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A Space & Missile Defense NewsWire

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Safety rides again



Photo by Carrie E. David

Dr. Steve F. Pierce, director of the Decision Support Directorate, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command Future Warfare Center, tests out the Harley Davidson motorcycle display with guidance from Rocket Harley's John "Dub" Sisk during the fifth annual Joint Safety Awareness Day and Health Expo to promote safety awareness hosted by the USASMDC/ARSTRAT and Missile Defense Agency June 12 at the Von Braun Complex on Redstone Arsenal. See story on Page 4.



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COMMANDING GENERAL

Lt. Gen. Richard P. Formica

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR

Command Sgt. Maj. James N. Ross

DEPUTY TO THE COMMANDER

Ronald E. Chronister

DEPUTY COMMANDER FOR OPERATIONS

Col. James H. Jenkins III

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Photo by Carrie E. David

Lt. Gen. Richard P. Formica, commanding general of U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, presents Debra Wymer, USASMDC/ARSTRAT Technical Center director, with the Noble Patron of Space during her retirement reception May 29. Wymer retired with 30 years of federal service.

SMDC SES retires among family, friends

Carrie E. David
SMDC Public Affairs

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala. - One of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command's senior executive service leaders ended her federal career during a ceremony May 29 at the Von Braun III auditorium among her family and friends.

Debra Wymer, director, USASMDC/ARSTRAT's Technical Center, retired with more

than 30 years of federal service.

During the ceremony, she received the Exceptional Civilian Service Award, the Outstanding Service in the Army Senior Executive Service Award, the Noble Patron of Space Award, a certificate of appreciation, an American flag and certificate, and her retirement pin and certificate.

Among her guests were her three children, her brothers and sisters, and her 89-year-old father.

Brigade's Detachment One gets new commander

Sgt. Benjamin Crane
100th MDB Public Affairs

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. – The winds of change that come with being in the Army blow about as often as the Santa Anna winds blow here in California. That continued as a new leader was handed the reins of Detachment 1, 100th Missile Defense Brigade (Ground-based Midcourse Defense) May 30.

First Lt. Juan Andrini was handed the unit's guidon inside the Western Range Operations Control Center auditorium. The guidon symbolizes his charge to lead his Soldiers and take the responsibility to look after them. Andrini is coming from the brigade headquarters in Colorado, where he worked in the logistics shop.

The detachment comprises seven California National Guard Soldiers working together to defend the skies above America in case of a foreign missile attack. They work hand-in-hand with other brigade units in Colorado and Alaska to accomplish the mission of defending the homeland.

Andrini takes over for outgoing commander Capt. William Palermo. Palermo has been the commander of the detachment since 2011.

"It's definitely been a great learning experience," Palermo said about his two years with the detachment. "I've become a better leader through the challenges I've faced here."

For the new commander, there will also be many new challenges ahead. One of the biggest will be the change in the Modified Table of Organization and Equipment that



Photo by Sgt. Benjamin Crane

1st Lt. Juan Andrini takes the unit guidon from Col. Edward Hildreth, 100th Missile Defense Brigade commander, assuming responsibility for the unit during the Change of Command for the brigade's Detachment 1, May 30, at the Western Range Operations Control Center auditorium on Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif.

will allow for seven more Soldiers to become part of the detachment.

"The biggest challenges for me are going to be gaining the trust of the Soldiers," Andrini said. "I can't come in and demand it, and secondly, in 2014 my unit's going to double in size. The mission won't be the same as it has been, so I have to be ready for that."

As for handling the challenges, Andrini comes in loaded with experience.

He has been with the brigade since 2004, as well as working as an engagement controller for the New Mexico National Guard's Patriot Battalion for his first five years in the military.

"I have nothing but noncommissioned officers underneath me, and they are all professional," said Andrini. "It should need very little oversight on my part."

As Andrini starts to tackle all the new challenges as the Det. 1 commander, the outgoing commander will take what he learned here back to the Rocky Mountains.

Palermo will be heading back to Colorado to work with the 100th MDB in the operations section.

"I look forward to sharing the knowledge that I gained (while being the Det. 1 commander) back to brigade headquarters and lead the Soldiers there," added Palermo.

SMDC, MDA host joint Safety Day

Jason B. Cutshaw
SMDC Public Affairs

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala. – As the summer approaches, the Redstone Arsenal and Colorado Springs, Colo., communities are learning about health and safety.

The U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command and the Missile Defense Agency hosted the fifth annual Joint Safety Awareness Day and Health Expo to promote safety awareness June 12 at the Von Braun Complex on Redstone Arsenal and another for USASMDC/ARSTRAT team members on May 22 in Colorado Springs, Colo.

“First, I want to thank our partners in MDA for co-sponsoring today’s Safety Expo. We have a close collaborative relationship with MDA not only in safety, but in developing our nation’s global missile defense,” said Ronald E. Chronister, deputy to the commander, USASMDC/ARSTRAT. “We are focused on sharing summer safety and health information to increase our awareness about summer hazards and to make sure our most valuable resource – You – returns safely to work each day.

“Safety is a big deal. Since October, there have been a total of 3,600 civilian accident claims filed within the U.S. Army; 838 were lost time/fatality claims. In fiscal year 2012, accidents cost the Army about \$180 million; at the Department of Defense, it was just over \$3 billion. Sadly, this year, the Army lost more Soldiers to accidents than to combat. We can, and we must, do better,” he continued. “And now we enter the Army’s 101 Critical Days of Summer, which runs from Memorial Day through Labor Day. This is probably the most dangerous time of the year. The summer hours of daylight means more chances for accidents as we enjoy a barbecue or boating or any of the other wonderful things Alabama has to offer. It also means the time of year when hazardous weather conditions can pop up, so stay alert and stay prepared.”

The purpose of the expo is to help minimize the risk of unintentional death, injury or damage caused by mishaps and to promote proactive measures within the work force, as well as during leisure activities. The day’s activities focused on safety demonstrations and inspections performed by members of Redstone Arse-



Photo by Jason B. Cutshaw

Sara Jennings, a member of U.S. Army Space and Command/Army Forces Strategic Command G-4, gets a spinal check-up from Kathryn Yeager of Briggs Chiropractic Clinic at the fifth annual Joint Safety Awareness Day and Health Expo to promote safety awareness June 12 at the Von Braun Complex on Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

nal and its surrounding communities.

“MDA and SMDC employees are a national resource and their safety is a top priority,” said Maj. Gen. Ole A. Knudson, MDA program executive for Programs and Integration. “We know that our employees can continue to produce state-of-the-art-missile defense systems for the nation only to the extent that we provide a safe and healthy work environment. Beyond the work environment our employees and their families are subject to the hazards of everyday life that can impact the morale and productivity of the work force. We must continually keep awareness and attention on safe practices both on and off duty.

“Today’s event is focused on nurturing a positive safety culture within our organizations,” Knudson added. “This joint effort allows us to demonstrate our dedication to our work force by enabling safety experts from

Soldier plays to keep game real

Jason B. Cutshaw
SMDC Public Affairs

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala. – One member of U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command is playing his part in helping show the American public that ultimately, the Army is about teamwork.

In 2002, Lt. Col. Joseph F. Crocitto, USASMDC/ARSTRAT G-38 Strategy and Policy Branch chief, started playing the online game “America’s Army,” and now he is helping as a design consultant to ensure its continued success.

“America’s Army is the official game of the U.S. Army,” Crocitto said. “It is an online, first-person shooter game that is a way for the Army to reach out and get their message across and interest a new generation of heroes. As it became better known, millions of people downloaded the game and it started being played worldwide, and not just in the United States.

“It became very popular, in the gaming community while also getting the Army’s message out to the masses,” he added. “The premise was to keep it as realistic as possible while still making it a playable game. It is a delicate balance; if you keep it too ‘game-y’ then you take away some of the pressures and the rewards of teamwork and communication that come along with Army operations. And if you make it too realistic, then you take away the enjoyment of the game. So striking a balance is the challenge when there is a new version or a change to the game.”

The U.S. Army released the original



Courtesy photo

Lt. Col. Joseph F. Crocitto, left, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command G-38 Strategy and Policy Branch chief, and Mike Barnett, U. S. Army Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, or AMRDEC, Software Engineering Directorate marketing and game development staff member, review the latest issue of the America’s Army comic book for online publication.

version of America’s Army, its free, multiplayer first-person shooter designed to be both a recruiting and public relations tool, on July 4, 2002. Since then, there have been more than 25 versions released. To date, more than 9 million copies have been downloaded.

America’s Army is a 3D tactical shooter developed by the U.S. Army. Part recruitment tool and part PR tool, it is a video game developed by Col. Casey Wardynski, who recognized that a video game might be helpful to the U.S. Army in the strategic communication efforts by providing more information to prospective Soldiers.

“The team’s objective and challenge is to produce a game that is engaging as well as based in reality and providing as much

realistic feedback as possible,” Crocitto said. “I didn’t realize the development center for the game is over at U. S. Army Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center’s Software Engineering Directorate here at Redstone until I received an e-mail asking for input. I contacted them and let them know that I have played the game since its inception and they asked me to help out with the team.

“My experience as an enlisted Soldier as well as an officer with three combat deployments has allowed me to see both perspectives and I have been able to bring a broad perspective to the game,” he added. “I have been able to help out and if

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Command says farewell to G-33 chief

DJ Montoya
SMDC Public Affairs

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. – An assortment of military officials from around the Colorado Springs area along with Soldiers, civilians, family members and friends from the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command said farewell to retiring Col. Eric P. Henderson June 7 at The Club on Peterson Air Force Base.

They joined Henderson's family and relatives visiting from across the country to witness the close of a successful 27-year career.

The presiding official for the ceremony was retired Brig. Gen. Kurt S. Story, former deputy commander, Joint Functional Component Command for Space, U.S. Strategic Command.

"Henderson is the type of person that people want to follow," said Story. "A leader has a responsibility



Photo by DJ Montoya

Retired Army Brig. Gen. Kurt S. Story awards Col. Eric P. Henderson, chief, G-33 Operations Division, G-3, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, with the Legion of Merit during Henderson's retirement June 7 at the Peterson Club, Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

to the group, and Eric never loses sight of that. A leader has a responsibility to himself, and Eric doesn't ever lose sight of that. A leader has a responsibility to the community – in this case the larger

Army enterprise – our nation. Eric never lost sight of that. And lastly a leader has an obligation to ethics and morality – to our code, and Eric never lost sight of that. Eric is a great American. I'm proud of him, and proud to have served with him."

After his remarks, he presented Henderson with the Legion of Merit for his service in the command culminating as chief of the G-33 Operations Division, deputy chief of staff, G-3, SMDC from June 2003 through July 2013.

Numerous awards and honors were presented to Henderson, as well as to his wife, Jean, during the ceremony. As Story presented the final honor – that of the certificate of retirement and pin – Henderson took center stage saying, "If a Soldier's Soldiers are his credentials, then a man's friends are truly his wealth. When I look around here today and I see everybody in here, it is the greatest honor that could ever be bestowed upon me."

Harraghy receives MSM



Photo by Jason B. Cutshaw

Lt. Gen. Richard P. Formica, right, commanding general, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, presents the Meritorious Service Medal to Col. Thomas A. Harraghy May 30 at USASMDC/ARSTRAT's Redstone Arsenal, Ala., headquarters for his service to the command while being assigned to the Department of the Army headquarters.

SMDC History: U.S. abrogates ABM treaty

Sharon Watkins Lang
SMDC command historian

June 13, 2002, marked the end of the six-month notice period required to withdraw from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, a significant event in the history of the current Ground-based Midcourse Defense System. With the end of the treaty, the ballistic missile defense community was now able to pursue alternate avenues of research and development and deployment.

In a short statement released by White House officials, President George W. Bush explained the rationale for this move.

“With the treaty now behind us, our task is to develop and deploy effective defenses against limited missile attacks. As the events of Sept. 11 made clear, we no longer live in the Cold War world for which the ABM Treaty was designed. We now face new threats from terrorists who seek to destroy our civilization by any means available to rogue states armed with weapons of mass destruction and long-range missiles.

In addition, Bush declared, “I am committed to deploying a missile defense system as soon as possible to protect the American people and our deployed forces against the growing missile threats we face.”

Within days Brig. Gen. John Holly, GMD Joint Project Office program director, conducted a ground



File photo

A test launch of an Anti-Ballistic Missile Ground-Based Midcourse Defense system.

breaking ceremony at Fort Greely, Alaska, for a six-silo GMD testbed.

Under the ABM treaty and its protocols, this location would not have been permitted. The treaty had limited both nations, the United States and the former Soviet Union, to one deployment location. This could be either in the national

capital region or in the vicinity of a strategic missile complex. Fort Greely met neither criteria.

In his statement, President Bush further observed “because these threats also endanger our allies and friends around the world, it is essential that we work together to defend against them, an important task which the ABM Treaty prohibited.”

Citing the Treaty of Moscow, which would further reduce the American and Russian nuclear arsenals, Bush broached the possibility of building a new relationship based upon “common interests.”

Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin had already begun to explore opportunities for cooperation in missile defense to include expanding military exercises, sharing early-warning data, and conducting joint research and development.

Since 2002, much progress has been made with regard to international cooperation in missile defense, with missile defense components deployed in nations around the globe.

The proposed relationship with Russia however has yet to be fully realized. On June 14, 2002, the Russian government withdrew from the START II nuclear arms treaty, which in their ratification process, had been tied to the preservation of the ABM Treaty.

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Space warriors get new commander



Photo by DJ Montoya

Col. James R. Meisinger (center left), 1st Space Brigade commander, passes the colors of the 1st Space Battalion to Lt. Col. Richard L. Zellmann (center right) charging him with the responsibilities of the battalion during a Change of Command at Patriot Park, Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., June 7.

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I do not have an answer, I probably know someone with the expertise that is needed.”

To play America’s Army, the individual must set up an account. Each account can have multiple online Soldiers associated with it. Once logged in, the player will be prompted to create a Soldier. From there, after each login, they will be asked to choose the Soldier they wish to play and accrue experience with. Each new Soldier created will have to go through enlistment and training.

There are multiple roles players can choose from: including rifleman, automatic rifleman and squad designated marksman.

Everything is geared toward the idea of working as a squad of Army

Soldiers. Attention to detail is as realistic as possible. Soldiers are armed with all the standard Army weaponry of the day and are outfitted with the latest uniforms and gear.

While killing the enemy is important, just like in the real Army, it’s not as important as completing the main objective. Teamwork counts more than if a player tries to be a hero.

“Just like in the Army, the first thing you do in the game is train,” Crocitto said. “Players get to go through an obstacle course, learn about equipment and then be incorporated into a team. The biggest message and objective is to work as a team.

“Players learn the value of taking care of the Soldier next to you and

placing the mission first,” he added.

There is also an online America’s Army comic book to go along with the game. The comic adds to the learning experience of the game, and you see the benefits of teamwork and staying together.

“In the comic book, we check for interesting pieces of information to link to websites with more detailed information,” Crocitto said “It’s called an ‘Intel’ link in the online reader. We also check for consistent dialogue and realistic tactics and coloring. I use my knowledge to help make the final product appropriate and interesting, while not letting it get too far out of bounds with reality.”

To check out the game, go to its website at www.americasarmy.com.

Deadline for comments and submissions for the June 27 issue is June 21.

Please submit to Jason B. Cutshaw at Jason.B.Cutshaw.civ@mail.mil.

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within the Huntsville community to share safety and health information and to demonstrate various safety concepts and equipment that are available to keep employees and their families safe. This event also lends our support to June as the National Safety Month.”

The expo highlighted SMDC’s and MDA’s commitments to employee safety and health by bringing in local vendors to demonstrate and promote safety awareness.

“This event provides a venue to promote safety within the SMDC and MDA communities, not only at work but home,” said Randy Joyner, SMDC command safety officer. “It is an important element of SMDC’s Summer Safety Campaign and the National Safety Month. SMDC hosted a similar event at Peterson Air Force Base for command personnel and their family members on May 22. It highlights and reinforces SMDC’s and MDA’s commitments to the safety and welfare of employees.

“The collateral duty safety officers from each organization solicit and identify safety topics that interest the work force,” he added. “This collaboration with employees allows both the command and agency to bring in interesting exhibits and training that highlights important safety topics, on and off duty.”

With summer approaching, Joyner emphasized the importance of being safe, not only at work, but at home as well.

“Warm weather and higher temperatures means increased outdoor recreational activities, home maintenance projects and summer travel for leisure,” Joyner said. “Accidents around the home cause an increas-

ing number of injuries to our work force. Safety awareness and risk mitigation should be their number one priority, no matter how ridiculous it may seem. Ensuring safety measures are in place on and off duty not only protects us but it also ensures the welfare of our family members. It is vital that all personnel be cognizant of their surroundings and the associated hazards to prevent accidental mishaps.

“We hope personnel leave this event with an appreciation of how safety should be perceived, valued and prioritized,” he added. “This is an integral part of developing a valued safety culture at work and home. We look forward to seeing you at next year’s event.”

Exhibits and safety demonstrations in Huntsville included: The Redstone Arsenal Fire Department; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; electrical safety; worn tires; Briggs Chiropractic Clinic; fitness center; ergonomics; Fleet Feet; FBI; Community Emergency Response Team; North Alabama Firearms Training; radon safety; home power; Terminex pest control; Army Substance and Abuse Program; boating safety with the Coast Guard; Explosive Ordnance Disposal; Alabama Department of Safety; motorcycle safety; storm shelters; bicycle safety and others.

SMDC members in Colorado Springs, partnered with Fort Carson and Peterson Air Force Base safety offices to provide summer safety demonstrations including: Colorado Springs Health Partners, Colorado Springs Police Department, Colorado School of Fire Arms, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Medical Restoration Centers, 21st Space Wing,

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

“Safety is paramount and needs to be in peoples’ minds all the time,” said Phil Patterson, general engineer with the SMDC Future Warfare Center. “You see people out on the roads and they aren’t really thinking about safety. They are thinking about what time they have to get somewhere and where they are going. There are consequences to actions and if we are not thinking about arriving safely, then there can be consequences to what we are doing.

“Today is a great activity to get people together to focus on safety,” he added. “Safety is crucial to everything we do.”

MDA and SMDC employees and family members at Redstone Arsenal got a firsthand chance to learn about local safety and health issues unique to Alabama and the Tennessee Valley. They learned about several issues confronting them both indoors and outdoors.

“Living here for more than 13 years, I have come to appreciate and respect all wildlife, especially snakes,” said Michael Nash, member of SMDC’s Small Business Office. “Our Safety Day event is a good reminder to not only be safe ourselves, but also to ensure our families, and especially our children, are safe when they are outside with nature.

“Today’s event is educational and a stark reminder that not all animals are safe, especially wildlife,” he added. “So get out there and enjoy the warm weather and outdoor fun that Alabama has to offer. Just watch where you step.”

SMDC Soldier earns industry award



Photo by Carrie E. David

Tom Webber, left, acting director of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command Technical Center, presents Lt. Col. Patrick Marshall with a Management Award June 3 at USASMD/ARSTRAT's Redstone Arsenal, Ala., headquarters from the Tennessee Valley Chapter National Defense Industrial Association, "In recognition of significant contributions to the national defense of the United States of America."

Echo Company bids farewell to command team



Photo by Spc. Michael Nguyen

Lt. Col. Karen J. Roe (left), commander of the 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON), passes the Echo Company guidon to incoming commander Capt. Jack H. Cooperman during a combination Change of Command/Relinquishment of Responsibility June 3.