychecks. The 2006 pay changes can be seen at http://www.military.com/pay_2006.

Free tax assistance to servicemembers

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program is once again available to provide free tax advice, tax preparation, and assistance to military members and their families. Most servicemembers file their tax returns electronically at their tax centers and, by selecting direct deposit, receive their refunds in as little as one week. Items taxpayers need to bring to the VITA/TCE Sites to have their tax returns prepared include: (1) must bring photo identification, (2) Social Security Cards for the taxpayer, their spouse and dependents, if applicable, (3) birth dates for primary, secondary and dependents on the tax return, (4) current year's tax package if they received one, (5) wage and earning statement(s) Form W-2, W-2G, 1099-R, from all employers, (6) interest and dividend statements from banks (Forms 1099), (7) a copy of last year's Federal and State returns if available, (8) bank routing numbers and account numbers for direct deposit, and (9) other relevant information about income and expenses such as the total amount paid for day care and the day care provider's identifying number. Also, to file taxes electronically on a married filing joint tax return, both spouses must be present to sign the required forms.

TurboTax available as of Jan. 16 at no cost to servicemembers

As of Jan. 16, TurboTax is available at no cost to servicemembers by the Department of Defense at the Military OneSource website at <http://www.militaryonesource.com/>. For more information and current updates, visit the Military OneSource website at www.militaryonesource.com. To access your 2005 W-2 online, visit myPay at <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>.

2006 COLA rates available online

Servicemembers scheduled for a CONUS PCS this year and who are eligible to receive a cost-of-living allowance (COLA) can calculate their payment online. Servicemembers need to enter their pay grade, time in service, dependents and new location into the COLA calculator to see their payment. If a location is not listed in the calculator, the servicemember is not eligible for a CONUS COLA payment. <http://www.military.com/Resources/ResourcesContent/0,13964,30962-0,00.html>

2006 basic allowance for housing changes

About 30,000 single servicemembers who live off base and pay child support are likely to see a change in their military pay — an increase for some and a cut for others — beginning in January. The rules regarding the basic allowance for housing differential — an allotment for single members who pay child support — will change Dec. 31, 2006. The change is one of the last parts of a seven-year phase-in of the basic allowance for housing that began in 1998. Currently single servicemembers who pay child support get a BAH differential. After Dec. 31, however, only members who live in government quarters and pay child support will continue to receive the BAH differential. Members who live off base and pay child support will receive BAH at the "with dependents" rate. Previously, they received BAH at the "without dependents" rate, plus the BAH differential. This "with dependents" BAH rate varies widely based on pay grade and location so some affected servicemembers living in low-cost housing markets are the most likely to notice a dip.

Interceptor launched from Marshall Islands

Missile defense flight test successfully completed

Excerpt from a Missile Defense Agency release

The director of the Missile Defense Agency, Air Force Lt. Gen. Henry "Trey" Obering, announced the successful completion of an important test involving the launch of an operationally-configured Ground-based Interceptor missile designed to protect the United States against a limited long-range ballistic missile attack.

The test, held Dec. 13, was primarily designed to evaluate the performance of the interceptor missile's rocket motor system and exoatmospheric kill vehicle, which is the component that collides directly with a target warhead in space to perform a "hit-to-kill" intercept using only the force of the collision to totally destroy the target warhead. Initial indications are that the rocket motor system and kill vehicle performed well.

The flight test results will help to further improve and refine the performance of numerous Ground-based Midcourse Defense elements that will be used to provide a defense against the type of long-range ballistic missile that could be used to attack an American city with a weapon of mass destruction.

The interceptor missile was launched at approximately 3:04

p.m. (local time, Dec. 14); (10:04 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Dec. 13) from the Ronald Reagan Test Site, Republic of the Marshall Islands, in the central Pacific Ocean.

For this exercise, there was a simulated launch of a target missile from Kodiak, Alaska, using data from previous launches.

The test also successfully tested a wide variety of components and subcomponents as part of the evaluation of system performance, including improved missile silo support equipment, booster/kill vehicle separation, kill vehicle cryogenic sensor cooling, kill vehicle orientation and positioning, and several others.

The GMD system currently has seven interceptors deployed at Fort Greely, Alaska, and two at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif.

Other components of the GMD currently include the upgraded Cobra Dane radar in the Aleutian Island chain of Alaska and upgraded early warning radars at Beale Air Force Base, Calif., and at Fylingdales, United Kingdom.

Up to four forward deployed air-transportable X-band radars are also planned for the system, as well as an upgrade to the existing early warning radar at Thule Air Base in Greenland.

A new seabased X-band



Photo courtesy of Boeing

This Ground-based Interceptor missile launches from the Ronald Reagan Test Site, Republic of the Marshall Islands, in the central Pacific Ocean during a flight test. It was designed to protect the United States against a limited long-range ballistic missile defense attack.

radar mounted aboard a large sea-going platform began its transit in November to its operating base at Adak, Alaska,

in the Aleutian Islands. It will have the capability to operate in any ocean to support both operations and testing.

Kiker exhibit celebrates Native American Heritage

By Ed White
SMDC Public Affairs

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Ed Kiker of the Technical Support Office has long been a student of Native American culture and artifacts. He is a collector and has even taken that one step further. He is also a maker of items that were common to the Native American toolset.

During Native American Heritage month, Kiker generously set up a small table and covered it with artifacts and items he or others have made.

There were bows and arrows, tools for working wood, and tools for harvesting both

animals and plants.

There were fire making items and even an atl atl, a device, often referred to as a spear thrower that effectively enables a hunter to double or even triple the range

of a thrown spear.

The exhibit drew a lot of attention and served as an educational effort for those who have never seen native technologies at such close range.



Among the items displayed were projectile points made by Boy Scouts from the Fort Greely and Delta Junction, Alaska area.



Photos by Ed White

Ed Kiker (right) demonstrates the principle of the atl atl to Dan Bush of the Legal Office during Native American Heritage month. The atl atl is a tool many native people used as a hunting weapon. This functional example was made by Kiker.

Safety

Tips for avoiding icy slips and falls

SMDC Safety Office

Walkways around the home and office are the most important area to keep free of snow and ice. This is where most slips and falls occur. It doesn't have to be frigid cold or even snowy for ice to form. All it takes is water on walkways and the right temperature. When dealing with winter's hazards, you need to take these special precautions to avoid slips and falls:

- Avoid dangerous spots by looking ahead on walkways. Keep a moderate pace, with your body position slightly forward and your feet down flat, not on the heels. Take shorter steps than usual, and be sure your footwear fits the weather conditions as well as your feet. Choose footwear that will give you the maximum traction.
 - Use handrails where possible, and carefully note stairway conditions and potential hazards. When entering a building, always clean shoes or boots—an accumulation of slush and snow on soles is likely to cause slips and falls inside.
 - If you do slip, try to minimize the extent of the fall by relaxing instead of tensing. Usually, you will slump to the ground with your weight distributed between thighs, hips, and hands. In falling forward, injury is less likely if a roll motion is used. In a backward fall, danger is lessened if you go limp and land with your weight divided between shoulders, hips and hands. The goal is to try to slide as you touch the ground, rather than hitting flat with full impact.
 - If you're carrying hard-edged packages or grocery bags containing breakables, thrust them away from you—better to break the eggs or milk bottles than your arm or your leg.
 - The best protection against slips and falls, however, is to eliminate slippery surfaces. Snow and slush should be removed from sidewalks, outside stairs, porches and paths before it is trampled, packed and frozen.
 - If ice forms and cannot be removed immediately, abrasive material such as sand or rock salt should be sprinkled on the surface.
- Remember, be alert for unexpected hazards and learn to move deliberately. Even though ice is nice in skating rinks, avoiding it in other areas can be beneficial to your health.



Preventing vehicle slides

SMDC Safety Office

Winter collisions can occur when your vehicle skids. A skid occurs when you apply the brakes so hard that one or more wheels lock, or if you press hard on the accelerator and spin the drive wheels. Skids also occur when you are traveling too fast on a curve and encounter a slippery surface. Skids can best be avoided by anticipating lane changes, turns and curves; slowing down in advance; and by making smooth, precise movements of the steering wheel. Regardless of the type of skid you encounter, to regain control of your vehicle, DO NOT PANIC.

Rear-Wheel Skids

- Take your foot off the brake or accelerator.
- De-clutch on a car with a manual transmission, or shift to neutral on a car with automatic transmission.
- Look and steer in the direction you want the front of the car to go.
- As the rear wheels stop skidding to the right or left, counter-steer until you are going in the desired direction.
- In a rear-wheel drive vehicle, if you over-correct the first skid, be prepared for a rear-wheel skid in the opposite direction. Practice and the use of timely, gentle movement of the steering wheel are necessary to avoid this type of skid.
- Once the vehicle is straight, release the clutch or shift to drive, apply gentle accelerator pressure so that the engine speed matches the road speed, and accelerate smoothly to a safe speed.

Front-Wheel Skids

Front-wheel skids are caused by hard braking or acceleration if your vehicle has front-wheel drive. When the front wheels lose traction, you will not be able to steer the vehicle. Regardless of whether the vehicle has front-, rear- or four-wheel drive, the best way to regain control if the front wheels skid is:

- Take your foot off the brake or accelerator.

- De-clutch on a car with manual transmission, or shift to neutral on a car with automatic transmission.
- If the front wheels have been turned prior to the loss of traction, don't move the steering wheel. Since the wheels are skidding sideways, a certain amount of braking force will be exerted. (Unwinding the steering wheel will result in regaining steering sooner; however, the vehicle will be traveling faster because there is little sideways braking force. This technique should only be attempted in situations where limited space and sharp curves exist—however, in this case do not reduce pressure on the brakes, because the vehicle will shoot off in the direction the wheels are facing.)
- Wait for the front wheels to grip the road again. As soon as traction returns, the vehicle will start to steer again.
- When the front wheels have regained their grip, steer the wheels gently in the desired direction of travel.
- Release the clutch or shift to drive and apply gentle accelerator pressure so that the engine speed matches the road speed, and accelerate smoothly to a safe speed. NOTE: There is no risk of the car skidding in the opposite direction.

Four-Wheel Skids

Sometimes all four wheels lose traction. This generally occurs when the vehicle is driven at a speed too fast for conditions. The most effective way to get your vehicle back under control is:

- Ease foot off the accelerator or take your foot off the brake.
- De-clutch on a car with manual transmission or shift to neutral on a car with an automatic transmission, if you can do so quickly.
- Look and steer in the direction you want the front of the car to go.
- Wait for the wheels to grip the road again. As soon as traction returns, the vehicle will travel in the desired direction.
- Release the clutch or shift to drive and maintain a safe speed. NOTE: Avoid using overdrive on slippery surfaces.



ARSST TEAM 2 Members deploy to Iraq

By Master Sgt.
Dennis Beebe
SMDC Public Affairs

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Army Space Support Team (ARSST) 2, a unit of U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command's 1st Space Battalion is headed to Camp Victory in Baghdad, Iraq, to provide space support to the Multi National Corps, Iraq (MNCI), in support of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM.

"This team is deploying to Iraq to fight the war on terror, which is our nation's number one priority," said Lt. Col. Lee Gizzi, 1st Space Battalion commander.

"The rest of us here in Colorado Springs, whether it is the 1st Space Battalion or the 1st Space Brigade, have the responsibility of fully supporting the needs of our forward deployed Soldiers. Whatever their support requirements are, we will meet them."

Currently, the 18th Airborne Corps has the mission in Iraq until V Corps, with ARSST 2 attached, takes over in January 2006.

While deployed, the ARSST will provide space support to the combatant commander in several ways. The team is



Photo by Master Sgt. Dennis Beebe

Soldiers, civilians and family members turned out to honor the departing Army Space Support Team and wish them well during their deployment to Iraq.

an on-site capability that provides satellite imagery from both commercial and military sources. This includes the ability to produce 3-D fly-throughs and maps for both planners and operators. The team keeps a constant watch on space weather and the effects it can have on space-based platforms.

The team also deploys with its own independent communications system, providing extensive reach back to space forces, organizations and analysis centers within theater or back to the United States.

In preparing the team to deploy, Gizzi

reiterated the Warrior Ethos and charged the team with living it.

"This is not a war like we have ever seen in previous times, where you seize terrain and gain ground," said Gizzi. "It is a war of attrition. I want to ensure that the guys in charge, Maj. Robinson and Staff Sgt. McCoy, make sure the team does not take shortcuts, and that they adhere to what is important and what is right, and that they bring their team home intact. I have the utmost confidence in their abilities, and I look forward to greeting Team two at the end of their tour," Gizzi said.

Dodgen gets tour of Charlie Company

By Sgt. Christopher Sokol
Unit Reporter

LANDSTUHL, Germany — Soldiers of Charlie Company, 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON), recently had the opportunity to demonstrate what they do for Lt. Gen. Larry Dodgen, their commanding general.

On his recent visit to Charlie Company, the Soldiers took the opportunity to discuss all of the newest systems such as the Global Terrestrial Critical Control Circuit System (GTC3S), Replacement Satellite Configuration and Control Subsystem (RSCCE), Replacement Frequency Modulated Orderwire (RFMOW), and their newly upgraded Auxiliary Satellite Control Terminal (ASCT), as well as how these new systems provide improved support for the crucial communications need of today's Army.

In addition to new systems that assist the communications mission was a new Force Protection system that provides video feeds to monitors within the building, adding visibility from the inside of a building with no windows.

During Dodgen's visit, Capt. Christopher Conway, Charlie Company commander, informed his troops that Dodgen's tour as the commander of U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense

Command/Army Forces Strategic Command has been extended. Charlie Company

may have the opportunity yet again to show him a day in the life of a Satellite Network

Controller and the latest and greatest systems in the military satellite world.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jerry Mobry

Sgt. Lawrence Lane, right, gives Lt. Gen. Larry J. Dodgen, left, a demonstration of how the new security monitoring system works and how it helps to enhance the unit's force protection.

Spouses of deployed Soldiers honored

By Ed White
SMDC Public Affairs

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Having a husband or wife deployed to a war zone is one of the most difficult events a military spouse can go through, but it's a common thing in today's military. Recently U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, represented by the 1st Space Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Daryall Sumpter and 1st Space Battalion commander, Lt. Col. Lee Gizzi, held a luncheon to honor the spouses of the brigade's deployed Soldiers. The luncheon provided a great opportunity for these spouses to get to know some of the command staff and allowed the brigade leadership the opportunity to determine how the families of deployed Soldiers are doing in the absence of their spouses.

Six spouses attended the luncheon at the Peterson Air Force Base Officer's Club. Megan Martinez, wife of Staff Sgt. Jason Martinez with the 2nd Space Company; Donna Rogers, wife of Sgt. 1st Class Richard Rogers, G3 Plans and Exercise; Elizabeth Tompkins, wife of Master Sgt. Kenneth Tompkins of Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 53rd Signal Battalion; Alexandra Robinson, wife of Maj. Lawrence Robinson of the 2nd Space

Company; and Janet Anderson, wife of Capt. Matthew Anderson of the 2nd Space Company all shared anecdotes of situations they have worked through since their husbands deployed.

"We heard stories of broken garage doors, frozen pipes, sick babies and good neighbors responding to help," said Master Sgt. Frances Sanchez-Jones of the command G-6, whose efforts were instrumental in bringing the luncheon about.

"We also learned that these women have adjusted, adapted, and overcome a number of obstacles that would have normally been handled by their spouses when not deployed. These are remarkable women. They have no idea how much we appreciate their silent sacrifice," Sanchez-Jones added.

Around the table the discussion turned to what could be done to help the spouses and families of future deployed Soldiers. "More meetings like this," said one spouse. "Better contact with the chain of command," said another. Throughout the discussion, several major issues came to light. One important observation was made on how to reestablish a close relationship with a returning spouse and how to reintegrate the Soldier into family life. For many, the concern has become a larger issue as the redeployment date of



Photos by Ed White

Janet Anderson, wife of deployed Capt. Matthew Anderson, 1st Space Company, is no stranger to multi-tasking. Here, she feeds her infant while taking part in a discussion of how the command can better serve the spouses of deployed Soldiers.



Spouses of deployed Soldiers attending the luncheon include: (left to right) Terri Horne wife of Brig. Gen. Jeffrey C. Horne, who deployed to Iraq in January; Elizabeth Tompkins, wife of Master Sgt. Kenneth Tompkins, 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON); Donna Rogers, wife of Sgt. 1st Class Richard Rogers, G-3 Plex; Melissa Pollock, wife of 2nd Lt. Matt Pollock, 193rd Space Battalion.; Alexandra Robinson, wife of Maj. Lawrence Robinson, 1st Space Battalion; Megan Martinez, wife of Staff Sgt. Jason Martinez, 1st Space Battalion; and (seated) Janet Anderson, wife of Capt. Matthew Anderson, 1st Space Battalion.

their spouses gets closer. Information on Web sites and publications that give guidance and information on how to accomplish the reintegration process was traded amongst the spouses.

Gizzi and Sumpter encouraged the wives to call the command via the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to contact their spouses, especially during emergency situations, or to notify the command of any difficulties with calls. "It is hard to hide from the EOC," Gizzi said. "Rest assured they can track anyone down anywhere in the world and make contact." "The Brigade is here to help in whatever way we can," Sumpter said. "You all are part of our military family, and we are here to support you too."

This luncheon was the first of its kind with more to come, providing an informal means for the brigade to maintain two-way contact with family members of Soldiers deployed far from home.

"This was very helpful to us at the brigade," Sumpter said. "Taking care of our Soldiers and their families is a top priority and this interaction will help us do a better job now and in the future."

Luncheon arrangements and gift packages were provided courtesy of Army Family Team Building representative, Tonya Daniels. Also assisting with the luncheon were Karen Butler and 1st Lt. Liesl Hammond, of the G-1.

Secretary of the Army looks forward to 2006

The past year has continued to be a challenging period for the Army and the Nation, but our Soldiers have met every challenge—from highly successful combat operations in two theaters,

to continued transformation of the operational and institutional parts of the Army. With unsurpassed professionalism, courage and commitment, our Soldiers have endured great hardships, lost many friends and

comrades along the way, and made lasting contributions to the peace, freedom and security of two formerly oppressed nations. We stand in awe of our Soldiers, and look forward to 2006 to continue the tremendous progress we have

made in transforming the Army—all while our Soldiers continue to fight and win the Global War on Terrorism.

Dr. Francis J. Harvey
Secretary of the
United States Army

C Company participates in CTT range

By Spc. Konrad Nied
Unit Reporter

LANDSTUHL, Germany — One of the training events that Soldiers must complete every year is Common Task Testing (CTT). This training allows Soldiers to focus on warrior tasks that they may not do while carrying out their specific military occupational specialty tasks.

On Dec. 3, Charlie Company, 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON)

held the first of its yearly CTT ranges to successfully qualify all the Soldiers in the unit before the next fiscal year CTT training period.

During the range, the Soldiers of Charlie Company were broken down into teams of four or five that guided themselves from point to point using their land navigation skills.

Upon reaching a point, the team would perform two or three tasks before moving on to



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Jerry Mobry

A group of Soldiers attempt to don their MOPP level 4 gear, as Sgt. Christopher Kyer, unit nuclear, biological and chemical NCO, looks on.



Sgt. John Priebe crouches and waits for a group of unsuspecting common task testers to test on their ability to react to indirect fire during Charlie Company, 53rd Signal Battalion's (SATCON), first common task range of the year.

the next point. Some of the tasks included reacting to direct and indirect fire, vehicle inspection procedures, evaluating and treating a casualty, nuclear, biological and chemical procedures, and function checks on the M16 and M9 weapons.

"I enjoyed the Land Nav portion," said Pvt. Joseph Williams, a Charlie Company Soldier who participated in the training. "I think what made the whole thing enjoyable is

that I excelled at it. Overall, I thought the format we used was great. It maximized the training time we had, and things ran very smoothly."

Among the leadership observing the CTT range was Col. Frank Lester, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command Inspector General, who had a chance to meet and speak with all the Soldiers participating in the range.

Soldiers/family members collect donations for food bank

By Staff Sgt. Clay Rhoads
Unit Reporter

CAMP ROBERTS, Calif. — Around mid-November, April Rhoads, Delta Company, 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON), Family Readiness Group secretary, tuned into the local news and saw that the local county food bank was nearly bare.

Due to recent support of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita relief efforts and shipments of food to the Middle East earthquake disaster area, the food-bank stores were depleted.

Knowing the holiday season was just around the corner and that there would be many families who depended on the San Luis Obispo County Consolidated Food Bank for support, Rhoads along with the rest of the local Family Readiness Group got together and immediately started brainstorming how they could contribute.

What they came up with would exceed all expectations, even their own. It took a month of planning, coordinating, calling and emailing, but the date for the Delta Company Community Food Drive, nicknamed "Food for Folks," was set.

On Dec. 16-17 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day, more than 30 Soldiers, spouses and their children gathered in the Paso Robles Albertson's grocery store parking lot and started collecting monetary and food donations for the drive.

"The community has always

supported us in all of the fundraisers that we have put on for the unit. We just saw this as the perfect opportunity to give back to them. It felt really great to be a part of something like this," said Rhoads.

Soldiers danced on street corners and did push-ups at the customer service desk for donations.

"It felt good to do something for all the people in the community who aren't as fortunate as most," said Spc. Matthew

Decicco. "They are the ones who are always there for us, so this was just a way to show our appreciation."

The added bonus was that the food bank could buy 15 pounds of food for every dollar donated. The final count was staggering.

Soldiers and their families had raised a total of nearly 3,000 pounds of donated food and more than \$2,300 in cash donations, which translated into more than 38,000 pounds of food for the food bank.



Photo by Sgt. Valencia Hollaugh

Left to right, Staff Sgt. Brandon Rennirt, Sgt. Joseph Mason and Spc. Nathan Crandell hold up a sign to attract support for Delta Company's holiday food drive, "Food for Folks."

Contractor reflects on many careers since childhood

By Diane Schumacher
SMDC Public Affairs

Quiet and soft-spoken are two characteristics describing Oriel L. Brooks. He is a retired Army master sergeant and a jack-of-all-trades. He's been a skin diver for food, a construction worker then foreman, an Army infantryman, a carpenter and mason, a military intelligence analyst, and a police officer.

Brooks is currently a senior military analyst working for the SYColeman Corporation and works under contract for the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command in Arlington, Va.

None of those jobs seems to be the type of work a person of his demeanor would care for. But being a police officer in Honolulu was a job Brooks enjoyed somewhat more than others he's had.

"I loved being a cop. It was fun. It was challenging, but I loved it. I was the kind of cop who helped. I liked to educate the children. I was called 'the smiling cop,'" Brooks said with a big grin on his face.

Diving for food in the Caribbean as a child born and reared on St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands was also fun and enjoyable. However, his work in carpentry and construction brings the biggest and most lasting smile to his face as he discusses the many things he's done in his 54 years of life.



Courtesy photo

Oriel L. Brooks in 1976, at age 25, as a private in the U.S. Army.

"I call it my hobby, not work, because I love it so much," said Brooks. "Carpentry is something I enjoy."

Brooks' mother was a single parent who raised nine children. To help feed the family, Brooks would snorkel and skin dive, spearing fish he'd bring home for his mother to prepare and cook.

"We never had to buy fish because I would go to the water and choose what I wanted, spear it, and bring it home to my mother."

As Brooks grew older, he discovered there wasn't enough money to feed the family or pay bills, so he dropped out of high school and got a paying job to help at home. That job was in construction building homes and businesses on St. Thomas.

Brooks' work ethic and love of the job earned him a good



Photo by Diane Schumacher

Currently, Oriel L. Brooks is a senior military analyst.

reputation. So much so, that his immediate supervisor recommended Brooks to the top supervisor of a different company in charge of constructing the federal building in Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas.

At age 21, he became one of the foremen in charge of construction.

"I directed the team, but I also worked," Brooks said. "I couldn't stand around and watch. I don't like being that type of a boss. I'm always a hands-on type of person."

Toward the end of the building project, as workers left, Brooks was one of the last people to go, and it was because of his high standards, he said.

"I never had a problem with people coming back to me, saying 'why didn't you do this?'" said Brooks.

In July 1976, at age 25, Brooks decided to join the U.S. Army. He served as an infantryman during his first three years of service. At the end of those three years, Brooks reenlisted and went to school at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., to reclassify as a carpentry and masonry specialist in the Army's Engineer Corps.

After school, Brooks was stationed at Fort Lee, Va. There weren't many things to build there, he said. Nonetheless, there was always something to repair, he added. After three years of repair work, it was time to reclassify again, Brooks said.

"It wasn't challenging enough. After a while, all we did were repairs. There were no buildings to construct. To do that would involve contractors not Army carpenters. I wanted more challenges," Brooks said.

To fill his desire for challenges, Brooks decided to test and reclassify for military intelligence. He was accepted into MI and stayed in that field of work until he retired in 1998 after 23 years of active duty service.

Now that he's working for SMDC, Brooks says he plans to work another six years and then retire again. With eyes sparkling and a smile that seemed to go from ear to ear, Brooks said he wants to go back to carpentry — the job he loves enough to call it his hobby.

"I love my tools! I hope to be somewhere fixing things," Brooks said.

Alpha Company supports local families for the holidays

By Sgt. Kosi Rogers
Unit Reporter

FORT DETRICK, Md. — Alpha Company, 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON), recently participated in OPERATION HAPPY HOLIDAYS, a program coordinated by Fort Detrick Army Community Services.

The operation is designed to help families in need during the holiday season by donating food, clothing and gifts.

Alpha Company sponsored one of the 100 plus families in the Fort Detrick community that participated in the program.

Through a fundraising bake sale and donations, the unit was able to raise more than \$500 to help provide a Fort Detrick family with the resources for a very merry Christmas.

Alpha Company's representatives for the program, 1st Lt. Patrick Smith and Angela Lavalle, wife of Spc. Cosme Lavalle, were very impressed with the benevolence of the Fort Detrick community.

"Not just Alpha Company but all the units donated so many great gifts," said Lavalle. "I think all of the families will be very pleased this holiday season."

Smith and Lavalle spent half a day helping fill an entire gymnasium with toys, food and presents.



Photo by Dennis McMillen

1st Lt. Patrick Smith and Angela Lavalle, wife of Spc. Cosme Lavalle, helped load the gym with thousands of gifts for OPERATION HAPPY HOLIDAYS, a program to help families in need over the holidays.

"It's great to participate in a program like this," added Smith. "The generosity and helpfulness of everyone involved has made this a special event."

Echo Company gets new commander

By 1st Lt. Jason Shin
Unit Reporter

FORT BUCKNER, OKINAWA, Japan — After two and a half years as the commander, Echo Company, 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON), Capt. O. Dewayne Ingram relinquished command on Dec. 6.

The ceremony was conducted next to the Echo Company Operations Center on Fort Buckner, Okinawa.

During his speech, Ingram thanked the Soldiers for their hard work and commended them for their many accomplishments during his

command. He also thanked his wife and son for their support while he led the company during his long tenure. Ingram will be leaving the Army and will reside in Alaska.

Incoming commander, Capt. Todd M. Vick, former enlisted communications security equipment repairer, assumed command when he received the company guidon from Lt. Col. Hae-Sue Park. Vick brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to Echo Company with his 18 years of service and his completion of the Satellite Controller's Course at Fort Gordon, Ga.



Photo by 1st Lt. Jason Shin

Echo Company 1st Sgt. Mitchell Burnett forms the company for the change of command ceremony.



Photo by Maj. Laura Kenney

Space badge awarded

Col. Gary Baumann, second from left, commander of the 100th Missile Defense Brigade (Ground-based Midcourse Defense), congratulates Capt. Bryan Murphy after awarding him the Air Force Space and Missile Badge in a unit ceremony Dec. 16. Brigade executive officer, Lt. Col. Mark Krzeczowski, left, assisted in the ceremony in which missile defense operators in the unit were given the coveted badge. Previously the badge was only given to active component Space Operations officers (Functional Area 40) and satellite operator/maintainer noncommissioned officers and enlisted Soldiers (MOS 25S1C), who had completed their qualification courses. This policy overlooked the contributions of National Guard and Army Reserve officers and many active and reserve component enlisted Soldiers and didn't take into account experience in Space Operations assignments. The recent change erases those discrepancies. Officers are eligible if assigned to an FA 40 coded position, or any other Space-related position. Officers, warrant officers and enlisted Soldiers assigned to Joint Tactical Ground Stations or GMD positions, Army Space Support Teams (ARSST), or Satellite Control positions are also eligible for the badge. In every case, candidates must have completed the required training/certification for the position and have at least one year experience serving in the position.

Awards/Promotions

Civilian Promotions

Joseph W. Beard, Huntsville, Internal Review

Barbara A. Cantrell, Huntsville, Technical Center, Test and Evaluation Directorate

Robert S. Caruthers, Colorado Springs, Contracting and Acquisition Management Office, Operations

Deborah O. Childress, Huntsville, Contracting and Acquisition Management Office, Acquisition Management Directorate, Policy and Pricing Division

Elbert E. Clarke, Huntsville, Contracting and Acquisition Management Office, Acquisition Management Directorate, Division K

Joseph D. Cloft, Huntsville, Contracting and Acquisition Management Office, Operations, Division T

Robert M. Eison, Huntsville, Technical Center, Test and Evaluation Directorate

Military Promotions

Capt. Sarah Apgar, Colorado Springs, Operations/Plans, G-3

Staff Sgt. Matthew Blumer, Camp Roberts, Calif., 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON), D Company

Maj. Jason Conroy, Huntsville, Future Warfare Center, Space and Missile Defense Battle Lab

Col. Todd Day, Colorado Springs, Operations/Plans, G-3

Staff Sgt. Alicia Durant, Colorado Springs, 1st Space Battalion

Spc. Jason Goldberger, Fort Meade, Md., 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON), B Company

Master Sgt. Brian Lamay, Colorado Springs, 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON), HHC Commander

Pfc. Maegan Thomas, Colorado Springs, 1st Space Battalion, 1st Space Company

Staff Sgt. Kenneth Vaillancourt, Colorado Springs, 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON), HHC

On-the-Spot Cash Awards

Daisy H. Barnett, Huntsville, Future Warfare Center, Innovative Ventures Office

Mary S. Byrd, Huntsville, Research, Development and Acquisition Office

Vernon L. Frazier, Huntsville, Research, Development and Acquisition Office

Daniel B. Godwin, Huntsville, Future Warfare Center, Simulations and Analysis Directorate

Tracey E. Hatcher, Huntsville, Future Warfare Center, Space and Missile Defense Battle Lab

Kyle J. Holdmeyer, Huntsville, Technical Center, Technology Directorate

David A. Parsons, Huntsville, Technical Center, GMD Matrix

Shelby L. Rich, Huntsville, Technical Center, Technology Directorate

Chanda R. Tallman, Huntsville, Contracting and Acquisition Management Office, Operations, Division N

Gregory T. Trammell, Huntsville, Technical Center, Technology Directorate
Stacey L. Wilkes, Huntsville, Business Initiatives Office

Debra G. Wymer, Huntsville, Technical Center, Test and Evaluation Directorate

Time-Off Awards

Wayma R. Akins, Huntsville, Resource Management, G-8, Management Division

Franklin R. Bowles, Huntsville, Technical Center, Technology Directorate

Thomas M. Craven, Huntsville, Deputy Chief of Staff, Engineer, Environmental Division

Andrew L. Dobbs, Huntsville, Research, Development and Acquisition Office, Integrated Capability Management Division

Julie F. Elliott, Huntsville, Deputy Chief of Staff, Engineer, Environmental Division

Douglas H. Ennis, Huntsville, Research, Development and Acquisition Office, Integrated Capability Management Division

Shelia K. Noel, Huntsville, Research, Development and Acquisition Office, Integrated Capability Management Division

Albert L. Pardue, Huntsville, Technical Center, Technology Directorate

Patrick A. Tilley, Huntsville, Technical Center, Technology Directorate

Sarah V. Trial, Huntsville, Personnel, G-1, Military Personnel Division

Huntsville

continued from page 1

manager, spoke about state of the art medical and hospital care and emergency services. He cited information including the state and local per capita income, which is 8.7 percent/Alabama vs. 10.15 percent/National vs. 12.2 percent for Washington, D.C.

"Alabama does not tax retirement income of military and federal civilian retirees, nor does Tennessee," he said,

adding there are numerous job opportunities for post-retirement job seekers.

Hargrove advised attendees to check out additional information at the following Web site: www.tennessee-valley.org.

Huntsville City has public schools that offer distance learning and has academies and magnet schools offering academics and arts, science and foreign languages, pre-engineering, and other

specialties. Information may be found at www.huntsvillecityschools.net.

Dr. Mary Jane Caylor, Alabama State Board of Education, gave encouraging information for prospective newcomers who have children in kindergarten through high school. She said student-to-teacher class sizes are relatively small in Alabama schools and that enrollment is at about 800 students for most schools. She suggested participants visit the following Web site: www.alsde.edu.

Caylor also stated that in 2005, The Thomas B. Fordham Foundation cited Alabama as the best state across the Nation for academic and history standards and placed Alabama in the best top-five states for English standards, and in the best top-six states for math standards. (For information about the Fordham Foundation see Web site: www.edexcellence.net.)

Lynn Kilgore, representative for the Huntsville-Madison county builders association, and Stephen Perkins, representative for the Huntsville area association of realtors, discussed housing and home building respectively, within the Tennessee Valley area. "Some apartment communities offer an equity program where some portion of the rental fee is returned to the renter when that person

decides to buy a home; the returned fees are placed as part of the down payment on the home," said Kilgore.

Perkins stated that individual homes are affordable.

"Homes can run between \$200,000 up to \$700,000; however, the average really is more like \$150,000," Perkins said.

Lee Sentell, Alabama State Department of Tourism and Travel, began his presentation with a humorous video—a TV ad—highlighting how great the sunshine, beaches and relaxation are in Alabama. He followed that with another humorous video advertising inexpensive golf fees. He advised attendees visit the Web site: www.800alabama.com.

Complementing the presentations was SMDC's own Giselle Bodin from the Public Affairs Office. Bodin is a member of the Tennessee Valley Young Professionals and spoke on the interests as she sees them for young adults. She informed all young attendees that there's a fun nightlife for them, and the job and networking opportunities are great.

"I stay here because of the cost of living. I bought a home on a lake at age 24. Huntsville has big city potential but small town atmosphere. The sense of security is great and crime is low," Bodin said.



Photo by Marco Morales

Deputy manager for Ballistic Missile Defense Systems, Kevin Parker, surveys a variety of printed materials about the town of Athens and its surroundings while another attendee discusses the town with one of its representatives.

Awards/Promotions

Dianne F. Trimble, Huntsville, Contracting and Acquisition Management Office, Operations, Division N

Special Act Awards

Barbara C. Dixon, Huntsville, Technical Interoperability and Matrix Center

Franklin J. Ellis, Huntsville, Technical Center, MDA Matrix

Cassandra C. Gilmore, Colorado Springs, Resource Management, G-8, Resource Management Office - West

Jennifer R. Greiner, Colorado Springs, Resource Management, G-8, Resource Management Office - West

Philip E. Gresh, Colorado Springs, Resource Management, G-8, Resource Management Office - West

Angela R. Halonen, Colorado Springs, Resource Management, G-8, Resource Management Office - West

Seyed M. Hamidi, Huntsville, Technical Center, Matrix

Elaine J. Hanson, Colorado Springs, Resource Management, G-8, Resource Management Office - West

John C. Henderson, Huntsville, Technical Center, GMD Matrix

Dana P. Henslee, Huntsville, Business Initiatives Office

Paula T. Kennedy, Huntsville, Resource Management, G-8, Program Support Division

Mark T. Little, Huntsville, Technical Center

Ellen L. Lively, Huntsville, Technical Center, MDA Matrix

Randall S. Mills, Huntsville, Research, Development and Acquisition Office

Rhonda M. Norris, Huntsville, Resource Management, G-8, Program and Policy Division

Robert J. Pestona, Huntsville, Research, Development and Acquisition Office, RDA Command Analysis Division

Vernal R. Scales, Huntsville, Research, Development and Acquisition Office, Integrated Capabilities Management Directorate

Mary J. Schaap, Colorado Springs, Resource Management, G-8, Resource Management Office - West

Kenneth H. Shipman, Huntsville, Technical Center, MDA Matrix

Allison R. Sibert, Huntsville, Technical Interoperability and Matrix Center, Matrix

Terri Lynn Washburn, Huntsville, Contracting and Acquisition Management Office, Operations - South

Daniel W. Wesnor, Huntsville, Technical Center, MDA Matrix

Pamela M. Willis, Huntsville, Contracting and Acquisition Management Office, Operations - South

Length of Service

15 Years

Marla Cobbs, Huntsville, Research, Development and Acquisition Office, RDA Command Analysis Division

20 Years

Sherry Sanders, Huntsville, Technical Interoperability and Matrix Center

25 Years

Carolyn Cantrell, Huntsville, Research, Development and Acquisition Office, RDA Command Analysis Division

Roger Schwerman, Huntsville, Technical Center, MDA Matrix

30 Years

Dennis Gallien, Huntsville, Deputy Chief of Staff, Engineer, Environmental Division

John Hennings, Huntsville, Research, Development and Acquisition Office, RDA Integrated Capability Management Division

35 Years

Johnny Baldwin, Huntsville, Technical Center, DARPA Liaison Division

Larry Davenport, Huntsville, Resource Management, G-8, Program Support Division

50 Years

Samuel Uptain, Huntsville, Technical Center, MDA Matrix

Delta Diablos welcome new first sergeant

By Staff Sgt. Brandon Rennitt
Unit Reporter

CAMP ROBERTS, Calif. — It was one of those rare cloudy California mornings, but the first sergeant change of responsibility ceremony for Delta Company, 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON), still needed to be performed. The weather may have been sour, but not the mood of the Soldiers who participated in the event.

Capt. Conway Lin, Delta Company commander, officiated the ceremony between Sgt. 1st Class Alfredo Martinez, the outgoing first sergeant, and 1st Sgt. Mark Gehrt, the incoming first sergeant.

After the guidon exchange was performed, Martinez gave a speech on the office of the first sergeant and how he was honored to have held the position. In his speech, he talked about his newfound respect of the day-to-day operations and duties of the position he held.

"I learned a lot and now have an appreciation of the awesome responsibilities the first sergeant has," Martinez reflected.

Gehrt then gave his new Soldiers a brief autobiography, which included assignments to the White House Communications Agency, SATCOM Division Operations Noncommissioned Officer at Fort Gordon, Ga., and a three-year tour in Corozal, Panama.

Gehrt concluded his speech with congratulatory remarks to Martinez on his outstanding performance as first sergeant and to the Soldiers of Delta Company for their professionalism during his inprocessing.

"The Diablos are extremely fortunate to have two consecutive top-notch NCOs in such a critical position as the company first sergeant," stated Lin to which Gehrt responded, "Sir, I'm quite glad to be here!"



1st Sgt. Mark Gehrt
Delta Company
53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON)

Courtesy photo

Alpha Company NCOs train the 53rd Signal Battalion

By Sgt. Alexander White
and Spc. Justin Jacobsen

FORT DETRICK, Md. — Early in November, Alpha Company's Sgt. Joshua Pierce and Sgt. John Fuller instructed their final class on the Replacement Satellite Configuration Control Element. It marked the end of a two-month period where the two noncommissioned officers traveled to each company in the 53rd Signal Battalion and provided a week-long class on the new satellite control equipment.

Prior to the inception of the course, the battalion had already designated Pierce as the RSCCE subject matter expert. Pierce earned this distinction after two years of invaluable assistance to IIT Industries with testing the new equipment as well as on orbit testing of newly launched satellites. In March 2005, the battalion even sent Pierce and Fuller to Colorado Springs, Colo., for one week to validate the RSCCE technical manuals and provide feedback.

With the RSCCE to be operational at all the companies, the purpose of the course was for the subject matter experts (Pierce and Fuller) to provide in depth practical experience in accordance with battalion policy through hands-on training exercises at each company. Alpha Company, based on Pierce's recommendation, chose Fuller as a second instructor for the course because of his technical expertise, eagerness and strong work ethic. In the weeks leading up to the course, the two of them spent many 18-hour work days preparing for the very technically demanding area they were to instruct. Referencing both procedures used and knowledge gained during RSCCE field testing, Pierce created a 134-page

practical operations manual for the course. The text emphasized battalion daily operations and standards to be used in accordance with the Wideband Controller's Guide (which Pierce also continues to help develop).

The course itself was five days of instruction for no more than four Soldiers, allowing for a maximum amount of hands-on training for each Soldier. Day one covered equipment and troubleshooting, day two covered telemetry reports in correlation with the legacy equipment, and on days three, four and five, Pierce and Fuller covered satellite commanding, as well as unusual operations. A key feature of the course was not just the RSCCE equipment and software, but an overall better understanding of satellite theory.

In August, the two NCOs instructed back to back weeks at Delta Company at Camp Roberts, Calif., and then Echo Company at Fort Buckner, Japan. Pierce instructed the day shift and Fuller instructed the night shift. After that grueling pace, they had a few weeks to return to normal operations before instructing again in mid-September at Bravo Company at Fort Meade, Md. In October, the two NCOs traveled overseas again to instruct for a week at Charlie Company in Landstuhl, Germany. This time around,



Sgt. Joshua Pierce, right, teaches RSCCE procedures to Spc. Hector Ramos at Alpha Company, 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON).

Photo by 1st Lt. Patrick Smith

Fuller and Pierce were able to include four days of sightseeing and much needed relaxation prior to the week of instruction. The final phase of instruction took place at Fort Detrick, Md., when Pierce taught the course to the Soldiers of Alpha Company for three uninterrupted weeks.

Upon completion of the two months of RSCCE instruction, Fuller said, "I was extremely impressed with all the companies. The Soldiers' had an incredible drive to learn and expand their own knowledge." Pierce was equally impressed with the caliber of students he taught at each of the companies. "I met many Soldiers who are sure to become excellent Payload Controllers and will one day surpass me in knowledge of the RSCCE," said Pierce. The instructors themselves were equally praised by the

companies for their expertise and devotion to the course. "The hands-on training and overall knowledge of the instructors made the course extremely valuable, said Charlie Company Sgt. John Kirk. "One of the best battalion sponsored classes I have ever taken."

Capt. Conway Lin, the Delta company commander, described the class as "excellent training that benefited our Soldiers a great deal. I hope they are able to come out here again."

The 53rd Signal Battalion awarded both Pierce and Fuller Army Achievement Medals for their tremendous efforts in conducting the RSCCE class. Fuller has since gone on to serve as Alpha Company's Operations NCO. Pierce continues to assist the rest of battalion as the RSCCE subject matter expert.

Delta Company completes Operation Hellfire

By Capt. Ryan R. Renken
Unit Reporter

CAMP ROBERTS, Calif. — From Dec. 13-15, the Delta Company Diablos, 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON), engaged in a three-day force protection focused situational training exercise.

Delta Company commander, Capt. Conway Lin issued the Commander's Intent for the exercise, "My intent for the Soldiers was to give them some realistic scenarios to learn and apply some tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs) while employing the common tasks the squads have been training on during Sergeant's Time Training."

Each squad rotated through three scenarios: a controlled entry and exit point to a military installation, a convoy escort/security mission, and a chemical, biological, nuclear, radiological scenario. Focused on realism, the scenarios were scripted using a synchronization matrix that offered the Observer-Controllers (OC) and Opposition Forces (OPFOR) the opportunity to evaluate the level of training and readiness of the squads. Each squad was given an intelligence summary prior to each scenario from which they could determine the threat. Further ensuring realism and applicability, the intelligence summary and thus the OPFOR threat was consistent with a threat analysis of the satellite communications site at Camp Roberts performed by an independent agency. This equated to insurgent OPFOR operating in three- and four-man teams with little to no organization or outside support for the assault on the controlled entry and exit point and for the convoy ambush.

Lin gave the Soldiers further guidance, "Think less about killing the OPFOR. Concentrate on your battle drills and TTPs in each scenario. These scenarios are designed so that if you perform your squad tasks efficiently and effectively in accordance with solid TTPs, the natural result will be annihilation of the OPFOR."

Within each scenario, each squad conducted each mission twice. The first time was at combat speed and fully based on each squad's Sergeant's Time Training. Immediately following the first iteration was an evaluation and after-action report performed by the observer controller to include a walk-through of

what the squad should have done. Using the evaluation, after-action report and TTPs offered by the observer controller, the squads reset and conducted the mission again. The OPFOR was instructed to vary their engagement tactics to ensure the friendly forces were not tailoring their plans to react to specific events or situations; however, the sequence and basic premises of the events were the same.

Additionally, to ensure the squad leaders were well prepared, a tactical exercise without troops was conducted with the leadership two weeks prior to the exercise. This enabled the squad leader to maximize the training opportunity and not waste time. The squad leaders therefore were privy to most of the OPFOR script. "They did not know everything. We let them know just enough to give them the opportunity to adeptly employ their squads," said Lin.

In the gate scenario, the squads were tasked to establish and control the entry and exit point to a military installation. The observer controller would start by playing the role of an ordinary Department of Defense employee with proper identification and authorization to enter and exit the site; however, without the employee's knowledge, his or her vehicle was wired with an explosive device. The purpose was for the squad to engage in proper vehicle search techniques and to react to a possible explosive device.

Next, an embedded reporter tested the squad's ability to interact with media.

Finally, an OPFOR technical vehicle would assault the gate at a high rate of speed for the squad to employ the Rules of Engagement and Rules for Use of Force (provided to them as part of the intelligence summary).

The OPFOR would engage the squad with direct small-arms fire, testing the squad's reaction to the situation and the



Photos by Sgt. Valencia Hollobaugh

Spc. Danial Zweifel takes cover behind the engine block of an F350 during Delta Company, 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON's), recent situational training exercise.

viability of their defensive considerations and posture.

"We are fortunate to have blank ammo and Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System equipment available to us here on Camp Roberts as they added to the realism of the engagement," remarked Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Plale.

Upon completion of the engagement, the observer controller would conduct the battle damage assessment for the squad to react to casualties suffered during the engagement.

The scenario for the convoy security and escort mission was based on the real need for resupply from main post Camp Roberts, in a Force Protection Condition (FPCON) Delta situation.

In this situation, Delta Company would only have access to GSA vehicles for the resupply mission as well as the security and escort mission. The squads were responsible for identifying a convoy commander, conducting their route, convoy and safety briefs and then providing security for the convoy.

Along the designated route, the squads reacted to a possible improvised explosive device, conducted a secure halt, dismounted, reacted to indirect fire, avoided an ambush and then reacted and defended against a blocked ambush. Once the engagement was completed, the squads would account for personnel and equipment and evaluate casualties.

The final scenario forced the squad leader to make a tough call. At some point, insurgents had taken control of the operations center (simulated by the chemical, biological, nuclear and radiological confidence chamber).

Due to lack of an incendiary grenade or other destructive device, the insurgents released an "unknown persistent chemical agent" as they fled, to prevent the Soldiers' ability to regain control of the operations center.

Squad leaders were informed of a critical mission that required them to enter the operations floor, identify the chemical agent and regain control of the satellites in a severely limited amount of time.

Squad leaders were forced to determine the least mission-critical members of their squad.

1st Sgt. Mark Gehrt, pleased with the Soldiers' actions, stated, "We accomplished our mission to give the Soldiers a realistic opportunity to demonstrate proficiency with their individual and warrior tasks. It was a great week of training and learning."



Sgt. 1st Class Alfredo Martinez conducts an after action review at the end of the convoy scenario during Delta Company, 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON's), recent situational training exercise.



Photos by Maj. Laura Kenney

Who's leading whom? Maj. Ann Dirks, brigade adjutant, appears to be pulled by her son, Jefferson, 4, but since it was his just his second time on skates, his mom should *probably* get the benefit of the doubt.



Paired up for training – Branwyn Kenney, 10, daughter of Maj. Laura Kenney, public affairs officer, skates tandem with Maj. Victoria Mawaka, logistics officer.



Looks like "Dad" won this one, as Lt. Col. Mike Willis, brigade operations officer, and his son Tyler, 12, finish a friendly race on skates.



Yikes! Five-year-old Serena Keener, daughter of Capt. Dennis Keener, intelligence officer, experiences some of the challenges presented by trying to learn how to ice skate.

Missile defenders take to the ice...

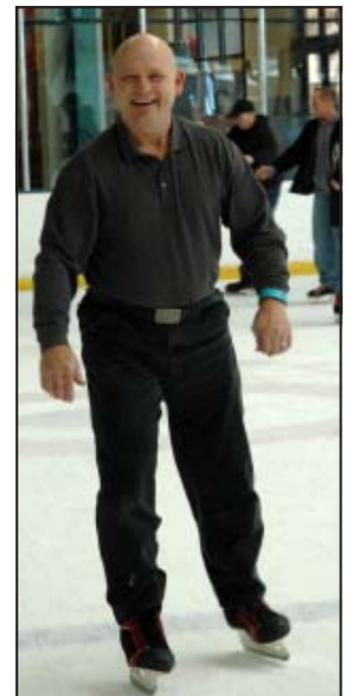
COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.— Celebrating the cold season, members of the 100th Missile Defense Brigade, Ground-based Midcourse Defense enjoyed a unit activity day by ice-skating as a group Dec. 19. Soldiers and family members donned silver blades and tackled the ice with varying degrees of skill but mostly equal levels of enjoyment. Mostly...



Sgt. Kristine Onushak, supply sergeant and 1st Sgt. Herbert Rodriguez assist Vanessa Mach, 5, daughter of Sgt. 1st Class Richard Mach, training NCO, during her first brave attempt at skating.



Maj. Brian Gary, communications officer, tutors his daughter, Sidney, 8, on the finer points of how to traverse slippery surfaces on thin blades.



Sgt. 1st Class Harold Bollinger, missile defense operator, makes skating look easy.