

JANUARY 24, 2013

A Space & Missile Defense NewsWire

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## Honoring a 'Dream' and a legacy



Photo by Carrie E. David

Mary Peoples, Equal Employment Opportunity program manager, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command; Rev. Earla Lockhart, associate minister, First Missionary Baptist Church, Huntsville, Ala.; Lt. Gen. Richard P. Formica, SMDC commanding general; and Command Sgt. Maj. Larry S. Turner, SMDC command sergeant major, cut the cake following the command's Martin Luther King Jr. ceremony at SMDC's Redstone Arsenal headquarters Jan. 22.



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COMMANDING GENERAL

Lt. Gen. Richard P. Formica

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR

Command Sgt. Maj. Larry S. Turner

DEPUTY TO THE COMMANDER

Ronald E. Chronister

DEPUTY COMMANDING GENERAL FOR OPERATIONS

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# Opinion: Moment of remembrance

By 2nd Lt. Jeanette Padgett  
49th Missile Defense Battalion

January is a time of resolution and fresh starts.

It is also a time to remember Martin Luther King Jr. who is thought to be the greatest and most influential Civil Rights Movement leader.

He was an honest man, raised in a time of oppression and segregation who fought and died to bring forth a vision of equality that he himself would never live to see. A man with faith in a country as great as the United States and a dream that all men should be equal no matter the color of their skin or the amount of money in their wallet.

Born Jan. 15, 1929, King was the son of a Baptist preacher who taught and instilled the belief in King that all men are equal no matter the color of their skin. With the words of his mother, "You are as good as anybody," always in the back of his mind. King graduated from high school at 15 and went on to graduate from Morehouse College at 19. After graduating from college, King's desire for knowledge lead him to attend a school of religion in Pennsylvania where only 100 students attended and of those 100 only five were black. King graduated from the top of his class.

Dec. 1, 1955, changed not only the life of King, but also every man, woman and child in the United States. That was the day Rosa Parks decided she would not give up her seat and move to the back of the bus just because she was black. She was promptly arrested by the Montgomery, Ala., police department. That same night, a meeting was held by the Montgomery black leaders at King's church. They came together and decided to establish a boycott where all black citizens would refuse to ride the city buses until their demands were met.

These leaders, against the wishes of King, elected him president of the organization. From this point on, King was set on a civil rights movement path that would shape the rest his life and also the United States and the lives of its citizens.

On July 2, 1964, after battling for equality for nine years, King was present for the signing of a strong civil rights act by President Lyndon Johnson. This did not end the civil rights battle for King, but it did give the movement the backing of the federal government.

For his hard work and dedication to the Civil Rights Move-

See KING on page 4

# Incoming Army G-3/5/7 learns how SMDC brings space to Soldiers

By Jason Cutshaw  
SMDC Public Affairs

**REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala.** – An Army leader received a detailed and succinct depiction of how the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command supports America’s Warfighters during a brief visit to Redstone Arsenal Jan. 11.

Maj. Gen. (Promotable) James L. Huggins Jr., incoming Army deputy chief of staff, G-3/5/7, spent the day at Redstone Arsenal and visited USASMDC/ARSTRAT. During his visit, Huggins received a command overview and got a first-hand look at the command’s major capabilities for today, tomorrow and the future.

“This is really an orientation for me,” Huggins said. “I came to SMDC because this is one of the major commands and the Army’s component to do the space integration support, and as I got ready to transition into becoming the G-3, I wanted to visit.”

After arriving at SMDC’s headquarters building on Redstone Arsenal, Huggins had a meeting with the command’s leaders and learned how the command provides trained and ready space and missile defense forces.



Photo by Jason Cutshaw

*John London Technical Center, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, explains the SMDC-One nanosatellite to Maj. Gen. (Promotable) James L. Huggins Jr., incoming Army deputy chief of staff, G-3/5/7, during the general's visit to the command and Redstone Arsenal Jan. 11.*

SMDC’s senior civilian talked about the importance of the visit and what it means to the command.

“I think one of the challenges as a command is making sure people understand the relevance of this command and what we do,” said Ronald E. Chronister, SMDC’s deputy to the commander. “We are sort of an unknown organization as we relate to other commands. So to have the future G-3 of the Army here, or any other senior leader, is very vital for them to get an

understanding of our relevance.

“It has been my experience that every one of them has walked away with a totally different perspective of what this command does, and that is very valuable for our Army and for our nation,” he added.

After meeting with Chronister and other leaders in the command, Huggins learned about Army space, high-altitude and missile defense research and development technologies.

See G-3/5/7 on page 12

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# Elite missile defenders honored with awards

**Capt. Michael Odgers**  
**100th MDB Public Affairs**

ALEXANDRIA, Va. – Four Service members were recognized as “Missile Defenders of the Year” during a ceremony at the Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance’s annual gala Jan. 11 in Alexandria, Va.

The award recognizes and honors the contributions of members of the military who man fully operational deployed missile defense systems. The award recognizes members of the Army, Air Force, Navy and Army National Guard who best exhibit leadership, personal effort, and demonstrate a commitment to excellence in missile defense and their critical role in defending the homeland.

This year’s recipients are: Sgt. Aric Wilkins, Army National Guard, Capt. Kyle Kirkpatrick, U.S. Army, Capt. Gregory Tengco, US Air Force, and Fire Controlman 2nd Class Ronald Barbee.

The single-day event included an extensive tour of Mount Vernon and the tomb of George Washington, a reception with members of MDAA, and an award dinner.

“It was a very humbling experience,” remarked Wilkins. “I was



*Photo courtesy of Steven Halperson of Tisara Photography*  
 Capt. Kyle Kirkpatrick, U.S. Army, Capt. Gregory Tengco, U.S. Air Force, Fire Controlman 2nd Class Ronald Barbee and Sgt. Aric Wilkins, Army National Guard, pose for photographs after receiving their “Missile Defender of the Year” awards during a ceremony in Alexandria, Va., Jan. 11. The award is given out each year by the Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance to select individuals that represent the best in leadership, personal effort, commitment to excellence and their critical role in missile defense.

simply overwhelmed by the award itself and the level of appreciation I received for doing just doing my job. To be honored like this was one of the best experiences I have had in my military career.”

“The sincerity, heartfelt passion, awe of appreciation, self humility, and love of missile defense was on full display,” said Riki Ellison, chairman and founder of MDAA. “These four select individuals represent the best in leadership and

personal effort. They are an inspiration to their subordinates, peers, and superiors.”

As the name implies, MDAA is an advocacy organization focused on missile defense. They educate the American public about missile defense issues as well as recruit, organize, and mobilize proponents to advocate for the critical need of missile defense. They are a non-partisan membership-based and membership-funded organization.

## KING from Page 2

ment, King was awarded the Noble Peace Prize in 1964. On April 4, 1968, the Civil Rights Movement faced its greatest challenge when, after 13 years of civil rights battles, at the age of 39, King was shot and killed outside his hotel room.

While a light was extinguished before its time, an idea was born that continued to grow and change a nation. Because of the dedication and sacrifice of King, a nation was forced to look past the color of peoples’ skin and realize that all men are equal.

We must never forget the battles fought and the lives

cut short by the fight for civil rights. Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a day set aside for us as a nation to remember the mistakes of our past, so that we may never repeat those same mistakes in the future.

With that, I ask you, reader, that each Jan. 21, you take a moment to remember the sacrifices made by not only Martin Luther King Jr., but everyone involved in the Civil Rights Movement.

*“Faith is taking the first step even when you don’t see the whole staircase.”*

~ Martin Luther King Jr.

# Honoring Olympian, bombardier, POW survivor

By Sheila Gideon  
Hourglass Managing Editor

**U.S. ARMY KWAJALEIN ATOLL, Marshall Islands** – Louis S. Zamperini’s story is one of service, sacrifice, perseverance and forgiveness, said Commanding General, U.S. Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, Lt. Gen. Richard Formica, Jan. 16 at the dining facility dedication at U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll. Formica was the presiding official at the ceremony, which renamed Café Pacific the “Captain Louis S. Zamperini Dining Facility.”

For a moment in time, Zamperini’s life connected right here with Kwajalein. He survived 47 days drifting in the Pacific Ocean, followed by 42 days of intense interrogations on Kwajalein, which was known then as “Execution Island.” He then survived two years as a Japanese prisoner of war. The dining facility on Kwajalein will not be the first place named for Zamperini.

“Today, at U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll, we will add another place to the list of locations bearing his name,” Formica said during his address. “Our intent is to inspire current and future generations of Soldiers and civilians who serve here at Kwajalein with the spirit of service, sacrifice, perseverance, commitment and character embodied by Captain Louis Zamperini.”



Photo by Sheila Gideon

**From left, Lt. Gen. Richard Formica, SMDC commanding general; Command Sgt. Maj. Larry Turner, SMDC command sergeant major; RMI President Christopher Loeak; and Ambassador Thomas Armbruster unveil the new plaque that will hang inside the Captain Louis S. Zamperini Dining Facility. The dining hall was rededicated Jan. 16.**

Kwajalein residents and distinguished guests gathered in front of the dining facility Wednesday for the unveiling of the new building sign and Zamperini plaque and mural placed inside. Distinguished visitors included: Republic of the Marshall Islands President Christopher Loeak; RMI First Lady, Lioem Anono Loeak; Minister in Assistance to the President, Tony deBrum; Foreign Minister of the RMI, Phillip Muller, and his wife, Yolanda; Kwajalein Senators Michael Kabua and Jeban Riklon; Chief Secretary Casten Nemra; and U.S. Ambassador to the

RMI, Thomas Armbruster.

Muller was the first guest speaker of the day.

“President Loeak and his delegation are delighted to join you here today,” he began. “It is people like the man that we honor today ... who gives us hope for when things get tough. ... The dedication and naming of this facility after this heroic man is most fitting and proper.”

Muller recognized all the men and women who have served their countries and, like Zamperini, are courageous and selfless.

See ZAMPERINI on page 9

# Space warriors get new CSM

DJ Montoya  
SMDC Public Affairs

**PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo.** – Three senior noncommissioned officers were honored during a recent Change of Responsibility ceremony that took place Jan. 10 at the 302nd Airlift Wing Headquarters Auditorium on Peterson.

The event heralded the relinquishment of responsibility within the 1st Space Battalion between outgoing Sgt. Maj. Marcus L. Jones, and incoming Command Sgt. Maj. Virgil L. Ebrecht Jr.

Following the time honored tradition of passing the NCO's sword, Lt. Col. Patrick J. Mullin, battalion commander said, "This ceremony signifies an important transition of responsibility from Sgt. Maj. Jones to Command Sgt. Maj. Ebrecht. This ceremony also gives me and the Space Warrior Team, an opportunity to recognize the selfless service of Command Sgt. Maj. Luther Harris Jr., as the battalion command sergeant major from August 2001 until this past summer.

"As most of you here know Harris was diagnosed with a heart condition that required multiple surgeries, and as a result of his medical status, he was unable to participate in a ceremony like this one today. We are fortunate and happy that he is here with us today with his wife Tonaz."

Mullin continued by thanking Harris for his time and contributions to the battalion saying, "A great command sergeant major is the



Photo by DJ Montoya

**Command Sgt. Maj. Virgil Ebrecht Jr. performs his first act as the new command sergeant major for the 1st Space Battalion during a Change of Responsibility ceremony on Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., Jan. 10. Ebrecht takes over the role of command sergeant major from Sgt. Maj. Marcus Jones who has served as interim for the past seven months.**

standards bearer who lives the Army values.

"Fortunately the 1st Space Brigade leadership allowed Sgt. Maj. Jones to take responsibility for the 1st Space Battalion. The duration of this move was initially uncertain and a difficult task," Mullins said. "However, I've come to realize there is no task too great for Sgt. Maj. Jones. He too is a great command sergeant major. And the battalion has been blessed to have him for the past seven months."

Jones returns to his old position of sergeant major for the 1st Space Brigade's Operations Division.

He then turned to his new command sergeant major saying,

"Welcome back to the Army Space Warrior Team. 1st Space Battalion is a unique unit. At first glance it may seem overwhelming to you due to the number of different missions we execute on a daily basis. Some of these mission areas may be new to you, but leadership is not."

During Jones' acknowledgements he gave a sergeant major nod to Harris by saying, "Command Sgt. Maj. Harris, you have made a difficult situation almost seamless. I could never hope to fill your shoes and I didn't try to. But your support to me has been absolutely critical and appreciated."

See CSM on page 14

# CSMs gather for tri-state board

By Sgt. Benjamin Crane  
100th MDB Public Affairs

**COLORADO SPRINGS Colo.** – Being an enlisted ground-based midcourse defense air defender is not easy or glamorous. But it's an important job very few get to do. When it comes to getting promoted as such, that's a process as rare as the air defenders themselves.

Ground Based Midcourse Defense is the system utilized to defend the nation against ballistic missile attacks. The only unit in the Army given that mission is the 100th Missile Defense Brigade, which makes the T3 identifier a unique military occupation specialty.

In addition, this multi-component brigade is spread among three different states' National Guards – Colorado, California and Alaska. So when it comes time for a promotion, Soldiers not only have to impress those in their state, they have to make it through a review process between the three states.

For there to be any upward mobility, the three states' National Guards have found a way to review these Soldiers and pick out those who fit the criteria in which to be put on top of the promotions list.

Sergeants Major from each state meet twice a year in one of the three states to meet face-to-face and review each Soldier's packet. While this is a common prac-

tice for all states, what is unique is that three different states, with three different promotion systems combine for the purpose of evaluating GMD missile defenders for promotion.

"The creation of the tri-state board specifically was because of the missile defense mission," said Sgt. Maj. Herald London, state Sergeant Major for California. "It's the uniqueness of the 14 series that makes this process necessary."

To avoid having to travel to the same location each time, the board is rotated between Alaska, California and Colorado.

"This year, the fall board was to be here at the brigade, in Colorado, and the spring board will be held in California," said Staff Sgt. Kimberly Pinney, an administration non-commissioned officer for the 100th MDB.

Typically these meetings take place at the state's headquarters, and getting the Soldiers together who make the decisions presents its own sets of problems.

"Getting the Sergeants Major to pick a day, with their busy schedules is very trying," said Pinney.

But once they all get in the same room is when all the work in this unique process starts, said London.

See TRI-STATE on page 13

## Dental Readiness Classification changing

SMDC Command Surgeon Office

Second only to fighting and winning the nation's wars, the health of the force is a critical Army priority. People are the Army, and healthy Soldiers and families are vital to remaining the nation's force of decisive action—ready today and prepared for tomorrow. The surgeon general of the Army has emphasized the importance of advancing health and wellness of Soldiers and decreasing risk of personnel losses to disease and non-battle injury during deployment.

Soldiers who have active dental disease that requires treatment are at increased risk of becoming a dental casualty. The Army has classified those Soldiers in the dental readiness classification system as DRC-2 and DRC-3. Soldiers who are DRC-3 have advanced dental disease, and are coded as "red" (nondeployable) in MEDPROS, while Soldiers who are DRC-2 are coded as "green" (deployable). A Soldier with no dental dis-

ease is classified as DRC-1. The DRC-3 Soldiers are eight times more likely to have a dental emergency than DRC-1 Soldiers. Dental emergencies are potentially life-threatening, and often require medical evacuation for treatment, which puts other Soldiers at risk as well.

To minimize personnel losses to DNBI and increase oral wellness, the assistant secretary of defense for Health Affairs has set a goal of having 65 percent of Soldiers meet the requirements necessary to fall under the DRC-1 category. This has resulted in changing the color coding of dental readiness classifications effective 1 February 2013.

After Feb. 1, DRC-2 classified Soldiers will now be color coded "amber" instead of "green." There will be no color code change for DRC-1, DRC-3 or DRC-4 previous classifications.

See DENTAL on page 12

# SMDC ensures safety is No. 1 priority

By Jason B. Cutshaw  
SMDC Public Affairs

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala. – Leaders from U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command recently held a forum that allowed senior leaders to focus on current safety issues, share lessons learned and identify efforts to mitigate accidents and optimize command missions and resources.

The SMDC Command Safety and Occupational Health Advisory Councils are held semiannually and are chaired by the commanding general or his designated representative. The command utilizes this forum to discuss safety issues and mitigation efforts to negate future accidents.

“As the command safety director, I ensure the coordination and administration of the council in an effort to bring the commanders and senior leaders together to discuss accident trends, trend analysis, any new guidance or safety issues that the brigades or major subordinate elements may be experiencing,” said Randy Joyner, command safety director. “This is so we can bring them up to the commanding general’s level during the council for resolution.”

During the last council meeting, Col. Kevin Michaels, SMDC command surgeon, spoke about cold weather casualties and injuries

and how to protect members of the SMDC team. During his briefing, he talked about the dangers of chilblain, hypothermia, frostbite, immersion foot and carbon monoxide poisoning.

“I discussed the importance of commanders’ awareness for cold weather injuries,” Michaels said. “I put an emphasis on cold weather injuries such as frostbite prevention, having appropriate equipment and clothing, and also carbon dioxide poisoning. Although it is not a cold weather injury, people try to move grills inside without properly aerating the room.

“I think I was successful,” he added. “I know a lot of our leadership learned something and that is the important thing.”

Also, the council discussed the different classes of accidents and ways to prevent them. The classes range from monetary damage to injuries and possible fatalities.

“One of the things we talked about was the categories of accidents,” Joyner said. “Our highest category is ‘Personal Injury: Other.’ This consists of slips, trips and falls or any accident that doesn’t fit in another category, for example, one of the last accidents we had was when an individual doing PT strained his back. This type of incident was 64 percent of our accidents in fiscal year 2012.”

Joyner spoke about how the council is designed to learn from accidents

**"Disciplined stewards of our nation's resources – accountable cost culture – audit ready  
Precise, confident, fit, disciplined, courageous Soldiers and Civilians; tough, caring, courageous leaders; committed to safety in all that we do..."**

*Lt. Gen. Richard P. Formica  
Commanding General  
U.S. Army Space and Missile  
Defense Command/Army Forces  
Strategic Command*

so members of the command can prevent them from reoccurring in the future.

“The importance of the council is that it goes back to the purpose of bringing commanders together to be able to talk about issues that they are having, to capture lessons learned and to mitigate accidents in the future for safety prevention,” Joyner said. “This is not the only safety council we have. We also have the Quarterly Safety Councils where the additional duty safety officers and the collateral duty safety officers, who are from each section in the command, also assist us with identifying safety issues that could be in the work area.”

He also wanted to remind people that safety is important and that every accident and incident needs to be reported to section representatives in each office or directly to the command Safety Office.

Deadline for comments and submissions for the Feb. 7 issue is Feb. 1.

Please submit to Carrie David at [Carrie.E.David3.civ@mail.mil](mailto:Carrie.E.David3.civ@mail.mil).

## Shariki Orphanage gets visit from Santa



Courtesy photo

*The Shariki Samurai Sports Club sponsored a Christmas party for the local Shariki Orphanage with funds it earned throughout the year. Each child at the orphanage turned in a Christmas list with one present on it, and with funds earned throughout the year, the SSSC purchased the gift for each child. In addition to the individual presents, SSSC donated guitars, a drum set, and a few motorized go-carts. Members of SSSC dressed as Santa and Mrs. Claus to distribute presents to the orphans. In all, the SSSC spent a total of \$9,000 on the event. SSSC is a Misawa Air Base sponsored club comprising members from Shariki Communication Site.*

### Zamperini from Page 5

“Perhaps I may suggest that ... in the future, if there is a chance, that the command can work with the RMI government to name and dedicate one of the facilities after a Marshallese of similar distinction, especially the brave ancestors of our irojjes today,” Muller said. “I know that the friendship and close relationship between our two governments and peoples remains strong and will endure long into the future. The RMI is proud to be a partner in this mutual defense cooperation. We will continue to value this special relationship.”

The RMI government recessed their parliament in order to make the trip to Kwajalein for the dedication and to visit with Formica.

Armbruster spoke next, highlighting the similarities between Zamperini’s character and the Marshallese.

“We’re here to celebrate an American hero. ... The qualities we admire in Louis Zamperini – determination, resilience, resourcefulness – are also qualities that have allowed the Marshallese people to thrive on these

narrow strips of land.”

Armbruster said it appealed to him to be able to share the story of Zamperini with Marshallese friends who understand the perils of the sea and what it means to never give up.

“World War II taught us that there is no isolation from the world. ... The Marshalls are considered remote, but there was no escape from the war.” In the end, that’s what Louis Zamperini’s example teaches us, Armbruster said. “There are no insurmountable problems. If he can become an Olympic athlete, survive brutal captivity and survive at sea, what problem, what challenges are too big for us? None.”

Formica closed the ceremony by recounting Zamperini’s life tale and how he was able to overcome, despite dismal odds. The plaque, sign and mural were unveiled for the community and visitors to see. Formica visited Zamperini and his family Jan. 18 and delivered a DVD of the dedication ceremony.

# Kwaj radar achieves 'first'

**Sharon Watkins Lang**  
SMDC Command Historian

The U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll ZEUS Acquisition Radar received its first signal returns from an Intercontinental ballistic missile ICBM on Jan. 24, 1962. This was the initial test of the ZAR against a real target.

The ZAR was one of four radars in the NIKE-ZEUS anti-ballistic missile system constructed on Kwajalein. It worked in concert with a discrimination radar, two target track radars, three missile track radars, battery control equipment, a target interceptor computer, and four ZEUS launch cells. The ZAR was a track-while-scan radar that would scan the heavens to locate potential targets approaching the protected area. The data was transmitted to the discrimination radar, which would analyze the possible threats and select the targets from the decoys. This information was then forwarded to the target track radars. In an era with few onboard guidance systems, the missile track radars would guide the interceptor.

The largest single construction project of the early 1960s, the ZAR complex consisted of a transmitter, a receiver and a power plant. The ZAR Transmitter consisted of three antenna arrays in a horizontal triangular arrangement. Rotating in a horizontal plane at three and a half revolutions per minute, the three-sided transmitter could scan 100 million cubic miles of space per second. Operating in the L-band, each transmitter, equipped with two wideband klystron tubes, could be set to operate at its own frequency. This design



*Courtesy photo*

*The ZEUS Acquisition Radar receiver was housed atop an eight-story building. The receiver revolved "on the world's largest precision ball bearing – 1.35 feet in diameter."*

and method of operation produced new images every six seconds.

Search signals from the transmitter were bounced back to the ZAR receiver, which was designed to rotate in sync with the transmitter. The receiver was a Luneberg lens with an associated reflecting ground plane. The "solid, hemispherical" lens itself was "constructed of thousands of polyfoam blocks, containing fine metal slivers, to obtain the necessary variation in dielectric constant."

Feed horns and related equipment were situated on a truss system at the periphery of the lens. Incoming signals then would be focused by the lens and reflected by the ground plane and received by one or more of the feed horns, based upon the azimuth and elevation of the signal. The subsequent data was processed by the ZAR's signal processing equipment, which would detect and consolidate radar returns, initiate



*Courtesy photo*

*Installation of the ZEUS Acquisition Radar receiver signal processing group in November 1961.*

tracks of new objects, maintain existing tracks, comparing new positions with expected locations based on earlier data, and predict impact points. It was this parameter that determined which objects were threatening. The ZAR complex on Kwajalein was deactivated two years later in November 1964. The ZAR would be replaced by a new phased array radar the Multifunction Array Radar or MAR.



Courtesy photo

*Sgt. Michael Skeens, Detachment 10, 100th Missile Defense Brigade, pounds mochi as a member of the Japanese Air Self Defense Force wets and folds the mochi during a traditional ceremony in Tsugaru Japan Dec. 28. Mochi is a rice cake made from pounding cooked glutinous rice. It is eaten as cakes or molded and filled with anything from red-bean paste to ice cream.*

## Det. 10 Soldiers pound it!

**Capt. Michael Odgers**  
100th MDB Public Affairs

Detachment Soldiers located in Shariki, Japan attended a local mochi pounding ceremony with members of the Japan Air Self Defense Force stationed at the Shariki Sub-Base and the Tsugaru Police Dec 28.

Mochi is a Japanese rice cake made of glutinous rice pounded into a moldable paste. The traditional dish is eaten alone or molded and filled with anything from red-bean paste to ice cream.

Traditionally mochi is made during a ceremony where two men work together. One man strikes the rice in a curved bowl with a large

wooden mallet while the other man wets and folds the mochi in between strikes of the hammer. Two men teams work together in a very quick rhythm. The man wetting the mochi often awes the onlookers by avoiding being hit.

After the ceremony, the Soldiers presented their handmade mochi to the residents of a Japanese nursing home in the nearby city of Tsugaru.

“Any event with our JASDF friends ends up being a great time, even if it’s back-breaking work,” remarked Sgt. Michael Skeens, the detachment supply sergeant. “The best part of the day was seeing the elderly people’s faces light up when

they received the mochi we made that day.”

Nearby the Shariki Communication site is a Shariki Sub Base. The commander, Lt. Col Hosaka, has welcomed the Detachment Soldiers and included them in every military and cultural event they hold.

“The JASDF have really helped us build a positive relationship here in the community by inviting us to participate in these events,” said Maj. Thomas Stockton, commander, Detachment 10, 100th Missile Defense Brigade. “This is a fantastic cultural experience that many Americans stationed in this country don’t get to experience.”

**G-3/5/7 from Page 3**

“It was a great opportunity to brief the general,” said Mark Ray, general engineer, SMDC Technical Center, Space Division. “We got a chance to brief him on our nanosatellite tracking technology and what we’ve been able to do with our SMDC-One nanosats. We also showed him some technology demonstrations that are going to help our Soldiers with beyond-line-of-sight communications on the battlefield.”

Huggins also received a Joint Air Defense Operations Center-Development Test Lab overview and demo, and a Concepts Analysis Lab tour and briefing.

“It is an honor to have the Army G-3 visit the CAL. We didn’t expect to get a person in his position to come here,” said Kevin Nash, CAL supervisor. “We are really pleased to be able to tell him about what we do and how we are developing our students here into a technically astute workforce. It also gives us a chance to talk about some of the hands-on things they get to work on that helps contribute to the Warfighters’ efforts.

“We talked about our support to the counter-rockets, artillery and mortars program, and the radar we take out and support the testing before our troops deploy to the field,” he added. “We also showed him some of the small satellite work and how we support the Tech Center’s space technology program with model and simulation support for our ground stations.”

Before leaving the command to meet with other Redstone Arsenal organizations, Huggins explained what he took away from his visit.

“I think things are in pretty good shape here,” Huggins said. “The command has created some good synergy here in Huntsville. Thanks for the visit and I hope to get back this way soon.”

**Global warming strikes the South**

*Photo by Carrie E. David*

***Snow covered parts of Alabama Jan. 16, and concerns over road safety caused leaders to decided to dismiss the Redstone Arsenal workforce early. All was well the next day because warmer temperatures allowed everything that fell to melt.***

**DENTAL from Page 7**

So, where are Soldiers going to see this change? The change will be reflected in MEDPROS and the AKO home page under My Professional Data, My Medical Readiness Status. If the Soldier selects the link to My Medical Readiness Status, another page will open and his or her medical readiness indicators will be presented on the right side of the page. All the indicators should be green. The Dental Readiness indicator will have three color codes (see chart above).

The color change has no impact on the Soldier’s deployability. It will only garner additional attention for oral wellness.

Dental readiness is each person’s responsibility. In addition to regular brushing and flossing, chew xylitol gum three to five times a day, after a meal or snack, to protect teeth from cavities and get an annual dental exam.

# Do you need fiscal law training?

By **SMDC G-8 Office**

Who is everyone?

All military officers; financial, program, and project managers; engineers; contracting; information system; comptroller personnel; and commanders, supervisors and managers. These positions require appropriated law or fiscal law training every three years per Department of Defense Financial Management Regulation, Volume 14, Chapter 2. Audit readiness requires documentation retention to assure appropriate training is complete.

Commanders and supervisors must identify key fund control personnel and incorporate this training into required training programs. Key fund control personnel are those responsible for the proper assignment of funding on a commitment or obligation document before the obligation is incurred. Examples are comptrollers, resource managers, fund holders, funds certifying officials, and authorizing officials.

Training shall include the basics of fund control, the ADA statute, and related funding statutes; the types of violations that can occur; the most frequent types of violations that occur within DoD and their causes and methods for preventing violations.

The following guidance is provided by the deputy assistant secretary of the Army for financial operations, "It has always been our office's policy to allow organizations the flexibility to allow individuals to meet the training requirement by taking courses that an organization deems fit and provides the necessary knowledge to perform duties based on a person's level of responsibility. With that said, you may take any fiscal law and/or appropriation law 'type' course that provides the necessary tools to perform the job."

The DoD financial management community sponsors professional development courses some of which are available online, while others are in-seat only:

- Army Comptroller and Advanced Resource Management Programs at Syracuse University, N.Y.
- Naval Post Graduate School at Monterey, Calif.
- Defense Financial Management and Comptroller School at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.
- U.S. Army Judge Advocate General School at Charlottesville, Va. (available online)
- Enhanced Defense Financial Management training course includes fiscal law

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## TRI-STATE from Page 7

"They go a little farther than most (enlisted promotions board) board processes would," said London. "You wouldn't have E-9s looking at E-4s and E-5s in a normal EPS process. You would have E-7s look at them. But because this 14 series is a very narrow band of Soldier pool added with the complexity of the mission, if you're not in space and missile defense you're not going to understand it and how they work."

They look at about 15 Soldiers who have already been selected by their own individual states boards.

"What's interesting is that this process has survived several changes of senior enlisted leaders and continues to get better," said London.

The sergeants major have to evaluate all the Soldiers who carry the 14 series MOS. From that list, they must select the most qualified Soldiers to be put on the promotion list. Their primary goal once they determine criteria is to find Soldiers who have the qualities and job experience/locations that can separate them from the crowd.

The 100th MDB and its subordinate units, Detach-

ment One, located at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., and the 49th Missile Defense Battalion, at Fort Greely, Alaska, are the only positions that this MOS can be promoted at, and they are the place in which NCOs can get the unique development to make themselves competitive for the next grade. This is one of the many reasons a tri-state board is used.

"It's the idea of the 'whole Soldiers concept,'" added Pinney. "It's not just one or two things that make a great Soldier. It's everything."

Soldiers can make themselves stand out by having good physical training and marksmanship scores, but also by being willing to work at two or three different locations that the 100th MDB occupies.

Getting picked out the crowd is only half the battle. There are slots that need to open. But to even be considered to get promoted, one has to make it on the list by being selected in the tri-state boards.

"I think it's very a fair process," added London. "I think it's a great program, it's doing the right thing by these Soldiers."

# DoD focuses on financial health of military

By Nick Simeone

*American Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON – Since it can directly affect force readiness, the financial health of service members and their families is a high priority for the Defense Department, and a senior DOD official emphasized that January is a great time for military families to take stock of their financial situation.

As part of a Department-wide effort to encourage military families to avoid debt by creating a workable spending plan, Barbara Thompson, director of the Pentagon's office of Family Policy/Children and Youth outlined steps families can take and the resources that are available to them for achieving financial stability.

"The first step in attaining financial security is making a commitment to changing personal spending and savings habits," Thompson recently told American Forces Press Service and the Pentagon Channel.

It's important, she said, that military families manage their income to meet financial obligations and achieve long term goals.

"When you map your money coming in against your money going out, you are one step closer to paying off debt, building savings and feeling confident about your financial status," Thompson said.

Eliminating debt is the key, but Thompson stressed not all debt is created equal. High-interest credit card debt, she said, should be paid off first.

"We know when we go through financial planning that it is important to look at our credit cards ... and if we don't pay off those credit cards every month [it's important to find out] how much interest is being

charged," Thompson said.

"If you overdid holiday spending," she added, "take some time to make a plan for paying off your debt and planning for next year's gifts."

Establishing an emergency fund is necessary to achieving financial stability, said Thompson, who recommended military families put a minimum of \$500 aside for unexpected expenses.

There are a range of tools and services available to military personnel and their families to help them create a spending plan and remain financially stable, Thompson said. The service branches provide financial counselors at military bases, she said, and personal financial management assistance programs to help military families successfully plan for the future.

Thompson recommends military families visit the website, [militaryonesource.mil](http://militaryonesource.mil), to access money management tips and tools.

"There are all these different financial calculators and tips and tools to help you understand how you can meet your savings goals," she said.

Financial readiness is a priority for the Pentagon, Thompson said, because it can have a direct effect on mission and force readiness.

"When service members feel confident that their financial affairs are secure, they can focus on their mission without worrying about things at home," she said.

DOD officials also note that financial security is a force readiness issue in another key respect: falling into debt can jeopardize the ability of service members to maintain the security clearances they need to do their jobs.

## CSM from Page 6

Jones then turned to his replacement and said, "Command Sgt. Maj. Ebrecht welcome back to the 1st Space Battalion in Colorado Springs. You are the right leader at the right time for this awesome responsibility. You have a great team, and I know your experience and leadership will make them better."

Ebrecht closed the day's event by saying, "This job involves Soldiers and their families. To me, that is the number one priority."

Looking at Mullin he continued, "Today we start a new team sir. Success is important for the 1st Space Battalion, for our families, for our Soldiers, and for everyone within the command. This job is

important. This is Warrior 7, ready and prepared for action – Army Space, Army Strong!"

The 1st Space Battalion plans, coordinates, and integrates space support to the Warfighter. The Soldiers of the battalion leverage lethal and non-lethal fires to support the land component commander as he prosecutes the deep fight.