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The Eagle

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

Volume 13, Number 5, May 2006

Command receives award from NISH

By LuAnne Fantasia
SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

According to the 2000 Census, only one-third of the 31 million United States residents between the ages of 21 and 64 who have disabilities are employed. Approximately 50 of those Americans are contractor employees in this command under the NISH program — a federal program designed to set up rehabilitation companies nationwide that make goods for or provide services to U.S. government organizations.

NISH recently selected the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command for its 2006 NISH Government Award for Services, citing that the command has a long list of ongoing activities in its promotion of employment for people with disabilities at all levels of the organization.

Michael Schexnayder and Mark Lumer attended the award banquet in Chicago early this month to accept the award for the command. Respectively, Schexnayder is the command's deputy director for

research and development and Lumer is principal assistant responsible for contracting.

Lumer said that partnering with Phoenix Services in Huntsville, Ala., and Tresco, Inc., of Las Cruces, N.M., "... is a win-win situation, because these companies have competitive salaries, good employees and low turnover.

"By working with Phoenix and Tresco, and other NISH firms, we have chosen to improve lives. The best day I ever had in procurement was the day we awarded contracts to Phoenix and Tresco.

"It's rare to meet someone who loves paying taxes, but I met a young man working for Tresco at White Sands [Missile Range] who is thrilled to have his first job ... his own apartment ... and paying taxes for the first time.

"We in the contracting office

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Photo by Dottie White

Robert D. Adkins, a Phoenix Service employee, distributes mail for SMDC/ARSTRAT on Redstone Arsenal, Ala. Adkins is the supervisor for the mail center.

CET returns from yearlong deployment



Photo by Sharon L. Hartman

1st Lt. Matthew Pollock greets wife Missy and son Alex upon returning from a yearlong deployment in Bahrain. Pollock was able to be home for Alex's birth during his mid-tour leave in October 2005.

By Sharon L. Hartman
SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.

— A hero's welcome awaited eight Colorado Army National Guard members of the 193rd Space Battalion, as they returned from a yearlong deployment in Bahrain on March 22.

Excited spouses and children held welcome home signs and balloons, and bystanders at the Colorado Springs Airport erupted in cheers as the members of the Commercial Exploitation Team ran into the arms of family and friends.

The returning members of the CET were Capt. Matthew Bowes, 1st Lt. Matthew Pollock, Master Sgt. John Fennern, Staff Sgt. Brett Mills, Sgt. Brian Singmaster, Sgt. Nicole Bogenschutz, Sgt. Molly Patterson and Spc. Brian Fitzgerald.

The Command Corner



Lt. Gen. Larry J. Dodgen
Commanding General



CSM David L. Lady
Command Sergeant Major

As the weather becomes warmer; the flowers and trees starting to blossom; with the end of school in sight; and while families make plans for the summer, it can be easy to forget we are a nation and an Army at war. Although the press provides reminders through various media venues on events such as the latest suicide bombing or the latest tape recording by al-Qa'ida, it can be difficult to comprehend we have been fighting a global war on terrorism longer than the 19-months we fought in World War I, and longer than the time America fought in World War II.

This month I am addressing an area of great concern to our nation and the American people by focusing on who the war on terrorism is directed against and what we are doing about it. Fifty-six months ago, our country and other peace-loving nations around the world, were attacked by an enemy motivated by ideologies antagonistic to freedom, tolerance and moderation. As the nation and its coalition partners prosecute the global war on terrorism, who the enemy is can be hard to understand at times. This is not a war against a particular culture or religion, rather this is a fight against violent extremism whose members often see the West and the United States as primary obstacles to their ability to achieve their aims or political ends.

These extremists use terrorism — the calculated use of violence against innocent people — to coerce or intimidate governments or societies in the pursuit of political, religious or ideological goals. The enemies' long-term goal is to "turn back the clock" by undermining Western influence and redefining the global balance of power. These extremists want to fundamentally change the nature of the world order.

How do you defeat an enemy consisting of a transnational movement of organizations, networks and individuals who have no standing army, no uniforms, who live among the population with state sponsors and non-state supporters, who is aggressively pursuing weapons of mass destruction, and who uses the globalization of information technology to spread their ideology? The answer is by supporting national and international activities to counter the enemy's ideology; denying the enemy what they need to operate and survive; enabling partner nations to counter terrorism; and by attacking extremist groups and their capacity to operate effectively at home and abroad — exactly what the United States, our men and women in uniform, and our coalition partners are doing! A vital part of this effort is supporting mainstream efforts to reject violent extremism, as marginalizing ideology requires patience and promoting reform from within. Some of our most adamant supporters are men and women who bravely vote in local elections; enlist in police and security elements; report suspicious activities to coalition forces and defy the activities of the extremists.

It is important for all of us to understand the nature of the extremist threat and the nature of the global war on terrorism. The United States, along with partnering nations, is helping to create a global environment that is inhospitable to violent extremism which promotes the existence of free and open societies. It will be a protracted war, but it is a war we will win!

We can all do our part by helping others understand this is a fight against hatred, indiscriminate violence and intimidation.

In closing, the month of May offers numerous opportunities to express our love, admiration and gratitude to many individuals who have done so much for us. Memorial Day is one such opportunity — perhaps the words of Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr., a

See *War on terrorism* on page 4

In September 2005, the Army made real progress toward establishing an Army Space Cadre and, with it, an enlisted Space Cadre. The Space Cadre Force Management Analysis (FORMAL) General Officer Steering Committee approved the Space Cadre definition and organizational construct and assigned the Army Space Cadre Office to the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command. These recommendations were accepted by the vice chief of staff of the Army in January 2006.

Enlisted positions within the Army Space Cadre are identified as "Space Enablers." These Soldiers assist the space operations professionals (FA 40s) or perform other tasks critical to the Army's space operations mission (such as satellite control).

There will be no Space Military Occupational Specialty. Enlisted members of the Space Cadre will be drawn from the Signal, Air Defense Artillery, Military Intelligence and Engineer branches. The FORMAL recognized the need for additional skill indicators, to identify Soldiers serving in space operations positions (such as ASI "1C" which identifies satellite control specialists within Signal-MOS 25S).

SMDC/ARSTRAT was authorized to recommend ASIs for Soldiers serving in Space Enabler positions and receiving functional training in order to perform space operations tasks. As of this time, ASI request has been submitted for the Soldiers in MOS 14J (ADA: C4I TOC operations specialist) who serve in the Theater Missile Warning (JTAGS) detachments.

Preventing other ASI-initiatives is the lack of formal space operations training for Soldiers assigned into Army Space Support Teams, Commercial Exploitation Teams and Space Support Teams Elements. These Soldiers receive no recognized and formalized functional training in order to perform these missions. The Army Space Support Team Certification is not sufficient as a formal space operations course.

Until the SMDC/ARSTRAT Future Warfare Center specifies the doctrinal missions of these teams and designs courses to train Soldiers in these missions, there will be no attempt to gain ASIs for these Soldiers.

Space Enabler positions will be identified by all the Army Commands and Army Service Component Commands by Aug. 31. SMDC/ARSTRAT has already identified its Space Enabler positions.

The number of Space Enabler positions in SMDC/ARSTRAT will grow over the period 2007-2011. During this period, 27 new Modified Table of Organization and Equipment (MTOE)-organizations will be added to SMDC/ARSTRAT. These units will bring the strength of SMDC/ARSTRAT (minus headquarters staff and civilians) to 1,864. Most of these Soldiers will be Space Enablers.

In addition to these organizations within SMDC/ARSTRAT, 27 Space Support Elements will be assigned to 18 division headquarters (Active Component and National Guard), three Corps headquarters and six Theater-Army headquarters. Forty-eight sergeants and staff sergeants, MOS 25S, will fill the enlisted positions in these elements.

When compared to the number of Soldiers performing space operations missions between 1997 and 2005, this growth is considerable and is a tribute to the success of the Soldiers of SMDC/ARSTRAT when supporting OPERATIONS ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM. To their excellence, we owe the Army's recognition of the importance of space capabilities in support of the

See *Space Cadre* on page 3

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What We Think

The Eagle asks:

What does Memorial Day mean to you?



Barbara C. Dixon
Executive Assistant
Technical Interoperability and Matrix Center
Huntsville, Ala.

To me, Memorial Day is a time to reflect and remember those who have given the supreme sacrifice for OUR country. This includes all men and women who have died in conflicts from fighting for our freedom before we were an established country, all the way through to today, where our men and women are dying in Iraq and Afghanistan. I thank those that have paid the ultimate price so that I may enjoy freedom. I feel so blessed to be an American citizen.



Staff Sgt. Kurtiss Clark
Paralegal NCO
100th Missile Defense Brigade
(Ground-based Midcourse
Defense)
Colorado Springs, Colo.

To me, Memorial Day's meaning is connected with the Declaration of Independence — those who fought helped guarantee the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. While attending a military class recently in Charlottesville, Va., I had the opportunity to go to Arlington National Cemetery with two classmates. During our short stay, we saw the statue of the Marines hoisting the U.S. Flag at the Sands of Iwo Jima and watched the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. It was a dreary and rainy day, but it seemed appropriate. Afterward, I walked away from the ceremony with a feeling of deep respect and pride, and it's that same feeling I will take with me into Memorial Day this year. Memorial Day honors those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Their sacrifices allow me to enjoy time with my family and friends. The holiday also remembers those who are still missing in action, as well as the Soldiers currently out there fighting to uphold the freedoms some Americans take for granted.



John W. Davis
Intelligence Officer
G-2
Huntsville, Ala.

On Memorial Day my family always visits a military memorial or cemetery. This helps us remember not only those who fell, but their families as well. We try to offer assistance to widows, widowers, and children who remain behind. Their pain goes on long after the last bugle plays on Memorial Day.



Philip Ballard
SYColeman, Force Protection Leader
Ballistic Missile Defense, System Manager Office
Arlington, Va.

It's a reminder of the ultimate sacrifice that our Armed Forces have made to protect our freedoms. It should be a call to serve a cause greater than yourself.



Maj. Dennis Carman
Staff, Ballistic Missile Defense
System Manager Office
Arlington, Va.

This is a time to step back and remember the people gone before us. We're building on something pretty costly, and that gives significance.



Capt. John Brock
G-3, Current Operations Branch
Colorado Springs, Colo.

What Memorial Day means to me personally is remembering those Soldiers and people who we lost in OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM from my platoon and company. It means taking a minute to honor their memory everyday like we promised to do.



Master Sgt. Frances Sanchez-Jones
G-6, C4 PLEX Branch
Colorado Springs, Colo.

Memorial Day means fallen comrades. It is the day that we choose to remember our fallen comrades. If you haven't remembered them the other three hundred and sixty four days, this is the one day you should take time out to think about our fallen comrades.



Don Rodgers
G-3, Force Modification Division
Colorado Springs, Colo.

It is an opportunity for the country to remember those who have given us the freedoms we enjoy.



To me, Memorial Day means a day to reflect on all those who have lost their lives in all the country's battles, wars and conflicts. It is a day to reflect on those who we can thank for our freedom today.

Shelly Bower
G-4, Transportation Branch Chief
Colorado Springs, Colo.



I am a Soldier myself with loved ones overseas. — It is a time to reflect on all the brave sacrifices made by our veterans and to pray for the safe return of our friends and loved ones. This Memorial Day will be very special to me because my fiancé will be back for R&R.

Syreeta Williams
Secretary to the Chief Scientist
Arlington, Va.

Safety awareness

continued from page 2

maneuver force.

Despite progress in creating the Space Cadre, enlisted Soldiers spend their careers exclusively in space operations. Without a Space MOS, our enlisted Soldiers must move to other organizations and gain experience in non-space operations in order to meet their branch requirements and become ready for greater responsibility and promotion.

That imperative is at the heart of this command's decision to limit Soldiers to no more than two consecutive tours in SMDC/ARSTRAT. After these five to six

years in space operations, Soldiers must move to perform missions as directed by their branch assignment managers. Without a doubt, the experience and knowledge they have gained in space operations will make them much more valuable members of their conventional units.

The Space Cadre Proponency Office will gradually expand in order to track enlisted as well as commissioned personnel with space operations experience. This office will work with the branch managers to bring experienced space operations noncommissioned officers back into SMDC/ARSTRAT. Ideally, many of our

best enlisted Soldiers will serve again in SMDC/ARSTRAT, but this time as senior NCOs.

The two greatest obstacles remaining along the path toward a strong enlisted Space Cadre are the lack of accessible and specialized courses in space operations and the lack of additional skill indicators for most of the enlisted specialties engaged in space operations. Both must be solved, and the solutions will take time, funding, and cooperation between the Air Force and Army Staffs, SMDC/ARSTRAT, and the traditional branches of the Army.

ON POINT!

Individuals with disabilities: Access the possibilities

By Johnetta R. Graves
Equal Employment Opportunity Office

A letter from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission said, "That this is a new era in the quest for talent. Our Government should reflect the rich diversity of America and provide opportunities to persons of all backgrounds, origins and abilities. It is essential that we use the resources, talents, and skills of one of the country's untapped resources, people with disabilities."

Many managers and supervisors are reluctant to hire people with disabilities because of a lack of understanding and awareness of their capabilities and achievements along with a few negative attitudes. Managers and supervisors sometimes have the misconception that individuals with disabilities require more sick leave and experience more accidents than people who are not impaired. This misconception is simply not true. Some of the benefits to the employer when employing individuals with disabilities are that morale and commitment of employees increase when visible commitments are made to hire people with disabilities; hiring people with disabilities projects a positive image that promotes the organization; employers experience reduced employee turnover; and organizations retain committed employees who have skills and experience. Employers should not assume that persons with disabilities are unemployable; do not want to work; lack the necessary education and training for employment; that certain jobs are more suited to persons with disabilities; and that the work environment will be unsafe if an employee has a disability.

Core disability laws such as the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Architectural Barriers Act of 1968, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Rehabilitation Act Amendment of 1992, and 29 CFR, Part 1614, Section 203, Federal Sector Equal Employment Opportunity, provide that no agency shall discriminate against a qualified individual with a disability because of the disability of such individual in regard to job application procedures, hiring, advancement, or discharge, employee compensation, job training, and other terms, conditions and privileges of employment. A qualified individual with

a disability is one with a disability who, with or without reasonable accommodations, can perform the essential functions of the position that the person holds or desires.

In the formulation of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, some of the issues the Congress raised were:

- Some 43 million Americans have one or more physical or mental disabilities, and this number is increasing as the population as a whole is growing older;
- Historically, society has tended to isolate and segregate individuals with disabilities, and, despite some improvements, such forms of discrimination against individuals with disabilities continue to be a serious and pervasive social problem;



- Unlike individuals who have experienced discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, religion or age, individuals who have experienced discrimination on the basis of disability have often had no legal recourse to redress such discrimination;
- Individuals with disabilities continually encounter various forms of discrimination, including outright intentional exclusion, the discriminatory effects of architectural, transportation, and communication barriers, overprotective rules and policies, failure to make modifications to existing facilities and practices, exclusionary qualification standards and criteria, segregation, and relegation to lesser services, programs, activities, benefits, jobs or other opportunities;
- The nation's proper goals regarding individuals with disabilities are to assure equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self sufficiency for such individuals; and
- The continuing existence of unfair and unnecessary discrimination and prejudice denies people with disabilities the opportunity to compete on an equal basis and to pursue those opportunities for which our free society is justifiably famous, and costs the United States billions of dollars in unnecessary expenses resulting from dependency and non-productivity.

Pursuant to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, an individual is classified as being handicapped if he or she has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity; has a record of such impairment; or is regarded as having such impairment.

Impairment is any physiological disorder or condition, cosmetic disfigurement or anatomical loss affecting one or more of the following body systems:

- Neurological
- Musculoskeletal
- Special Sense Organs
- Cardiovascular
- Reproductive
- Digestive
- Respiratory
- Genitourinary
- Hemic & Lymphatic
- Skin and Endocrine

Any mental or psychological disorder such as:

- Mental Retardation
- Organic Brain Syndrome
- Emotional or Mental Illness
- Learning Disorders

The Department of the Army is required to take steps to prevent discrimination and remove barriers to equal employment opportunity in the federal workplace. Individuals with targeted disabilities are targeted for emphasis in affirmative action planning. Targeted disabilities are deafness; blindness; missing extremities; partial paralysis; convulsive disorders; mental retardation; mental illness; and genetic or physical condition affecting limbs and/or spine.

Each employee and/or applicant is also afforded reasonable accommodations should accommodations be requested and the individual can provide proof that they have a condition that requires accommodation. An agency shall make reasonable accommodations for the known physical or mental limitations of an applicant or employee who is a qualified individual with a handicap unless the agency can demonstrate that the accommodation would impose an undue hardship on the operations of its mission/program. If an agency makes such a claim, it must be justified in writing. Accommodations may include, but shall not be limited to the following:

- Providing readily accessible and usable facilities for persons with disabilities to include workstation accessories, chairs, and/or automation equipment.
- Job restructuring, part-time and modified work schedules, acquisition or modification of automated equipment and devices, appropriate adjustment or modification of examinations, the provisions of readers and interpreters, telecommunication aides and other similar provisions.

As a Department of the Army component, it is U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command's policy to ensure increased understanding of individuals with disabilities by all employees. This is a new era in the quest for talent. We should reflect the rich diversity of America and provide equal opportunities to all persons. It is essential that we use the resources, talents, and skills of one of the country's untapped resources, people with disabilities.

Additional information related to disability issues, can be obtained by contacting Johnetta Graves, Individuals with Disabilities Program Manager, Equal Employment Opportunity Office, (256) 955-4008 or DSN 645-4008.



War on terrorism ——— continued from page 2

U.S. Supreme Court Justice and veteran of the Civil War, are most appropriate for a Nation at war: "So to the indifferent inquirer who asks why Memorial Day is still kept up, we may answer, it celebrates and solemnly reaffirms from year to year a national act of enthusiasm and faith. Even if those who come after us forget all that we hold dear, and the future is to teach and kindle its children in ways as yet unrevealed, it is enough for us that this day is dear and sacred." I encourage everyone to remember and reflect on the courage, valor and ultimate sacrifice made by so many so that we may continue to live in freedom.

SECURE THE HIGH GROUND!

Historic brigade has first change of command

By Maj. Laura Kenney
SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — The nation's only missile defense brigade, with headquarters here, underwent its first change of top leadership April 18, as Col. Gary W. Baumann relinquished command to Col. Michael L. Yowell.

The 100th Missile Defense Brigade (Ground-based Midcourse Defense), U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command, is at the forefront of the nation's emerging missile defense technology. The brigade, a multi-

component unit, falls under the overall direction of Northern Command during an operational mission.

The assistant adjutant general of the Colorado Army National Guard, Brig. Gen. Thomas D. Mills, hosted the ceremony. Baumann, first commander of the brigade, assisted in its formation prior to activation Oct. 16, 2003, in response to presidential directive. Lt. Gen. Larry J. Dodgen, commanding general, SMDC/ARSTRAT, presented Baumann the Legion of Merit for his role in establishing the historic unit.

Yowell assumed command in a traditional flag-passing ceremony held in the

Air Force Space Command Auditorium. The former commander of the brigade's headquarters battery and the first to hold that position, Capt. Stephen Elisha, sang the Star Spangled Banner to open the ceremony.

The 100th Brigade, largely composed of Colorado Army National Guardsmen operating in their time-honored mission of defending the homeland, has interceptors located in Alaska and California. The brigade oversees the Soldiers operating the ground-based midcourse portion of the nation's emerging missile defense capability.

Baumann said, "It's going to be hard to stop thinking, 'missile defense, missile defense' 24/7, but at least I can sleep easily at night knowing that the unit has passed into the more than capable hands of its new commander. It was a true pleasure to be a part of bringing something so important to the American people. It's not every day one can say, 'I (the unit) protect(s) almost 300 million people.'"

Yowell approached the new challenge with enthusiasm. "We've come a long way since the days of Paul Revere awakening fellow citizens to the threat facing them," said Yowell. "With today's technology, we can now defend against a threat not even imaginable then. The unit will build on the outstanding foundation that Colonel Baumann has ensured, and I'm glad that I will assist it in doing so."

Yowell comes to the command immediately after graduating from the Missile Defense Operators Course. Branched Field Artillery, Yowell is a certified space operations officer, and served previously as the first commander of the 193rd Space Battalion, which frequently deploys space operators to Kuwait, Oman, and Iraq as well as to numerous exercises in Korea and the United States. He served as the Colorado Army National Guard deputy chief of staff for personnel prior to his assumption of command of the 100th.



Photo by Dennis Plummer

Col. Michael L. Yowell, incoming 100th Missile Defense Brigade (Ground-based Midcourse Defense) commander, accepts the brigade colors, symbolizing his assumption of command. From left to right: Col. Gary W. Baumann, outgoing brigade commander; Col. Michael L. Yowell, incoming brigade commander; Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel L. Marques, brigade command sergeant major.

Missile Defense Brigade farewells first commander

By Maj. Laura Kenney
SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — "What's it like to be the first?"

Col. Gary Baumann, first commander of the nation's only missile defense brigade, pondered the question as he prepared to give up the reins to incoming commander, Col. Michael Yowell.

"It was certainly an honor to help stand up this unit. Getting a presidential directive to do something on an expedited time schedule certainly lends urgency to the mission. And President Bush asked for exactly that after the events of 9/11; he wanted the nation to be able to defend itself — and he tasked us with that mission."

The 100th Missile Defense Brigade (Ground-based Midcourse Defense) was formally activated Oct. 16, 2003, in a ceremony held on Peterson Air Force Base, a little more than a year after construction had begun on the missile defense complex at Fort Greely, Alaska. Baumann, who

had assisted in the unit's formation prior to its activation, formally began his command that day. He had six Soldiers and no weapons.

Today, interceptors are located in Alaska and California. The unit, including its battalion at Fort Greely, Alaska, is manned by hundreds of Soldiers, mostly full-time Colorado and Alaska National Guardsmen, with an active component contingent. What did it take to get to that point, 36 months later?

"The dedication of a lot of people, both Soldier and civilian, is what made this accomplishment possible. Of course this was a huge team effort with Boeing and other contractors, as well as the superb Soldiers who man the system and staff the headquarters. Those Soldiers were chosen from a nationwide search, which is how we ensured we got the best of the best," said Baumann.

The first commander of the 100th put much of himself into standing-up the trail-blazing unit. A conservative estimate

had him traveling to and from Alaska, California, Washington, D.C., and Alabama as many days as he actually spent here.

Although Baumann is looking forward to an easier pace of life as he returns to civilian life and traditional Guard status, he will miss the Soldiers and the job he is leaving.

"You couldn't ask for better Soldiers, or a better mission. Defending America means you're defending your own family and friends, as well as our

great nation. But I know the Soldiers and the unit will continue to do so, to the best of their very great ability."



Photo by Sgt. Sara Storey

Lt. Gen. Larry Dodgen, SMDC/ARSTRAT commander, presents Col. Gary Baumann, outgoing 100th Missile Defense Brigade (Ground-based Midcourse Defense) commander, with a Legion of Merit for his service to the unit during the change of command ceremony April 18.

D Company conducts first aid training

By 2nd Lt. Clint M. Rutter
Unit reporter

CAMP ROBERTS, Calif. — Amidst the torrential rain, pools of mud and gusts of wind, the Soldiers from Delta Company, 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON), recently conducted basic first aid training. By focusing training on a few core competencies such as evaluating a casualty, controlling bleeding, transporting a casualty and preventing or controlling shock, the Soldiers were able to become proficient.

First aid is a core competency. This is the first care given to casualties before treatment by medical personnel is available.

"With the way the Army is moving and transforming today, practicing first aid skills is a must for any unit," remarked 1st Sgt. Mark Gehrt.

"We try to incorporate a scenario into all of our training," said Capt. Conway

Lin, Delta Company commander. "In this scenario a Soldier is on patrol and finds a casualty. Their training takes over from there and allows the Soldier to render first aid properly."

All Delta Company Soldiers had to evaluate the casualty, treat for bleeding, treat for shock, call in a 9-Line MEDEVAC for the casualty, and finally, evacuate the casualty.

Realism was added to the scenario by using fake wound kits on other members of the company. "Sometimes we would have the casualty crying, sometimes unconscious and sometimes screaming in pain," explained Gehrt. "With our resources, we put as much of the sights and sounds of a real situation into the scenario as we could."

Spc. Joel Wilson provided the most memorable reaction to the scenario. While acting as the casualty, Spc. Paul Preston started acting scared and began screaming. Wilson took



Photo by Capt. Ryan R. Renken

Spc. Joel Wilson assesses a simulated wound on Spc. Paul Preston during a Delta Company first aid training session.

control of the situation by reassuring him that he was going to be okay.

"He did the best of all the Soldiers who evaluated me," Preston said. "My acting and antics did not faze him one bit.

He turned me over to treat my wound, and I started screaming. He grabbed me and took control of the situation."

Added Gehrt, "Spc. Wilson did not let the situation control him."

B Company has one-day record reenlistment



Photo by 1st Lt. Matthew Kisner

Four Bravo Company NCOs, from left to right, Sgt. William Steiner, Staff Sgt. Patrick Anderson, Staff Sgt. Chandler Dixon and Sgt. Joseph Kelly reenlisted together on March 31 setting a one-day record for reenlistments at Bravo Company.

FORT MEADE, Md. — March 31 was a great day for Bravo Company, 53rd Signal Battalion as four noncommissioned officers reenlisted at the same time.

"This is Bravo Company's one-day record," said Capt. Jermaine Sutton, Bravo Company commander, after reenlisting Sgt. William Steiner, Staff Sgt. Patrick Anderson, Staff Sgt. Chandler Dixon and Sgt. Joseph Kelly. "It is always a great day when I have the privilege to reenlist Soldiers."

The four NCOs were motivated to reenlist after the March commander's information call when the Fort Meade reenlistment NCO came to the company and gave a brief to all the Soldiers about their options for reenlistment.

Currently, the bonuses are high for everyone in the Army, especially 25S.

"The bonus is not why I reenlisted," stated Anderson. "I reenlisted because I am proud to serve my country and be part of the best military organization in the world."

Cutest baby contest raises money

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — To help support the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command Ball in Colorado Springs, Colo., members of the ball committee conducted several unique fundraisers.

One such fundraiser was the Colorado Springs Cutest Baby Contest. Members of the command in Colorado Springs submitted photos of their children (under the age of two), which were then placed on jars. To vote, donations were placed in each jar and the baby collecting the most amount of money won.

In the end, the event raised a total of \$268.33, and Kailey

Breanna Frank was announced the winner.

Kailey was born in Hendersonville, Tenn., on May 26, 2004, to Sgt. Jason and Aubrey Frank. Kailey is the younger sister to Chase and her proud grandparents include Theresa Morphis, Ted and Lorie Frank and Sheila Wilkinson.

Kailey's favorite activities are playing with her big brother, dancing to all types of music and helping her mommy.

Sgt. Frank and his wife said they are honored to have participated in the SMDC/ARSTRAT Ball fundraiser and sincerely appreciate all of those who voted for Kailey by making monetary donations.



Courtesy photo

Kailey Breanna Frank, daughter of Sgt. Jason and Aubrey Frank, wins the cutest baby contest in Colorado Springs. The contest raised funds for the SMDC/ARSTRAT Ball.

Safety

Driving defensively - How to prevent collisions

- A door of a parked car opens suddenly in front of your car.
- A taxi, ahead of you on your left, darts across your lane to pick someone up.
- A cat crouching on the sidewalk bounds in front of your car across the street.



You know you're a good driver, but are you prepared for the unexpected or when someone else's poor driving puts you in a tight spot? Keep the following principles in mind.

On the lookout

Be alert when you drive and ready to anticipate sudden or obscured actions. Watch for public transportation vehicles, such as buses, taxis and commuter vans. Also, allow a "circle of safety" around children, student drivers, motorcyclists, bicyclists, signaling vehicles, emergency vehicles with flashing lights, crosswalks, construction signs, animals and any driver who might not be able to see you in a rear-view mirror.

Maintain an escape route

Try not to get boxed in when driving on multilane roads. That way, if someone

makes a wrong move, you'll be able to go left or right rather than having to stop dead in your tracks. On a two-lane road, your escape route is to the right, off the roadway. Watch for roadside hazards that can make this difficult. Adjust your speed so you'll meet up with oncoming cars at a spot where you have room to maneuver. If another vehicle is following you too closely, tap your brakes lightly to flash your rear brake lights, signaling them to back off.

Use your brakes carefully

The impulse in a dangerous situation is to hit the brakes. If your vehicle is not equipped with antilock brakes, slamming on the brakes can cause you to skid completely out of control. To use your brakes in an evasive maneuver, stab at them repeatedly, letting go before they lock. This way you'll slow down without losing control. However, if your vehicle has antilock brakes, don't stab at the brakes but apply firm pressure until the vehicle comes to a stop.

Swerve, don't brake

Whenever possible, use your steering wheel instead of your brakes. Be prepared to swerve around the unexpected obstacle. Drive with your hands on opposite sides of the steering wheel to give you the leverage needed to turn it 180 degrees in either direction. Be prepared to swerve sharply and then return the wheel to its normal position as quickly as you swerved. Guide your vehicle back to the path it was following before the hazard. If necessary, go off the road to avoid hitting a vehicle head on. Even going into a ditch is better than a head-on collision.

When it's best to speed up

Sometimes you can get out of a jam by speeding up. If you're already in an intersection and someone is coming at you from the side, it's best to step on the accelerator rather than slamming on the brakes. If you did stop suddenly, you might not only lose control and swerve into oncoming traffic, you might also be hit by the car coming from the side — and the one behind you.

Making a hard choice

What if you can't avoid colliding with something yourself? Even then, you may have some choices. If you have a chance to choose what you hit, hit something soft, such as bushes or shrubs. The next best choice is a vehicle that's moving in the same direction as you. Pick a stationary object rather than one that's coming at you. A target that will absorb energy, such as a parked car, is better than one that's rigid, such as a wall. Whatever you hit, try to sideswipe it rather than hit it head-on.

Maintaining a cool head

Even though you can't control someone else's behavior, you can control your own. When another driver upsets you, breathe deeply as you count to 10 and listen to soothing music. Remind yourself that retaliatory measures aren't worth the risks of a ticket, a collision or higher insurance premiums. Try to view things from another driver's point of view; perhaps he or she is elderly, new to the area, a student driver or someone lost or looking for an address. Don't take the actions of inconsiderate drivers personally.

Are you a safe driver?

Most drivers are pretty confident on the road or they wouldn't get behind the wheel in the first place. Sometimes they become over-confident and thus compromise their safety and the safety of their passengers. Take this quiz to find out how much you know about some of the finer points of safe driving. Use it as an opportunity to remind yourself to drive cautiously and defensively.

True or False?

1. Vehicles already on the freeway have the right of way over vehicles entering the freeway, even trucks and school buses.
2. If you get caught in a skid, step on the brakes as hard as possible.
3. Use low gears when traveling on slick surfaces.
4. When entering a patch of fog, turn off your defroster and turn on your high beams.
5. On icy days, bridges and overpasses tend to freeze first and stay frozen longer than the rest of the road.
6. Driving through deep puddles is not only safe; they clean the bottom of your car.
7. You're much more likely to be killed or injured during a collision if you're thrown from a vehicle than if you're restrained inside by safety belts.
8. Most injury-producing collisions involve a burning, exploding or submerged vehicle.
9. You can sober up before driving by drinking a cup of coffee.
10. If the oil light comes on when you're driving, you should drive straight to the nearest service station and have a mechanic check your engine.
11. In cold weather, you should raise the tire pressure when the

average temperature drops 10 degrees.

12. If you want to back up your vehicle but can't see out your rear window, you should honk before moving.

Answers

1. True, but don't push the point if it might lead to an accident or close call.
2. False. Take your feet off both the gas AND the brakes and turn the steering wheel in the direction you want to go. Gently squeeze your brakes only after you've stopped skidding. Jamming on the brakes can cause them to lock, making your vehicle impossible to control.
3. True. Low gears give added traction, especially up and down hills.
4. False. Turn on both your defroster and your windshield wipers and use only your low beams. High beams produce too much glare in fog and may bounce back to blind you.
5. True. The shade of these structures prevents sunlight from melting icy patches as quickly as the ice on exposed areas. Slow down when approaching them.
6. False. If you think the water level is above the bottom of your hub caps, drive around puddles. The water can make your brakes temporarily less effective and can also get into your engine and cause serious damage.
7. True. 25 times more likely
8. False. These types of collisions account for less than .5 percent of all vehicle injuries.
9. False. The only way to sober up is by waiting it out.
10. False. Pull over immediately and stop. Add oil if you have any and check the light again or call for emergency roadside service. Driving any further may ruin your engine.
11. True.
12. False. You should get out of your vehicle and check behind it.

NISH

continued from page 1



Photos by Dottie White

Renee M. Scruggs organizes files as part of her job as a secretary with the Contracting and Acquisition Management Office, SMDC/ARSTRAT. Scruggs is a graduate of Oakwood College with a bachelor's degree in communications.

James Talley (front) and George Alexander make the daily mail distribution for the SMDC/ARSTRAT mail center on Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

should never forget that our decision to award a contract changes lives," he added.

When a window closes, a door opens

Garfield Boon Jr., deputy director of SMDC/ARSTRAT's Contracting and Acquisition Management Office, said the Army draw down a few years ago limited the command from filling employee vacancies.

"Six years ago this was an experiment. But, over time, this program has flourished and has provided opportunities for these employees to be part of our workforce. I think they're all happy to be here," Boon said.

NISH also recognized Boon with an

individual outstanding contributions award for his efforts to promote and support employment opportunities for people with severe disabilities.

"We embraced this program and have fostered our relationship with the companies and the employees," Boon said. "It's a robust program, and the employees' transition into our workforce has been seamless."

Lumer feels the command was selected for this award because it allows disabled employees to stretch and learn more than expected.

"Generally jobs are food services and custodial, but we're unique in that we provide opportunities in administrative positions here in Huntsville and out at HELSTF [High Energy Laser System Test

Facility]. The positions from Lumer said.

The way

According to taking another requiring a c to either hav workforce, o subcontracts

Some of th Goodwill Ind National East International Vocational S



John Lendeborg works on files for the Small Office at SMDC/ARSTRAT. Lendeborg, a Manhattan degree in business administration from Columbi



Phoenix Service employees provide support for various organizations within SMDC/ARSTRAT on Redstone Arsenal, A

...employees are filling all job
...m — administrative to logistics,”

ahead

...to Lumer, the command is
...er step with a new initiative
...contractor of a major solicitation
...ve a one percent disabled
...r award one percent of their
...s to NISH organizations.
...ne founding agencies of NISH are
...ustries International, the
...ster Seal Society and the
...l Association of Jewish
...ervices, to name only a few.

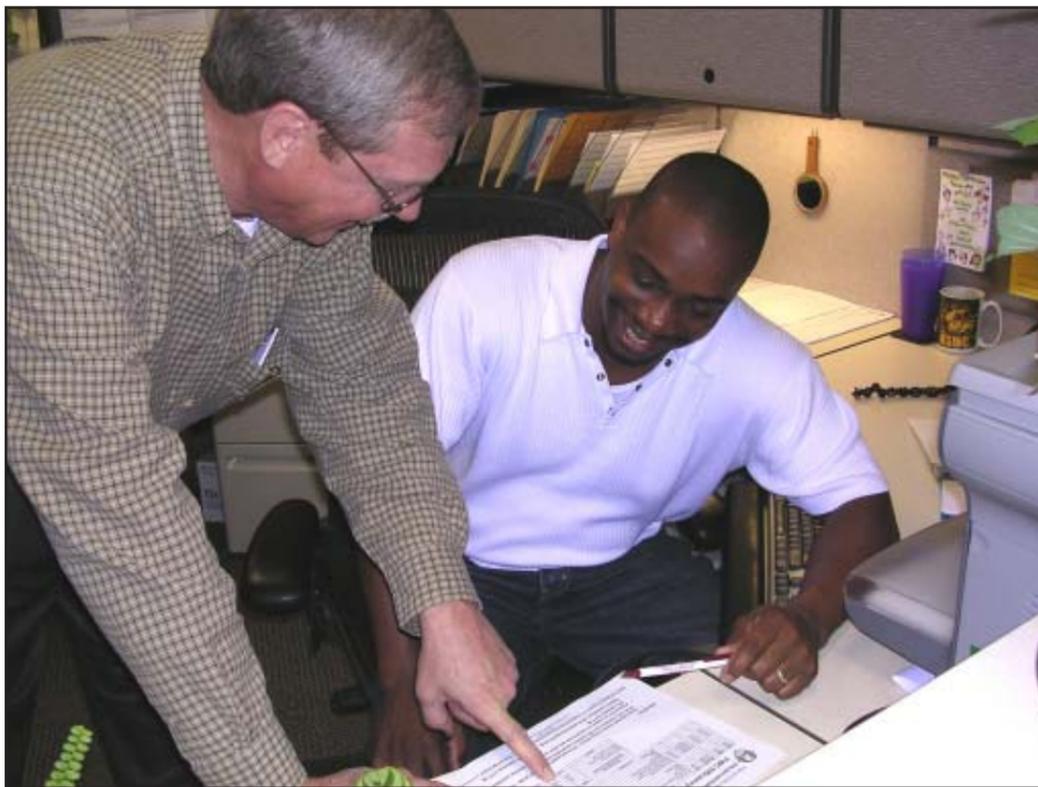
(Related story, page 4)



Michael C. Calhoun types an agenda for his supervisor, William M. Congo, director, Public Affairs, SMDC/ARSTRAT. Calhoun has a bachelor's degree in business administration from Columbia College and a master's in education from Alabama A&M.



...Disadvantaged Business Utilization
...ton, N.Y., native, has a bachelor's
...ia College.



Ed Layne, left, of the Future Warfare Center asks Maurice Newby for assistance with editing some briefing charts.



...a.



Randy Pendleton, who works in G-8 for SMDC/ARSTRAT, assists visitors as part of his many duties.

Acquisition Excellence, Business Transformation Conference scheduled for June 6-7 at Redstone

The 2006 Acquisition Excellence and Business Transformation Conference will take place June 6-7 at the Bob Jones Auditorium, Sparkman Complex, located in Building 5304, Martin Road, Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

This first-time conference is sponsored by the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command in partnership with the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command; the Missile Defense Agency; the Program Executive Office, Missiles and Space; the Program Executive Office, Aviation; and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Marshall Space Flight Center.

This event will provide an unprecedented opportunity to hear and learn from senior officials, chief executives, and leaders in industry and academia who will

be addressing current trends, best practices, and current legislative and regulatory changes in the areas of acquisition excellence and business transformation. Highlights include a roundtable discussion with senior acquisition officials and principal assistants responsible for contracting, and a Contractor Awareness and Issues Forum.

Attendees will be able to select one of the seven different workshops offered each afternoon. Some of the workshops available are Contractor Manpower Reporting Requirements; Contractor Issues and Awareness Forum; Leadership Development/Career Development; and Proper Use of Non-DoD Contract Vehicle.

This conference is free and open to the public, but seating and attendance will be limited. Registration for the conference can be completed at http://www.smdc.army.mil/aebt_conference/.

www.smdc.army.mil/aebt_conference/.

On-post access is authorized for all individuals who possess a Common Access Card or retired military/civilian identification card. For individuals who do not possess those forms of identification, the registration form allows you to submit information so that you can be cleared for access to the post. A valid driver's license and certification of automobile insurance coverage is required for clearance to drive on-post. Vehicle search is required and firearms are not permitted on post. All visitors without valid decals and identification must enter the Arsenal and check in at the Visitors Reception Center at Gate 9, Rideout Road entrance.

Additional information about the conference can be obtained by contacting Adrian Epps at (256) 955-1644 or Leslie Duncan at (256) 955-4169.



Photo by Dottie White

Construction continues

This photo, taken May 12, shows the progression of the Von Braun Complex on Redstone Arsenal, Ala., as construction continues. The project, which has been ongoing for seven 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.

Awards/Promotions

Civilian Promotions

Donna Bowden, Huntsville, G-8, Accounting Division
Joshua Brown, Colorado Springs, G-3, Mission Management Center Blue Force Tracking Branch
Gwyne Copeland, Kwajalein Atoll/Reagan Test Site
Yvonne Dublin, Huntsville, G-8, Accounting Division
Stillman Maxwell, Colorado Springs, G-3, Mission Management Center
David Moore, Colorado Springs, G-6, Consolidated Wideband SSE and Transformational Communications
Brenda Schultz, Colorado Springs, G-2
Cynthia Smith, Huntsville, Contracting and Acquisition Management Office, Operations-South Directorate
Louis Torrez, Colorado Springs, G-3, Mission Management Center Blue Force Tracking Branch
Rita Turner, Kwajalein Atoll/Reagan Test Site

James White, Colorado Springs, G-3, Blue Force Tracking Branch

Military Promotions

Staff Sgt. Donald Amos, Landstuhl, Germany, 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON), C Company
Maj. Matthew Anderson, Colorado Springs, Colo., 1st Space Battalion, 2nd Space Company
Spc. Emmanuel Angulo, Fort Meade, Md., 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON), B Company
Maj. Anthony Behrens, Fort Bliss, Texas, 1st Space Company, A Detachment
Maj. Michael Belton, Huntsville, Future Warfare Center
Sgt. Christa Dunne, Pacific, 1st Space Company, C Detachment
Sgt. Jeremy Franklin, Landstuhl, Germany, 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON), C Company

Spc. Martin Jensen, Landstuhl, Germany, 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON), C Company
Maj. Timmy Johnson, Colorado Springs, Colo., 1st Space Battalion, 2nd Space Company
Sgt. Heidi Jugovic, Pacific, 1st Space Company, C Detachment
Sgt. 1st Class Michael Lherisson, Fort Buckner, Okinawa, Japan, 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON), E Company
Sgt. Patrick Mann, Landstuhl, Germany, 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON), C Company
Staff Sgt. Nicholas Neilson, Pacific, 1st Space Company, C Detachment
Sgt. Albert Nestler, Landstuhl, Germany, 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON), C Company
Pfc. Brian Sennharrington, Fort Bliss, Texas, 1st Space Company, A Detachment
Staff Sgt. Dawn Westrum, Landstuhl, Germany, 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON), C Company

Staff Sgt. William Strong, Fort Detrick, Md., 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON), C Company
Spc. John Wischmeier, Fort Meade, Md., 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON), B Company

On-the-Spot Cash Awards

Beverly Atkinson, Huntsville, Technical Center, GMD Matrix
Philip Avery, Huntsville, Technical Center, GMD Matrix
Mary Byrd, Huntsville, Technical Interoperability and Matrix Center, MDA Matrix
Timothy Clardy, Huntsville, Technical Center, MDA Matrix
Vicki Cody, Huntsville, Technical Center, GMD Matrix
Veronica Collins, Huntsville, Future Warfare Center, Battle Lab, Frontiers Division
Jim Griggs, Huntsville, Technical Center, GMD Matrix
Karen Larson, Huntsville, Technical Center, GMD Matrix

Major GMD players graduate from GTEC's Operator Course

By Sgt. Sara Storey
Public Affairs NCO
and Maj. Laura Kenney
Public Affairs Officer

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Although content of the eight-week Operator Course was identical to classes before it, the class graduating April 11 was unique. Of the 14 students graduating, three are major players in the 100th Missile Defense Brigade (Ground-based Midcourse Defense) and 49th Missile Defense Battalion (GMD).

These students are the incoming brigade and battalion commanders — Col. Michael L. Yowell and Lt. Col. Ted E. Hildreth, respectively — and the 100th's Headquarters/Headquarters Battery first sergeant — 1st Sgt. Herbert O. Rodriguez.

Patricia O. Gargulinski, director for logistics and operations support, Ground-based Midcourse Defense, said successful completion of the Operator Course is a great way to begin command of the units that stand ready to operate ballistic missile defense against an evolving threat.

"This particular class of graduates is a different mix — not only Soldiers and crewmen, but also contractors and civilians," Gargulinski said. "I'm very proud of all of them, as they will be making a daily contribution to ensuring our nation's defense."

Instructors used a combination of lecture and hands-on training techniques to teach students. Evaluations consisted of both written- and performance-oriented tests. Students must receive 90 percent on all graded tests and practical exercises. Successful completion of this training signifies mastery of the GMD operator tasks and qualifies Soldiers to operate the Ground-based Midcourse Defense Fire Control System.

"After almost three years as first sergeant, I must say this course has given me a new perspective on what our crewmen do. Sitting on the other side of



Photo by Carol Floyd, JNIC

Students from the 49th Missile Defense Battalion (Ground-based Midcourse Defense) man the consoles while attending the eight-week GMD Operator Course in April. From front to back: Spc. Russell Smith, Staff Sgt. Jason DeLange, Capt. Mark Kiraly.

the console offers a whole different picture," Rodriguez said.

Capt. Christopher Berisford received the title of "honor graduate" with an overall course grade of 99.9 percent. Hildreth was named "distinguished graduate" for

earning 99.3 percent on all graded events.

The course is held at the GMD Training and Exercise Center here.

The next phase of training, conducted by Sparta, will consist of positional crew training and certification.

Awards/Promotions

Mark Little, Huntsville, Technical Center, MDA Matrix
Debbie Mitchell, Huntsville, Research, Development and Acquisition Office
Robert O'Connell, Huntsville, Future Warfare Center, Simulations and Analysis Directorate, Studies and Analysis Division
Brenda Partain, Huntsville, Technical Center, TC Operations
Simone Philson, Huntsville, Future Warfare Center, Operations Division
Kenneth Shipman, Huntsville, Technical Center, GMD Matrix

Special Act Awards

James Ball, Kwajalein Atoll/Reagan Test Site
Ulpala Chiyyarath, Huntsville, Technical Center, GMD Matrix
Timothy Clardy, Huntsville, Technical Center, MDA Matrix
Gwyne Copeland, Kwajalein Atoll/Reagan Test Site

William Dionne, Huntsville, Technical Center, MDA Matrix
Richard Gonzalez, Huntsville, Technical Center, MDA Matrix
Anne Greene, Kwajalein Atoll/Reagan Test Site
Seyed Hamidi, Huntsville, Technical Center, MDA Matrix
Walter Ivey, Huntsville, Technical Center, Matrix
Mark Little, Huntsville, Technical Center, MDA Matrix
John McGary, Huntsville, Technical Center, MDA Matrix
Randal Norton, Huntsville, Technical Center, GMD Matrix
David Parsons, Huntsville, Technical Center, GMD Matrix
Richard Prescott, Colorado Springs, Chief, Information Management Division
Henry Sikes, Huntsville, Technical Center, GMD Matrix

Time-Off Awards

Karol Boutwell, Colorado Springs, G-3, Plans and Exercise Division

Michael McGarvey, Colorado Springs, G-6, Consolidated Wideband SSE and Transformational Communications
Teresa Lockner, Colorado Springs, G-3, U.S. Strategic Command Detachment
George Parsons, Huntsville, Technical Interoperability and Matrix Center, Systems Integration Directorate
Leondra Robinson, Huntsville, Chief, Information Office, Plans and Operations Division
Katherine Schaper, Huntsville, Chief, Information Office, Plans and Operations Division
Janice Williams, Huntsville, Future Warfare Center, Battle Lab

Length of Service

15 Years

Scott Wilson, Huntsville, Technical Center, Test and Evaluation Directorate

Christopher Wood, Huntsville, Office of Command Counsel

20 Years

Jan Morgan, Huntsville, Chief, Information Office, Plans and Operations Division
Joel Shady, Kwajalein Atoll/Reagan Test Site, Office of the Garrison Commander, Safety Branch

25 Years

Rena Calzada, Huntsville, Kwajalein Atoll/Reagan Test Site, Office of the Garrison Commander, Safety Analysis Branch
Eneals Moore, Huntsville, G-4, Logistics Support Division

30 Years

Stephanie Johnson, Colorado Springs, Future Warfare Center, Battle Lab

SMDC European Region names NCO/Soldier of the Year

By Spc. Joshua Plyler
Unit reporter

LANDSTUHL, Germany — “If they ever tell my story, let them say I walked with giants. Men rise and fall like the winter wheat, but these names will never die.” These words from Homer’s *The Iliad* seemed to resonate with relevancy during the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command European Region Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Year Board that took place in Landstuhl, Germany, on April 21.

The Soldiers who attended this board were among the top Soldiers of their respective units and were now gathered together for one last competition to determine who would represent at the SMDC/ARSTRAT Board that will be held in Colorado Springs, Colo., in June.

To get to this point was no easy task. Each Soldier in Charlie Company had to edge out their peers at Soldier of the month, quarter and year boards to represent their unit at the regional board. Soldiers from the Joint Tactical Ground Station Europe (JTAGS), 1st Space Battalion, were also picked from their peers to represent their unit in two days of competition, camaraderie, and the chance for the Soldiers to get together and share their experiences within 1st Space Brigade.

Sgt. Patrick Mann and Staff Sgt. Donald Amos represented Charlie Company while Pfc. Michael Moore and Sgt. Brian Sibila represented JTAGS for the Soldier of the Year and NCO of the Year titles, respectively, for the European Region.

“I’m really looking forward to this,” commented Sibila during the moments leading up to his board appearance.

This year, the board was very lucky to have as its president, Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin McGovern, 1st Space Battalion command sergeant major. McGovern traveled halfway around the world simply, so he could be a part of something that he firmly believes in; Soldiers being more than just “eight-hour Soldiers.”

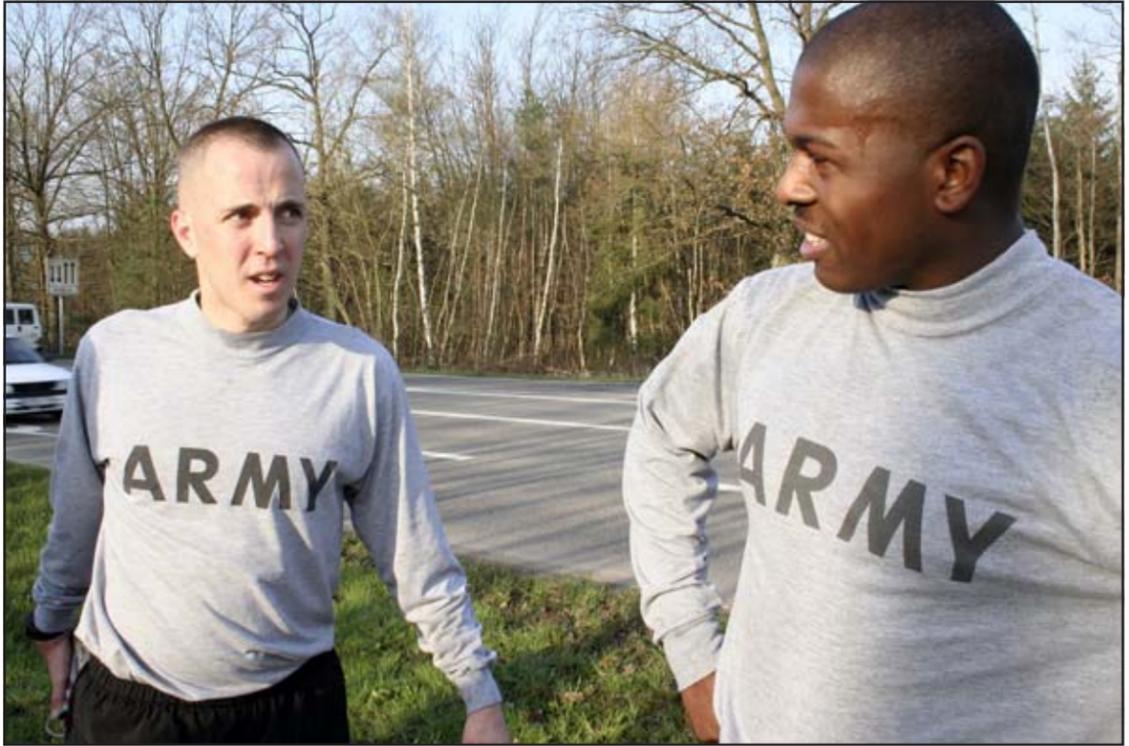
McGovern understands that to get to this level, the Soldiers need to spend a great deal of their spare time studying, researching and preparing for the competition, so they can proudly represent their units. He also understands that a Soldier’s general military knowledge is crucial to their success in the U.S. Army.

“You never know where you’ll be tomorrow,” McGovern said to the Soldiers during their first introduction briefings with him. “You never know where the Army will need you next, but I have no doubts that you will all go on and do great and wonderful things.”

In addition to McGovern, the board included 1st Sgt. Martin Chaffee, Charlie Company first sergeant, Master Sgt. Jerry Mobry, Charlie Company support platoon sergeant, Sgt. 1st Class Keese Pond, JTAGS Europe first sergeant, and Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Newman, Charlie Company operations platoon sergeant. With the stage set, the actors were ready, and the show was about to begin.

The night of everyone’s arrival marked the official beginning of the events scheduled. But McGovern wanted to have all the Soldiers feel at ease for their board, so his first order of business was food. Staff Sgt. Trinity Peterson, the main organizer for all of the scheduled events, picked a very nice and quiet restaurant near the Landstuhl military base called the Pfeffermühle, which translated means the Pepper Mill.

At the dinner, McGovern set the tone by giving the Soldiers words of encouragement and advice, not only for the upcoming board, but for military life in general. He offered



Photos by Stephanie Plyler

Sgt. Patrick Mann (left) and Staff Sgt. Donald Amos (right) take a few moments to catch their breath after the two-mile run event during the Army Physical Fitness Test of the SMDC/ARSTRAT European Region Soldier of the Year Board on April 21.

insight on what his expectations were for the following day and explained how grateful he was to be able to be a part of it.

“I am honored to be with you Soldiers here today,” remarked McGovern doing his very best to make sure all of the Soldiers attending the board were comfortable and understood what was expected of them.

Physical fitness is a very important part of a warrior’s path, and all warriors must ensure they keep themselves in a high state of fitness at all times. The Army incorporates physical training into the concept of the 24-hour Soldier, because it knows that a warrior’s level of fitness has a direct impact on his or her combat readiness. The many battles in which American troops have fought underscore the important role physical fitness plays on the battlefield.

So, at 6:30 a.m., the Soldiers gathered together with their minds and their bodies prepared to compete, not only against their fellow Soldiers, but against themselves. The score they would receive on this PT test would directly translate into points toward the competition, so they all needed to do their absolute best.

The day started with a height/weight and strangely, it was found that all the Soldiers competing were exactly the same height.

Afterward, everyone moved to the PT site, a misty German field right on the outskirts of Ramstein Air Base, located just a few miles from Charlie Company. A more beautiful and perfect setting could not have been asked for during a PT test. The weather was perfect, and the Soldiers were motivated.



Mann takes a moment to gather his thoughts and take a deep breath before entering the board room.

Here, McGovern read aloud the official requirements from the PT manual and added a few pointers on the best way to perform each event. Each Soldier did absolutely outstanding, with Mann achieving a perfect 300 score. Afterward, the Soldiers were given a little time to shower and get into their Class A uniform.

The NCO portion was first, with Amos drawing the proverbial short straw. His board lasted approximately 45 minutes and upon emerging from the board room, singing the Army song; his face was full of relief. “At least I didn’t get kicked out,” he said as he wiped the sweat from his brow.

Next went Sibila to finish the NCO portion. Mann and Moore were left to compete in the Soldier portion. Each Soldier was in the board for about an hour and all emerged also singing the Army song.

Afterward, some laughs were shared, especially when it was learned that one of the Soldiers had to do his board with one sock and shoe removed.

Then it was decision time. “I am not comfortable labeling Soldiers as winners,” said McGovern. “This implies a loser and there is no loser here today. However, we needed to choose the individuals who more exemplified all of the Army values and who would best represent the European Command at the SMDC board.”

After a little bit of tension, McGovern announced that Amos would represent the European Region as NCO of the Year, and Mann would represent as Soldier of the Year.

He also explained that although Sibila and Moore were not directly chosen, they still needed to be prepared to go in case Amos or Mann were unable to attend.

Now, perhaps the most important part of any learning or evaluation event is knowing what you did wrong so you can correct it in the future. This was the next item on the McGovern’s list. He and the rest of the board members “pulled no punches.” They all gave their post-board advice and noted the mistakes each Soldier made. This way, the Soldiers knew what to do or not to do in the future.

So, after months of getting their minds and their bodies in sync and two days of competing for great honors, the 2006 Space and Missile Defense Command European Regional Soldier and NCO of the Year Challenge was over. It felt at the end as it had felt at the beginning, that on these two days, one had walked with giants.

Charlie Company promotes new leaders

By Staff Sgt. Woody Scott
Unit reporter

LANDSTUHL, Germany — The path to promotion can be likened to climbing a steep mountain ... the resistance is tremendous but the reward makes it more than worth the climb.

Capt. Andre Reed, commander of Charlie Company, 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON), had the honor of recognizing five of his most promising noncommissioned officers for their hard work and efforts by promoting them to new levels of leadership during a momentous ceremony on March 31.

The ceremony was the culmination of

years of hard work, dedication and motivation for these control warriors.

To the rank of staff sergeant, Reed promoted Staff Sgt. Donald Amos, 2005 U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command European Region NCO of the Year and Staff Sgt. Dawn Westrum.

To the rank of sergeant, Reed promoted Sgt. Patrick Mann, 2005 SMDC/ARSTRAT European Region Soldier of the Year, Sgt. Jeremy Franklin and Sgt. Albert Nestler.

Reed also promoted two junior enlisted Soldiers, Spc. Martin Jensen and Pfc. Joseph Williams.

The recently promoted Soldiers display a high level of general military bearing and positive attitude. All have well-groomed uniforms, high Army Physical Fitness Test scores, high weapons scores, and most importantly, high standards for themselves and those who serve with them.

They are also technical experts who put their heart and soul into their jobs and strive for excellence in their mission everyday. Their contribution to the unit's mission and esprit-de-corps positively reinforce and display the Army values.



Capt. Andre Reed presents Staff Sgt. Donald Amos with his promotion certificate during a recent promotion ceremony at Charlie Company, 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON).

During the ceremony Reed noted, "I am proud of these Soldiers and I am honored to reward their excellence. You should all strive to emulate their example."

Mann imparted a bit of knowledge to the junior enlisted Soldiers in hopes of placing them on the path to success saying, "Look at these folks in front of you. They put in the work and were recognized for their accomplishments. Most of the folks standing here were board winners. The boards are a great tool for recognition so get out and participate. Show them that you are ready and that you are hungry for advancement!"



Photos by Master Sgt. Jerry Mobry

Sgt. Patrick Mann's father stands by proudly as his son is presented his promotion certificate by Charlie Company commander, Capt. Andre Reed, during a recent promotion ceremony at Charlie Company, 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON).

Bravo Company sweeps Eastern Regional Board

By Spc. Alicia Brogden
Unit reporter

FORT MEADE, Md. — Bravo Company, 53rd Signal Battalion, Soldiers proved themselves to truly be "Above the Rest" at the Eastern Regional Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Year Board.

The Eastern Regional Board was held March 28 and 29 for the Soldiers and NCOs of Fort Meade, Md., Fort Detrick, Md., and the Continental United States Regional SATCOM Support Center located at MacDill Air Force base, Fla.

This Year the Soldiers of Bravo Company swept the competition with Sgt. Stacy Lynn De La Hoz being named the Eastern Regional NCO of the Year and Spc. Levi Ingersoll being named the Eastern Regional Soldier of the Year.

The Regional Board was a two-day event with one full day of events and the other with an awards luncheon.

The first day the Soldiers were required to complete an Army Physical Fitness Test, where each Soldier was graded on their push-ups, sit-ups and a two-mile run for points. Ingersoll had an especially good

day at the track, lapping his competition.

The Soldiers were also required to give a five- to seven-minute class on a military subject of their choosing in which they were graded on time, oratory skills and appearance.

Lastly, the Soldiers participated in a question and answer portion where they were graded on their military knowledge in various subjects, their demeanor and their military bearing.

Both Bravo Company Soldiers commanded a comfortable lead after the Army Physical Fitness Test and held onto the lead throughout the competition, each giving solid classes and maintaining their bearing through the question and answer portion of the board.

When asked if they had done anything special to ensure their readiness, De La Hoz said, "We took extra time to prepare. We held regular study sessions with one another, studying beyond the Army Study Guide and digging into the Field Manuals and Army Regulations, and we prepared for our classes by implementing our ideas into the

daily routines of our squads. I think it made all the difference."

Apparently all the extra time and hard work did pay off as both De La Hoz and Ingersoll are now preparing for a trip to Colorado Springs, Colo., where they will go on to compete at the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command, NCO and Soldier of the Year Board in June. Both

Soldiers are continuing their study sessions and have stepped up their physical fitness regiment to prepare for the higher altitudes in Colorado.

"This is a great opportunity for me and I am excited to be able to represent Bravo Company this way," commented Ingersoll when asked how he felt about the upcoming SMDC Soldier of the Year Board.



Photo by Sgt. Tashana Coleman

Bravo Company Commander, Capt. Jermaine Sutton, far left, and Bravo Company 1st Sgt. Lucin Crawford, far right, with the Eastern Regional Soldier of the Year, Spc. Levi Ingersoll, center left, and the Eastern Regional NCO of the Year, Sgt. Stacy Lynn De La Hoz, center right.

Civilian News

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

Rates of return were updated on March 1.

April 2006	Last 12 months (5/1/05 - 4/30/06)		
G Fund	0.44%	G Fund	4.52%
F Fund	(.19)%	F Fund	0.76%
C Fund	1.35%	C Fund	15.40%
S Fund	0.34%	S Fund	30.54%
I Fund	4.83%	I Fund	33.58%

Percentages in () are negative.

GSA updates travel regulations

The General Services Administration amended the Federal Travel Regulation (FTR) recently to clarify the use of federal funds to pay for early conference registration fees and services for employees with special needs on official travel. The first change amends the FTR to allow for travel advances so employees can take advantage of "early bird" discounts for work conferences. GSA noted that employees had been reluctant to register early, under the impression that they could not file a claim for reimbursement until after the conference was over. Authorized employees can, in fact, register early and claim reimbursement to obtain the discounted rate. In addition, "to provide reasonable accommodations for travel of an employee with special needs," GSA has authorized agencies to reimburse expenses, such as travel and per diem, for an attendant that must travel with the employee for the trip to be feasible. Information on the FTR is available on GSA's Web site, at <http://www.gsa.gov/fttr>.

Pentagon issues pay tables for new personnel system

By Karen Rutzick, GovExec.com, May 9 — The Defense Department released the official pay tables Friday for its new personnel system, which is in place for 11,000 employees and is slated to eventually cover 700,000 civilian workers. The pay tables for the National Security Personnel System represent a monumental shift from the decades-old General Schedule compensation system for federal employees. In place of the 15-grade pay ladder, the new tables have broad paybands with large salary ranges divided by occupation. Separated by four career groups — standard, medical, investigative and protective services, and scientific and engineering — the bands are based on the General Schedule, although the upper pay limits exceed those in the current system. Full story: http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=34034&dcn=e_gvet

New tracking system now in place

At the direction of the SMDC/ARSTRAT chief of staff, no staff actions or taskings will be accepted without being logged into and forwarded via the HQDA Staff Action Tracking System effective immediately. All other staff tracking systems will be discontinued. The HQDA Tracking System was selected for SMDC/ARSTRAT to streamline and consolidate the command staffing process. It primarily falls under the control of the secretary of the general staff. It is an HQDA-hosted system that is controlled by the Information Management Center in Arlington, Va. The command holds a total of 250 licenses that are issued to action officers throughout the command who are responsible for uploading documentation into the system. Each area also has several organizational administrators to assist with training and licensing, as well as being the designees for the flow of taskings and actions across the command. The goal of the SGS as well as the organizational administrators is to make this transition as transparent as possible to assure no loss in man hours and productivity. Although the administrators can help with some issues, system specific problems should go through the IMCEN helpdesk at (703) 693-5014 or e-mail: imcenappsupportdesk@hqda.army.mil.

Military News

Army safety program

The Chief of Staff of the Army has mandated several initiatives aimed at enabling commanders in the field to manage risk as they accomplish the demanding missions of fighting a Global War on Terrorism and transforming. The following link provides guidance on developing a thorough safety program: <https://crc.army.mil/commanderscorner/>.

Bill introduced to reduce reserve retirement age

H.R.783 has been introduced to reduce the age for military retired pay eligibility from 60 to 55 for members of the Reserves and National Guard. The bill would lower the retirement age for those who have served at least 20 years to begin to draw their retirement pay at age 55. Active duty forces have no age restrictions once their 20 years of service is complete. Members of the National Guard and the reservists in the Navy, Coast Guard, Army, Marine and Air Force, would qualify at age 55 for retirement pay based on individual participation in the retirement plan. This bill has been introduced to help compensate Reserve and Guard members for their expanding role in the war in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Emissary of hope honored

Veterans recently honored the real-life volunteer introduced to 75 million Doonesbury readers as "Jim the Milkshake Man" for his bedside visits to wounded vets at the Army's Walter Reed hospital. Jim Mayer was recognized at Walter Reed Army Medical Center for his 500th peer visit. It is called a peer visit because Mayer, like many of the war-wounded veterans in hospital beds, lost his legs in a land mine explosion in Vietnam. Besides the occasional milkshake, Mayer brings to their bedside a message of hope based on lessons learned since his own traumatic injuries 37 years ago.

Heroes of the year sought

Staff Sgt. Robbi Smette of Makoti, N.D., was the first citizen-Soldier to be nominated as the Hero of the Year in a unique national campaign that Jackson Hewitt Tax Service Inc. has initiated to honor this country's Army Guard members. Jackson Hewitt will honor one Army Guard Soldier each month for the rest of this year, and a panel of judges will select a Hero of the Year from those candidates. Family members, friends or employers can nominate Guard Soldiers for the monthly honors by logging on to www.supporttheguard.com and explaining in 500 words or less how a Soldier exemplifies the time-honored tradition of the Army National Guard.

Charity scams target military personnel

Servicemembers and veterans should be careful when making donations to solicitors claiming to be charities in support of our troops. Fraudulent activities associated with donations may come in the form of an email or a telephone call. Before making a donation, verify the legitimacy of the organization using Military.com's Support Our Troops Center (http://www.military.com/Content/MoreContent1/?file=support_troops) or the Department of Defense Web site, America Supports You, (<http://www.americasupportsyou.mil/americasupportsyou/index.aspx>).

Medical records to go global

Medical facilities across the entire Department of Defense are in the first phase of a transfer from the Composite Health Care System to Armed Forces Health Longitudinal Technology Application, a new, global medical record database. The AHLTA system makes patients' health information immediately available to civilian and military medical professionals around the world via a computer global database. The new system eliminates a lot of problems related to paper medical records. When the program reaches full functionality in 2011, AHLTA will also contain laboratory information, in-patient records, X-rays and pharmaceutical information. The ultimate goal of the medical database is to completely eliminate the paper health record.

Echo Company undergoes inspection

By Spc. Elizabeth Precht
Unit reporter

FORT BUCKNER, OKINAWA, Japan — The Echo Company Eagles of the 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON) recently received a visit from their Battalion headquarters staff and inspection team from Colorado Springs, Colo., as part of the annual Command Inspection and Evaluation Program.

Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Hae-Sue Park, Maj. Frank Smith, Master Sgt. Kenneth Tompkins, 1st Lt. Ted Perry, Sgt. 1st Class David Redenbaugh, Staff Sgt. Robert Lewis, Staff Sgt. Michelle Shockley, Sgt. Roger White, Spc. Ivan Melendez,

Mike Cornett and Grace Rushing arrived in Okinawa to begin the inspection on April 4.

For the testing crew to be able to properly assess the skills and knowledge of Echo Company Soldiers, the inspectors created difficult scenarios for the squads to react to on the operations side of the house. The scenarios tested the Soldiers' knowledge base and teamwork ability to better show how well Echo Company would react in a crisis or malfunction. By putting their best foot forward, the Echo Company Soldiers reacted and negotiated the multiple scenarios that the testers threw at them with finesse and skill.

The inspection continued with the evaluation of the training noncommissioned officer, Staff Sgt. Clayton Vanlangendonck, who received exemplary marks due to his diligence and dedication to training. While in town, the CIEP team also reviewed the first sergeant program; administration; supply; maintenance; and nuclear, biological and chemical. Having the entire battalion staff on-island proved to be a rewarding experience. Not only did the CIEP team learn more about Echo Company and its improvements over the last couple of months, but they were also able to teach and train while here. One Soldier said, "They gave some great ways to improve and maintain

organizational levels and efficiency. The visit was very productive and allowed the Soldiers to see and meet a command that is headquartered so far away from our own."

The visit was not all about work though. During the week, Park hosted a town hall meeting with the Soldiers and family members, and the battalion staff participated in a challenging physical training run with Echo Company Soldiers along the Kadena Seawall.

All in all, the visit was a success. The Battalion team tested the Soldiers, provided team building skills and training that will further improve Echo Company's readiness.



Photo by Capt. Jason Shin

Members of Echo Company, 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON), gather with the visiting battalion staff during a town hall meeting in Okinawa, Japan.

Consideration of Others: Contributing to mission readiness

By Sgt. 1st Class Jason W. Porter, Equal Opportunity Advisor, SMDC/ARSTRAT

Our Army is in a period of great transformation, while concurrently supporting our Nation's security requirements in more than 120 countries.

We are reminded daily of the great dedication and sacrifices made by our Soldiers, many of whom are stationed overseas and serving in harm's way.

Now more than ever our Army relies on individuals' collective capabilities and cohesive units committed to mission accomplishment. Underpinning this imperative is the recognition that individual actions affect others. Clearly, respect between and for individuals of all races, creeds, gender and national/ethnic heritages is important to our Army and its mission.

Recognizing the relationship between mission readiness, unit cohesion, and commitment of individuals' talents to organizational goals, the Army in 1998 developed the

Consideration of Others Program.

The intent of the Consideration of Others Program is to build teamwork and cohesion. The focus of this program goes well beyond human relations and focuses on facilitating actions to enable unit members, military and civilian, to internalize Army values and recognize the vital importance that diversity and respect for others bring to mission accomplishment.

In essence, Consideration of Others is defined as "those actions that indicate a sensitivity to and regard for the feelings and needs of others and an awareness of the impact of one's own behavior on them; being supportive of and fair with others."

Commanders, leaders, and supervisors are responsible for the establishment of an environment conducive to mission accomplishment and

individual development. They have many tools available in their "leadership toolbox" to build confidence, mutual respect, and facilitate cohesiveness.

The Consideration of Others Handbook, available at http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/co2/CO2_book/Co2_TOC.htm, describes the rationale for the Consideration of Others

professional advice on the program.

At the individual level, everyone, in some way, has the ability to make an impact — positive or negative — on other people. As people go to work each day, including those of us serving as Soldiers and civilians with SMDC/ARSTRAT, some will say "hello" or "good morning" with a smile while others will not.

Some people may show concern when they see a person having a bad day and offer a few words of encouragement. These little gestures convey great meaning when coupled with heartfelt concern and acts of selflessness.

Please take the time — perhaps even during a quiet moment at your desk or while walking down a hallway — to show consideration for others. A smile or simple "hello" goes a long way in forging long-term relationships that ultimately affect our role in supporting the Command's mission.

'At the individual level, everyone, in some way, has the ability to make an impact — positive or negative — on other people.'

**— Sgt. 1st Class Jason W. Porter
Equal Opportunity Advisor
SMDC/ARSTRAT**

Program and has some lesson plans to assist facilitators.

The Command's equal opportunity advisor, chaplain, and inspector general are also available to provide

Alpha Company's volleyball season comes to an end

By Sgt. Clayton Tuttle
Unit reporter

FORT DETRICK, Md. — With an overall record of two wins and nine losses, an unimpressive but fun volleyball season for the Probes of Alpha Company, 53rd Signal Battalion, came to an end on April 18.

The one point loss in the second round of the playoffs to bitter rival USAMRIID (U.S. Army Medical Research Institute for Infectious Diseases) knocked Alpha Company out of contention for the Fort Detrick Championship. Despite a popular pick to win it all in many preseason polls, Alpha Company fell short of expectations despite an impressive collection of talent.

Sgt. David Smith, the team's captain, was the most skilled and experienced member of the team. He and phenomenal teammate Spc. Aaron Deir both excelled at intramural volleyball while at Fort Gordon, Ga., during Advanced Individual Training.

Spc. Adam Fairchild and Spc. John Campbell, two of Alpha Company's most gifted athletes, both played solid no matter where they were on the court.

1st Lt. Patrick Smith was the team's emotional leader, who inspired the team with his pre-game speeches. He also led the team in blocks while



(Left to right) Spc. Aaron Deir, Spc. Adam Fairchild, 1st Lt. Patrick Smith, Sgt. Alexander White, Capt. Joseph Schaefer, Spc. John Campbell, Sgt. Justin Jacobsen (Sgt. David Smith not pictured)

Sgt. Alexander White was the team's premiere setter. What he lacked in height he more than made up for with sharp, precision passing and sets.

Sgt. Justin Jacobsen rounded out the lineup as the team's power player. He was the most fearsome and intimidating hitter on the team and led the team in kills.

With so much talent on the team, some may wonder why the Probes had such a disappointing season.

"Stupid mistakes," believes Sgt. Smith. "Whether we were getting called for carries, net violations or made too many service errors, it seems we always managed to defeat

ourselves."

"We were too inexperienced," said Deir. "We were a bunch of great athletes, but we did not work well together as a team. Our opponents had better cohesion, better communication."

Alpha Company's gradual improvement throughout the year was proof that they simply needed more time to work out the kinks.

Perhaps most of all, manning was a huge obstacle for the Probes once the playoffs started. Their two losses in the double elimination playoffs both came to USAMRIID as a result of a lack of players.

The first time around, the

team forfeited when only four players showed up to the game (two Soldiers were on leave and two chose to play soccer). The Probes then upset the civilian team Diggitt, the third ranked team in the league. This was thanks in large part to the dominant performance of Capt. Joseph Schaefer, who was a late addition to the team.

However, when the Probes faced USAMRIID again in a rematch, they played with only five people. Their best player Sgt. Smith was on leave, and Campbell and Fairchild once again chose to play for Alpha Company's championship soccer team instead. "We played as well as we could with five people. Even though half our starting lineup wasn't there, we still only lost by one point," said a dejected Jacobsen following the season-ending loss.

Despite coming up short during the 2006 season, the team remains positive for next year. "We made a lot of improvement and showed great potential throughout the year," Sgt. Smith summarized. "And the majority of our team will be back next year. Hopefully we won't lose anyone to soccer again."

With Alpha Company's volleyball team poised for a strong comeback next year, the team now focuses its attention on the upcoming softball season.

Echo Company Family Readiness Group camps out

By Staff Sgt. David Sizemore
Unit reporter

FORT BUCKNER, OKINAWA, Japan — It all came about as a result of a duck-hunting trip in 1947 between Gen. Fred Hayden, Lt. Col. Arch McGee and a personable Okinawan named Shinzo.

At the end of the day, the general looked over the area, part of which was farmed in sweet potatoes, and said, "Mac, you've got a lot of imagination, let's see you build a rest center here."

"How much money?" asked McGee.

"None," replied Hayden.

And with that McGee set out on a creative journey.

Fifty-nine years later, Echo Company also set out on a journey, to explore the vision McGee created.

On March 24, the Echo Company, 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON) Family Readiness Group and commander invited Soldiers and family members to attend Echo Company's first company camping trip. The event was held on Okinawa's northwest shores at the Okuma

Joint Service Recreation Facility, a tropical paradise that proved to be the perfect spot for a little rest and relaxation.

With such amenities as golf courses, miniature golf courses, bike trails, boating and other watercraft activities, and a host of diving and snorkeling related services, no one could claim they were at a loss for something to fill their day.

Soldiers and family members were

encouraged to explore as much of the facility as they wished during the three-day event, and many did just that. Groups were quickly formed for SCUBA and snorkeling excursions, as well as hiking trips to Hiji Falls, a local waterfall located near the Okuma facility.

"The part I liked about the camping trip the most was having the opportunity for my daughter and me to explore the island,

to visit a location we had never been to," said Staff Sgt. Merl Mckerrow. "It was great just to let her run wild!"

Sgt. James Halbritter affirmed Mckerrow's remarks, "I just think it was a great chance for the Soldiers and their families to interact with one another outside of work, outside of the FRG meetings."

"This weekend is about the Echo Company family" said Capt. Todd Vick, Echo Company commander. "I wanted to do something for the unit, to show that the FRG was not just about the married Soldiers, but the entire Echo family."



Staff Sgt. Jerry Brown and his family enjoy lunch during an Echo Company Family Readiness Group camping trip.