

# THE EAGLE

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## Missile defense Soldiers meet with JCS senior enlisted advisor



*Sgt. Maj. Bryan Battaglia, right, senior enlisted advisor to the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, examines an aerial view of the Missile Defense Complex on Fort Greely, Alaska, with Sgt. Michael Olsen, operations noncommissioned officer, 49th Missile Defense Battalion. Battaglia visited the battalion's missile site during a state wide tour of the operational area of United States Army Alaska.*



*Photos by Staff Sgt. Jack Carlson III  
Sgt. Miranda Otero, communications operator, 49th Missile Defense Battalion, discusses her duties in the Fire Direction Center with Sgt. Maj. Bryan Battaglia, senior enlisted advisor to the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff. Multiple fire direction crews cover the constant responsibility of defending the United States in the event of an intercontinental ballistic missile launch that threatens the nation.*



*The moon sets over a fence line on the Missile Defense Complex at Fort Greely, Alaska.*



FEBRUARY 21, 2013

U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command publishes the Eagle bi-weekly as a digital newswire. The newswire is an authorized publication of the USASMDC/ARSTRAT in accordance with AR 360-1. The SMDC commanding general has directed that the publication of this periodical is necessary in the transaction of the public business as required by law. The views and opinions expressed in the Eagle are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army or SMDC. The Eagle is intended to inform members of the command on happenings within the Army space and missile defense community. Distribution is made to the service members, civilians and contractors, and to the general public.

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## SMDC celebrates Black History Month



Photo by Jason B. Cutshaw

*Dr. O. Wendell Davis, pastor at Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Huntsville, Ala., speaks at the U.S. Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command's Black History Month observance Feb. 14. The observance, hosted by the command's Equal Opportunity/Equal Employment Office, was an opportunity for members of SMDC to come together and learn from and gain a better understanding of USASMDC/ARSTRAT's multi-cultural workforce and their history. EEO also sponsored a similar celebration in Colorado Springs, Colo., scheduled for today.*

## Bible study group to meet

The SMDC Chaplain's Office will be hosting a weekly Bible study Wednesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in room 1054. It is open to everyone, and participants may bring a lunch. For more information, call (256) 955-1078.

# ARSST 2 Soldiers return safely home

By DJ Montoya  
SMDC/ARSTRAT

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. – Five members of Army Space Support Team 2, 2nd Space Company, 1st Space Battalion, were lauded during a redeployment ceremony at the 302nd Airlift Wing Headquarters auditorium Feb. 14.

The Army space warriors returning from a year's tour of duty in theater are: Maj. Kert Switzer, team leader; Capt. Erin Fella, deputy team leader; Staff Sgt. Theresa Escarciga, noncommissioned officer in charge/Intelligence NCO; Sgt. Andrew Smith, topographic NCO; and Spc. Samantha Bryen, information system and network technician.

Before a group made up of 1st Space Brigade personnel and family members, Col. James Meisinger, commander of the 1st Space Brigade, congratulated the team for its efforts in theater.

"This is a great event welcoming this team back," Meisinger said. "There are a couple of things that stand out about ARSST 2 – leadership, technical expertise, and results. Those are the three things this team became known for during their year's time in Regional Command East."

Meisinger pointed to the team's ability to take some technical tools, make them better and then export them around the theater, which contributed to tying together various forces and regional commands.

"The mission to kill the enemy would not have happened without what this team put together," Meisinger said. "This was a great accomplishment that really raises the bar high."

"We recognize their sacrifice and their service and say job well done," said Lt. Col. Patrick Mullin, 1st Space Battalion commander, before receiving the mission coin from ARSST 2 leader Switzer.

"We also take this opportunity to thank the family



Photo by DJ Montoya

*Maj. Kert Switzer, center, Army Space Support Team 2 leader, returns the 1st Space Battalion mission coin to Lt. Col. Patrick Mullin (left), commander of the 1st Space Battalion, signifying 'mission accomplished' during a redeployment ceremony Feb. 14 at the 302nd Airlift Wing Headquarters Auditorium, Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. Capt. Erin Fella, deputy team leader looks on. ARSST 2 has been deployed to Afghanistan for the past year. Their mission involved delivering space-based capabilities to the Warfighter on the ground.*

members of these fine Soldiers. Without their dedication, without their sacrifice, these Soldiers could not execute the mission."

"Back in November of 2012 the battalion sergeant major and I had the opportunity to go out to Bagram, Afghanistan and visit with ARSST 2. And similarly, to teams before them, they were very busy improving their 'fox holes.' They were passionate about the mission. Actually it was pretty exciting to see."

According to Mullin, one of the things they developed – spearheaded by Fella – allows commanders to visualize the enemy situation.

"Pretty phenomenal work using outside the box thinking and know-how to make stuff happen, but

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# Missile defenders make a splash to survive

By Capt. Michael Odgers  
100th Missile Defense Bde.

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. – Before the sun came up, Soldiers from the 100th Missile Defense Brigade (Ground-based Midcourse Defense) were taking a swim at the base pool here Jan. 25.

Rather than donning swimsuits, they were in full uniform, complete with ruck sack and rubberized M-16s. The Soldiers were participating in water survival training.

The training, which included some Soldiers from the 117th Space Battalion, and 1st Space Brigade, combined elements of Army Training Circular 21-21, Water Survival Training with Physical Fitness elements.

The first job was to test the swimming abilities of the Soldiers by having them tread water in their uniform, boots and helmet for at least two-and-a-half minutes.



Photo by Capt. Michael Odgers

*Spc. Mark Risner, 100th Missile Defense Brigade (Ground-based Midcourse Defense), hits the water during a water survival class put on by Headquarters Battery Jan. 25 at the Air Force Academy Base Pool.*

“I consider myself a strong swimmer,” said Sgt Cristina Cost, a Soldier with the 100th MDB. “With uniform, boots and gear on, it was a lot more challenging than I thought it would be.”

Next, Capt. Ronald Bailey, demonstrated how to water proof a ruck-sack. He placed a ruck sack full of clothing items into a plastic bag, removed the air and sealed it with nylon "550" cord.

This made the ruck sack buoyant enough to float on.

“This was a bit of a confidence check,” said Bailey. “Many of the Soldiers were genuinely surprised at just how buoyant a water-proofed ruck could be. Now when you add your basic load it should maintain at least neutral buoyancy.”

Then the two groups of Soldiers went through a series of water survival drills, from swimming tactically with a weapon and rucksack to simply treading water with a ruck on.

“This was excellent, well put together training,” said Staff Sgt. Clayton Mullins. “It was a great opportunity to jump in the pool with all your gear on.”

## Keeping travel funds from going down the drain

By Derek Hunt  
G-8 accounting division

During the economical hardship of budget cuts and an increasing deficit, it is imperative that each agency use their travel fund resources wisely.

Travelers who fail to file a voucher in a timely manner cause the organization and/or program to lose thousands of dollars in the year of execution.

It is mandated by the Department of Defense and noted in the Defense Travel Regulations that “All claims must be submitted within five working days of return to or arrival at the Place of Duty Station (PDS),” per DODFMR Volume 9, Chapter 8 Section 080501.

DOD sets U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command goals and monitors its progress toward achieving them through the Joint Reconciliation Program.

Currently, USASMDC/ARSTRAT’s travel related goals for unsubmitted vouchers are set at an 80 percent reduction from the prior reporting periods. As of January, SMDC is within 32 percent of achieving its goal.

To assist travelers in meeting the organizational goal, G-8 runs an Un-Submitted Voucher Report each month. The first notice a traveler receives is a mass e-mail from the Un-Submitted Voucher Report within DTS.

The second notice a traveler receives will include their immediate supervisor and/or approving official informing them about the overdue filing status and the dollar amount obligated in the accounting system.

To mitigate the quantity of unsubmitted vouchers and encourage timely submission, all supervisors and/or approving officials must ensure and validate that travelers adhere to these guidelines: file vouchers timely, conserve travel funds and, ensure the organization or program is using travel dollars judiciously.

# CTV-01 test launch a success

By Sgt. Benjamin Crane  
100th Missile Defense Bde.

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. – The sight of tail smoke lasted in the air long after the actual object launched over the Ronald Reagan viewing site here Jan. 26.

The Missile Defense Agency successfully launched their three-stage boosted, Ground-Based Interceptor to collect data and assist the MDA to characterize the flight environment of the Exoatmospheric Kill Vehicle.

“We use a realistic environment to go out and test and validate the improvements we’ve made to the Interceptor, and that the improvements are actually the right ones and the ones we need,” Debra Christman, spokesperson for the Missile Defense Agency.

While, there was no target for the EKV to engage during this launch, a great deal of data is still collected.

To collect the data from the launch MDA uses a variety of sensors to track the EKV’s flight through the sky.

“It will be probably several weeks before we collect all of the data. There are several ground and air sensors gathering data from this test,” said Christman.

Ground-Based Midcourse Defense is the element of the Integrated Ballistic Missile Defense System that provides combatant commanders the capability to engage and destroy limited intermediate and intercontinental ballistic missile threats in the exoatmospheric battle space to protect the United States.

The EKV is the component that



Photo by Airman Yvonne Morales

**A Ground-Based Interceptor, an element of the overall Ground-Based Midcourse Defense system, was launched recently from north Vandenberg Air Force Base by 30th Space Wing officials and the U.S. Missile Defense Agency.**

uses the kinetic energy from a direct hit to destroy the incoming target. It is a sensor-propulsion package that collides with the re-entry vehicle. Hit-to-kill technology has been proven in a number of MDA flight tests.

The 100th Missile Defense Brigade worked closely with the MDA and the 30th Space Wing to complete this successful mission.

Once all the data is collected, another launch will be performed in late spring or early summer.

# Flying Doctors possible Marshall Islands partners

By Sheila C. Gideon  
USASMDC/ARSTRAT

U.S. ARMY KWAJALEIN ATOLL, Marshall Islands – "Our mission statement is that we bring hope and healing to a needy world," said Allan Gathercoal, president and founder of the Flying Doctors of America.

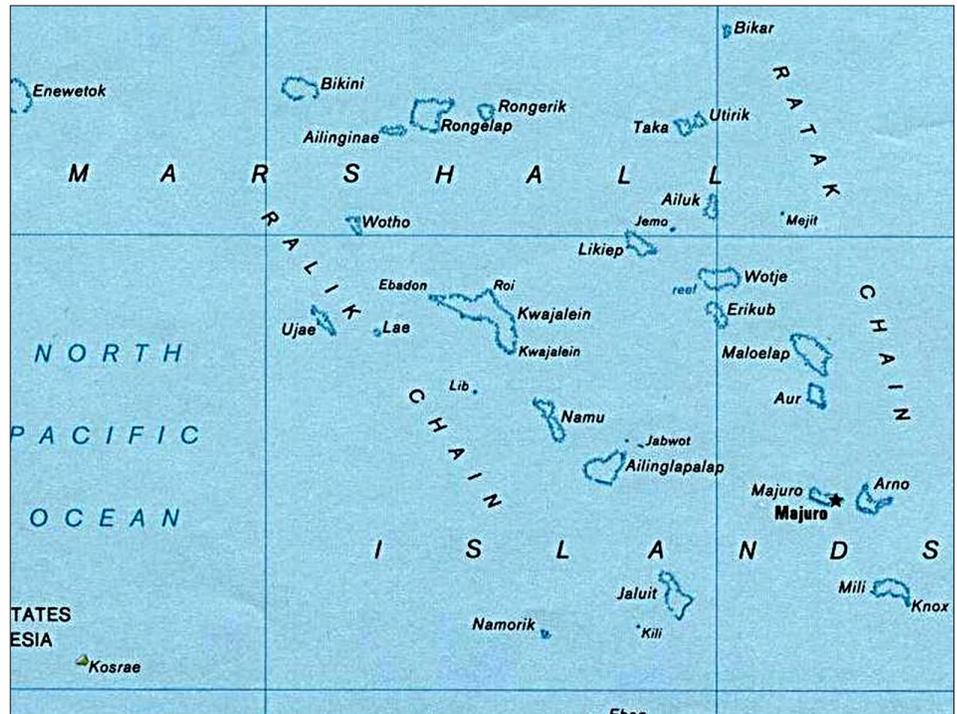
For more than 20 years, Flying Doctors of America has been bringing together physicians, dentists, nurses, chiropractors, other health professionals and non-medical support volunteers to care for people who otherwise would never receive professional medical care. They were recently in the Republic of the Marshall Islands for two weeks to provide medical clinics on Majuro, Ebeye and six outer atolls: Ujae, Lae, Wotho, Arno, Jaluit and Wotje.

The Flying Doctors were brought in through RMI Ambassador to the U.S., Charles Paul. One of Paul's objectives when he became ambassador was to look for doctors and bring them into the RMI.

"I got the opportunity to meet and develop a working relationship with ... [the] Flying Doctors of America," he said. "We're working to develop a long-term relationship to bring in U.S. board certified doctors to work in the RMI on a volunteer basis.

"The state of health in the Marshall Islands is something that needs to be worked on heavily," Paul said. "We have a lot of sick people in the Marshall Islands, and we just don't have the necessary resources that are needed to bring in top-quality doctors.

"Working with this organization



*The Flying Doctors of America offered medical clinics on Ebeye, Majuro and six outer atolls: Ujae, Lae, Wotho, Arno, Jaluit and Wotje.*

and developing this program, the Marshall Islands will be the first country in the world to employ such a strategy," he added. "I'm so excited for the opportunity and the windfall that this will bring on to the RMI."

The doctors would be on a two-to-three month rotation. The RMI government would pay for their lodging and meals while they work.

"In the U.S. there are one million MDs. Of that one million, about 7 percent are retiring every year," said Gathercoal. "They are doctors with 30-40 years of medical experience. If it works, I can use my retiring doctors [in the RMI], who would love to help, as long as it's not a long-term commitment.

On the RMI side, they have a huge need for U.S. board certified doctors" he added. "There's a perfect match."

Now all that needs to be done is the

logistics of it all. The partnership would provide year-round medical coverage to the people of the Marshall Islands.

"It's a great idea because we always talk about how we really want to educate local people or have some sort of ongoing educational program for local doctors, learning from us," said Dr. Irina Melnik, who specializes in spine and sports medicine. "This is a perfect opportunity. The doctors on Majuro have expressed a huge interest in continuing education."

Two teams from Flying Doctors of America came out last week to offer medical clinics and see if a long-term commitment to the RMI could become a possibility in the future. A medical and dental team of 10 stayed on Majuro while a team of

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# Mentors provide special attention to children of fallen warriors

By Carrie E. David  
USASMDC/ARSTRAT

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala. – Mentors are important no matter the age of those they mentor. For the children of fallen service members, mentors provide a vital role, which employees of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, got the chance to fill while having fun Mardi Gras style at The Overlook on Redstone Arsenal, Feb. 9.

The event, sponsored by U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, or USASMDC/ARSTRAT, and Survivor Outreach Services, is for the families of fallen Soldiers, and one of the focuses of these events is the mentoring for children.

"We sought among our volunteers not just people who would do activities but volunteers who would choose to be adult mentors and find a surviving spouse, or mom or dad, or brother or sister, and communicate in a very caring and genuine way with them," said Lt. Gen. Richard P. Formica, SMDC's commanding general. "Then we have adult mentors who would reach out to a surviving child who might be missing a father figure, and for one day establish a special relationship with an adult who can reach out to them and make them feel important in an environment that is focused on them and their needs."

Rick Judy, a retired sergeant major who now works at SMDC as a De-



Photo by Carrie E. David

**Col. Jeffrey Ogden, interim chief of staff, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, serves rolls during the Survivor Outreach Services Mardi Gras at The Overlook on Redstone Arsenal, Ala., Feb. 9, 2013. The event was sponsored by SOS and SMDC.**

partment of the Army civilian, has been 5-year-old KayCee Chaney's mentor for the past three SOS events.

"I love to do this, and it's a good way to give back," Judy said. "These families have made the ultimate sacrifice. This is little bitty stuff compared to what they're going through. I've had KayCee three times. I hope I make a good impression on him and he'll take something away from this."

According to KayCee's mom,

Krystal Chaney, who lost her husband in 2008, these SOS/SMDC events are beneficial to KayCee.

"I think these events help KayCee to realize that the Army doesn't forget," Chaney said. "I think it helps to put a face on the Army, and Rick has been a positive male role model for my son. These have been amazing."

Being a positive role model is one of the reasons why Judy likes to pair

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# 'Regular kid' becomes ambassador

By Sheila C. Gideon  
USASMDC/ARSTRAT

U.S. ARMY KWAJALEIN ATOLL, Marshall Islands – Former Kwajalein Junior/Senior High School graduate and Ri'katak student Charles Paul visited Kwajalein Schools Jan. 31 and demonstrated to the student body what a "regular kid" can grow up to accomplish with hard work and accountability.

Paul graduated from KHS in 1999 as part of the first Ri'katak class. He graduated from Washington College in 2003. He worked for the Marshallese government in various capacities after college. In 2011, Paul was appointed the Republic of the Marshall Islands Ambassador to the United States.

Officially, Paul visited Kwajalein with the Flying Doctors of America. They are a non-profit organization based out of Georgia that offers medical missions around the world. They were in the RMI for two weeks to provide medical clinics on Majuro, Ebeye and six outer atolls.

While at Kwajalein, Paul was invited to speak to Kwajalein Schools students at the Davye Davis Multi-Purpose Room. He was welcomed by U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll Commander Col. Shannon Boehm.

"I am very happy and honored on behalf of USAKA and KPS (Kwajalein Public Schools) to have him come in and talk with you all

**"I felt that the most meaningful way for me to give back was to serve the government. You are the personal representative of your country. Everything I say and everything I do reflects on my government."**

*Charles Paul  
Republic of the Marshall Islands  
Ambassador to the United States*

today," Boehm said. "He has a good message to provide you."

Ric Fullerton, senior government and economics teacher, introduced Paul and reminisced about his student years at KHS.

"Like the current members of the Ri'katak community, he rode the ferry back and forth every day, and dealt with the struggles of having to bounce back and forth between two cultures with the respective demands and issues," Fullerton said. "He also, however, made the best of the benefits that his unique situation presented."

"The coolest thing about his story, though, is that Charles is one of you," Fullerton continued. "If you look through some of the yearbooks from Charles' time with us, you'll see pictures of a regular kid."

He played the saxophone in band concerts and sang in the choir. He played basketball, volleyball and softball. He was voted "the guy with the 100-watt smile" in his senior yearbook. He was a part of National Honor Society. Now, 13 years later,

he is the RMI Ambassador.

Paul met with and had lunch with the current Ri'katak students.

"I had the same circumstances," he told them. "I grew up on Ebeye. I took the ferry every morning. I was never late to class. I did all my homework. When it got rough, I didn't make any excuses; I always did my work. If I can do it, ... [you] also can do it."

Paul thanked the command for coordinating his visit to Kwajalein. He was delighted to be able to see his old teachers and friends he went to high school with here. There are still four teachers at KHS who taught Paul when he was in school: Barbara Bicanich, Fullerton, Bonita Oyamot and Dick Shields.

"It's a treat for me personally," Paul said to the students. "I wanted the opportunity to give back any way I could to the place that started it all for me -- Kwajalein School system. I learned a lot and I owe everything that I am and everything that I have to the school, to my teachers and to my fellow students. I can't say enough about the wonderful opportunity that I had as a student, and the education I got as a student. I am so thrilled and I am so honored to stand before you this afternoon to just talk."

Paul talked about his job with the students and allowed them to ask him questions. While some

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Deadline for comments and submissions for the March 07 issue is March 01.  
Please submit to Jason B. Cutshaw at [Jason.B.Cutshaw.civ@mail.mil](mailto:Jason.B.Cutshaw.civ@mail.mil).

## Football balls earn support money for AER



Photo by Carrie E. David

The U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command's annual football silent auction raises almost \$3,000 for the Army Emergency Relief. The auction ended Feb. 7, and the Huntsville winners gathered Feb. 8 for a group photo. The highest bidders and their prizes are: front row – Maj. William Dickinson, Atlanta Braves baseball; Deborah Hicks, University of Alabama; KC Bertling, SMDC AER coordinator; Joan Buchanan, Indianapolis Clowns baseball cap (donated by Greg Piper); and Greg Piper, University of Missouri football; back row – Paul Simpson, University of Mississippi football; Les Jones, NFL Hall of Famer John Stallworth football; Master Sgt. Tanya Savell-Marzan, University of Tennessee football; and Christopher Paulk, Auburn University football. Not pictured are: Tom Bartek, University of Colorado football; Rhonda Norris, University of Georgia football; Deborah Harvey, Notre Dame football; Lt. Col. Brian Moore, Notre Dame football; Janet Schwarzbart, Louisiana State University football; and Darren Gunter, Heisman trophy winner photo.

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13 went to Ebeye.

The teams operate under the 'Mother Teresa Principle.'

"We try to go to the regions of the world that are underserved or not served at all," said Gathercoal.

While they did offer some assistance on Ebeye, Dr. Jerry Batten, a dentist with Flying Doctors said they were impressed overall with their facilities and capabilities there.

"What I saw there (Ebeye) was what I thought a very well-equipped facility -- good staff, very knowledgeable, very capable. I was really impressed with what they've got there," said Batten.

Compared to what they normally see, the Ebeye Hospital was very well organized and equipped with highly trained doctors.

"When I reviewed some charts, I saw that they've been doing the

same procedures, the same kind of steps that I would do if I were involved in their particular patient's care," said Melnik.

The team decided Ebeye was not where the biggest need for their help is; they needed to reach out to the outer atolls, where they would be able to do more.

"What we're about is the atolls that never get medical care. Or if they get medical care, it's sporadic," said Gathercoal.

The organizations mobility is its strongest asset.

"The whole idea that our organization has created is that we are very mobile. We can bring out our own equipment and medications to very rural, remote areas where most people have never even seen a doctor their whole life," said Melnik. "That's our strength."

In just one day, they did more than 150 extractions and treated 100 patients in different specialty areas

The patients were elated, said Gathercoal. "The thing we were most excited about is the day we saw those people who have never gotten dental care. ... We were so happy to see those smiles." One woman brought back a gift to the dentist who treated her; she had pain for years and finally felt relief for the first time. "It was a beautiful experience."

The Flying Doctors team expressed great appreciation to the U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll command for their assistance during the mission.

"We are so happy that the colonel (Col. Shannon Boehm) let us stay here," said Gathercoal. "It's been a great experience." The team departed Feb. 1.

# SMDC History: SDIO established

**Sharon Watkins Lang**  
SMDC Command Historian

On Feb. 21, 1986, the deputy secretary of defense William H. Taft IV signed Department of Defense Directive 5141.5, which established the Strategic Defense Initiative Organization.

Headed by a director, the new SDIO would report to the secretary of defense. As the principal advisor on the Strategic Defense Initiative program, the director was responsible for all aspects of the SDI defined as – programmatic policy, requirements, priorities, systems, resources and programs.

SDIO's assigned mission was to “manage and direct ... a vigorous research program, including advanced technologies, that will provide the basis for an informed decision regarding the feasibility of eliminating the threat posed by nuclear ballistic missiles of all ranges, and of increasing the contribution of defensive systems to U.S. and allied security.”

All research would be conducted in compliance with existing treaties, such as the 1972 Anti Ballistic Missile Treaty, which restricted the use and deployment of missile defense systems.

The guidance also directed that the SDIO research emphasize non-nuclear technologies.

At the same time, however, options for a near-term deployment of a limited ballistic missile defense capability were to be protected.

Also on this date, the Department of the Army issued General Orders 5 that reorganized the Army's Ballistic Missile Defense Organization, although the effective



*The Strategic Defense Initiative was to create a shield to protect the United States. The SDIO logo emphasized this mission with a shield in space over North America. The five stars in the constellation of scutum, Latin for a shield, re-emphasizes this mission. The black background represents outer space, the area of operation for SDI. The silver tones allude to the metal used in both shields and weaponry. Finally the red colors reflect the energy needed to launch the interceptors.*

date was actually July 1, 1985. As part of this order, the Ballistic Missile Defense Systems Command and the Ballistic Missile Defense Advanced Technology Center ceased to exist and merged to create the U.S. Army Strategic Defense Command.

While continuing its research and development and test and evaluation efforts in ballistic missile defense to include innovative research in hit-to-kill technology, the USASDC was to serve as the Army's single point of contact for the Strategic Defense Initiative.

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this team did it,” Mullin said. “They produced more than 500 products, supported more than 119 operations, and they traveled at least 27 times as a mobile training team.”

Army Space Support Teams support the Warfighter by delivering space-based capabilities such as: satellite communications; position, navigation and timing; space weather, and satellite imagery.

## FEW nominations needed

In celebration of the upcoming Women's History Month in March, The North Alabama Chapter of Federally Employed Women is soliciting nominations for the FEW Local Outreach Awards. Three awards – Outstanding Management, Outstanding Career Achievement (Civilian), and Military Meritorious Service – will be awarded to local individuals who show exemplary service in their workplace. The nominations deadline is Feb. 25. Award recipients will be honored at the FEW Awards Luncheon Plenary March 20. To obtain a nomination package, e-mail [northalabamafew@gmail.com](mailto:northalabamafew@gmail.com).

## Moving on



Photo by Dottie White

**Col. Sarah Green, right, staff judge advocate for the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, presents Capt. Alonzo Maestas, acquisition attorney, with a certificate of retirement Jan. 24. Maestas was awarded the Army Commendation Medal during the ceremony.**

## NCO receives commendation medal



Photo by Carrie E. David

**Lt. Gen. Richard P. Formica, commanding general, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, pins the Army Commendation Medal on Sgt. Nelson Villanueva, SMDC Headquarters and Headquarters Company, during a ceremony at the command's Redstone Arsenal headquarters Feb. 4.**

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up with KayCee.

"I feel sad for him because he doesn't have a father figure in his life right now," Judy said. "If I can kind of fill that role a little bit, kind of give him the man thing, I love it. In fact, if we could do this more often it would be better. KayCee's fun, enjoyable and full of energy."

KayCee when asked if he looked for Judy when he arrived at an SOS event said emphatically, "Yeee-aaaah!!!"

Chaney said these events really mean a lot to her and other surviving families.

"Part of what you lose when you lose your Soldier is the sense of community," Chaney said about her loss. "This helps that and helps transition us back to civilian life. SOS keeps growing and evolving, and

it's been fantastic."

According to Judy, survivors are still part of the Army family.

"If you show that all these people still mean something, that they're still important to us, then you can't ask for more than that," Judy said. "I believe in the Army family. These are amazing events with amazing people and you have volunteers who give freely. They would come do this every day if you asked them."

Kerrie Branson, SOS coordinator, said these events remind her that survivors are cared about and their fallen Soldiers are not forgotten.

"Mentors taking time out on their Saturdays and paying special attention to the children who have lost someone significant in their life is very touching," Branson said. "Adult survivors, like Karen Ken-

nedy, have told me that watching the children interact with mentors encourages them, and they see there is life after loss. Although difficult, survivors are given hope and strive to pull each other along the path."

Formica always tells the surviving families that he, SMDC, and the Army will remember them and their loved ones.

"These are great events and they are wonderful opportunities for us to remind the surviving families that they will never be forgotten," Formica said. "I've been overwhelmed by the response from within the command and among the community. There are so many people who are willing to volunteer as adult mentors, mentors for the kids, or to do the many activities, and I'm very appreciative of that."

## Space NCO promoted to major



*Photo by Sgt. Benjamin Crane*

**Lt. Col. Roland Quidachay, 100th Missile Defense Brigade executive officer, places new rank onto Sgt. 1st Class Steve Perez's uniform during a promotion ceremony at the brigade's headquarters Feb. 12 in Colorado Springs, Colo.**

## SGS promoted to lieutenant colonel



*Photo by Carrie E. David*

**Lt. Gen. Richard P. Formica, commanding general, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, promotes Lt. Col. Dillard "Wes" Young, secretary of the general staff, with the help of Young's mother, Lila Smith Young, and his wife, Dr. Erica Slate Young, during a ceremony at the command's Redstone Arsenal headquarters Feb. 4.**

## AMBASSADOR from Page 8

students asked thought-provoking and serious questions, some of the elementary students were eager to know how many Dinseylands there are and what the White House looks like.

To a certain degree, Paul said he knew he wanted to work for the Marshallese government when he graduated.

"I felt that the most meaningful way for me to give back was to serve the government," Paul said, and then told the students what it means to be an ambassador. "You are the personal representative of your country. Everything I say and everything I do reflects on my government."

His job involves a lot of traveling; he has already visited nine different countries. He gets to meet a lot of people -- people seen on the news.

Paul was invited to the White House to present his credentials to the President on Sept. 9, 2011. The ceremony took place in the Oval Office. Paul was one of the 12 ambassadors presenting credentials that day. The First Lady was also present. As Paul was announced and shook the president's hand, Michelle said, "Oh, two island boys." President Obama grew up in Hawaii.

Students were interested in Paul's transition to college in the States, since many of them will be making that same transition soon. He said the scariest part was leaving his parents. The best thing was meeting new people and experiencing a different culture.

"I had a head start going to Kwaj. I interacted with a lot of kids from the States," he said. "But it's different

when you're living with a different culture. For me, it was exciting in the fact that I was immersing myself into a new culture and learning new things."

Paul gave the students advice for their future. When Paul was young, he said he wanted to be the President of the United States. "Now I know I can't because I'm not a U.S. citizen," he said. "But, you have to dream and you have to think you can do big things. But before you do anything, you have to put in the work; you have to do your best in school. That will lead to bigger and better things. School is very important. It builds your foundation. ... With hard work you can do anything."

Paul lives and works in Washington, D.C. He is currently working toward his master's degree in finance from Johns Hopkins University.