

MARCH 07, 2013

A Space & Missile Defense NewsWire

# THE EAGLE

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## Missile Defense Soldiers conduct security training



*Photo by Sgt. Benjamin Crane*

**Staff Sgt. Biff Yelensky, 100th Missile Defense Brigade (Ground-based Midcourse Defense), provides rear security level stance during a unit ruck march at the U.S. Air Force Academy March 1.**



MARCH 07, 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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U.S. Army photo

**Leaders from U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command celebrate the official opening of its second Wideband Satellite Communications Operations Center March 7, 2012.**

## WSOCs make history

**Sharon Watkins Lang**  
*SMDC Command Historian*

One year ago today, on March 7, 2012, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command celebrated the official opening of its second Wideband Satellite Communications Operations Center.

Operated by Alpha Company, 53rd Signal Battalion, 1st Space Brigade, this facility is located at Fort Detrick, Md. Under the control of Delta Company, the first WSOC facility, located at Wahiawa, Hawaii, was dedicated in February 2011.

The new WSOC facilities replace buildings and equipment originally constructed in the 1980s to manage the Defense Satellite Communications System constellation of satellites.

The new facilities increase the ability of satellite controllers to effectively control the communications payloads and communications transmissions of both the DSCS and the new Wideband Global Satellite constellations.

An integrated system “composed of satellites, users, controllers, planners, and managers” the WSOCs “[manage] the payloads and [provide] critical communications, navigation, and other space-based capabilities to the Warfighter.”

The WSOCs have been described as the “focal point for conducting payload command and telemetry functions, monitoring transmissions and performing strategic and tactical terminal control for the DSCS and WGS constellations.”

Speaking at the February 2011 dedication at Wahiawa, Lt. Gen. Richard P. Formica, USASMDC/ARSTRAT commanding general, observed “This is no small task, and our Soldiers and civilians take pride in their ability to maintain the lifeline that secure communications can bring to those serving in harm’s way.”

# Colorado leaders get eagle-eye view

By Staff Reports

**PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo.** – The Colorado Thirty Group visited U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command operations headquarters in Colorado Springs Feb. 27 to increase overall awareness of the command's mission and capabilities.

Hosted by Lt. Gen. Richard P. Formica, commanding general of USASMD/ARSTRAT, 15 senior leaders in the Colorado community were given an overall command briefing that focused on integration of the command's three core competencies in providing space and missile defense capabilities to the nation and Warfighter.

After one-on-one discussions with key staff sections from the 1st Space Brigade and 100th Missile Defense Brigade covering space support, missile defense, geo-intelligence, Friendly Force Tracking, and the Wideband Global Satellite, the group moved to the command's off site facility near the Colorado Springs airport.

There they witnessed a launch of a Combat SkySat system by the SMDC Battle Lab and were provided demonstrations of an Army Space Support Team, the Mobile Production Exploitation and



Photo by DJ Montoya

*Members of the Colorado Thirty Group listen and watch Erik Perez, Combat SkySat project officer, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command Battle Laboratory, brief on the Combat SkySat system before its launch with payload at 2525 Aviation Way in Colorado Springs. The balloon reached an altitude of 77,000 feet during their afternoon visit on Feb. 27.*

Dissemination System, and toured the Joint Tactical Ground Station School House.

Reaction from members of the Colorado Thirty Group came in the form of numerous questions and great interest in what the government civilians, contractors and Soldiers were showing them.

The group is working on an economic development project with the Colorado governor's office to enhance the business climate to attract more high-tech and aerospace companies to support the military. They are also trying to improve support to local military installations and personnel.

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# Guardisman flies colors at Pepsi Center

By Sgt. Benjamin Crane  
100th Missile Defense Bde.

**DENVER** – Before the Colorado Mammoth took the playing field, a flag bearing Colorado National Guardsman stood proudly on the Pepsi Center turf as the National Anthem played March 2.

Staff Sgt. Cindy Littlefeather, a Colorado National Guard Soldier working for the 100th Missile Defense Brigade S-1, is a member of the Sister Nations Color Guard, who was invited by the Colorado Mammoth indoor lacrosse team to represent their game against the Rochester Knight Hawks.

The three other women holding the flags were: Sgt. 1st Class Toni Eaglefeathers and U.S. Army veterans Glenda Littlebird and Carissa Gonzalez.

“We brought in the flag during the ‘National Anthem’ and then did a mini grand entry ceremony during the half time show,” Littlefeather said.

Besides doing presentations at sporting events like this one, the women of the Sister Nations perform at pow-wows and other local, and even some national, Native American events. Mainly they post colors as a traditional Native American flag song is played.

“We do about one to two events a month,” said Littlefeather. “Performing at these events, keep us in touch with our Native American heritage and community. If I could do this as my full-time job I would.”

But the events are only a small portion of what these women do. They dedicate many hours to designing all the regalia that they wear during their performances, as well as when



Photo by Capt. Michael Odgers

*Members of Sister Nations Color Guard; (from left to right) Staff Sgt. Cindy Littlefeather, Glenda Littlebird, Sgt. 1st Class Toni Eaglefeathers and Carissa Gonzales, display the colors as part of a Native American presentation during half time at a Colorado Mammoth Lacrosse game, March 2 at the Pepsi Center in Denver. The Sister Nations is a group of current and former Native American Soldiers who performs traditional dance and provide a color guard. Lacrosse has a French name because it was the French who discovered Native Americans playing it as early as the 1700s.*

they present the colors.

Native American Color guards at pow-wows and other traditional events were usually done by men in traditional dress. The Sister Nations Color guard, the first women to perform as color guard, added U.S. Army Colors and symbols to their dress to pay homage to their military heritage.

Not only are these women representing their heritage when they go out and perform, they are also representing the United States military.

“Our group is made up of all women who have served in the military,” Littlefeather said. “All of us are currently serving or have served.”

Littlefeather has been a part of Sister Nation for nearly three years.

“We became a group when my roommate and I got together with some friends and decided to wear

matching dresses and tried to do a team event. People noticed that we were all veterans so they suggested we should be a color guard team,” she said.

Their traditional dresses reflected both their Native American heritage and their military service. Littlefeather also said that the group is looking for more members. The opportunity is open to other Native American women who have served or are serving in the military, no matter what branch.

“We are all Army but we are looking for those in other branches as well,” Littlefeather said.

The Sister Nations Color Guard’s next appearance will be during the Denver pow-wow March 22-24.

For anyone looking to volunteer or for information, contact Littlefeather at (720) 250-3713.

# SMDC leads to help kids read

By Jason B. Cutshaw  
SMDC Public Affairs

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. – Soldiers and civilians of U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command spent a day reading Dr. Seuss books to local kindergarten through fifth grade students for the “Read Across America” program to help show the importance of reading.

As part of the Team Redstone Community Engagement Council education outreach program, different commands and organizations across Redstone Arsenal went to local schools and read to the children for “Read Across America” March 1. The council reached out to the Huntsville City Schools ahead of time to find out who would be interested in having readers come, then the council asked different organizations and commands to “adopt” or sponsor these schools.

“I truly appreciate members of SMDC’s patience and willingness to serve our community. The faculty and students are very happy and anxious to have guest readers,” said Davita White, Morris Elementary School reading coach. “Today is very important because we are coming together as a nation. Every school throughout the United States are participating in what is called ‘Read Across America.’”

This program is an annual day in which we engross the children into reading books all day, either independently or having guest readers come into the classrooms.

“The purpose of this is to help students learn how to become fluent readers, and we want our students to



Photo by Jason B. Cutshaw

**Sgt. 1st Class James Sneed, operations noncommissioned officer at U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, reads the Dr. Seuss book “You’re Only Old Once” to students at Morris Elementary School in Huntsville during the national Read Across America campaign.**

read with passion and vigor,” White continued. “It is such a wonderful privilege to have the readers from SMDC come out to join us today and participate in this program.

“The students benefit from the readers because they get a chance to experience being around people in the military,” White said. “This is very motivational for our students and is inspirational for them to see Soldiers from the community who care enough about them to spend time reading to them.

“I am so grateful and appreciative for all those who participated today,” she added.

White said partnership between Redstone and local school districts

helps provide an opportunity for leaders to become actively engaged in the classroom enhancing academic achievement. One lesson the “Read Across America” program hopes to instill is that if students are good readers, they will be better in other subjects, such as math, science and social studies.

“I have really enjoyed today,” said third-grader Jeremiah Borter. “The ‘Cat in the Hat’ is really funny. It was great to have the Soldiers here today, and I hope they can come back soon. Today was great and I had a lot of fun.”

Another student pointed out the

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# 117th Space Cowboy earns Audie Murphy honor

By DJ Montoya  
USASMDC/ARSTRAT

**PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo.** – A ‘Space Cowboy’ from the 117th Space Battalion (Colorado Army National Guard), 1st Space Brigade was recently inducted into the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command local chapter of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club.

Staff Sgt. Eugene A.K. Patton Jr., readiness noncommissioned officer, was inducted by Lt. Gen. Richard P. Formica, commanding general, USASMDC/ARSTRAT, at the command’s operations headquarters at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., on Feb. 27.

“Anybody who knows about the exploits of Sergeant Audie Murphy know just how significant it is to earn the right to be inducted into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club,” Formica said. “I’m proud of our senior NCOs and our command sergeants major for having a vibrant program that keeps this active and alive in our command and finds opportunities to reach out to those NCOs who set themselves apart and earn the distinction to be awarded Sergeant Audie Murphy.”

The audience included senior noncommissioned officers, staff members from the command and Brig. Gen. Dana M. Capozzella, assistant adjutant general for Army, Colorado National Guard.

The Sergeant Audie Murphy award comprises the top 2 percent of the NCOs in the Army. They are selected based on demonstrated leadership professionalism and overall general military knowledge. In recognition of his demonstrated professionalism and excellence, For-



Photo by DJ Montoya

**Lt. Col. Martin L. Bortolutti, right, commander of the 117th Space Battalion (Colorado Army National Guard), 1st Space Brigade, congratulates Staff Sgt. Eugene A.K. Patton Jr., readiness noncommissioned officer, 117th Space Battalion readiness noncommissioned officer, into the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command local chapter of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club Feb. 27.**

mica awarded the Army Commendation Medal and the Sergeant Audie Murphy Medallion to Patton.

Before the closing of the ceremony with the singing of the Army song, Formica said to those present, “My thanks to all of you for being here and for your service. But most importantly hearty congratulations to those who have earned the right to be inducted into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club.”

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more she practices reading, the better reader she will become.

“Today has been fun,” said third-grade student Valencia Powell. “I am learning about Dr. Seuss, and the books are fun. This is great. I have never been able to see a real Soldier before. They were great readers, and they made me want to read more.”

Readers from SMDC, including Lt. Gen. Richard P. Formica, SMDC commanding general, got

an opportunity to share with the children information about their personal experience with reading and impress upon the children that reading helps them to learn about important places, people, things, as well as how to express themselves.

“I think today is a great event,” said SMDC G-3 Sgt. Maj. Rod Beach. “I think this gives the military an opportunity to be more involved in the community and get involved

with an important issue like reading to children. This helps build a baseline and a habit of reading that will follow them as they grow older.

“I read ‘Horton Hears a Who’ and the children enjoyed it so much they wanted me to read a second book to them,” he added. “I had to leave because the teacher was taking them to lunch, but hopefully, one day I can make it back here and read that second book to them.”

# SMDC provides lessons learned

**By Lt. Col. Bob Maurio and  
Dr. John Abbatiello  
G-31 exercise branch**

Have you ever heard the term “lessons learned” and wondered what it really means?

U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, the U.S. Army and U.S. Strategic Command – as well as most major headquarters in the Department of Defense – have formal lessons learned programs.

In this article, we will provide a brief overview of our command’s lessons learned program and offer some resources to assist our personnel with lesson collection and dissemination.

According to Army Regulation 11-33, Army Lessons Learned Program, the Center for Army Lessons Learned, or CALL, defines “lessons learned” broadly, but with some key components: “Validated knowledge and experience derived from observations and the historical study of military training, exercises, and combat operations that lead to a change in behavior at either the tactical, operational, or strategic level or in one or more of the Army’s (DOTMLPF) domains.”

CALL, by the way, is the proponent for all lessons learned activity throughout the Army.

That’s certainly a mouthful, but two points in this definition are worth highlighting. First, what does the term “validated” really mean? A “validated” observation is one that has undergone a review process and met minimum standards for legitimacy. Typically, this means that an

individual or group in a position of responsibility has reviewed the observation and found it valid.

In USASMD/ARSTRAT, our Lessons Learned Working Group fulfills this role and meets monthly to review and discuss observations that staff or brigade personnel may have submitted from a real-world event or exercise. If the observation is determined to be valid, the LLWG proposes a course of action to correct the issue (if required) and assigns an appropriate action officer to lead the corrective effort.

If the issue requires visibility above the action officer level, the LLWG forwards the issue to the Issue Resolution Board – a council of colonels that meets quarterly to consider important issues and how to correct them.

These processes are new for the command but have already fostered improvement in a number of areas.

It would be useful to highlight a second point about the “lessons learned” definition above; a lesson is not learned unless it results in “a change in behavior.” Recording observations and recommended courses of action are not useful activities if the only outcome is an electronic archive of data that no one uses.

This is where a lessons learned program can build on an effective After Action Review/Report process. AARs are the key Army tool used in training and combat to problem solve and to collect observations.

A lessons learned program incorporates the AAR input into a formal process for implementing the corrective action – in effect taking

an observation from a “lesson” to a “lesson learned.”

Follow up action is necessary to make our processes as effective and efficient as possible to complete our assigned missions successfully. For this reason, the LLWG tracks the progress of issues assigned for corrective action and reports results on a monthly basis to the command’s senior leaders.

A command accountability issue resulting from the October 2012 Global Thunder exercise illustrates how our command lessons learned process can work effectively. During the exercise, one of our observer-controller/trainers noticed that there was an issue during a directed command-wide accountability recall. The OC/T wrote up the observation and the LLWG subsequently considered the issue, assigning the G-1 with the task of updating the command’s accountability SOP.

We will validate the updated procedures in a local exercise and during our next Global-series USSTRATCOM exercise.

Another encouraging example of our lessons learned program deals with our command’s assessments. During GT13 an OC/T observed various deficiencies in the SMDC assessment process.

Unique command relationships and existing requirements to provide reports to a variety of external “customers” drove this perception.

The LLWG recommended that G-31 lead a planning team to address the problem. The team provided a number of courses of action

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# Command Surgeon's Corner

## March is 'National Brain Injury Awareness Month'

By Col. Kevin P. Michaels  
SMDC command surgeon

Traumatic brain injury is a serious public health problem in the United States. Military and their family members continue to experience TBIs. Each year, TBI contributes to a substantial number of deaths and cases of permanent disability.

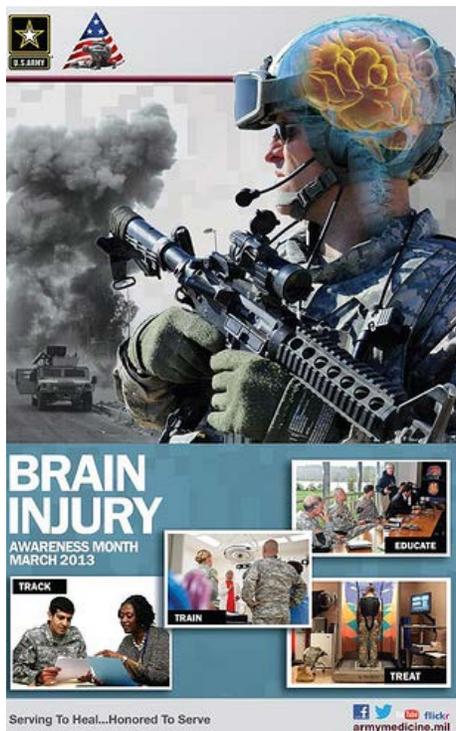
The Center for Disease Control reports that approximately 1.7 million people sustain a TBI annually. Fall-related TBIs account for the vast majority of incidents (35 percent). TBIs related to traffic crashes (17 percent) or being struck by/against something (16 percent) are common as well.

A TBI is a head injury that disrupts the normal function of the brain. This can be caused by a bump, blow or jolt to the head and in more extreme cases a penetrating head injury. Not all blows or jolts to the head result in a TBI.

The severity of a TBI may range from mild to severe. A mild TBI would be a brief change in mental status or consciousness. A severe TBI is an extended period of unconsciousness or amnesia (i.e., forgetting the circumstances surrounding the event).

The majority of TBIs that occur each year are concussions or other forms of mild TBIs. Symptoms of concussion usually fall into four categories.

1. Cognitive – difficulty thinking clearly, feeling slowed down, difficulty concentrating or



remembering new information.

2. Physical – headaches, blurred vision, dizziness, sensitivity to noise or light.

3. Emotional/Mood – irritability, sadness, more emotional.

4. Sleep – sleeping more or less than usual or trouble falling asleep.

Most people with concussions recover quickly and fully. Soldiers with TBI, especially mild TBI, fully recover in most cases. Of more than 125,000 Soldiers diagnosed with TBI between 2000 and 2010, nearly 97 percent returned to duty. Some people have symptoms that last for days, weeks, or longer.

Rest is very important after a concussion or mild TBI. "Toughing it out" often makes symptoms worse. Be patient because healing

takes time.

Recovery tips from CDC and Defense and Veteran Brain Injury Center:

- Get plenty of sleep at night, and rest during the day.

- Avoid activities that are physically demanding (e.g., sports, heavy house cleaning, working out), or require a lot of concentration (e.g., sustained computer use video games).

- Ask a doctor when you can safely drive a car, ride a bike, or operate heavy equipment.

- Avoid smoking or drinking alcoholic beverages.

- See your provider if your symptoms get worse or are not improving.

Consider the following prevention techniques:

1. Buckle children in the car using appropriate child safety seat, booster seat, or seat belt according to the child's height, weight, and age.

2. Wear a seat belt every time you drive or ride in a vehicle.

3. Never drive while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

4. Wear a helmet and make sure your children wear helmets during the following activities:

- Riding a bike, motorcycle, snowmobile, scooter, or all-terrain vehicle.

- Playing a contact sport, such as football, ice hockey, or boxing.

- Using inline skates or riding a skateboard.

- Batting and running bases in

See TBI on page 10

## A job well done



*Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Teresa Adams*

*Lt. Col. Glen Blackburn, center, stands with the rest of the Army Central Command Space Support Element at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. Blackburn recently completed a tour of duty as the SSE deputy forward and was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for his selfless service and dedication to ARCENT mission accomplishment. From left, Sgt. 1st Class James McMillan, Maj. Greg Hotaling, Capt. Keith Garvin, Blackburn, Col. Jim Pruneski, Lt. Col. Brian Bolio and 1st Lt. Judy Griep.*

## LESSONS from Page 7

regarding assessment staff organization to the G-3, and the command is now standing up an Assessment Working Group to consolidate the command's assessment activities and ensure consistent reporting to HQDA, USSTRATCOM, and other external stakeholders.

At this point, we need to back up and explain how an observation enters the lesson learned process for consideration.

Any member of the command can make an observation and provide a recommendation for action, and there are a number of ways for this to happen. The G-31 Exercise Branch collects OC/T inputs from exercises as well as real-world staff observations of day-to-day operations.

The 1st Space Brigade and 100th Missile Defense Brigade (Ground-based Midcourse Defense) collect observations from their operations, and the Future Warfare Center's Directorate of Training and Doctrine collects Doctrine and Training-re-

lated observations from across the command. These offices then forward the observations to the LLWG for entry into the lessons learned process, when required.

One vehicle for recording and archiving these observations is the Joint Lessons Learned Information System, which is an online software suite that also possesses the capability to store documents.

The JLLIS database is searchable by all DoD commands and agencies, making it a useful tool for personnel to find out how other organizations may have dealt with similar issues. JLLIS is available on both unsecure and secure, but our command policy is to follow STRATCOM's lead and use only the secure version.

Anyone with secret access can establish a JLLIS account and make observations and recommendations directly into the system. There is a JLLIS link on the SIPR command homepage and the address is: [www.jllis.smil.mil/jssc](http://www.jllis.smil.mil/jssc).

The goal of our LLP is a continu-

al improvement in SMDC processes and procedures. Clear indicators of a constructive LLP are effective sharing of best practices and a reduction in repeated mistakes.

We require the input of Soldiers and civilians at all levels of the command to improve the program and attain our goal.

As stated above, any member of the command can make an observation and provide a recommendation.

Clearly, exercise and deployment-related input is valuable, but there are also day-to-day tasks, training events, testing, and other activities that can benefit from process improvement. Your input is critical in making our LLP a success.

You can submit your observation in JLLIS as noted above or simply contact the lessons learned team.

The G-31 Lessons Learned Team contact information is: Lt. Col. Bob Maurio, (719) 554-2156; O.D. Borcheller, (719) 554-8786; and John Abbatiello, (719) 554-2178.

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baseball or softball.

- Riding a horse.
- Skiing or snowboarding.

5. Make living areas safer for seniors, by:

- Removing tripping hazards such as throw rugs and clutter in walkways.
- Using nonslip mats in the bathtub and on shower floors; Installing grab bars next to the toilet and in the tub or shower.
- Improving lighting throughout the home.
- Maintaining a regular physician-approved physical activity program to improve lower body strength and balance.

6. Make living areas safer for children, by:

- Installing window guards to keep young children from falling out of open windows.
- Using safety gates at the top and bottom of stairs when young children are around.

7. Make sure the surface on your child's playground is made of shock-absorbing material such as hardwood, mulch, or sand.

The Army leads the way in recognizing and treating TBIs

because of its advanced research, innovation, and education, its state-of-the-art science, in collaboration with leading civilian and military authorities, and its experience helping all TBI patients, not just Soldiers. Getting care promptly is vital.

Sports coaches, parents, and children participating in sporting activities should be educated on concussions. Soldiers who are involved in a potentially concussive event will be managed in a similar manner worldwide, whether in a combat or garrison environment. Early detection and treatment are the keys to mitigating the long-term effects of concussions. This same guidance should be applied to family members.

It is mandatory for a Soldier to receive a medical evaluation as soon as possible but no later than 12 hours after the following events:

- Involvement in a vehicle collision or rollover.
- Receiving a blow to the head during activities.
- Being within 50 meters of a blast (inside or outside).

A commander will ensure that concussed Soldiers receive a

minimum 24-hour mandatory recovery period and a medical re-evaluation before returning to duty.

A 24-hour recovery period and medical clearance is strongly advised for anyone who experiences a concussive event, regardless of whether or not they are a Soldier.

Most schools have a post concussive program for returning players back to the field. It is not in the child's best interest for parents to put pressure on the coach to play their child simply because the child is not immediately exhibiting concerning symptoms after a concussive event.

Coaches should follow the rules and protect the child just as a commander is expected to protect a Soldier from further harm. In addition to the mandatory 24-hour recovery period, Soldiers, leaders, and medics will have to complete required training following a concussive event.

Additional information on concussions and TBI can be found at the following websites:

Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center – <http://www.dvbic.org/>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – <http://www.cdc.gov/traumaticbraininjury/>

### **SMDC to receive leadership survey**

All U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command employees – Soldiers, civilians and contractors – will be receiving an e-mail with a link for a reader survey within the next two weeks. We encourage everyone to complete the survey to let us know how you are receiving your news about the command and what we are doing right and what we need to improve. Thank you in advance for your participation.

Deadline for comments and submissions for the March 21 issue is March 15.

Please submit to Jason B. Cutshaw at [Jason.B.Cutshaw.civ@mail.mil](mailto:Jason.B.Cutshaw.civ@mail.mil).

## SMDC informs civilian workforce on possible sequestration



Photo by Jason B. Cutshaw

**Ronald E. Chronister, deputy to the commander of U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, speaks to the civilian workforce in Huntsville Feb. 27 about sequestration. Chronister hosted three sessions in Huntsville Feb. 27-March 1 to answer questions the civilian workforce had about sequestration. During these sessions, the workforce was also connected in Colorado Springs, Colo., and USAKA via video teleconference.**

## Air Force officer receives honor



Photo by DJ Montoya

**Lt. Gen. Richard P. Formica, commanding general, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, presents Air Force Col. Anne M. Konnath, chief current operations division, director Air, Space and Cyberspace Operations, U.S. Air Force Space Command, the Honorable Order of Saint Barbara during a ceremony at the command's Peterson Air Force Base headquarters Feb. 27.**

## Defeating the elements



Photo by Sgt. Benjamin Crane

**Sgt. Cristina Cost, 100th Missile Defense Brigade (Ground-based Midcourse Defense), leads the way during a morning ruck march at the U.S. Air Force Academy for physical training March 1.**

### Commended one



Photo by DJ Montoya

**Lt. Col. Patrick Mullin, 1st Space Battalion commander, pins an Army Commendation Medal on Maj. Robert C. Hoffman for his end of service award.**

### Soldier commended for excellence



Photo by DJ Montoya

**Maj. Bryan P. Shrank, 1st Space Battalion, awards the Army Commendation Medal to Spc. Emily A. Roosevelt during a ceremony March 5. Roosevelt was also awarded the Army Space Badge during the ceremony.**

### Making a call



Photo by DJ Montoya

**Retired Lt. Gen. Edward G. Anderson, III, president, National Homeland Defense Foundation, and one of the Colorado Thirty Group visiting SMDC/ARSTRAT Operations on February 27th does a radio communication check with an SMDC Battle Lab technician some 45 miles away using the Combat SkySat system.**

### Recognizing excellence



Photo by DJ Montoya

**Soldiers of the 1st Space Battalion were recognized for their service March 5.**

## Space Soldiers learn about Tuskegee Experiment

### A momento in time



*Courtesy photo*

**Col. James R. Meisinger, 1st Space Brigade commander, presents members of the Tuskegee Airmen with a memento of their time with the brigade Feb. 26. The World War II veterans spoke to members of the brigade during the unit's Black History Program.**

**COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.** – Army Space Soldiers of the 1st Space Brigade conducted their first Black History Program on February 26th at the brigade headquarters with a look back at the famous Tuskegee Experiment to include a multimedia presentation. "Tuskegee Airmen" refers to all who were involved in the so-called "Tuskegee Experiment," the Army Air Corps program to train African Americans to fly and maintain combat aircraft. The Tuskegee Airmen included pilots, navigators, bombardiers, maintenance and support staff, instructors, and all the personnel who kept the planes in the air. Retired Air Force Col. James E.P. Randall, long time member of Colorado's Hubert L. "Hooks" Jones Chapter of The Tuskegee Airmen, was the guest speaker. He along with three other chapter members (all retired Air Force): Col. Lowell Bell; Capt. Samuel C. Hunter, Jr.; and Chief Master Sgt. Loran Smith gave stirring accounts of the struggles and triumphs of racial integration in military during and after World War II. At the end of the program Col. James Meisinger, commander of the 1st Space Brigade, presented the group with mementos and Soldiers of the brigade then had an opportunity to talk with these honored veterans.

### Employees seek spiritual companionship



*Photo by Carrie E. David*

**Sgt. 1st Class Frenchshella Hall, chaplain assistant, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, listens during a Bible study with SMDC employees March 6 at the command's Redstone Arsenal, Ala., headquarters. The Bible study began in February and meets each Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in room 1054.**