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SMA Chandler visits Army Space warriors



Photo by DJ Montoya

Lt. Gen. Richard P. Formica, left, commanding general, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command / Army Forces Strategic Command, exchanges comments with Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III alongside USASMDC/ARSTRAT Command Sgt. Maj. James N. Ross while at SMDC's headquarters at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., May 15. Chandler was in Colorado Springs for a few days and took the opportunity to visit with Army space Soldiers and received an update on the space-based capabilities SMDC provides the nation.



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File photo

With more than 2,000 attendees, a dedication ceremony with one of the largest crowds ever to attend an event on the island, witnessed, left to right, Sgt. Maj. Robert DePue, 7th Infantry; Lt. Col. J.G. Waterman, Kwajalein Test Site executive officer; and Master Sgt. H.F. Campbell, KTS administrative specialist, unveil a memorial to Pfc. Frederick Henry Bucholz.

SMDC History

KTZ dedicates airfield

Sharon Watkins Lang Command Historian

In 1967, the Kwajalein Memorial Day saw many firsts. For the first time, a 20 x 38 foot garrison flag, the largest authorized by regulation, flew in front of the terminal building. The U.S. Army of the Pacific Band also made its first appearance in Kwajalein.

The highlight of the Kwajalein Memorial Day holiday, however, was the official dedication of the Bucholz Army Airfield in honor of Pfc. Frederick Henry Bucholz who was killed in the last hours of the Battle of Kwajalein. More than 2,000 Kwajalein residents and Marshallese visitors, to include Fred Narruhn, recipient

of the Silver Star for courage as a Fiji Scout during World War II.

The ceremony on May 30, 1967 brought participants from across the Pacific. The 7th Infantry Division, then stationed in Korea, provided a color guard. Sgt. Maj. Robert L. DePue, also of the 7th Infantry Division, attended the ceremonies as the personal representative of Maj. Gen. F.W. Boye, Jr., division commander.

The 40 members of the 264th Army Band, the U.S. Army of the Pacific Band, under the direction of Chief Warrant Officer Anthony Bacca, meanwhile traveled from their head-

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Redstone Arsenal supports wounded warriors

Jason B. Cutshaw
SMDC Public Affairs

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala. – Redstone Arsenal is host to one of the Army's nine Community Based Warrior Transition Units that allows recuperating Soldiers to recover from injuries and receive vital information while remaining close to loved ones.

Approximately 120 National Guard and Reserve Soldiers were at Redstone Arsenal's CBWTU muster May 13-17. While here, they received medical care, attended classes on Army programs and participated in events to help them as they recover from injuries and transition back into civilian life.

"I am visiting Soldiers at the CBWTU because you can't say 'Thank You' enough," said Command Sgt. Maj. James N. Ross, command sergeant major, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command. "I want to see what is on their mind, and see if I am able to answer any questions they may have. I also want to let them know the Army is committed to them and we always will be."

The primary mission of the CBWTUs is to provide high-quality health care and administrative processing for Reserve-component Soldiers while allowing them to live and perform duties near their homes and families. The CBWTU program manages more than 900 Soldiers and is manned primarily by more than 250 mobilized Army National Guard and Army Reserve Soldiers who provide command and control for troops undergoing medical



Photo by Dottie White

Command Sgt. Maj. James N. Ross, command sergeant major, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, speaks to Soldiers and family members at Redstone Arsenal's Community Based Warrior Transition muster. Approximately 120 wounded warriors from Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi and Tennessee came together May 13-17 to receive guidance and exchange ideas as they recover from injuries.

treatment in neighborhood health care facilities.

At a CBWTU, nurse case managers manage the Soldiers' care. The case manager coordinates health care appointments, tracks the Soldiers' progress and ensures their care meets Army and TRICARE standards. Medical care is focused on returning Soldiers to their pre-mobilization health status. If after medical treatment, a Soldier does not meet retention standards, they are referred to a series of boards under the Physical Disability Evaluation System. The Physical Evaluation Board has responsibility for determining fitness for duty or any service-connected disability.

"The muster is a chance for us to bring all of our Soldiers into one

location and see them face-to-face," said Maj. Greg O'Hara, Redstone Arsenal CBWTU commander. "We get a chance to inform them of what is going on in the Army, to make sure any paperwork is done correctly and ensure any of their needs are met as best we can. It is a big deal to us. This is a tremendous week because we get to take care of our wounded warriors and their families, and let them know we care about them and they are still a part of the Army family.

"It is an amazing feeling to see a Soldier go from getting hurt to being back with their home unit," he added. "We are glad to have had great weather this week and a great

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Colorado members stands down for safety

DJ Montoya
SMDC Public Affairs

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo., – U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command units in the Colorado Springs area conducted a 2013 Safety Stand-Down Day/Safety Exposition May 22 at the command's headquarters here.

The day's event started off with a formation of troops at 9 a.m. in front of a small gazebo as SMDC Soldiers, civilians, contractors, and family members listened to opening remarks from Col. Gregory Bowen, deputy commander for support, SMDC.

"What we do in the Army is inherently dangerous business," said Bowen. "People get hurt every day. People die every day. But a lot of those things are preventable. They are caused by accidents. They are caused by carelessness. They are caused by people just not paying attention. Safety is everybody's business."

"I can tell you from personal experience I have lost a Soldier to an accident," Bowen continued. "Being a commander and having to deal with a loss of one of your Soldiers is horrible. That got my attention and that will stick with me for all my days. So I take safety seriously. As you go around here today, take a hard look at what these good folks have to show you."

After his remarks, SMDC personnel were encouraged to visit all the booths while Soldiers were instructed to sign in at the first station. The Soldiers then broke up into individ-



Photo by DJ Montoya

Spc. Lavarris Canadate from 1st Space Battalion tries his skills at using a fire extinguisher during the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command Safety Stand Down Day/Safety Exposition May 22 at the command's Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., headquarters.

ual units spending 20 minutes at each station/vendor getting briefed by subject matter experts.

According to Cedric Pelt, safety manager of the SMDC Safety Office in Colorado Springs, 22 vendors from the surrounding community took part in the day's event.

"There were four command safety training presentations given by Soldiers from the 1st Space Brigade and 100th Missile Defense Brigade (Ground-based Midcourse Defense), which covered heat exhaustion, personal gun safety, motorcycle safety and child and adult seatbelt safety," said Pelt. "These command safety training courses were in addition to the vendors."

Some of the vendors personnel had an opportunity to visit were: Colorado Springs Heath Partners, Colorado Springs Police Department, Colorado School of Fire Arms, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Medical Restoration Centers, PAFB, 21st

Space Wing, Safety and Occupational Health Office, and PAFB Fire Emergency Services.

"The Safety Expo was a big success. We had excellent participation from all the command units within Colorado Springs - both our civilian and military personnel," said Pelt. "It is estimated that 500 hundred people came through the Safety Expo. This includes family members and others who visited from Air Force Space Command and NORAD/NORTHCOM (North American Aerospace Defense Command/U.S. Northern Command) next door."

This year's Spring-Summer Safety Campaign, run by the command's Safety Office, began April 1 and goes through Sept. 30.

It is designed to address seasonal hazards, both on and off duty, training everyone on the appropriate mitigation actions to reduce accident risk.

SMDC honors Asian-Pacific culture

DJ Montoya and
Sgt. Christianna Sappa
USASMD/ARSTRAT

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. – Hawaiian leis, traditional Japanese clothing and dolls, Polynesian dancers, and authentic Asian-Pacific food provided the setting for the 2013 U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month observance May 10 at the command's headquarters here.

The theme for this year's event was "Building leadership: Embracing cultural values and inclusion."

"The Asian culture is very rich in tradition," said Chief Warrant Officer Billy F. Schultze from the SMDC Chief Information Officer C-4 Plans Branch, who served as the host for the event. "I'm very proud to be an Asian-American. I find the cultural diversity that my mother (Filipino) bestowed upon me has helped me a lot in life. These cultural traits and differences are actually things being embraced. And with that embracing of cultural understanding, leadership is built."

The guest speaker was John M. Santiago, Jr., founder and CEO of elite WORKS, LLC.

Building on this year's theme, Santiago told an audience of Soldiers, civilians, and contractors, "To me American is synonymous



Photo by DJ Montoya

A Hula dancer from Magic of the Pacific Islands Polynesian Dancers uses a gourd during her performance at the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command's Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month observance at the command's Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., headquarters May 10. It is an Ipu Heke 'Ole and is used to provide a beat for dancing.

with diversity and inclusion. Immigrants experience the freedom that's embraced here and the opportunities to be who you want to be. The Asian Pacific community is itself a diverse culture coming from dozens of countries each with their own language, customs, traditions and history."

Santiago then gave an overview on how integrated Asian Pacific cultures are in America through statistics.

He then discussed the history and culture of the Philippines reflecting on his own family's experiences.

"Like most immigrants, my parents came here with little or nothing except with the clothes they wore on their back... just to make their dreams and their children's dreams come true," Santiago said.

Following his presentation, the audience was treated to music and dances by Magic of the Pacific Islands Polynesian Dancers, the performing arm of Halau Pulama Mau Ke Aloha Ka Ohana Ilima of Colorado Springs. The performers were: Christian 'Koapaka' Gutierrez, musician; Valerie 'Melia' Bagnate, hula dancer; Casey Saoit, hula dancer; and Elie Mateo, hula dancer.

They performed various dances from around the Pacific islands. For instance, one was from the island of Tahiti and is known as an aparima. The song is entitled "Tiare Oe No Tahiti," and is about the fragrant mother flower of Tahiti. The group also performed a hula from the island of Hawaii with a song entitled "Ka Uluwehi O Ke Kai." This particular hula deals with the plants of the sea. Its words and dance motions reflect the simplicity of being delighted by the view and fragrance of the ocean.

Upon completion of the formal program, the audience was invited to sample food that included items such as kalua pork, chicken katsu, rice, and macaroni salad.

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facility here on Redstone Arsenal. This is a big deal because we only get to do a muster twice a year so it is important to us as we take care of our Soldiers.”

Redstone Arsenal’s CBWTU is responsible for Soldiers in Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee.

Prior to the CBWTU program, injured or ill Reserve-component Soldiers who remained on active duty for treatment had to live at an active Army installation. Not only did the surge overwhelm the installation housing and medical capacity, it kept Soldiers away from family, units and civilian employers.

“This is very important because it is a chance to get wounded warriors from four states together in one location and remind them that they are not forgotten,” said 1st Sgt. Jay Stewart, Redstone Arsenal CBWTU first sergeant. “This is a very productive week and we give the Soldiers information on programs, training and medical services they need as they transition to the next stage in their life.”

The U.S. Army established Warrior Transition Units at major military treatment facilities located around the world.

A WTU closely resembles a “line” Army unit, with a professional cadre and integrated Army processes that builds on the Army’s strength of unit cohesion and teamwork so that wounded Soldiers can focus on healing to transition back to the Army or to civilian status. Each wounded warrior works with a primary care manager (normally a physician), a nurse case manager and squad leader – who coordinate their care with other clinical and

non-clinical professionals.

“This week has provided us with a lot of important information,” said Master Sgt. Michael Trost, a member of 489th Civil Affairs Battalion’s S-3 office. “There are a lot of job opportunities that are offered and a lot of educational benefits available to us. The benefit is that there are a lot of organizations who come during the muster and let us know what they have to offer.

“Being able to be at home, I believe, has helped me heal faster than if I was at an Army installation and away from her. Being home has made all the difference in the world,” he added.

A CBWTU functions as a WTU for Soldiers who receive medical care in their community, either at a Department of Defense installation, with TRICARE, or at a Department of Veterans Affairs facility.

The CBWTU primarily provides outpatient care management and transition services for Army Reserve and National Guard Soldiers who do not need the day-to-day medical management provided by WTUs on Army installations. CBWTUs enables Soldiers to recover and transition at the location closest to their personal support network or in their home, if medically supportable.

One of the Soldiers talked about the care he receives at the CBWTU and how the program is helping by allowing him to be close to family and friends during his recovery.

“This week has been very informative,” said Sgt. Travis Mosier, 1st Battalion, 181st Field Artillery Regiment (MLRS) administrative and training NCO. “They have put out a lot of great information that I can use and also

take back to my unit to help others in the future. They have treated us great. They are really professional and friendly and that helps when coming back from a deployment.

“There is not a lot of stress here,” he added. “You get to go to your classes and medical appointments and get to transition easily back into life, and I can’t thank them enough for making this a great experience for us all.”

One wounded warrior assigned to USASMDC/ARSTRAT, said the program has been great and allows him to be a part of the Army family while still serving alongside his fellow Soldiers.

“This week has been great,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 James Joyner, an SMDC G-6 team member. “The CBWTU really does a great job taking care of the Soldiers. This really is a process, I have been in the system for more than a year and coming back from Afghanistan and being able to be around my family has been a big part of the healing process.

“My hat is off to the CBWTU,” he added. “To be able to go out and actively serve in the role that I performed in the Army is an invaluable experience, and the Redstone Arsenal community is all about taking care of and supporting us. The MWR program here has an incredible staff that does a great job in helping Soldiers and veterans relieve stress.

“The biggest support we receive is from our families,” Joyner concluded. “Without them, we couldn’t do what we do. I love being in the Army and doing what I do, but the families are the ones who have really sacrificed for us.”

Remembering those who gave all



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Lt. Gen. Richard P. Formica, commanding general, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, and Richard Reyes, North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition president, place a wreath at the base of the veterans memorial at Maple Hill Cemetery in Huntsville, Ala., on Memorial Day. Formica took time to thank those in attendance and said, "Thank you for taking time away from barbecues and family gatherings to remember those who gave their lives." Twenty-seven veterans organizations laid wreaths at the cemetery's veterans memorial during the ceremony.

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Photo by Dottie White

U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command members, from left to right, KC Bertling and Sgt. 1st Class Victor Marzan present Kerrie Branson (Team Redstone Army Emergency Relief coordinator), along with Command Sgt. Maj. James N. Ross, Lt. Col. Wilton Ransom and Joanna Brunson with a check representing \$14,266 that the command raised for Army Emergency Relief.

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quarters in Hawaii on their first visit to Kwajalein.

The ceremony began at 11 a.m. at the airfield with the presentation of the colors and the National Anthem. Chaplain Robert C. Smith presented the invocation. This was followed by a reading of the Secretary of Defense's Memorial Day Proclamation.

Col. Frank Healy, Kwajalein Test Site commander, introduced Don McAfee, Global Resident manager, who presented the keynote address. McAfee, who had served on the island with the Army Air Corps following the battle of Kwajalein, noted that Memorial Day ceremonies were not only to remember those killed in past wars, but also "to remember American troops 'Fighting and Dying' in Southeast Asia."

In his presentation McAfee outlined the events of the three-day

Battle of Kwajalein and the events for which Pfc. Fred Henry Bucholz received the Army's Distinguished Service Cross. McAfee added that the Bucholz family suffered a double loss in 1944, as his brother was killed five months later in the Battle of Normandy.

Following the keynote address, the general order was read officially, designating the airfield as Bucholz Army Airfield and the name on the terminal building was unveiled.

A permanent marker, located on the apron side of the terminal, was also unveiled during the ceremonies by DePue; Lt. Col. J.G. Waterman and Master Sgt. H.F. Campbell, Kwajalein Test Site; Neil Phelps Munson, editor of the Hourglass, designed the bronze plaque; while Gene Stevens of Global Engineering, designed the base.

Bucholz, from Elmhurst, Ill., served with the 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, where he posthumously received the Distinguished Service Cross, the highest award presented by the U.S. Army for "extraordinary heroism" in actions taken to save his wounded lieutenant on Feb. 4, 1944. Later that day, Bucholz and his sergeant were clearing bunkers in the jungle near Emon Beach when Bucholz was shot and instantly killed.

His DSC reads "Private First Class Bucholz's intrepid actions, personal bravery and zealous devotion to duty at the cost of his life, exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States and reflect great credit upon himself, the 7th Infantry Division, and the United States Army."

Deadline for comments and submissions for the June 13 issue is June 7.
Please submit to Jason B. Cutshaw at Jason.B.Cutshaw.civ@mail.mil.

Chandler gets update on Army space capabilities



Photo by DJ Montoya

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III, center, watches a briefing of space-based capabilities and products offered by the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command May 15 at the command's headquarters at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. On the left is SMDC/ARSTRAT Command Sgt. Maj. James N. Ross and 1st Space Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas L. Eagan on the right.

Proud moment for National Guard volunteer



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jack Carlson III

Sgt. Erik Wilkins, communications operator, Echo Crew, 49th Missile Defense Battalion, briefs Command Sgt. Maj. James N. Ross, command sergeant major, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, on his role in the Ground-based Midcourse Defense system. Wilkins is part of a five-member crew that can launch ground-based interceptors from Fort Greely, Alaska, and Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., to intercept long-range ballistic missiles that may threaten the United States.

Memorial Day run at Redstone Arsenal



Photo by Jason B. Cutshaw

Lt. Gen. Richard P. Formica, commanding general, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, leads Soldiers and civilians at the command's headquarters on Redstone Arsenal, Ala., during a USASMDC/ARSTRAT Memorial Day run May 21 to honor fallen warriors.

A Rocky Mountain Memorial Day run



Photo by DJ Montoya

Col. Gregory Bowen, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command deputy commander for support, leads Soldiers stationed at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., during the USASMDC/ARSTRAT Memorial Day run May 21.