

SEPTEMBER 5, 2013

A Space & Missile Defense NewsWire

# THE EAGLE

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## Missile Defense Soldiers hone skills



*Photo By Sgt. Benjamin Crane*

**Maj. George Lambos, 100th Missile Defense Brigade S-1, keeps watch while Soldiers of the 100th Missile Defense Brigade participate in the first day of training during the units five-day field training exercise Aug. 23. The training at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., included tactical ruck marching, vehicle searches and practicing movement-to-contact tactics on the battlefield.**



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## Former mayor speaks for Women's Equality



Photo by Carrie E. David

**Command Sgt. Maj. James Ross, command sergeant major, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, talks to Robyn Mann, center, wife of Lt. Gen. David L. Mann, USASMDC/ARSTRAT commanding general, and Loretta Spencer, Huntsville's former mayor, after Spencer spoke during the command's Redstone Arsenal, Ala., headquarters' Women's Equality Month event Aug. 22.**

## RSA makes plans for RAD

Maj. Gen. Lynn A. Collyar, senior commander, Redstone Arsenal, and Col. Bill Marks, Redstone Arsenal garrison commander, cordially invite military retirees from all branches of U.S. uniformed services and their dependents, to attend Redstone Arsenal's 42nd annual Retiree Appreciation Day, or RAD, event, Oct. 18-19.

This year will include a golf tournament and bingo event, as well as more free specials.

On Oct. 18 at the Summit and Overlook on Redstone Arsenal, there will be: a retiree health fair, a TRICARE briefing, a retiree appreciation golf tournament and flu vaccines will be given in the Overlook parking lot (depends on vaccine availability).

Throughout the day there will

be numerous organizations and local vendors as well as medical representatives.

On Oct. 19 in Bldg. 5304, there will be more than 50 booths, as well as various speakers.

Estate and legal services will be given at the Staff Judge Advocate Office in Bldg. 3439.

Other services provided at RAD 2013 are: ID Cards issuance/assistance, Saturday; Veteran's Administration reps, Saturday; golf cart service to escort people from their car to events on both days; bingo on Saturday; and raffle prizes to include a special prize by the Defense Commissary Agency, Saturday.

Check out the retiree homepage on the website at [www.garrison.redstone.army.mil](http://www.garrison.redstone.army.mil).



Photos by DJ Montoya

**Spc. Scott A. Barry Jr., right screen, a U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command JTAGS Soldier answers questions at the USASM-DC/ARSTRAT Best Warrior Competition board Aug. 27 via video teleconference.**

## SMDC Soldiers compete for Best Warrior

### By Staff Reports

**COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.** - The U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command conducted the 2013 Best Warrior board for the command Aug. 27 at 1st Space Brigade's operational headquarters, resulting in the naming of the command's Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Year.

Sgt. Brian Hester and Cpl. David Berg, both from the 1st Space Company, 1st Space Battalion, 1st Space Brigade, were named the SMDC 2013 NCO and Soldier of the Year, respectively.

For seven hours seven senior enlisted personnel headed by Command Sgt. Maj. James Ross, SMDC/ARSTRAT command sergeant major, traveled around the world to interview Army Space Soldiers from six different locations, but never left the brigade's conference room.

Eight candidates from Europe, Eastern, Western, and Pacific regions for the command stepped forward via videoteleconference for this last part of the competition and were put through a series of questions ranging from current events to what types of services are available to a Soldier when they first arrive at their assignment.

The board members were Ross; Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Eagan, 1st Space Brigade; Command Sgt. Maj. Russell Hamilton, 100th Missile Defense Brigade (Ground-based Midcourse Defense); Sgt. Maj. David Poehlein, SMDC G-3; Command Sgt. Maj. Virgil Ebrecht, 1st Space Battalion; Command Sgt. Maj. Oree J. White Jr., 53rd Signal Battalion; and Sgt. Maj. William Ray, 100th MDB G-3.



**100th Missile Defense Brigade (Ground-based Midcourse Defense) Command Sgt. Maj. Russell Hamilton waits for an answer as he questions competitors during the 2013 Best Warrior board.**



**Sgt. Brian Hester**



**Cpl. David Berg**

# SMDC to celebrate 30 years of AFAP

**Jason B. Cutshaw**  
**SMDC Public Affairs**

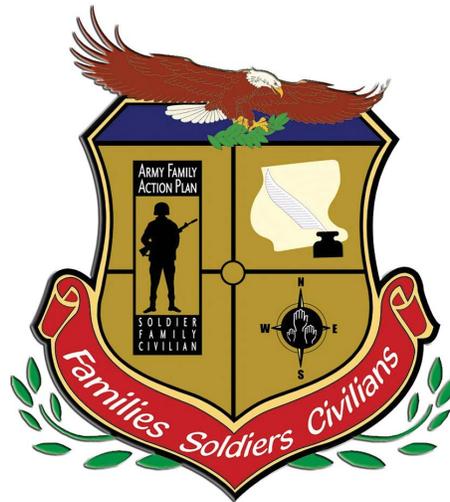
**REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala.** – Members of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Army Family Action Plan via videoteleconference Sept. 24 throughout the command.

USASMDC/ARSTRAT will celebrate via VTC in the Huntsville headquarters' conference room 3017, 1-2 p.m. CDT. This event will be shared with outlying stations, including Colorado Springs, Colo., and Fort Greely, Alaska.

“AFAP is the voice of customers; Soldiers, Family members, Department of the Army civilians and retirees,” said KC Bertling, SMDC Soldiers and Family Program manager. “If they have any issues with quality of life as Army families, they can elevate that issue to Army senior leaders. And senior leaders do hear the issues and concerns, and they do care.

“I was introduced to AFAP in 1994,” she added. “At that time, I did not have much understanding of what it was all about. After attending a local conference for the first time, I realized that the AFAP is all about providing the best for the Army Family’s quality of life, and Army senior leaders really do care.”

The AFAP program provides a mechanism for all individuals who comprise the Army’s global force



– Soldiers of various ranks, dual military and single Soldier parents, retirees, Department of the Army civilians, survivors, wounded warriors and their Family members to identify issues of concern that impact their quality of life.

The AFAP process operates at three distinct levels – garrison and tenant unit issue submissions; Headquarters, Army staff issue vetting; and AFAP General Officer Steering Committee member command focus groups.

“If people here at SMDC have an issue, all they have to do is send me an e-mail. If they have experienced something or if they have noticed something requires senior leaders to get involved and intervene, all they have to do is contact me. We will submit that information to those leaders,” Bertling said. “Through AFAP, policies have been changed and new benefits have been established. Some of the benefits from

AFAP are changes in use or lose leave and the GI Bill.

“With our command being world-wide, issues are going to be different in Alabama, Colorado, Alaska and at Kwajalein Atoll out in the Pacific Ocean. If there is an issue, no matter how big or small, they can contact me, and I will make sure they are heard,” she added.

The Army Family Action Plan has been the voice of all components of Army families. AFAP is a primary tool for communicating with the Army’s senior leadership and reaches across the Army to identify, prioritize and elevate quality of life issues to the Army senior leaders for action and resolution.

Since 1983, 692 issues have entered AFAP: with 520 issues resolved and 158 classified as unattainable. AFAP has been the driving force behind 128 pieces of legislation, 184 Department of Defense and Army policy changes and 208 improved programs and services. There are currently 14 active AFAP issues under review.

“The most important thing to know is that the AFAP program is for the Army Family. If someone has an experience and they keep it to themselves, then nobody else will know. But AFAP is a place where members of the Army family can share and where leaders will listen to their concerns,” Bertling said.

To learn more about AFAP, call (256) 955-4082, or e-mail [kum.c.bertling.civ@mail.mil](mailto:kum.c.bertling.civ@mail.mil).

Deadline for comments and submissions for the Sept. 19 issue is Sept. 13.  
Please submit to Jason B. Cutshaw at [Jason.B.Cutshaw.civ@mail.mil](mailto:Jason.B.Cutshaw.civ@mail.mil).

# SMDC civilian leader joins SES ranks

**Jason B. Cutshaw**  
**SMDC Public Affairs**

**REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala.** – Members of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command witnessed one civilian reach the senior level of civilian service.

Lt. Gen. David L. Mann, commanding general, USASMDC/ARSTRAT, presided over the appointment of Richard P. DeFatta, director, Emerging Technologies Directorate, SMDC Technical Center, into the Senior Executive Service in a ceremony at the Von Braun III auditorium Aug. 23.

“Rick has played a major role in development of a number of the weapon systems that are keeping our country safe and he has done so without a lot of fanfare,” Mann said. “This is a distinct honor for me to participate in this ceremony, I know Rick’s family is extremely proud of him, and, quite frankly, I am sure they are not surprised that he has reached this level of accomplishment. He is a true professional.”

As DeFatta spoke he thanked his family and friends for their support and guidance throughout his career, and said he looks forward to the future.

“Thanks to everyone for coming. I am especially excited to see all of my friends, and I have a lot of good friends here in Huntsville,” DeFatta said. “I am reminded of the dedicated, wonderfully diverse and highly capable civilian and military members working in SMDC/ARSTRAT, and I am proud and excited to be joining your ranks.

“To the SMDC Tech Center and



*Photo By Dottie White*

**Richard P. DeFatta, director, Emerging Technology Directorate, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command Technical Center, is sworn in to the Senior Executive Service by Lt. Gen. David L. Mann, USASMDC/ARSTRAT commanding general, during DeFatta’s promotion ceremony at the Von Braun III auditorium Aug. 23.**

especially the Emerging Technologies Directorate, I pledge my best efforts and full support helping you continue your excellence in developing new and important technologies and providing capabilities to our forces,” he added.

Before he arrived at SMDC, DeFatta’s civilian jobs included working with diverse defense companies where he managed a staff of professionals providing systems engineering, integration, test, program management and technical support for the Missile Defense Agency and other Department of Defense program offices responsible for development, production, and fielding of missile defense weapons systems.

As an Army colonel, DeFatta was project manager for the Army’s

Cruise Missile Defense Systems Project Office. He managed the development, production, fielding and sustainment for five of the Army’s air and missile defense products providing integrated capability for forward deployed forces.

Previously, he also served as chief of staff to the assistant secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology; the U.S. product manager for the Medium Extended Air Defense System; and U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll Missile Range director.

DeFatta graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1978 and holds Masters of Science in engineering physics from the Air Force Institute of Technology and systems management from the Florida Institute of Technology.

## SMDC civilian retires after 25 years



*Photo by Carrie E. David*

Col. Bennie Pokemire, deputy chief of staff, G-6, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, pins the Superior Civilian Service Award onto Debra Williams during her retirement at the command's Redstone Arsenal, Ala., headquarters Aug. 22. Williams retires from the federal civilian workforce with 25 years of service.

## Command to offer motorcycle safety class

**Randy Joyner**  
**SMDC Safety Office**

In the promotion of motorcycle safety, the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command Safety Office is planning a motorcycle refresher training event for USASMDC/ARSTRAT Soldiers, civilians and contractors located in the Huntsville, Ala., area.

The event will consist of two parts; a one-hour classroom refresher – classroom discussion and training – Sept. 19 in Room 3017, 3-4 p.m., and a group ride Sept. 20, 8 a.m. until completed.

The group ride will start at the parking lot next to the Redstone Bowling Alley.

In case of severe weather, the alternate date for the group ride will be Sept. 27 at 8 a.m.

Event activities will consist of a classroom discussion and training aids, a question and answer period, motorcycle inspection, review of personal protective equipment, a



*Photo By Army Medical Department*

pre-ride at a designated area and a three-hour group ride, with lunch, at the individual's expense.

Soldiers must have completed the Basic Riders Course. Civilian and contractor operators are highly recommended to have completed a Motorcycle Safety Foundation Course within the last three years.

The location of the MRT will be the place of duty for participating Soldiers. Participating civilians will be required to take personal leave to attend event activities.

For those interested in the course, contact Randy Joyner, SMDC Safety director, at (256) 955-3147 by Sept. 16.

# History: Kwaj radar has topping off ceremony

**Sharon Watkins Lang**  
*SMDC command historian*

The topping off, or topping out, ceremony has a historic tradition dating back to the early Middle Ages. The tradition continues across Europe, North America and South America although today it is usually reserved for major construction efforts.

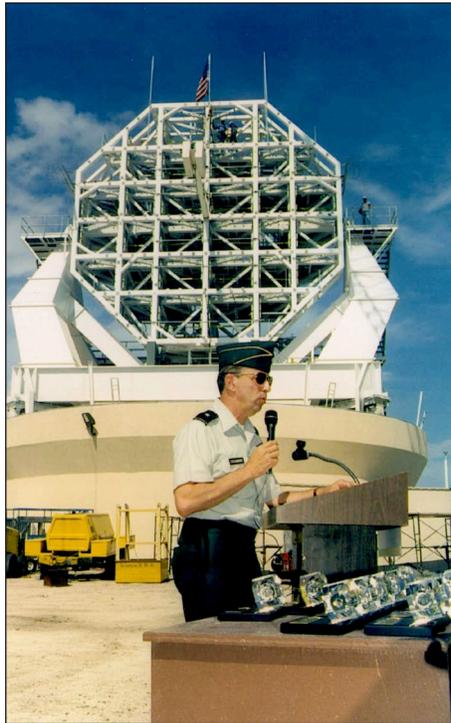
The ceremony incorporates a fir tree and the national flag both of which are affixed to the final beam. With the fir tree on top and the flag streaming below the structural framing is completed with the formal emplacement of the final beam.

The tree by some accounts is an attempt to appease the tree dwelling spirits, while others suggest the tree brings life to the new structure.

Centuries later with the rise of nationalism, flags that represent the pride of the workers and the nation were incorporated into the ceremony or adopted in place of the tree.

U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command and its predecessors have celebrated several milestones with topping off ceremonies.

On Sept. 5, 1997, the Ground Based Radar – Prototype, or GBR-P, was officially topped off with the traditional high steel topping off



*U.S. Army photo*

*Then Brig. Gen. Joseph Cosumano, National Missile Defense Program Office program manager, speaks at the Ground Based Radar – Prototype topping off ceremony Sept. 5, 1997, on Kwajalein Atoll, Republic of the Marshall Islands.*

ceremony on Kwajalein Atoll, Republic of the Marshall Islands.

In addition to the traditional fir tree, the final beam was decorated with two American flags, both of which had been flown over the U.S. Capitol, by the office of Alabama Senator Jeff Sessions.

A giant crane slowly hoisted the beam and the tiny tree to the top of the steel structure. Then Brig. Gen. Joseph Cosumano, National Missile Defense Program Office program

manager, attached a bolt to the last steel beam at the top of the structure.

Dignitaries in attendance included Larry Briggs, GBR-P program manager for Raytheon; Col. Anthony DiRienzo, National Missile Defense-GBR project manager; and Col. Scott Cottrell, U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll/Kwajalein Missile Range commander.

Cosumano served as the keynote speaker for the event. In his remarks, Cosumano congratulated J.A. Jones Construction Company and Raytheon Electronic Systems for bringing the project in on time and on budget.

“A monumental effort has been made here,” Cosumano said. “Your accomplishment is now visible to everyone. ... This facility is a keystone of the national missile defense program.”

At this point, GBR construction was 95 percent complete.

According to the program schedule, the next phase for the radar development would come with the installation of the antenna array and the protective radome.

Testing for the GBR, which is capable of simultaneous mechanical and electronic scans, meanwhile was scheduled to begin in April 1998.

Since 1998, the X-Band radar has been in operation supporting deep space tracking and missile defense intercept missions.

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## Lest we forget



File photo

The U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command headquarters will have a moment of silence Sept. 11 at 9:37 a.m., the time the Pentagon was hit during the terrorist attack on the U.S. on Sept. 11, 2001. At Redstone Arsenal, Ala., the gathering will be at the flagpole at Bldg. 5220. In Colorado Springs, Colo., the gathering will be at Bldg. 3. This moment of silence will be to honor the victims of the attack on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and those who died in the plane crash at Shanksville, Pa.

## Chasing down a dream



Photo by WeRun Huntsville

Elaine Edwards, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command G-6 telecommunications specialist, completed Huntsville's 20th Rocketman Triathlon Aug. 25 in 4:01:59, beating her last year's score by about 30 minutes. Do you, as a Soldier or Department of the Army civilian working for the command, have a unique hobby that you would like to share with the rest of the command? If so, then e-mail [Carrie.E.David@us.army.mil](mailto:Carrie.E.David@us.army.mil) or [Jason.Cutshaw@us.army.mil](mailto:Jason.Cutshaw@us.army.mil).

## Security monitors keep SMDC safe



Photo by Jason B. Cutshaw



Photo by DJ Montoya

The U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command recognized Dan Reisker, as USASMD/ARSTRAT's Security Monitor of the Year for Huntsville and Vivian M. Gordon won the award in the command's Colorado Springs, Colo., headquarters. Led by the efforts of G-2, the command honored Reisker and Gordon, along with all of its security monitors during an appreciation brunch Aug. 29.