

MAY 16, 2013

A Space & Missile Defense NewsWire

# THE EAGLE

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## SMDC, Redstone Arsenal show support for survivors of “ultimate sacrifice”



Photo by Carrie E. David

**Lt. Gen. Richard P. Formica, commanding general, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, hugs surviving family member, Crystal Thomas, during the command-sponsored Survivor Outreach Services Spring Fling cookout May 11 at the Redstone Arsenal, Ala., activity field. See article on Page 3.**



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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 History International ABM Day

Sharon Watkins Lang  
Command Historian

Construction on the \$137 million SAFEGUARD anti-ballistic missile complex in North Dakota began following a quiet ground-breaking ceremony on April 6, 1970, near Concrete, N.D. One month later, ground preparations at the Missile Site Radar, or MSR, site near Nekoma, N.D., were temporarily stopped as Army and contractor personnel prepared for International ABM Day.

In 1970, the national climate was tense. Protests were held across the country against social injustice and the war in Vietnam. The situation in North Dakota was not much different. Even as the residents of Cavalier and neighboring counties planned their VFW Loyalty Day event for May 2, opposition groups issued their own resolution.

On April 19, the North Dakota Clergy and Laymen Concerned, and a recently formed North Dakota Citizens for a



File photo

Newspaper clipping of the April 6, 1970, International ABM Day protest in North Dakota.

Sane Nuclear Policy, called for an International Day Against the ABM, later abbreviated to International ABM Day, to be hosted on May 16.

With rallying points on the Grand Forks campus of the University of North Dakota and the construction site for the MSR near Nekoma, the protesters sought to “to register our dissent and re-order na-

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# SAFETY Expo

SAFETY ALWAYS

USASMDC/ARSTRAT

\*\* Safety Exposition \*\*

Wed., 22 May 2013

0900-1400

Located on the back lawn of Bldg. 3, Peterson Air Force Base

## Volunteer 'labor of love' helps surviving family members

**Carrie E. David**  
**SMDC Public Affairs**

**REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala.** – Part of the success of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command-sponsored Survivor Outreach Services Spring Fling cookout comes from the efforts of the many volunteers who made the event possible.

More than 60 USASMDC/ARSTRAT employees and their family members showed up for the SOS event May 11 to demonstrate support and love for about 50 survivors who have lost a service member.

“It is important to provide a warm, inviting place for the survivors to meet, and important to support those who have made the ultimate sacrifice – the loss of a loved one – for our freedom,” said Kaye Blankenship, SMDC volunteer. “I have deep empathy for these families, and I understand how your heart stops each time you hear on the news that another Soldier has fallen.”

Lt. Col. Wes Young, secretary of the general staff, SMDC, is one of the two core organizers for each SMDC-sponsored SOS event. He said that executing these events is exceptionally rewarding for him.

“It becomes immediately clear when you interact with these families that it is important to them, and it is something they need,” Young said. “Over the past two years of running these events, I have developed a close relationship with many of the families but also with the planning committee. We genuinely enjoy working on these together.”



*Photo by Carrie E. David*

**Volunteers and survivors work side-by-side to paint memory pots during the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command-sponsored Survivor Outreach Services Spring Fling May 11 at the Redstone Arsenal, Ala., activity field.**

Each event includes a meal and activities for the children. The Spring Fling also included a K-9 working dog demonstration by Redstone Arsenal emergency personnel. All of this is accomplished because of the organization and planning provided by Young.

“I brought a process to the planning effort. I develop and maintain the task list and coordinate the volunteers,” Young said. “I also synchronize the efforts of those involved in the planning committee. Like any organizer, I focus on ensuring everything ‘comes together’ to provide a first-class event that demonstrates our commitment to those families who have lost a Soldier.”

Lt. Gen. Richard Formica, SMDC

commanding general, said that these events have come a long way since the first one and that for many of these volunteers it is a labor of love.

“We’ve got a full complement of volunteers – people who do this from their heart. They keep coming back. We don’t have to encourage them to come. We don’t have to make them come. They just come. And they reach out to the families. They’re here for the right reasons,” Formica said. “We have a couple of volunteers who have been particularly meaningful though. Lt. Col. Wes Young and Master Sgt. Tanya Savell-Marzan make a good team. They organize it, and I get to just show up. These events are a

**See SOS on Page 6**

# Delta Defenders go denim against sexual assault

## Delta Company 53rd Signal Battalion

**JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, WAHIAWA ANNEX, Hawaii** – April was Sexual Assault Awareness Month in the Department of Defense, and this year's theme was "We own it; we'll solve it, together."

The Defenders of Delta Company, 53rd Signal Battalion (Satellite Control) in Wahiawa, Hawaii, decided to do their part to help solve the problem of sexual assault not only in the military, but in the community as well. Delta Company held a Denim Day April 23-24 to support Sexual Assault Awareness Month and raise funds for the Sex Abuse Treatment Center of Hawaii.

Denim Day at Delta Company was organized by unit victim advocate Staff Sgt. Adam Tripses and his wife, Samantha. In addition to showing support by wearing blue jeans, Delta Company raised almost \$300 for the Sex Abuse Treatment Center of Hawaii. The center, located in Honolulu, is a program of Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women and Children and provides treatment services for survivors of sexual assault, prevention and education, and effects change through public policy.

"The statewide program supports adults, teenagers, and children, both female and male," said Tripses.



*Courtesy photo*

**Staff Sgt. Adam Tripses and 1st Lt. Raena Guerrero donate almost \$300 to the Sex Abuse Treatment Center in Hawaii to show Delta Company, 53rd Signal Battalion's support for ending sexual abuse in the Army and the community. Adriana Ramelli, executive director of the center, accepted the donation on behalf of the center and thanked all the Soldiers for their support**

"This event gave Delta Company a chance to show their support for ending sexual assault in the Army and the community."

Denim Day is a sexual violence prevention and education campaign held every year since 1999, where community members, elected officials, businesses and students are asked to make a social statement with a fashion statement by wearing jeans as a visible means of protest against misconceptions that surround sexual assault.

The day stems from a 1997 rape trial in Italy where the conviction

was overturned the following year by the Italian Supreme Court on the basis that the denim jeans worn by the victim were so tight that the offender must have had help from her to take them off, making the act consensual. The women of the Italian Parliament protested the ruling by wearing jeans to work, and the idea spread worldwide and became an annual event.

The event was originally organized by Peace Over Violence, a non-profit organization established in 1971 and dedicated to preventing sexual and domestic violence.

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# Army astronaut champions STEM

**Tina M. Beller**  
**NYC Recruiting Battalion**

**NEW YORK CITY** – Ask the average high school student what he knows about U.S. Army astronauts, and he might respond by asking, “The Army has astronauts, really?” Believe it or not, the Army has been partnering for decades with NASA to send Soldier-astronauts to space, including heroes like U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command’s Col. Robert S. Kimbrough, Chief of Robotics at the NASA Astronaut Office, who is a former alumnus and assistant professor of mathematics at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

But for nearly 200 Long Island- and Brooklyn-based high school students, the opportunity to meet and interact with a real Army astronaut in April was as novel to them as extra vehicular activity was to Kimbrough before his first spacewalk at the International Space Station in 2008.

“I’ve never seen an astronaut, not even an Army astronaut, so this is very exciting for me,” said 15-year-old Saif Mohamed, who is a JROTC student at Aviation High School in Long Island City. Like his peers, Mohamed attended the U.S. Army STEM question and answer session facilitated by Kimbrough at the Cradle of Aviation Museum in Long Island, N.Y. STEM stands for science, technology, engineering and math.

From within the darkness and silence of the round Dome Theatre, Kimbrough launched his Q&A session for the students with a video



*Photo by Tina M. Beller*

**Col. Robert S. Kimbrough, an Army astronaut assigned to the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command’s NASA detachment located at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, speaks to a group of students about how astronauts operate in space.**

that set the course at a cool 17,500 mph, almost as fast as Sputnik 1, which in 1957, traveled into space from Russia at 18,000 mph. Set to foot-tapping music, the video illustrated fast-moving satellite technology, such as imagery of weather patterns like those seen during hurricanes and tsunamis – proof that science and technology can be leveraged to forewarn humans of danger and possibly save thousands of innocent lives.

The trend in students’ questions suggested they were more intrigued by the astronauts’ day-to-day living than of the actual robotics work being conducted on the ISS. Kimbrough explained that aboard

Space Transportation System 126, he and six other astronauts, lived, worked and slept together in an area about seven feet by 12 feet by eight feet wide or roughly 672 square feet en route to the ISS.

To put that into perspective, the average deployed Soldier with all his combat and specialized gear generally shares a similar amount of living space with only one other battle buddy.

Kimbrough shared it with six. To think about living that cramped for 16 days is almost surreal, like a galaxy far, far away, yet these are the sacrifices Soldier-astronauts make for the love of what they do and for the pursuit of advancing America as a STEM superpower.

“Becoming an astronaut takes more than just high physical fitness scores, mental abilities and an interest in STEM,” said Kimbrough, who earned his Master of Science in operations research from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 1998 and has logged more than a decade of time serving from the cockpit of U.S. Army aviation. “I believe it takes teamwork and leadership to be an astronaut, and I believe Army Soldier-astronauts bear those traits. A great deal of that space station was constructed by Army hands over the last 10 years, but it’s you, the young engineers, the young scientists of America who we need to build the next space craft for deep-space exploration, so we can thrust forward and re-establish our country’s position as the superpower of STEM.”

After his Q&A session at the

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**SOS from Page 3**

labor of love for them – they give of themselves, and they give of their heart.”

Blankenship focuses her efforts on developing the theme settings for each SOS event, but she also volunteers during the events.

“SOS provides a creative outlet for me. I have been involved with creating the themes and planning the activities,” she said. “I also help wherever needed. Sometimes I listen to the parents, and sometimes I mentor the children. My favorite part of the events is meeting and working with the children... seeing their smiles and watching them open up.”

According to survivor Judy Finch, who lost her husband, children need the attention as much or more as other family members.

“There are so many volunteers, and they are so helpful. They donate their time and their money to provide activities that takes a lot of peoples’ minds off the fact that they have lost a loved one,” Finch said. “I believe that this interaction is critical and important for the children also. They seem to really enjoy themselves, and I love to see the looks on the faces of the kids.”

Young said his favorite part of the SOS events is the children also.

“We always arrange for a variety of entertainment and activities focused toward the children, and the most rewarding aspect is watching them enjoy themselves,” Young said.

Redstone Arsenal SOS coordinator Kerrie Branson said the support



*Photo by Carrie E. David*

**U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command employees, Phillis Reid, deputy inspector general, left, and Joyce Lenoir, deputy G-1, volunteer during the command-sponsored Survivor Outreach Services Spring Fling cookout May 11 at the Redstone Arsenal, Ala., activity field.**

offered by volunteers makes a very real difference to survivor families.

“For the survivors to feel so supported and realize how many people care about their tragic loss is big,” Branson said. “One mother told me that her children were talking nonstop about their mentor and how much fun he was. She said it really hit her how much they missed their dad, and how for a few hours, their mentor filled that void. When volunteers come out in such large numbers like they did today, it represents a big hug to the survivors, and hugs go a long way.”

Formica said that the survivors are not the only ones who benefit.

“Individually and personally, it’s been good for each volunteer, and collectively, it’s been good for the command because the command comes outside of itself and focuses on something bigger,” Formica said. “And ultimately, it’s about the survivors and the opportunity to reach out to them.”

Finch said that these SOS events provide benefits for the survivors beyond the obvious.

“Not only is it a good time to network with other surviving families, it’s also a good time to just be with folks – no rank, no protocol,” she said. “It brings us back into the military family.”

Deadline for comments and submissions for the May 30 issue is May 24.

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

**STEM from Page 5**

museum, Kimbrough traveled to Carle Place High School in Long Island to give a similar presentation to another group of students. He was joined by 1975 Carle Place High School alumnus and Commander of the U.S. Army's Accessions Support Brigade, Army Marketing Research Group, Col. Mark A. Rado.

The U.S. Army STEM Experience, one of the interactive vans assigned to the fleet of mobile assets in Rado's educational arsenal, entertained students and teachers alike on the school campus. Once inside, users were transported to the year 2032 via a barrage of fictional video clips, detailing an extremist group that has attacked a chemical plant in Eastern Europe. In the Mission Room, a team of Army Soldiers and scientists briefed the students regarding the current situation and informed them that their skills were needed to protect the lives of thousands of endangered civilians.

Students like 18-year-old John N. Hartsough, who visited the STEM experience earlier in the day at the museum, used the touch-screen computer stations in the STEM Laboratory Room to build and launch science- and technology-based solutions to avert the environmental crisis. Based on his selections, Hartsough successfully leveraged his critical thinking and leadership skills to compile an Army strong team that saved hundreds of unnecessary civilians from dying.

"It was amazing for me to see the type of weapons they are developing in the Army these days," said Hartsough, who has been accepted at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in Florida. Like many other Americans, he was unaware

that the Army is a leader in the fields of science and technology, offering training and experiences in high demand in the civilian job market.

His father, John L. Hartsough, a vice president of a sales company in the tri-state area, was even more intrigued to learn how the Army leverages technology to save lives on the battlefield. Unmanned aerial drones, robotics and advanced medical technology are among the many advances in science and mathematics that support our Soldiers around the globe each day.

In addition to two Army astronaut presentations, Rado, the 1975 president of the school's Student Organization, recognized various members of the audience for their achievements, including his nephew, Anthony J. Kellerman; high school senior Erik Langert, the 2013 president of the Student Organization; middle school student, Luke Conway, who volunteered to send care packages to American Soldiers deployed overseas; and lastly, Principal Thomas DePaola, for allowing the U.S. Army into the school to connect with students.

"Since becoming your principal in July, I have met one hero from the Carle Place Community," began DePaola. "Today, I add two more people to that list. One of these heroes sat in the very chairs in this auditorium as a student, and the other sat in a spaceship as a NASA astronaut. One walked our hallways to get to class while the other walked in space not once, but twice. One travelled the towns of Carle Place, Mineola and Westbury, and the other traveled over six million miles in space. Both are colonels in the U.S. Army, and both have

served our country gallantly during peacetime and war."

"It's important to give back to people in organizations who made us who we are," Rado said. "Carle Place developed me as a young person and set the foundation for who I am and what I've become. Then the Army gave me the tools I needed to take that strong foundation and develop me as a leader and to further my education. So to be able to come here today and give back to Carle Place and to the Army is a great day for me.

"Experiences like this remind me of what President John F. Kennedy said in his inaugural address, 'Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country,'" he added. "Today, this is what I can do for my country and my community, to let you know about the opportunities out there for you to become citizens not only in your community and but also in the nation as a part of our Army."

For Kimbrough, getting the chance to interact with students and with fellow Soldiers continues to be both a positive experience and a nice change of pace from his routine at NASA where he maneuvers robotic arms and frequently thinks in 3-D during his duty day.

"I always appreciate getting the chance to pay back the Army," Kimbrough said. "Anytime we can help the Army and our community like this is good because I get to talk to potential leaders, potential army officers and maybe even potential Army astronauts, which is even better to me because I have the chance to influence and inspire young people from all walks of life."

## ABM from Page 2

tional priorities” expressing “hopes that the administration and Congress will be forced by their conscience to stop deployment of the ABM System and present its further expansion.”

As preparations continued, press conferences announced that “several nationally-known liberal activists” had agreed to participate in the demonstrations, including David Dellinger and John Froines, two members of the Chicago 7, and revolutionary folk singer Phil Ochs. With thousands expected to attend from the five-state area, the spokesperson suggested it would be “the largest political protest ever staged in North Dakota.”

Given recent events at Kent State and the anticipated national protests on May 15 (Armed Forces Day), the residents of Nekoma, with a population of 87, were concerned. The town of Zap, N.D., had been extensively damaged following the “Zap In” protest of May 1969.

As a precaution, Mayor William Verway directed that all businesses in Nekoma be closed on this Saturday. To protect the small villages in the area, Verway and others also contacted the governor for assistance. Although he sympathized with the protesters, Governor William Guy assured the communities that the North Dakota Highway Patrol and the National Guard would be alerted.

As projected numbers swelled, there was conjecture that new groups that might advocate “inflammatory and destructive tactics” now controlled the protest. Following a lengthy meeting with the National Guard and the Highway Patrol, Governor Guy placed the guard on “strategic weekend drill status.” At the same time, he advised President Richard Nixon



File photo

**Newspaper clipping of the April 6, 1970, International ABM Day protest in North Dakota by citizens from across the nation.**

that the defense of the ABM site was a federal responsibility.

Law enforcement personnel also met with protest leaders to set ground rules and help keep the demonstration peaceful. A specific site on the property was identified for the protest that would be marked but unfenced. The site was not immediately adjacent to the construction site, described by several as a mountain of dirt and a “monstrous hole” about 40 to 50 feet deep. For the Corps of Engineers it was to be business-as-usual with men and machines continuing with site preparation up until the actual day. Officials would however provide latrines and a trailer from which speakers could address the crowd.

The actual events at the Nekoma “Festival of Life and Love” were rather quiet. As the Grand Forks Herald reported “Members of the press, several North Dakota newspapers, a Minneapolis paper, all of the local television stations and a crew from CBS waited for something to happen. It didn’t.”

The highway patrol blocked access to Nekoma and provided traffic control as a caravan of more than 100

cars and busses arrived from Grand Forks and elsewhere. A crowd of about 2,000 spent the day making their way through a sea of mud created by three inches of rain that had fallen in the days previous.

The atmosphere was compared to a picnic as attendees, sitting on sheets of plastic, enjoyed their lunches while listening to speeches and music. The festivities also included kite flying, balloon releases and the planting of durum (“seeds of life”) and flowers.

The most dramatic incident came later in the afternoon, as a small group of approximately 250 protesters moved toward the construction site. Marching to “The Battle Hymn of the Republic” played on kazoos, demonstrators passed the “Road Closed” and “No Trespassing” signs to enter the excavation site for the Missile Site Radar. While some of the demonstrators planted more durum seeds and ash trees, others buried a tomahawk and smoked a peace pipe. A group of the protesters removed the surveying markings and wooden molds using them to create peace signs, etc. in the mud. The crowd gradually dispersed and by 6 p.m., the site was empty.

The Corps of Engineers estimated damages to the site were minimal, less than \$1,000 and a day’s work at the site. The history of the Huntsville division noted that “about the only damage done was the uprooting of forms in the bottom of the MSR excavation and the need to re-do some final grading disturbed by the passage of privately owned vehicles.” Work resumed on the MSR site, which was completed on schedule, and no other anti-ABM protests were noted in histories.

## Appreciation of our Korean War veterans - Breakfast is served



Photo by KC Bertling

**Lt. Gen. Richard P. Formica, commanding general, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, third from left, and his wife, Diane, visit with Korean War veterans Glenn Phares, left, and Robert McCall during a pancake breakfast May 11 in Huntsville, Ala.**

## Appreciating those who hold the front line



Photo by Carrie E. David

**Col. Jeffrey S. Ogden , acting chief of staff, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, welcomed spouses as the command celebrates the role of military spouses during a joint Colorado Springs, Colo., and Huntsville, Ala., ceremony May 10.**

## Proud moment for National Guard volunteer

Photo by DJ Montoya



Lt. Col. Martin Bortolutti, commander of the 117th Space Battalion (Colorado Army National Guard), presents an unsuspecting battalion family member with a certificate recognizing her volunteer work in the local National Guard Family Program during a farewell gathering for Commercial Imagery Team 4 at the Colorado Springs Airport on April 30. Alina Wilson, wife of operations officer and deputy for Commercial Imagery Team 4 Capt. Jeff Wilson, 217th Company, 117th Space Battalion, was named 2013 Army National Guard Volunteer of the Year for National Guard Region 8. Region 8 comprises the states of Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming and Utah. The award is sponsored by the Army National Guard, National Guard Bureau, Washington, D.C. The Volunteer Awards Program was established in 2008 as a way to thank and honor volunteers who, by their demonstrated commitment and example, inspire others to engage in volunteer service. It is designed to promote superior performance among all volunteers and recognize outstanding contributions made by statutory volunteers and organizations.

## Strom earns MSM



Photo by DJ Montoya

Lt. Gen. Richard P. Formica, commanding general, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, pins the Meritorious Service Medal on Maj. Eric Strom during an awards ceremony at USASMDC/ARSTRAT's Redstone Arsenal headquarters May 6. Strom has been at SMDC for more than three years and has served in the G-39, as the commanding general's aide and as the G-3 executive officer.

## Hoselton earns MSM



Photo by Carrie E. David

Col. Thomas Harraghy, a member of the Army deputy chief of staff G-3/5/7 office, awards the Meritorious Service Medal to Maj. Roger Hoselton, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, during a ceremony at the command's Redstone Arsenal headquarters May 9.