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Employee receives Order of Saint Barbara, page 5



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# The Eagle

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

Volume 15, Number 11, December 2008

## First FA40 selected for promotion to general

By Sharon L. Hartman  
Public Affairs

**PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo.** — U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command takes pride in the many firsts in Army history. The Peterson Air and Space Museum was the setting for

another Army first as the first Space Operations Officer (Functional Area 40), groomed and selected from the career field, was promoted to the rank of general officer.

During an afternoon ceremony, Col. Kurt S. Story, deputy commander for operations, SMDC/ARSTRAT was promoted to brigadier

general.

The career field of Space Operations Officers (FA40s) began in the Army in 1997 and Story was designated an FA40 in 2001. Shortly after coming to U.S. Army Space Command (ARSPACE) as chief of staff in 2002, Story attended the Space Operations Officer Qualification Course. Today, there are approximately 250 active duty FA40s serving in the Army.

In 2003, Story became SMDC/ARSTRAT G3, chief of Operations, and then in 2004 and 2005 served as commander of the 1st Space Brigade. In 2006, Story left the command to serve as the director of Operations (J3) for the Joint Functional Component Command — Space at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. In July of this year, Story once again returned to SMDC/ARSTRAT in his current position. Although the position Story has been serving in since July of this year remains the same, the title changes from deputy commander for Operations to

deputy commanding general for Operations (DCG-O), SMDC/ARSTRAT, with the rank change.

Presiding over the promotion ceremony was SMDC/ARSTRAT Commanding General Lt. Gen. Kevin T. Campbell, who conveyed in his remarks his confidence in Story to carry out the role of a general officer.

"I think if we look to vision, confidence, care, enthusiasm and the traditional Army values — loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honesty, integrity and personal courage — I think that's what makes general officers. Those are the attributes you find in Kurt Story," said Campbell.

"We are at an age when we really do need combat multipliers such as you," he said. It is people who make the difference, and you're one of the people who make a difference and I know that you're going to make a difference in Space and Missile Defense Command. You come

See *Promotion* on page 3



Photo by Craig Denton, USAF

Col. Kurt Story is promoted to the rank of brigadier general by his father Bill and his mother Jan during a ceremony at the Peterson Air and Space Museum Dec. 2.

## The Eagle has landed

SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

Faithful *Eagle* readers should not be surprised to read that this is the last paper copy of *The Eagle*.

Commanding General, Lt. Gen. Kevin T. Campbell has agreed to a trial period for *Eagle* articles and photos to go all-digital. The idea is to encourage readers to get online at SMDC/ARSTRAT's Web site, or go to [www.army.mil/smdc](http://www.army.mil/smdc) and there look for "Eagle Articles."

As stated in previous *Eagle* issues, during this test period news and stories will be submitted to the Web site within a day or two of completion of writing, meaning readers' information will be up-to-date rather than a month or two old.

Readers who want *The Eagle* to remain in print should contact the editor at: [EagleEditor@smdc.army.mil](mailto:EagleEditor@smdc.army.mil) to voice their opinions. Feedback will be used for the final decision as to whether *The Eagle* will return to paper issuance or articles, photos and command events will remain online (as *Eagle Articles*). Remember: No feedback = reader concurrence for the online version of "Eagle Articles."

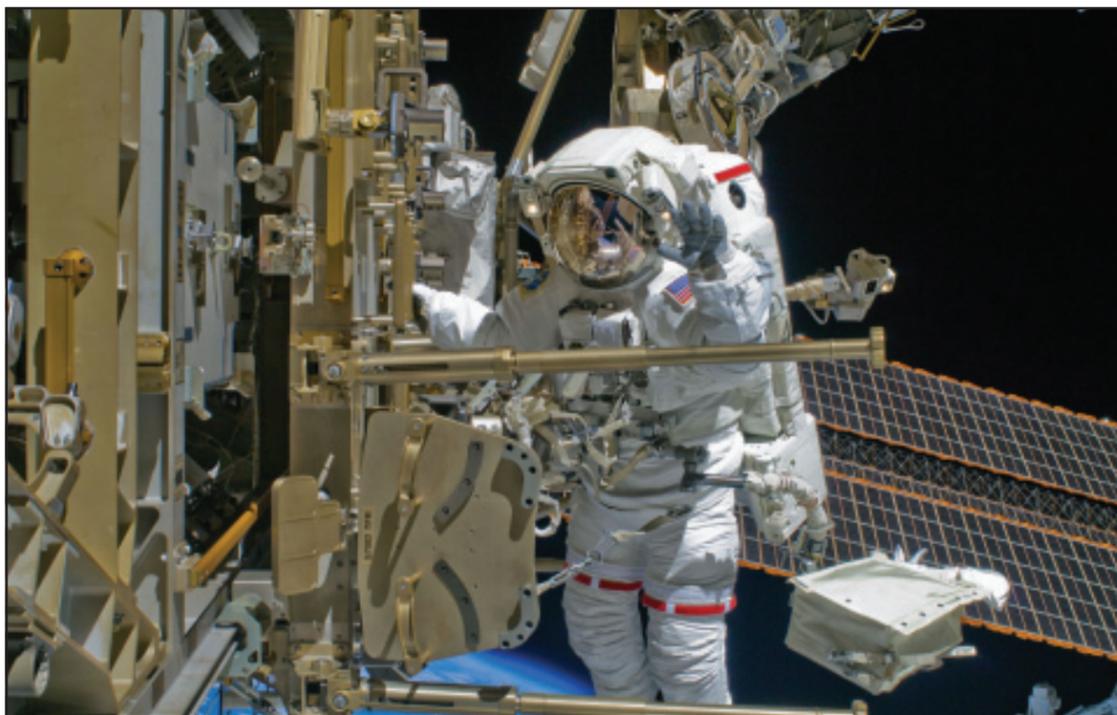


Photo courtesy of NASA

## Army astronaut engages in first spacewalk

Army Astronaut Lt. Col. Shane Kimbrough, STS-126 mission specialist, participates in his first spacewalk during the mission's second scheduled session of extravehicular activity Nov. 20 as construction and maintenance continue on the International Space Station. During the six-hour, 45-minute spacewalk, Kimbrough and astronaut Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper (out of frame), mission specialist, continued the process of removing debris and applying lubrication around the starboard Solar Alpha Rotary Joint, replaced four more of the SARJ's 12 trundle bearing assemblies, relocated two equipment carts and applied lubrication to the station's robotic Canadarm2.

(See related story and photos on pages 6 and 7)

# The Command Corner



**Lt. Gen. Kevin T. Campbell**  
Commanding General



**CSM Ralph C. Borja**  
Command Sergeant Major

**W**e have much to be thankful for during this holiday season. First, we can be thankful that our country continues to be a shining beacon of freedom. America sets the standard for having a free and democratic election process. Our nation highlighted to the world that we can argue and debate politics, but when the voting is complete, we are able to come together as a nation behind our elected leaders. There is no panic or fear after the election of a new American president and there are no tanks rumbling in the streets. We may not always agree on the issues and it may be an imperfect process, but there is no disagreement that free and open elections are one of the fruits of liberty.

Next, we can be thankful that SMDC/ARSTRAT has innovative Civilians who find creative ways to overcome challenges. While we continue to work on our core competencies of Space and Missile defense, we also provide technological capabilities that apply to the current fight such as the Orthogonal Sensor Fusion System (ORTHON-SFS). I believe this system will provide Warfighters an increased level of protection that will help keep them alive. It's notable that this system only took 14 months to go from a picture on a viewgraph to a working prototype.

Technology does not happen by itself. It takes a team of dedicated professionals who develop concepts, who fight for the funding, who find the right people and who never give up. This month I want to acknowledge the ORTHON-SFS team.

The ORTHON-SFS program is an SMDC/ARSTRAT Technical Center initiative led by Julia Williams and her deputy, Lt. Col. John Grimes. Bob McMillian is credited with developing the concept about two years ago and he continues to be the source of technology innovation for the future of the system. The rest of the team is comprised of Kevin Biagi, Trade Moore, Ken Strom, Kevin Creekmore and Hudson Harris. Each member of the team exhibits the innovative and creative spirit that finds answers to questions we haven't even asked yet. Kudos to the entire team!

Finally, we are always thankful for the many men and women who go into harms way for our nation: Warfighters, Firefighters, Law Enforcement, and first responders. Protecting our freedom starts at home and extends to distant foreign shores. I visited some of our SMDC/ARSTRAT Soldiers in the Middle East recently. Their morale is high and they are making an incredible impact in support of combat operations. High energy and high impact seem to be common attributes across our deployed teams.

Yes, we have much to be thankful for as Americans. This holiday season as you're celebrating; there will be Police Officers on duty protecting our families, there will be Fire Fighters on duty protecting our homes, and there will Soldiers and Civilians on duty protecting our Freedom. I ask that you to keep all of America's protectors in your thoughts during the holidays, especially the Families who have an empty place at the dinner table waiting for their loved ones to return home safely.

On behalf of my family and the entire SMDC/ARSTRAT command team, we wish you all a very Happy and Safe Holiday Season!

**SECURE THE HIGH GROUND!**

**HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS**

**T**he holiday season is once again upon us. For most of us, the Holidays are a time of great joy and happiness, a time for being together with families and friends. Unfortunately, there's also an unpleasant side to the holiday season. Many of us will feel a marked increase in stress and / or anxiety, and some will make foolish decisions concerning the use of alcohol and / or drugs.

The causes of stress and anxiety are numerous and varied. They range from not being able to find or afford that one gift your child wants, to being alone or separated from loved-ones for the holidays, to hosting or attending holiday functions or a family get together. The source is not nearly as important as how we deal with the problem.

If you find yourself unable to cope during the holiday season, or at any other time, I urge you to reach out to your Chaplain, your Employee Assistance Program (EAP) representative, and / or your leaders. They are all here to help you and they will not judge you. Many have faced the same or similar issues, and all will do everything within their authority to help you overcome the problems that are preventing you from enjoying a happy holiday season.

If you know of someone who is having a difficult time this holiday season, please help look out for your battle-buddy. Don't pretend there isn't a problem. Do that person a tremendous favor. Urge them to see the Chaplain, give them the contact information for their EAP representative, or suggest they reach out to their supervisor for assistance.

As each of you goes about celebrating the holidays, I urge you to enjoy them in a safe and responsible manner. Please don't drink and drive this holiday season. The consequences, ranging from a career ending DUI to the loss of property and even loss of life, are just not worth it! If you must drink, make sure your group has a designated driver or take a cab home! If you see a fellow Soldier attempting to drive after drinking, intercede. Help the Soldier find alternative means of transportation. Don't let him or her behind the wheel.

If your plans call for driving extended periods this holiday season, plan ahead. Make sure you and your first line supervisor's conduct a thorough vehicle inspection prior to long trips. Remember to conduct a risk assessment and management. Tragedy often results from driving an improperly maintained vehicle in winter weather. A survival kit can mean the difference between life and death if you and your family or loved ones become stranded during severe winter weather. Also take breaks from driving to assure you remain alert and focused.

Finally, there are 256,000 Soldiers deployed around the world with some 148,000 who are in harms way in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom - some of them are members of the SMDC / ARSTRAT family. I ask that you keep our deployed Soldiers and Civilians in your thoughts and prayers this holiday season. Please remember their families as well. Many families will have an empty space at the table this holiday season, while they await their loved one's safe return.

Please enjoy a safe and happy holiday season. You are all valued members of the SMDC / ARSTRAT team, and we very much look forward to your return in the New Year. On behalf of me and my family, and the rest of the command team, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



**SECURE THE HIGH GROUND!**

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## Promotion

continued from page 1

with great space expertise and you know that we're doing quite a bit today in space, deploying forces and supporting commanders. That's important work, and there couldn't be a better person doing that than you today on behalf of the Army and on behalf of combatant commanders."

After Campbell's comments, Story's wife Holly, father Bill and mother Jan assisted in the pinning ceremony. His father, a retired Army lieutenant colonel, upon pinning his son with a star, stepped sharply in front of him and gave

him his first salute as a general officer.

In his first remarks as a general officer, Story gave credit to the many people who have had an impact on his successful military career.

"Though I am the one here today who is being pinned and being honored with the promotion, it really is not about me ... and I don't mean those as little words. They're very important words to me," Story began. "I was molded and taught and trained and mentored and corrected by the finest Army in the world — the privates, the specialists, the sergeants, the noncommissioned officers, the warrant officers the civilians and in the modern

day Army, the contractors. They're the ones who basically molded me and shaped me into what I am.

"They're not here ... but I'm representing them here today because they took me and basically made me understand what it means to serve a country, and I would like to honor them by saying I appreciate everything they've done for me."

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Horne, a former SMDC/ARSTRAT DCG-O, was also a Space Operations Officer. Story is the first officer specifically groomed and selected from the Space career field to be promoted to general.

## Army provides joint support in disaster relief demonstration

By DJ Montoya, Public Affairs  
1st Space Brigade

**PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo.** — U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command G2 Advanced Geospatial Intelligence personnel and members of the 147th Combat Communications Squadron, California Air National Guard, Eagle Vision 3, put on an up-close demonstration of commercial satellite imagery for Air Force Space Command, North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), U.S. Northern Command (NorthCom) and SMDC/ARSTRAT Operations in a parking lot on Peterson Air

Force Base, Colo., Nov. 12 - 14.

During the three day set-up, personnel from all three organizations took advantage of this unique one-of-a-kind technology demonstration by entering the Eagle Vision 3 tent. Eagle Vision produces tailored image products for mission planning support utilizing commercial imagery.

Inside visitors were given briefs and tours of various phases of the operation such as planning/scheduling; data acquisition segment (satellite downlink); and data integration segment/production. Upon exiting the Eagle Vision 3 portion personnel moved into the Advanced Geospatial Intelligence (AGI) Node housed in the Mobile Processing,

Exploitation and Dissemination System tent to view a display and receive a brief.

According to Brian Plaisted from the SMDC/ARSTRAT AGI Node, the Eagle Vision 3 folks came out to demonstrate their capability to Air Force Space Command and U.S. Northern Command. SMDC/ARSTRAT set up as part of our interoperability between the Army and the Air Force.

"This type of event allows us to show people what we do, because most of our work is classified," said Plaisted.

Plaisted pointed to the fact that the demonstration was focused primarily on disaster relief efforts.

"What they (EV3) are bringing down is all commercial

satellite imagery which is unclassified, the kind you need during disaster relief efforts for sharing with first responders, state and local governments," he said. "They download the data and we in the AGI Node exploit that data to provide the finished products tailored for the end users specific needs."

This mobile set up of Air Force and Army systems was visited by VIPS such as Peter B. Teets, former Air Force undersecretary and director of the National Reconnaissance Office; Air Force Gen. C. Robert Kehler, commander, Air Force Space Command, Peterson Air Force Base; and Air Force Gen. Victor E. Renuart, Jr., commander of NORAD and NorthCom.

## What We Think

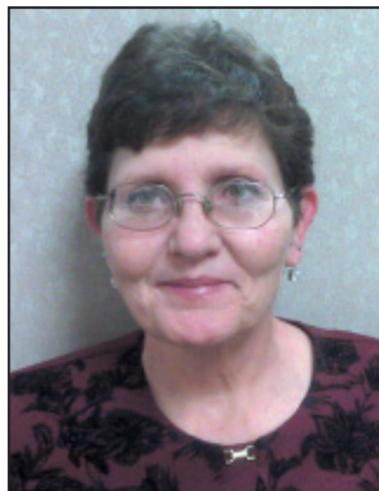
### The Eagle asks:

If you have a favorite charity, what is it about that charity that caused you to donate to it?



My favorite charity would one that has to do with the well-being of children. What would cause me to donate to the charity would be to ensure that rights and well-being of children are being protected by something such as a child advocacy group.

Lisa Armstrong  
KRS Human Resources  
U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll



I like giving back that's why I donate. I give to the Cancer Society and to the Wounded Warriors because life is about giving, not taking.

Sarah Trial  
Military Personnel Technician and  
Family Readiness Group Leader  
G-1  
Redstone Arsenal, Ala.



I've always donated to the National Hemophilia Foundation because my brother is a hemophiliac. I would like to see him be able to enjoy a better quality of life and not have to worry about treating himself after every bump or scrape he may get.

Staff Sgt. Nicholas Race  
Headquarters and Headquarters Company  
Redstone Arsenal, Ala.



I've donated to the American Ireland fund because it ensures that Irish culture is kept alive in America.

Travis McDiffett  
KRS UXO Bomb Squad  
U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll

# Safety

## Extreme cold tips

Add the following supplies to your disaster supplies kit: **Rock salt** to melt ice on walkways; **sand** to improve traction; **snow shovels** and other snow removal equipment.

### Prepare your home and family

- Prepare for possible isolation in your home by having sufficient heating fuel; regular fuel sources may be cut off. For example, store a good supply of dry, seasoned wood for your fireplace or wood-burning stove.
- Winterize your home to extend the life of your fuel supply by insulating walls and a storm.
- Insulate pipes with insulation or newspapers and plastic and allow faucets to drip a little during cold weather to avoid freezing.
- Keep fire extinguishers on hand, and make sure everyone in your house knows how to use them. House fires pose an additional risk, as more people turn to alternate heating sources without taking the necessary safety precautions.
- Learn how to shut off water valves (in case a pipe bursts).
- Know ahead of time what you should do to help elderly or disabled friends, neighbors or employees.
- Hire a contractor to check the structural ability of the roof to sustain unusually heavy weight from the accumulation of snow - or water, if drains on flat roofs do not work.

### Prepare your car

- **Check or have a mechanic check the following items on your car:**
- Antifreeze levels - ensure they are sufficient to avoid freezing.
- Battery and ignition system - should be in top condition and battery terminals should be clean.
- Brakes - check for wear and fluid levels.
- Exhaust system - check for leaks and crimped pipes and repair or replace as necessary. Carbon monoxide is deadly and usually gives no warning.
- Fuel and air filters - replace and keep water out of the system by using additives and maintaining a full tank of gas.
- Heater and defroster - ensure they work properly.
- Lights and flashing hazard lights - check for serviceability.
- Oil - check for level and weight. Heavier oils congeal more at low temperatures and do not lubricate as well.
- Thermostat - ensure it works properly.
- Windshield wiper equipment - repair any problems and maintain proper washer fluid level.
- **Install good winter tires.** Make sure the tires have adequate tread. All-weather radials are usually adequate for most winter conditions. However, some jurisdictions require that to drive on their roads, vehicles must be equipped with chains or snow tires with studs.
- **Always maintain at least a half tank of gas** during the winter season.
- **Place a winter emergency kit in each car that includes:** a shovel; windshield scraper and small broom; flashlight; battery powered radio; extra batteries; water ; snack food; matches; extra hats, socks and mittens; First aid kit with pocket knife; necessary medications; blanket(s); tow chain or rope; road salt and sand; booster cables; emergency flares; fluorescent distress flag.

## Dressing for the weather

- Wear several layers of loose fitting, lightweight, warm clothing rather than one layer of heavy clothing. The outer garments should be tightly woven and water repellent.
- Wear mittens, which are warmer than gloves.
- Wear a hat.
- Cover your mouth with a scarf to protect your lungs. [Source: FEMA, 2006]

## Heating safety tips

- Use a heater that has been tested to the latest safety standards and certified by a nationally recognized testing laboratory. Older space heaters may not meet the newer safety standards.
- Place the heater on a level, hard and nonflammable surface, not on rugs or carpets or near bedding or drapes.
- Keep doors open to the rest of the house if you are using an unvented fuel-burning space heater.
- Never leave a space heater on when you go to sleep. Never place a space heater close to any sleeping person.
- Turn the space heater off if you leave the area. Keep children and pets away from space heaters.
- Have heaters inspected annually to ensure proper operation.
- Do not use a kitchen range or oven to heat your house because it could overheat or generate excessive carbon monoxide.
- Be aware that mobile homes require specially designed heating equipment. Only electric or vented fuel-fired equipment should be used.
- Have a smoke alarm with fresh batteries on each level of the house, inside every bedroom, and outside the bedrooms in each sleeping area.
- Have a carbon monoxide alarm outside the bedrooms in each sleeping area. (Source: El Paso, Texas Fire Department, printed in elpasotimes.com, Nov. 21, 2008)

## Furnace safety tips

- Have your furnace inspected to ensure that it is in good working condition.
- Be sure all furnace controls and emergency shutoffs are in proper working condition.
- Leave furnace repairs to qualified specialists. Do not attempt repairs yourself unless you are qualified.
- Inspect the walls and ceiling near the furnace and along the chimney line. If the wall is hot or discolored, additional pipe insulation or clearance may be required.
- Check the fuel pipe and pipe seams. Are they well supported, free of holes and cracks? Soot along or around seams may indicate a leak.
- Is the chimney solid, with no cracks or loose bricks? All unused flue openings should be sealed with solid masonry.
- Keep trash and other combustibles away from the heating system. (Source: FEMA, United States Fire Administration)

## Flooding

Be aware of flood hazards no matter where you live, but especially if you live in a low-lying area, near water or downstream from a dam. Even very small streams, gullies, creeks, culverts, dry streambeds, or if you

have to leave your home, remember these evacuation tips:

- Do not walk through moving water. Six inches of moving water can make you fall. If you have to walk in water, walk where the water is not moving. Use a stick to check the firmness of the ground in front of you.
- Do not drive into flooded areas. If floodwaters rise around your car, abandon the car and move to higher ground if you can do so safely. You and the vehicle can be quickly swept away.

### The following are important points to remember when driving in flood conditions:

- Six inches of water will reach the bottom of most passenger cars causing loss of control and possible stalling.
- A foot of water will float many vehicles.
- Two feet of rushing water can carry away most vehicles including sport utility vehicles (SUV's) and pick-ups.
- Low-lying ground that appears harmless in dry weather can flood. Every state is at risk from this hazard. [Source: FEMA]

## Are you prepared for high winds?

- **Keep outdoor gear from becoming windborne missiles** - High velocity winds can turn patio furniture, grills and tree branches into destructive missiles. Check the area immediately surrounding your house for unsecured or potentially dangerous conditions. Tree limbs, outbuildings, trash cans, yard debris, or other materials that can be moved by the wind, are potential projectiles aimed at your home or parked vehicle. What can't be disposed of (i.e. tree limbs) or brought indoors (garage, home) can be secured by bolting to decks or patios or by attaching to ground anchors with cables or chains.
- **Reinforce vulnerable areas** - High winds can damage garage doors or even blow them in. If wind enters a garage it can cause dangerous and expensive structural damage to the home. A garage door can be reinforced by adding braces across the back of the door and by strengthening the glider wheel tracks. If the existing door is old or damaged, it should be replaced with a stronger door and tracks. These modifications should be done only by a trained garage-door systems technician. If your home is under construction, look into purchasing a garage door built to withstand high winds.
- **Anticipate damaged tree threats** - Tall leafy oaks and maples beautify yards and cool homes with their shade, but they also can provide the ammunition for flying debris to break windows, crush walls and puncture roofs. Proper maintenance and sitting of trees will minimize tree loss and home damage. The surest way to prevent storm damage on a home from falling trees is to locate trees far enough away from your house that they can't fall on it. The distance between your house and any nearby tree should be greater than the height the tree will reach when it is fully grown. Proper care of trees can also prevent storm damage. Three-fourths of the damage that trees incur during storms is predictable and preventable. Trees with wounds, decay, structural defects, stem girdling roots, severed roots and soil compaction are prime targets for experiencing storm damage. [Source: FEMA, Release No. 1785-054]

# RSA SMDC/ARSTRAT employee receives Saint Barbara medal for Tech Center work

By Diane Schumacher  
SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

Kenneth S. Strom has been working for U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command for the past 20 years in the Technical Center and recently received the Field Artillery/Air Defense Artillery's Honorable Order of Saint Barbara for all the work he's done over the years on the airborne sensors program.

The Honorable Order of Saint Barbara recognizes individuals who have demonstrated the highest standards of integrity and moral character, displayed an outstanding degree of professional competence, served the United States Army (or Marine Corps Field Artillery) with selflessness; and contributed to the promotion of the field artillery [and air defense artillery] in ways that stand out in the eyes of the recipient's seniors, subordinates and peers, alike.

The Iron River, Mich. native served November 1998 to October 2007 as the Program Manager for Sensor Development for SMDC/ARSTRAT's Technical Center's Airborne Sensors Program.

Julia D. Williams, writer of the nomination and O-SFS (Orthogonal-Sensor Fusion System) program director, wrote that Strom's "work during that time on the Airborne Sensors Program directly and significantly benefited Air Defense starting with the High Altitude Observatory (HALO) II in 1998." [HALO II is the state-of-the-art infrared and visible optical sensor system capable of collecting mid-wave infrared, long wave infrared and visible data on extremely cold exo-atmospheric targets as well as boosting vehicles.]

As Program Manager, Strom was responsible for the development of all schedules, budgets, and testing activities to ensure compliance with performance requirements. Further, he monitored and documented testing of all sub-assemblies during the system build up - culminating with systems level testing and final acceptance by the Army/Missile Defense Agency. Under Strom's leadership, the HALO II successfully met and exceeded all data collection requirements and successfully provided data for more than 80 missions.

With the successful conclusion of HALO II, Strom was assigned as the program



Photo by Henry Norton

Ken Strom is presented a St. Barbara medal on Nov. 1 by Maj. Gen. Howard Bromberg, commanding general, U.S. Army Air Defense Center and Fort Bliss/ commandant, Air Defense Artillery School and chief, Air Defense Artillery Branch. The presentation was made during the Huntsville/Redstone Arsenal Chapter Air Defense Artillery Association annual dinner-dance held at the Redstone Officers and Civilians' Club.

manager of the Wide Body Airborne testbed Program (WASP) Prime Sensor System (PSS), which required the adaptation of the HALO II sensor system to the WASP DC-10 aircraft.

Strom developed a series of kit deliveries to correlate with the preparation of the WASP aircraft. Each kit was developed, integrated, tested, validated and delivered. As each kit was integrated onto the WASP platform, acceptance and interface testing was conducted with the WASP Prime contractor. All WASP PSS activities were completed on budget and on schedule including final integration with aircraft.

After the WASP project was completed, Strom was given the duties and responsibilities of a mission operations test planner for the Airborne Sensor Program. This meant he had to ensure the airborne sensor platforms met the cost, schedule and performance requirements of the various MDA customers (including AEGIS ballistic missile defense and ground-based midcourse defense),

numerous test facilities, and MDA test resources. He also served as the Airborne Sensor Mission Lead for more than 20 data collections on MDA intercept and experimental missions.

Williams' nomination stated that Strom's selfless contributions and dedication directly contributed and benefitted the Air Defense community, and that he has "been at the forefront of sensor technology development and fielding. [His] outstanding degree of competence and consistent demonstration of the highest standards of integrity, selflessness, and moral character are in keeping with the high reputation and honor of membership in the Honorable Order of Saint Barbara."

Strom said he was surprised about the nomination.

"I'm honored the management thinks so highly of my work," he said. "I feel like awards and medals are for those in harm's way, like the Soldiers, not for someone sitting at a desk - I'm quite humbled by this. I feel unworthy, but I am grateful."

## Keep on rockin' with second CD 'For the Troops'

By Kristen Ward  
TriWest Healthcare Alliance

A number of top musical acts want to thank you for your service and the sacrifices you make for our country with the release of a new "For the Troops II" CD, available now for free download at the Army & Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) Web site, [www.aafes.com](http://www.aafes.com). Active duty servicemembers or veterans may use your valid military ID to log on to the site.

"I'm excited that the CD "For the Troops" is back with a new roster of fantastic artists and great songs," said John

Ondrasik who performs under the pseudonym Five for Fighting and spearheaded the CD's development.

"After the response from last year's effort, creating a sequel was a no-brainer," Ondrasik said. "The CD 'For the Troops II' has a bit more rock and a few surprises, but at its core is a thank you to those whose sacrifice secures our freedom and that of our children."

The complete track listing of "For the Troops II" is: 3 Doors Down - When I'm Gone; Daughtry - Home; Five for Fighting - Freedom Never Cries; Good Charlotte - I Don't Want to Be in Love (Dance Floor Anthem); Gretchen Wilson -

California Girls; Isaac Hayes - Theme From Shaft; Joe Perry - Shakin' My Cage; Josh Groban - Machine; Jude - I Think It's Time (Everything's Alright); Keith Urban - Everybody; Maroon 5 - Won't Go Home Without You; Roy Orbison - In Dreams; Alan Jackson - Where I Come From and Trace Adkins - Fightin' Words.

"We strongly believe that music can be an effective and healthy mental break during times of stress or family separation," said TriWest President and CEO David J. McIntyre, Jr. "We are exceptionally grateful for individuals like John Ondrasik and the other artists, who are

driven to thank our troops in memorable ways and who encourage others to do the same. It is an honor for TriWest to serve America's military families, and we hope more Americans also remember to thank those who protect our safety and freedom."

This is the follow-up CD to "For the Troops" CD released last fall. Ondrasik partnered with AAFES, TriWest Healthcare Alliance and the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) to produce and release both CDs.

Visit [www.cdforthetroops.com](http://www.cdforthetroops.com) for information on the CD and the artists.

# Army astronaut assis

By DJ Montoya, Public Affairs  
1st Space Brigade

**PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo.** – Army Lt. Col. Robert S. Kimbrough proved he had the “right stuff” completing his first flight into space aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavour as part of STS-126 mission in November after four years of intensive astronaut candidate training.

Kimbrough is the junior member of the Army’s National Aeronautics and Space Administration Detachment located in Houston, Texas. The detachment currently has four active duty Army Astronauts on its roster.

Kimbrough served as a mission specialist along with shuttle crewmembers Navy Capt. Stephen G. Bowen, Navy Capt. Heidemarie M. Stefanyshyn-Piper, Donald R. Pettit and Sandra H. Magnus. Navy Capt. Christopher J. Ferguson commanded the STS-126 mission and Air Force Lt. Col. Eric A. Boe served as the pilot.

The STS-126 mission featured important repair work and prepared the International Space Station to house six crewmembers on long-duration missions beginning in 2009. The new station equipment includes a water recovery system, additional sleeping quarters, a second toilet and an exercise device.

During four spacewalks, the crew serviced the station’s two Solar Alpha Rotary Joints, which allow its solar arrays to track the sun, and installed new hardware that will support future assembly missions.

In a NASA interview back in early November, Kimbrough explained how the opportunity arose to become an astronaut during his military career by saying, “I was lucky enough to get called to come down to Johnson Space Center as a major in the Army to just work a technical job down here which happened to be out at Ellington Field (Houston).

“I was flying the shuttle trainer aircraft and helping train the pilot and commanders on how to land the space shuttle, so that was a neat deal. And then after that I just stayed here and I was lucky enough to get picked up in the 2004 astronaut class.”

Commenting on how his Army background would help in the role of being an astronaut during the mission Kimbrough said, “I think my operational background is really what most Army folks kind of bring to the table here at NASA and that’s really what I’m going to draw off of, just being in an operational environment, whether that’s in my case helicopters or whatever — actually doing real time operations in some pretty tough situations not always nominal.”

And Kimbrough got his chance to do that on the evening of Nov. 14th as he along with fellow crewmembers Stefanyshyn-Piper, and Magnus took their assigned seats on the lower level of the shuttle’s crew compartment before the launch.

At 6:07 p.m. MST Endeavour lifted off from Launch Pad 39A at NASA’s Kennedy Space Center in Florida for a rendezvous with the International Space Station early on the morning on Nov. 16.

With the opening of the shuttle and station hatches both crews exchanged the traditional greetings prior to getting down to the busy work schedule that lay ahead of them.

On Nov. 17 Kimbrough and Pettit used the Canadarm2 robotic arm to move the



Photos courtesy of NASA

After suiting up Nov. 14, the STS-126 crewmembers exit the Operations and Checkout Building to board the Astrovan, which will take them to launch pad 39A for the launch of Space Shuttle Endeavour on the STS-126 mission. On the right (front to back) are astronauts Chris Ferguson, commander; Steve Bowen and Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper, both mission specialists. On the left (front to back) are astronauts Eric Boe, pilot; Donald Pettit, Col. Shane Kimbrough (waving) and Sandra Magnus, all mission specialists. Magnus will join Expedition 18 in progress to serve as a flight engineer aboard the International Space Station. The mission will feature four spacewalks and work that will prepare the space station to house six crew members for long-duration missions.

multi-purpose logistics module named Leonardo into position for installation on the Earth-facing port of the space station’s Harmony node.

Leonardo contained systems which were installed in the U.S. Destiny lab and Harmony node, such as: two water recovery systems racks for recycling urine into potable water, a second toilet system, new galley components, two new food warmers, a food refrigerator, an experiment freezer, a combustion science experiment rack, two separate sleeping quarters and a resistance exercise device.

The first space walk to service the International Space Station took place on Nov. 18 with Kimbrough serving as the intravehicular officer guiding fellow crewmembers Stefanyshyn-Piper and Bowen during their excursion.

Kimbrough then got ready for his turn outside with crewmember Stefanyshyn-Piper on the evening of Nov. 19 as he spent the night in the Quest airlock. The stay lessened the preparatory time before beginning his scheduled space walk on the afternoon of Nov. 20, the 10th anniversary of the International Space Station.

It would be another four days before Kimbrough would venture out for his second space walk, and the final one of STS-126 mission, with Bowen on Nov. 24. Total time for both of his space walks amounted to almost 13 hours at 122 nautical miles above the Earth.

With an extra day added to the mission and the crew’s work done both shuttle and International Space Station crews packed up the multi-purpose logistics module and placed it back aboard Endeavour for the trip back home on Nov. 26.

The shuttle and International Space Station crews then took time out for a Thanksgiving Day celebration high above the Earth prior to saying their goodbyes and undocking the next day.

Because of threatening weather in Florida, the Space Shuttle Endeavour landed at Edwards Air Force Base in California at 4:25 p.m. EST Nov. 30, ending the STS-126 mission to the International Space Station. The shuttle traveled more than 6.6 million miles in space on its 16-day journey.

With his first successful space flight complete Kimbrough gave some advice to the youth of America. “You’re going to be the next generation of leaders in our country or in our world. It’s all in your hands and that’s a big responsibility. But if you folks challenge yourselves, with the technology out there, there’s really no limit to what you can do.”



Against a black sky, the Space Shuttle Endeavour and its seven-member STS-126 crew head toward Earth orbit and a scheduled link-up with the International Space Station. Liftoff was on time at 7:55 p.m. (EST), Nov. 14 from NASA’s Kennedy Space Center in Mims, Fla.

# sts with ISS upgrade



Above — Nov. 15, astronaut Shane Kimbrough, STS-126 mission specialist, looks over procedures checklists on the mid-deck of Space Shuttle Endeavour during flight day two activities.



Above — Backdropped by a blue and white Earth, Space Shuttle Endeavour approaches the International Space Station during STS-126 rendezvous and docking operations. Docking occurred at 4:01 p.m. (CST) on Nov. 16. The Leonardo Multi-Purpose Logistics Module is visible in Endeavour's cargo bay with over 14,000 pounds of cargo for the space station.

Right — Astronauts Shane Kimbrough and Sandra Magnus, both STS-126 mission specialists, float alongside fresh fruit on the mid-deck of Space Shuttle Endeavour during flight-day three (Nov. 16)



Above — Astronaut Shane Kimbrough, STS-126 mission specialist, occupies the pilot's station on the forward flight deck of Space Shuttle Endeavour during flight day three activities.



Left — Astronaut Shane Kimbrough, attired in his Extravehicular Mobility Unit (EMU) spacesuit, awaits the start of the mission's second scheduled session of extravehicular activity (EVA) in the Quest Airlock of the International Space Station.



Astronauts Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper (left) and Shane Kimbrough, participate in the mission's second scheduled session Nov. 20 of extravehicular activity (EVA) as construction and maintenance continue on the International Space Station. During the six-hour, 45-minute spacewalk, Piper and Kimbrough continued the process of



removing debris and applying lubrication around the starboard Solar Alpha Rotary Joint (SARJ), replaced four more of the SARJ's 12 trundle bearing assemblies, relocated two equipment carts and applied lubrication to the station's robotic Canadarm2.

## Civilian News

### General Schedule employees pay rules change

The U.S. Office of Personnel Management is issuing final regulations on pay setting rules for General Schedule employees. The final regulations revise the interim regulations by making a number of technical modifications, corrections, and clarifications. The regulations became effective Dec. 8. The **Federal Register** ('Rules and Regulations,' Vol. 73, No. 217, dated Nov. 7, 2008) notice addresses the comments the OPM received on the interim regulations and made a number of technical revisions and clarifications, which are summarized. Additionally, OPM issued guidance, including examples, to address many of the questions they received about the interim regulations. The OPM encourages agencies and employees to review these materials on their Web site at <http://www.opm.gov/oca/pay/HTML/factindx.asp>. OPM will continue to provide additional guidance on pay administration as necessary.

### Regulations for emergency leave transfer

The U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has issued final regulations concerning the Emergency Leave Transfer Program (ELTP). The regulations are available at [www.opm.gov/fedregis](http://www.opm.gov/fedregis). These final regulations support OPM's continuing efforts to provide alternative methods for agencies to assist their employees in the event of a pandemic health crisis or other major disaster or emergency as declared by the President. The final regulations allow donated annual leave in a voluntary leave bank administered by one agency to be transferred to an emergency leave transfer program administered by another agency, revise the rules for returning unused donated annual leave to emergency leave donors (including leave banks), and incorporate the inclusion of Judicial branch employees as eligible participants in the emergency leave transfer program, as provided by Public Law 109-229, now codified at 5 U.S.C. 6391(f). In addition, the final regulations have been reorganized and renumbered to aid in accessibility and enhance reader understanding.

### Time-in-Grade rule may be eliminated

According to the Nov. 7 update in Rules and Regulations section of the *Federal Register* (found at [www.opm.gov/fedregis/](http://www.opm.gov/fedregis/)) the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is eliminating the time-in-grade (TIG) restriction on advancement to competitive service positions in the General Schedule. On Feb. 6, 2008, OPM published in the *Federal Register* at 73 FR 6857, a proposal to eliminate the TIG restriction found in 5 CFR part 300, subpart F. This rule will eliminate the 52-week TIG requirement for promotions. Eliminating the TIG requirement does not affect eligibility for within-grade-increases. Employees must continue to meet occupational qualification standard requirements and any additional job-related qualification requirements established for the position. The new rule is scheduled to be effective March 9, 2009.

### Veteran's preference – OPM's final rule

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has adopted as a final rule an interim rule that implemented a change to the definition of "active duty" for veterans' preference entitlement contained in Sec. 211.102(f) of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations. This is the new definition:

Active duty or active military duty —

(1) Active duty or active military duty for veterans defined in paragraphs (a)(1) through (3) and disabled veterans defined in paragraph (b) of this section means active duty with military pay and allowances in the armed forces, including training or for determining physical fitness and including service in the Reserves or National Guard.

(2) Active duty or active military duty for a veteran defined in paragraph (a)(4) through (6) of this section means full-time duty with military pay and allowances in the armed forces, except for training or for determining physical fitness and except for service in the Reserves or National Guard.

### All civilians and military: Beware of scam

As part of a fraudulent scheme to extort money from consumers, callers falsely identify themselves as officials from the Food and Drug Administration. FDA officials never contact consumers by phone to demand money or any other form of payment. Several instances have been reported to FDA of calls enticing consumers to purchase discounted prescription drugs by wiring funds to locations in the Dominican Republic. No medications are delivered. A subsequent call is received from a fraudulent "FDA special agent" telling the consumer that a fine of several thousand dollars is required to be sent to an address in the Dominican Republic to prevent incarceration or other legal action. More at [www.fda.gov/](http://www.fda.gov/).

## Military News

### Tax time quickly approaching

The Internal Revenue Service has a helpful site for general tax questions; it is NOT for highly complex tax issues or questions regarding your specific tax account. The Web site is: [www.irs.gov/help/page/0,,id=120294,00.html](http://www.irs.gov/help/page/0,,id=120294,00.html). Answers to many of your questions may be found on this site. If you need help with an account issue (i.e., any question that requires a name and social security number), feel free to contact the IRS by phone. The toll-free number for any individual is 1-800-829-1040. The toll-free number for business accounts is 1-800-829-4933. However, before leaving your question, please go to the Web site and try these two subsites: 'Frequently Asked Questions' ([www.irs.gov/faqs/index.html](http://www.irs.gov/faqs/index.html)) and 'Tax Trails' ([www.irs.gov/individuals/article/0,,id=132035,00.html](http://www.irs.gov/individuals/article/0,,id=132035,00.html)). If you do not find the answer to your question, try 'search' ([www.irs.gov/help/search\\_help.html](http://www.irs.gov/help/search_help.html)) and enter a few key words to see if your question is covered elsewhere on the site. Also check their 'Site Map' ([www.irs.gov/sitemap/index.html](http://www.irs.gov/sitemap/index.html)), 'Tax Topics' ([www.irs.gov/taxtopics/index.html](http://www.irs.gov/taxtopics/index.html)), 'Taxpayer Help' ([www.irs.gov/help/index.html](http://www.irs.gov/help/index.html)), 'Individuals' ([www.irs.gov/individuals/index.html](http://www.irs.gov/individuals/index.html)), 'Taxpayer Advocacy' ([www.irs.gov/advocate/index.html](http://www.irs.gov/advocate/index.html)) or 'How to Contact Us' ([www.irs.gov/contact/index.html](http://www.irs.gov/contact/index.html)) pages. If none of these sites prove helpful, then give the IRS a call so you can talk to a real person. (Source: IRS)

### Looking for Wounded Warriors

The military has launched a detective effort to find at least 2,300 veterans wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan to see how they are faring, and whether they are missing out on health and other benefits. Army and Marine commanders say the outreach effort is due to several factors, including greater concern in these wars for long-term consequences of combat and more funding to get it done. About 33,000 troops have been wounded in the two wars, but not all have been located or reached. The Army Wounded Warrior Program is searching for about 400 ex-GIs they want to assist, but who have left the service, says Army Col. Jim Rice, the program director. The military is concerned that "some of its people may fall between a crack somewhere," said the Commander of the Marine Corps Wounded Warrior Regiment. Callers who contact these new veterans help eliminate red tape to resolve compensation and health care needs, educate veterans about new benefits and link them to resources or potential employers. If callers determine that veterans have more complex problems, they ask advocates to visit them in person. The Army Wounded Warrior Hotline is: 1-800-237-1336. (Source: *USA Today*, Nov. 12, 2008)

### TDY reminder for military & civilian employees

Those who go on temporary duty (TDY) should have received a new CitiBank government travel card, replacing the Bank of America travel (credit) card at the end of November. If you were due a CitiBank card and have not yet received one, contact your APC (Agency Program Coordinator), either Yvonne Dublin (256-955-5076 or Katrina Hale, 256-955-3192. Here are a few Q and A's to help you: **Q:** What do I do if I have a credit balance on my Bank of America (BOA) travel card? **A:** Call BOA (800 number on back of your card) and request a refund. It will take 7-10 business days to receive the refund. Remember, if you still owe on a Bank of America card, it is your responsibility to pay BOA directly upon receipt of the BOA monthly bill. **Q:** I received my CitiBank card, what should I do? **A:** Contact CitiBank card at 888-514-2922, OCONUS call collect 706-494-5028, or online at [www.citimanager.com/dodTravel](http://www.citimanager.com/dodTravel). **Q:** What do I do if I need assistance from CitiBank for my travel card? **A:** Visit their Web site: [www.citimanager.com/dodhome](http://www.citimanager.com/dodhome).

### National Resource Directory for Wounded Warriors, families and caregivers available

On Nov. 17 the Department of Defense launched the National Resource Directory, a collaborative effort between the departments of Defense, Labor and Veterans Affairs. The directory is a Web-based network of care coordinators, providers and support partners with resources for wounded, ill and injured service members, veterans, their families, families of the fallen and those who support them. See: [www.nationalresourcedirectory.org](http://www.nationalresourcedirectory.org). The directory offers more than 10,000 medical and non-medical services and resources to help servicemembers and veterans achieve personal and professional goals along their journey from recovery through rehabilitation to community reintegration. The directory is organized into six major categories: benefits and compensation; education, training and employment; family and caregiver support; health; housing and transportation; and services and resources. (Source: DOD Military Health System Military Medical Digest)

# Who's the best theater missile warning crew?

**By Maj. Eric Little**  
**1st Space Company Commander**

**PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo.** — The Joint Tactical Ground Station (JTAGS) Best Crew Competition is a program which offers Soldiers from 1st Space Company, 1st Space Battalion, the opportunity to prepare, train and show their skills in a profession that they alone represent.

Because 1st Space Company is the only theater missile warning unit in the Army, the competition not only identifies the best theater missile warning crew in the company, but also the best crew in the Army. These crews are without question the best in the world at what they do.

An evaluation team consisting of representatives from 1st Space Company, 1st Space Battalion and 1st Space Brigade, took approximately four weeks to cover all four JTAGS sites around the globe in their quest to identify the best crew at each site, as well as the best overall crew within the company. The competition consisted of nine events that were evaluated over a four day period.

At each site, the competition began with a record Army Physical Fitness Test that measured the physical fitness endurance of all crews as well as the detachment as a whole. The European Command JTAGS detachment received the highest overall APFT average of 274 points and will receive a physical fitness streamer for excellence to recognize the achievement.

The APFT was followed by a one-hundred question, closed book, written examination covering regulations, policies and procedures surrounding missile warning. The crews then endured a rigorous and extremely challenging event-processing exercise that stressed the crews with a myriad of missile events and other infrared special events. The competition also included a written situational paper exercise, a fault detection/fault isolation (maintenance troubleshooting) event, antenna assembly and emplacement, Army Warrior Task evaluation, and crew presentation.

The Army Warrior Task evaluation was initiated with a no-notice detachment recall, weapons draw and inspections. This allowed for an assessment of the readiness and preparedness of the JTAGS crews, and the readiness of the entire detachment.

The most non-standard event of the competition with regard to JTAGS operations was the crew presentation. The crews were given the task, conditions, and standard for the presentation during the opening brief on Day One of the competition.

Over the following two days of competition, the crews prepared an informative briefing on the dismount of the JTAGS system, to include suggested system improvements, optimal geographic location for the system, and the benefit to the supported theater. The results brought forward by the crews were beyond impressive. Many of the suggested improvements to the system were so innovative, practical and relevant that they are currently being packaged for presentation to the JTAGS Product Office for consideration in future upgrades.

In the end, Staff Sgt. Jonas Moody, Sgt. Brandon Smith and Spc. Vyncent Beasley otherwise known as Charlie Crew, JTAGS Central Command took the top prize as the best crew in all JTAGS.

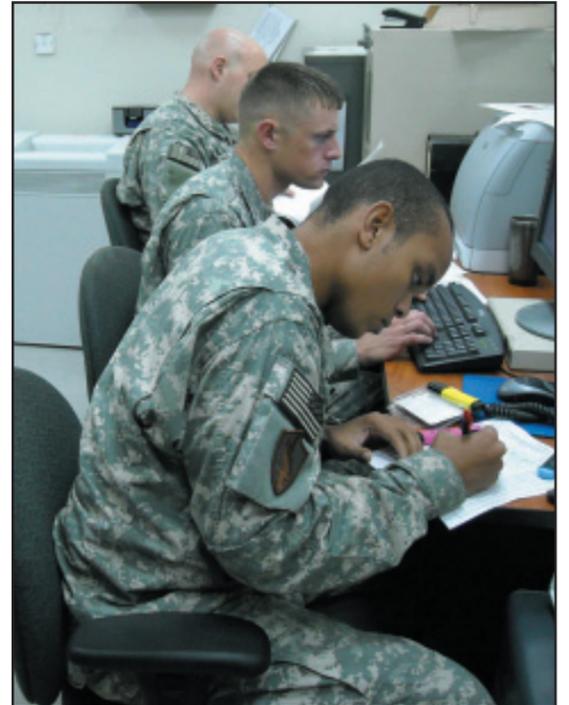
The best crew competition was a tremendous success and proved extremely rewarding for both the command and the Soldiers of 1st Space Company.

It provided the command an opportunity to watch every crew in JTAGS perform what they are trained to do, and assess who is the best, and assessment of the overall operations at each JTAGS site.

The return was far greater than anticipated and the lessons learned from this year's competition are already integrated into a plan for an even better competition next year.

Most importantly, the competition afforded the individual Soldiers and crews a goal and a target to strive for that went beyond the day-to-day routine of providing early warning for those deployed in harms way. The evaluation team witnessed a high level of camaraderie and esprit-de-corps among the Soldiers and crews that truly represents the spirit of the American Soldier.

The competition also provided a reminder that the United States, its deployed Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen, and friends and allies can indeed rest assured as long as JTAGS operators are on mission.



Photos by Daniel Vigil, 1st Space Company

Above — Front to back: Spc. Vyncent Beasley, Staff Sgt. Jonas Moody, and Sgt. Brandon Smith, Charlie Company, JTAGS – U.S. Central Command conduct Situational Paper Exercise during the competition. The three-person crew was named the 2008 Best Crew for all JTAGS crews worldwide.



Left — Sgt. Christopher Crook and Spc. J.C. Thomas conduct the two-mile run portion of the Army Physical Fitness Test.



Above — Sgt. Ivan Virruet and crew from JTAGS CENTCOM conduct TACSTAR antenna emplacement.



Above — Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin Hartwig measures the height of Sgt. Jesse Jacka.



Right — Left to right: Staff Sgt. Kenneth Hansen, Spc. Amanda Henderson and Spc. Shawn Johnston of JTAGS-Europe set up a TACSTAR antenna.

**2009 — Year of the NCO!**

# 1st Space Brigade Soldiers serve their community

By DJ Montoya, Public Affairs  
1st Space Brigade

**COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.** – As part of their division's teambuilding program, a group of six Soldiers from the S2 Division, 1st Space Brigade, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command operations, performed community service in Colorado Springs, Colo., during November.

The target was the Marian House Soup Kitchen on West Bijou Street.

The group, led by Maj. Stephen Parrish, the S2 for the brigade, arrived at 10 a.m., and were met by Marian House personnel and taken on a tour of the facility.

After the tour Iris Lucas, a supervisor at the Marian House Soup Kitchen, proceeded to assign each Soldier to a duty station. Brigade Soldiers made up a group of more than 20 volunteers consisting of students from area schools, regular volunteers and Marian House staff.

Parrish and Sgt. Burch Parshall were assigned to serve in the hot line with Staff Sgt. Colin Angele and Warrant Officer 1 Jon Weiler manning the bread and milk entrees. Capt. Christy Orser helped with the dishwashing and was later joined by Parrish. Chief Warrant Officer 2 Eric Schaub, who confessed that he wasn't really skilled at serving or dishwashing, assumed the position of bussing tables and mingling from time-to-time with the patrons.

When the clock struck 1 p.m. the doors finally closed. Again, the brigade Soldiers pitched in

for the clean-up detail, and when all was said and done they learned they had helped in the serving of 738 meals. Not bad for a pre-Thanksgiving present.

"It was a fun and rewarding experience," said Parshall, who more times than not, found himself calling back into the kitchen for more trays of 'beans and franks' to serve patrons.

Looking back on the experience Schaub remarked, "The time was extremely well spent."

"Not only were we able to interact with those in need and allow them dignity through our actions of serving them," he said, "but we also helped to enhance the image of the military to the general public and portray the diverse nature of today's Army."

Weiler commented that, "Most of them were very grateful and glad to see us."

Parrish summed it up by stating, "Spending any time giving back to the community is both rewarding and memorable. It was a pleasure to serve those less fortunate, especially during the holiday season."

The Marian House Soup Kitchen is a program of Catholic Charities of Colorado Springs. The program serves a hot meal 356 days of the year to the working poor, those with mental and physical disabilities, people who are homeless and hungry, fixed income seniors and struggling families. The kitchen has been in operation since 1970.



Photos by DJ Montoya

Soldiers from the S2 Division, 1st Space Brigade, SMDC/ARSTRAT, receive marching orders from Iris Lucas, supervisor, Marian House Soup Kitchen, Colorado Springs, Colo., before manning their stations in the assistance of serving the daily hot meal, on November 25. Seen left to right are Maj. Stephen Parrish, Staff Sgt. Colin Angele, Sgt. Burch Parshall, and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Eric Schaub. This community service event is part of a teambuilding program within the S2.



Above — Left to right: Sgt. Burch Parshall, Capt. Christy Orser, and Staff Sgt. Colin Angele, from the S2 Division, 1st Space Brigade, SMDC/ARSTRAT, move a pallet of yogurt from the basement food storage locked in the Marian House Soup Kitchen, Colorado Springs, Colo., onto an elevator in preparation for the daily meal served.

Below — Maj. Stephen Parrish shows two young volunteers how real KP is done.



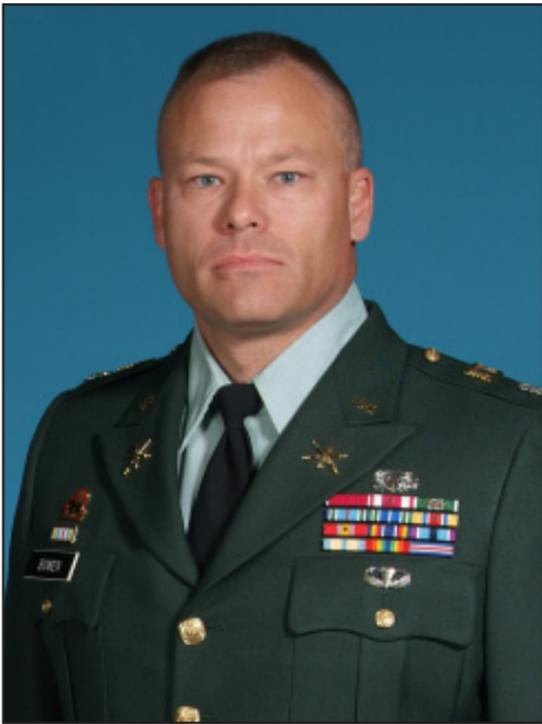
Above — Capt. Christy Orser gives a final stir before placement in the hot entrée line of "beans and franks."

Right — Staff Sgt. Colin Angele serves hot garlic bread to a hungry patron.



Above — Sgt. Burch Parshall gets ready to serve "beans and franks."





Lt. Col. Gregory Bowen

No stranger to command

## Next Commander of 100th Missile Defense Brigade (GMD) chosen

By Maj. Laura Kenney, 100th MDB Public Affairs

**COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.**—Lt. Col. Gregory Bowen has been selected as the next commander of the nation's only missile defense brigade and is due to replace the current commander, Col. Michael Yowell, May 15 of next year.

Bowen is uniquely suited to lead the 100<sup>th</sup> Missile Defense Brigade (Ground-based Midcourse Defense) headquartered here since he has been with the unit from its very beginnings. He was the first commander of the system's battalion, based in Alaska, and helped to build that unit, the 49th Missile Defense Battalion, from the ground up.

One of the first of the now growing field of Space Operations Officers, Bowen was born in Colorado but grew up in North Dakota, joining the National Guard there. An Air Defense Artillery officer, he became involved in the burgeoning space area of operations with a move to Colorado Springs in the year 2000.

The ground-breaking ceremony for the missile defense complex at Fort Greely, Alaska was held in June 2002, and the unit was formally activated in January 2004. Bowen commanded the battalion from May of 03 to May of 06, overseeing the emplacements of the first interceptors to guard the nation against ballistic missile attack.

"I am deeply honored and humbled to have been selected as the next commander of the 100th Missile Defense Brigade. After spending most of the past ten years working on strategic missile defense, this assignment will allow me to continue contributing to a mission area that I believe is very important to this nation. I am looking forward to working directly with Soldiers again, as well as with the staff at U.S. Space and Missile Defense Command, Northern Command and the Colorado and Alaska Army National Guard," said Bowen.

He and his wife Kristen have a daughter, Carmen, and currently reside in the Springs.

# Price announced as next 1st Space Bn commander



Photos courtesy of Col. Timothy Coffin

Col. Timothy Coffin, Joint Functional Component Command – Space, J3, administers the oath of office to Lt. Col. J Dave Price, Joint Senior Space Duty Officer and Chief of Special Technical Operations, J39 Division, Joint Functional Component Command – Space.

By Sharon L. Hartman, Public Affairs

**PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo.** — An Army Command Selection Board named a former company commander within the 1st Space Battalion as the battalion's next commander.

Lt. Col. J. Dave Price, currently the Joint Senior Space Duty Officer and Chief of Special Technical Operations, J39 Division, Joint Functional Component Command – Space, will replace current Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Tom James some time during summer 2009.

"I am honored, excited and humbled at the opportunity to serve in the 1st Space Battalion," said Price.

"From STRATCOM and JFCC SPACE, I have heard only glowing remarks about the unit and the Soldiers of the 1st Space Battalion and their exemplary and critical support to the Joint Space mission area. My family and I are looking forward to being a part of this experience and to serve with and for the unit once again."

Price entered the Army in 1985 and

served three years on active duty. In 1990, he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Oklahoma Army National Guard. He graduated from the University of Oklahoma the following year and returned to active duty in 1992. Price has served in assignments in Kentucky, Texas, Oklahoma and Bosnia, and deployed to Iraq with the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment out of Fort Carson, Colo. He served as the 1st Space Battalion's 1st Space Company (Theater Missile Warning) commander from May 2004 - May 2006.

Price graduated from the following Space courses: Space 200, Space 300, Space Operations Officer Qualification Course (FA 40), Space in the Air Operations Center Course and the Inter-service Space Intelligence Operators Course.

The 1st Space Battalion provides Space Support to combatant commanders in the form of Space-based capabilities to include Space Imagery, Space Weather and Early Missile Warning.

James' follow-on assignment has yet to be determined.



Lt. Col. J. Dave Price stands with his wife Linaye and daughters Nikita (12) and Mattie (8) after his recent promotion.

# Veterans who made history make new lasting memories during visit

By Sgt. Michael Cost  
SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs  
100th Missile Defense Brigade

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – Applause rang out Oct. 17 inside the terminal of Baltimore/Washington International Airport as several elderly men and one elderly woman disembarked from a Boeing 737 aircraft to begin a weekend none of them will soon forget.

Whether teary-eyed or smiling proudly, the World War II American veterans walked, caned or moved by wheelchair toward the exit of the airport and into an adventure some may never experience if not for the help of a local Colorado organization.

Rocky Mountain Honor Flight is a unique organization which provides these veterans an opportunity to not only see a historic memorial built in recognition of their service more than 60 years ago, but also enables them to tour the city of Washington D.C. for two days.

"This is all made possible by donations from various other organizations; these veterans do not have to pay for anything," proclaimed Mark Schoenrock, a retired U.S. Army colonel and currently a "Guardian" with RMHF.

"This is all about them and the sacrifice they made ... some of these guys have the most amazing stories," said Schoenrock.

"We were in the Guadalcanal and most of our planes had taken pretty heavy damage, there were five still able to fly, but we only had enough fuel for three," said retired Air Force Col. John Thompson as he stood under the Guadalcanal portion of the Iwo Jima memorial in D.C.

"So three pilots, myself included, hopped in the planes and took off. The men on the front lines were taking quite a beating from the Japanese so we swooped around and did a strafing run down their line taking out quite a few of them," said Thompson. "As you can imagine, when

those boys on the front lines a chance to regroup and press forward," said Thompson with a dead serious look on his face.

"After all of that took place, that ridge where we made our runs was known as 'Bloody Ridge,'" Thompson said.

These trips to the U.S. capitol are a great opportunity not only for these veterans to see the memorials, but to share each other's stories and meet other veterans as well, some of whom served in the same areas and in the same conflicts.

"John Thompson saved our butts," said Bill Allen, a retired United States Marine when speaking of the strafing runs he and the other two pilots did that day at Guadalcanal.

"He kept the Japanese off of our necks and here we are just meeting for the first time," said Allen.

"I sat down and starting talking to him about his story and I just couldn't believe it ... we were both at Bloody Ridge and never knew each other and here we meet ... it's just great," said Allen excitedly.

All these former service members had their accounts of what happened to them; some recalled battles they took part in which have since become a huge part of history in this country.

"I was at the Battle of Iwo Jima for six days and our job was to conduct mop-up operations there," said Gerald Krutsch, a retired Army lieutenant colonel. "I was a staff sergeant at the time and a light weapons section leader. We had the .30 caliber machine gun, 61 milli-meter mortars as well as a Browning Automatic Rifle and several riflemen to give support," said Krutsch.

"We encountered sporadic fighting through-out the six days I was there and by the time we were done — there were only five Japanese survivors," proclaimed Krutsch.

Krutsch and a Japanese survivor of the battle were later featured in a Japanese documentary called "Iwo Jima — The Island of Death." Krutsch received a Bronze Star for

valor during the battle.

These veterans got to tour Washington D.C. and see many different memorials, all at no cost to them. Food was even provided for them by RMHF. Most of them, bound by wheelchairs or having to use walkers to get around with, would have never had the opportunity to be involved in such an adventure due to financial restrictions, overall physical condition or other



Photos by Sgt. Michael Cost

Former U.S. Senator Bob Dole meets with WWII veterans in front of the WWII memorial in Washington D.C. during the veterans' recent trip with the Rocky Mountain Honor Flight. Dole chatted with the veterans for nearly an hour, listening to their stories and sharing his own from the war.

"On this trip we have 35 veterans and 15 guardians," said Schoenrock. "It is up to the Guardians to take care of the veterans, get them to these sights and provide whatever support they need," he said.

It has been more than 60 years since these veterans served in the last world war, one which caused a worldwide mobilization of more than 100 million troops. The trip they took from Colorado to Washington D.C. to see these memorials not only brought back old memories, but also made new ones.

"I think this trip is great," said Krutsch. "It would've never been possible for me otherwise because of the cost and I am very thankful for the opportunity to be here," he said.

Upon arrival back at Denver International Airport main terminal, bagpipes could faintly be heard as the veterans boarded an elevator to meet back up with family members for the ride home.

The elevator doors slid open to reveal a crowd of approximately one hundred grateful American citizens clapping, holding signs stating "Thank you for your service!" Two men in Scottish kilts played hymns on bagpipes as miniature American flags were vigorously waved. It was as if the veterans had returned from the war that day ... and those 60 years had never gone by.

Once again, tears as well as smiles emerged as these veterans completed a three-day trip put together solely to honor them and their sacrifices.

It takes not only donations from various organizations, but dedicated people to make all this possible for the former service members. Although their organization may not be world famous, Rocky Mountain Honor Flight and its volunteers are now a top-notch memory for at least 35 veterans from WWII.

*Note from the author:*

As a 25-year-old combat veteran, I am grateful to have been a "Guardian" on this trip. It was an honor to spend time with the veterans as they visited their memorials throughout Washington D.C. It was a very touching moment for me when these American war heroes viewed the monuments built in honor of their experiences.

I hope every veteran of every war gets the opportunity to take such a trip as time passes and their war fades in the memories of many.

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, for your great service to this nation.



Ret. Marine Corps pilot David Gavin sits and observes from below a model of the same model aircraft he once flew. Gavin shot down two Japanese Zeroes using this same model plane in WWII.

you have a couple thousand Japanese troops firing up at you, you are bound to take a hit. The guy behind me was hit in the coolant but we just turned around, making a second strafe past their line and this time I got hit in the coolant. By the time we were done, you could see the Japanese running back and that allowed circumstances — but the visit was made possible by RMHF.