

SEPTEMBER 19, 2013

A Space & Missile Defense NewsWire

# THE EAGLE

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## Patriot Day 2013: pausing to remember



Photo By Carrie E. David

**The personnel of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command's Redstone Arsenal, Ala., headquarters pause on Sept. 11 to honor the memory of those who died during the terrorist attacks on America on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, and to remember all those who have died defending the nation since.**



SEPTEMBER 19, 2013

U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command publishes the Eagle bi-weekly as a digital newswire. The newswire is an authorized publication of the USASMDC/ARSTRAT in accordance with AR 360-1. The SMDC commanding general has directed that the publication of this periodical is necessary in the transaction of the public business as required by law. The views and opinions expressed in the Eagle are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army or SMDC. The Eagle is intended to inform members of the command on happenings within the Army space and missile defense community. Distribution is made to the service members, civilians and contractors, and to the general public.

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## Upcoming SMDC calendar

### September

19 – 10 a.m., Hispanic Heritage Month Observance, Room 5014, Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

19-20 – Motorcycle Safety Refresher Training, RSA.

24 – 10 a.m., Retirement ceremony for Jerry Esquibel, Room 5014, RSA.

24 – 1 p.m., AFAP 30th Anniversary Celebration, Room 5014, RSA.

27 – 6 p.m., Hail and Farewell, The Summit, RSA.

27 – 6:30 p.m., Hail and Farewell, Fox and Hound, Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

27 – 3 p.m., HHC Change of Command, Building 3 training rooms, PAFB.

30 – 1 p.m., Town hall, Von Braun III auditorium, RSA.

### October

3 – 10 a.m., CFC Kickoff Fundraiser, parking lot of Building 5220, RSA.

4 – 1 p.m., Retirement ceremony for Col. Jimmy Jenkins, Von Braun III auditorium, RSA.

8 – 10 a.m. MDT, Town hall, PAFB auditorium.

14 – Columbus Day, federal holiday

15-17 – Army Best Warrior competition, Fort Lee, Va.

17 – 9:30 a.m., Disability Awareness Month Observance, Room 5014, RSA.

19 – 11 a.m., Survivor Outreach Services Fall Festival, MWR activity field, RSA.

30 – 2 p.m., HHC Change of Responsibility, Building 3 training rooms, PAFB.

## RSA makes plans for RAD

Lt. Gen. Patricia E. McQuiston 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, event, Oct. 18-19.

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).

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, 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).

# SMDC team 'shakes' things up

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

**REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala.** – A team of U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command engineers came together to save time and money to ensure the future of the command's satellite program does not get shaken off track.

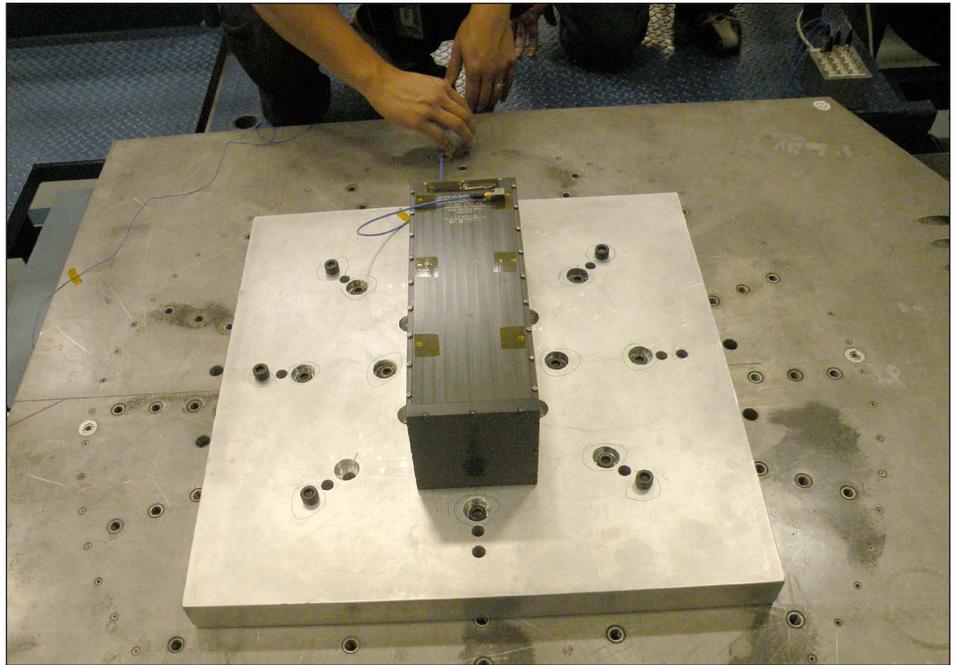
Recently, members of the USASMDC/ARSTRAT Space and Cyberspace Technology Directorate put their various expertises to use to help the Operationally Responsive Space Enabler Satellite, or ORSES, get mounted to a shake plate prior to random vibration testing at the Air Force Research Laboratory at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M.

Members of the Space and Cyberspace Technology Directorate team involved with the project are Dr. Travis Taylor, Ryan Wolff, Mark Ray and Cindy McCoy.

"In order for a satellite to go into the rocket that launches it, it has to go through a process where it is shaken to simulate the launch environment," Taylor said. "It is tested to find out that it is not going to harm the launch rocket and the other payload in it, and also, survive the rigors of a launch.

"Our contractors had an adaptor plate, but it was not compatible and the mounting holes would not match up with our next satellite going up," he added. "To have this happen with the contractor, there wasn't enough money and there wasn't enough time for them to accomplish it."

With ORSES preparing to launch in early November from NASA's Wallops Flight Facility on Wallops



*Courtesy photo*

**An Operationally Responsive Space Enabler Satellite, or ORSES, is mounted to a vibration table prior to random vibration testing at the Air Force Research Laboratory at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M. ORSES was then housed inside a CubeSat test pod and mounted to an adapter plate while vibration testing of all three axis. ORSES successfully passed all of its environmental testing.**

Island, Va., it was paramount to perform all testing and preparations for the launch.

"We were concerned, and the time factor was pushing up against us," Taylor said. "So, finally we had a staff meeting, and we decided to do it ourselves. We bought our own 24-by-24, 2-inches-thick, 110-pound piece of aluminum. I, along with my dad, Charles, went out to his shop at home and worked about 20 hours in less than two days to get all the holes drilled and ready for the test.

"So what we ended up doing here at SMDC was, in a period of two to three days, was figure out how to save time and money to make sure we got our satellite tested so it will meet its launch date Nov. 4," he added.

With time being a factor before the

November launch, the team took it upon themselves to ensure all would be ready for SMDC's next generation of satellites to launch into space.

"I built the satellite and performed all of the testing, and the last thing needed was to perform vibration tests," Wolff said. "These are very aggressive and we test at loads from 6g to 13g. One thing I am most proud of is we did this all in-house. From putting the satellite together from parts and pieces to making the shake plate, we did it all here."

With the launch of ORSES, the main goal is to provide support for Soldiers serving in harm's way and to provide them with another means of communication.

**See TEAM on Page 9**

# Former commander visits SATCON troops

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

**FORT DETRICK, Md.** – One former commander took time to visit the unit he once led into combat more than 45 years ago.

Retired Lt. Col. Karl Richard Brunner Jr. and his wife, Cynthia, visited Soldiers of A Company, 53rd Signal Battalion (Satellite Control) at Fort Detrick, Md., June 19. Brunner visited the A Company, Wideband Satellite Communication Operation Center, or WSOC, to share the history of the unit and to learn what today's Soldiers are doing in defense of the nation.

The battalion's current mission is to provide wideband payload control; transmissions control with customer service; defensive space control; and enable platform control ensuring the Department of Defense wideband satellite constellations' continuous 24-hour support to peacetime, contingency, and crisis action plans by operating, maintaining, and sustaining a WSOC. They also provide defensive space control supporting U.S. Strategic Command's ability to assure access of DoD-leased commercial satellite transmission paths of interest.

Alpha Company currently conducts payload and transmission control of both the Defense Satellite Communications System and Wideband Global Satellite constellations to ensure quality satellite communications on a global scale.

Brunner joined the 53rd Signal Bn. at Fort Hood, Texas, in February 1966 where he was assigned as the S-4 by the late Lt. Col. Thomas C. Kearns, then the battalion com-



*Courtesy photo*

*Retired Lt. Col. Karl Richard Brunner Jr. and his wife, Cynthia, visited Soldiers of A Company, 53rd Signal Battalion (Satellite Control) at Fort Detrick, Md., June 19. Brunner visited the A Company, Wideband Satellite Communication Operation Center, or WSOC, to share the history of the unit and to learn what today's Soldiers are doing in defense of the nation.*

mander. After pre-deployment activities, the unit deployed to Long Binh, Republic of Vietnam, in May 1966.

"I was in the 'advance party,' a modest sized contingent that flew via C-141 Starlifter from Bergstrom Air Force Base, Texas, via Wake Island, to Bien Hoa Air Force Base, Vietnam," Brunner said. "Our in-country mission was as the Corps Signal Battalion for Headquarters, II Field Force Vietnam. In June 1966, I took command of Company A, command operations, and held that position until May 1967.

During a visit to Fort Detrick, Md., Brunner was told about the current mission of the 53rd Signal

Bn. and learned how the organization and mission have changed over the past five decades.

"The organization and mission of the 53rd Signal Bn., as a SATCON unit, is completely different from when it was a tactical signal battalion that provided voice and record communications between a corps headquarters and its subordinate units in Vietnam," he said.

Brunner talked about what he noticed as some of the changes from the Soldiers he served with to the Soldiers currently serving in the unit.

"The mission of the present-day

**See COMMANDER on Page 9**

# Soldiers take tour with Royal Australian Navy

**Sgt. Kenneth N. Ehrhardt**  
**53rd Signal Battalion**

**PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii**  
– Delta Company, 53rd Signal Battalion (Satellite Control) is a unique strategic unit designed to provide command and control capabilities for the Army's newest military satellite communication constellation, Wideband Global Satellite.

Delta Company is also the only command and control facility worldwide that supports a multinational working force. Delta Company has a team of 10 Australian military personnel, from all services, embedded in the working environment. This unique working relationship has enabled both U.S. and Australian forces to learn from each other's skill sets, as well as integrate different walks of life to create a well-oiled and highly proficient team of satellite controllers.

The services provided by the 53rd Signal Bn. historically have been for U.S. forces alone, but within recent years, allied forces have opted to start using the constellation. To get a better understanding of what the Australian military requires, Delta Company went on a tour of the HMAS Perth (FFH 157).

The HMAS Perth was the last Anzac-class frigate produced, and now serves as the Royal Australian Navy's main line of naval defense. The HMAS Perth, currently commanded by Capt. Lee Goddard, has a rich history of battle honors and has served valiantly in many major conflicts.

The purpose of the trip was to



*Courtesy photo*

**Soldiers from D Company, 53rd Signal Battalion (Satellite Control) and Australian partners and allies stand aboard Australian Naval Vessel, HMAS Perth during a tour of the ship.**

get an understanding of how Delta Company could better support and facilitate the needs of the naval users on the ground. The satellite control mission not only supports the required command and control element that the captain requires to make effective battle decisions, but the mission also helps to improve the quality of life for the sailors while underway.

The Royal Australian Navy employs the Maritime Advanced SATCOM Terrestrial Infrastructure System terminal. The terminal is capable of multi-band transmit and receives and provides the command and control element vital to the captain. The terminal also provides some creature comforts to the sailors

aboard. The sailors have three television channels and services that allow sailors to stay in contact with family and friends back home via social media websites, e-mail and video teleconferencing.

The Soldiers on the tour asked many questions to familiarize themselves with the equipment used on board; one Soldier was so inquisitive, that the chief of Engineering and Integration Wideband Systems, Travis J. Inghram, nicknamed him "20 Questions."

During the tour, Soldiers were able to get an idea of daily life aboard the vessel. From duty to recreation there is not much personal time or

**See TOUR on Page 6**

## 53rd Signal Battalion modernizes accountability

**Carl Whitmore**  
**SATCOM Life Cycle Logistics manager**

**WAHIAWA, Hawaii.** – The U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command's ongoing Wideband Satellite Operations Center modernization efforts are improving processes and overall operations for 53rd Signal Battalion.

One area that required modernization was the accountability and management of spares and repair parts, formerly known as Prescribe Load List, now known as Shop Stock List and Bench Stock List.

D Company, 53rd Signal Bn. the first unit to be "modernized," was also the first to receive spares and repair parts. Many of the items are commercial off-the-shelf, but with unique Department of Defense strategic satellite communication equipment, accountability and management became a challenge.

The unit transitioned from manual receipts and spreadsheets to using Army standard logistics information systems. With support from the 53rd Signal Bn. S-4, the unit identified the equipment that in some cases required detailed research.

Once the items were identified, the data was entered into the parts/supply management application in the Standard Army Maintenance System-Enhanced (SAMS-1E) V1, AN/TYQ-139. The SAMS-1E is the Army Field Level maintenance and repair parts system of record. Once the unit met the Army standard they went one step further.

### TOUR from Page 5

space aboard the ship. The ship has several commodities aboard that some may take for granted.

There is a gym, recreation area, basketball hoop, and several other comforts that help the sailors enjoy their off time while underway. While on the ship, Soldiers dined

in the mess hall and visited with the sailors stationed aboard.

The galley offered a sandwich station with a selection of many cold meats as well as a fully stocked salad bar.

Sgt. Mark Proctor, from Delta Company, said he thoroughly

enjoyed the lunch. "The best part of the tour was the potato salad," he added.

The captain and crew of the HMAS Perth run a very tight ship; the professionalism of the sailors was a true credit to the Royal Australian Navy and to the Australian people.



*Courtesy photo*

**Spc. Paul Uldriks, 53rd Signal Battalion, satellite communication controller, locates and removes repair parts from storage locations for issue to maintainers. The items are color coded for identification.**

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Kortney Johnson, 53rd Signal Bn. property book officer, explains, "Under the guidance of 1st Lt. Rena Guerrero, D Co. executive officer, Staff Sgt. Donald Magnuson and Staff Sgt. Damon Dienhart established a system for shop stock to maintain on-hand parts, sorted and color coded by subsystem, with parts arranged as they are found on the equipment. This system simplifies the process of locating replacement parts in a timely manner."

The Soldiers and civilians assigned to D Co. and the 53rd Signal Bn. S-4 are leading the way in support of the command, and the Army's campaign on property and equipment accountability.

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# History: SOFA signed with Czech Republic

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

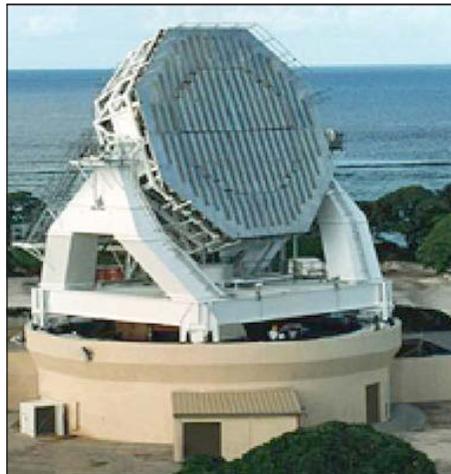
In May 2003, President George W. Bush issued a directive on the national policy on ballistic missile defense. The president said that the contemporary and emerging missile threat from hostile states was fundamentally different from that of the Cold War and required a different approach to deterrence and new tools for defense.

The new evolutionary approach incorporated a variety of new concepts to include allied participation, which was prohibited under the former anti-ballistic missile treaty. Ultimately, the proposed European deployment would encompass 10 ground-based interceptor missiles in Poland and an advanced tracking radar to be built in the Czech Republic.

Plans called for transferring the ground-based radar on Kwajalein Atoll in the Republic of the Marshall Islands to this new location in the Czech Republic to help defend against potential missile attacks by Iran and North Korea.

After months of negotiations, in July 2008, the Czech Republic signed a ballistic missile defense agreement with the United States to station a missile defense radar on the Brdy Military Training Facility in the mountains 60 kilometers southwest of Prague. With a completion goal of 2012, the radar would be linked to other U.S. missile defense facilities in Europe and the United States.

This treaty was but one step in the process. Before American personnel



*Courtesy photo*

*A prototype of the ground-based radar on Kwajalein Atoll in the Republic of the Marshall Islands would have been the type moved to the Czech Republic.*

could be transferred to the Czech Republic to construct and later operate the radar, the two nations had to develop an agreement on the Status of United States Forces in the Czech Republic.

A Status of Forces Agreement, or SOFA, outlines the rights and privileges for foreign military personnel and their families residing in a host nation. There is no standard format for a SOFA, which typically defines criminal jurisdictions.

After several months of negotiations, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and Czech Defense Minister Vlasta Parkanova signed the SOFA Sept. 19, 2008, while attending a London meeting of European defense ministers. Under the agreement, the Czech government retained full sovereignty and ownership of the area and property built on the site.

In addition, the Czech courts would have jurisdiction with two exceptions, crimes committed

by Americans while on duty and criminal acts committed against the security and property of the United States or American personnel. The number of American personnel meanwhile was limited to no more than 250.

In a statement released by the U.S. Embassy, the SOFA was described as “the culmination of a process that will draw our nations closer and help protect Europe from a limited missile attack.” The release also described the deployment as “a substantial contribution to NATO’s collective capability to counter existing and future threats in the 21st century, and ... an integral part of any future NATO-wide missile defense architecture.” Everything was ready to move forward.

One year later, however, on Sept. 17, 2009, President Barak Obama canceled plans for this radar deployment in favor of a new European Phased Adaptive Approach. Under this new approach, the radar would now be deployed in the Caucasus, with an early warning center analyzing data from satellites to be situated in the Czech Republic.

After further revisions to the missile defense plans, the Czech government withdrew from the agreement in June 2011. Despite support among the leadership, a large percentage of the Czech population had not supported the radar deployment.

Then, following further assessment of their overall military assets, in August 2011, the Czech government announced that the Brdy training site would be closed and the lands returned to public use.

# Command Safety Gram

## *Plan to survive*

Preparing for an emergency requires a bit of effort, but it is time well spent.

What if an explosion, a landslide or a flash flood forced an evacuation of the neighborhood before getting home from work?

Would people know where to find their family? Do they know the emergency plans for their children's school? At work, does everyone know their role in the company's emergency response plan?

Emergency preparedness is considering what can go wrong and what to do if it does. This does not mean people must be in a constant state of worry. It does mean they pay attention to their environment and continue planning how to stay safe. It also means developing survival skills and keeping survival tools accessible.

Here are some examples of emergency-ready habits:

- ◆ When in any building – a home, plant, office, hotel or shopping center – know the location to at least two exits.

- ◆ Create an evacuation plan of the home. Review it with the family and practice it at least once a year.

- ◆ Figure out how to get to the stairs in case the elevator cannot be used.

- ◆ Notice the location of fire alarms, firefighting equipment, emergency phones and first aid kits. Read instructions to know how to operate them.

- ◆ On public transport, read the



emergency instructions. Locate exits and read how to open windows on trains or buses. Know how to find the break-glass hammers and window latches in the dark. Learn how to use oxygen masks on aircraft. Pay attention to the emergency instructions review presented by the on-board attendant.

- ◆ Dress for the weather outdoors not the weather inside a vehicle when traveling. Many kinds of mishaps can leave people stranded outside an automobile or aircraft in a cold and hostile environment. Carry warm clothing and shoes that can be used outdoors.

- ◆ Pack basic repair tools and replacement parts such as extra fan belts in automobiles. Keep the spare tire inflated.

- ◆ When going to sleep at home or away, be ready for an emergency. Place shoes under the bed and clothes nearby. Put eyeglasses and flashlight in a protective spot where they are easily reachable. If awakened by fire, there may not be time to search for these items. If an earthquake strikes, the power may go out and people may have to walk

through debris.

- ◆ Post emergency phone numbers by workstations, as well as the address and exact location of the workplace.

- ◆ Keep identification, contact numbers and any necessary medical information nearby.

- ◆ Pack an emergency kit with survival supplies to maintain the family and pets for at least two days. Keep it ready to take in case of a disaster.

- ◆ Pick two meeting places, one in the neighborhood, and one far from home in case the neighborhood is evacuated.

- ◆ Carry a flashlight when traveling. It can light the way to safety from a burning hotel or a crashed vehicle.

- ◆ Be protected from violence by remaining aware of surrounding people. Look into an elevator or hallway before entering. Look through the window before entering a late night convenience store or liquor store as to not stumble into a robbery.

- ◆ Learn first aid and CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation). Learn how to use an automated external defibrillator.

Wherever located, prepared to be protect if things go wrong. Emergency preparedness is planning to survive.

– *Courtesy of the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center.*

Deadline for comments and submissions for the Oct. 3 issue is Sept. 27.

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

**TEAM from Page 3**

“This was both a bad thing, and a good thing,” Taylor said. “The bad thing is that this is the sign of the times when we don’t have a lot of money in the budget to get people to help us with projects like this. The good thing is that it takes us back to where we are going to have to do these things ourselves and not depend on outside sources.

“It is great to see people here in-house at SMDC really stepping up and doing great things,” he added. “And with the success of the launch, we are going to help

provide secure and improved tactical communications for the Warfighter, you can’t top that.”

As the team looks to the lessons learned, they pointed out that everything happens for a reason and said they are happy to be working together for SMDC and the troops in the field.

“This team is awesome,” McCoy said. “Everyone supported each other and we came together to accomplish this mission to ultimately support the troops, and SMDC can be proud.”

**VISIT from Page 4**

53rd Signal Bn., I think, requires a higher level of technical training and expertise than what was required for the type of unit it was in Vietnam,” Brunner said. “I think the Soldiers, who were for the most part drafted into the service, of the Vietnam-era were just as resilient, smart, dedicated and resourceful for what needed to be accomplished then and there. You really can’t compare the Soldiers of the two units that easily, as what was required was totally different in terms of the era, the equipment, and the type of mission.”

He also discussed what impressed him the most about the current unit and its Soldiers.

“There is a high level of ‘smarts’ exhibited by all the Soldiers I met, and professionalism was obvious,” Brunner said. “I was impressed with the high caliber and quality of the Soldiers I interfaced with during my visit. All I spoke with were very knowledgeable of their equipment, the unit organization and mission.

“I thoroughly enjoyed my visit to the 53rd Signal Bn.,” he added. “Coincidentally, Fort Detrick was my first duty station in the U.S. Army after completing the Signal Officer Basic Course at Fort Monmouth, N.J., in July 1960. I was assigned to what was then the U.S. Army Communications Agency, Detachment 2,



*Courtesy photo*

**Then Capt., now retired Lt. Col., Karl Richard Brunner Jr. when he was the commander of A Company, 53rd Signal Battalion, during the Vietnam War in 1966-1967. Brunner visited the A Company, Wideband Satellite Communication Operation Center, or WSOC, at Fort Detrick, Md., June 19.**

East Coast Relay Station; a new, at that time, tenant unit on Fort Detrick.”

The A Company’s current commander was appreciative of Brunner’s visit and what it meant to the Soldiers in the unit.

“Lt. Col. Brunner visited the site to provide some insight on the history of A Company and to be able to see the advances and changes to the unit,” said Capt. Mark T. Anderson, A Company, 53rd Signal Bn. (SAT-CON) commander. “The Soldiers

of Alpha Company were interested to hear about the unit’s lineage. We wear the Meritorious Unit Commendation on our Army service uniform in recognition of our unit’s accomplishments in World War II and Vietnam. Lt. Col. Brunner’s visit was a great reminder of why we wear this unit award and what the Soldiers before us accomplished.

“It is important for us to know the history of the unit that we serve in,” he added. “It is that history that builds the bond that we share as members of the U.S. Army.”

Another Soldier said he was grateful of all those who served before and was honored to be a part of a unit with such a storied history.

“Learning about the history of the 53rd Signal Bn. and the role that it played in the shaping of the signal corps during the Vietnam conflict gave me a better appreciation of its lineage and how it adds to the history of what used to be the 1st SAT-CON Battalion,” said Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Sanker, A Company, 53rd Signal Bn. operations noncommissioned officer.

Brunner will be returning to the WSOC Sept. 24 to speak at a battalion leader professional development session via videoteleconference to share more about the history of the 53rd Signal Bn.

# SMDC honors diversity, Hispanic culture

**Lt. Gen. David L. Mann**  
**SMDC Commanding General**

**REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala.** – Hispanic Heritage month is commemorated from 15 September to 15 October and coincides with the dates many Latin countries use to celebrate their independence.

This is a great opportunity to increase our awareness of the vibrant diversity that makes up our nation.

The theme for this year's observance is, "Hispanics: Serving and Leading our Nation with Pride and Honor."

We don't have to look far to see incredible examples of Hispanic American leaders.

About 16 percent of the nation's

population is of Hispanic or Latino origin including the Honorable Dr. Joseph W. Westphal, the 30th Under Secretary of the Army.

He was born in Santiago, Chile, and moved to the United States with his family at the age of 6. Dr. Westphal has stated, "Diversity is a natural element of Army culture...a critical element in our ability to sustain the Force by attracting Soldiers and Civilians from all backgrounds..."

What many may not be aware of is that Hispanic Americans have been an important part of our Nation's history beginning with the actions of General Bernardo de Galvez during the American Revolution.

General Galvez' successful

campaign against the British at Pensacola was reportedly a "decisive factor" in the outcome of the American Revolution.

Another little-known fact: a city was named after him – Galveston, Texas.

So, this month take a little time to learn more about the contributions of Hispanic Americans to all periods of our nation's history; you may be surprised at what you discover. If your schedules permit, please try and attend one of the commemorations held at your local installations.

Secure the High Ground!

DLM



**National Hispanic Heritage Month**  
*"Hispanics: Serving and Leading Our Nation with Pride and Honor"*  
 15 September - 15 October 2013

*"Our Nation's story would not be possible without generations of Hispanics who have shaped and strengthened the fabric of our Union."*

— President Barack Obama

Each year we take time to reflect on and celebrate the tremendous contributions of Hispanic Americans to our Army and to our Nation. Some of our most senior leaders proudly uphold the legacy of exceptional service begun by prior generations. From Under Secretary of the Army, Joseph W. Westphal to Lieutenant General Rhett Hernandez and Medal of Honor recipient Sergeant First Class Leroy Petry, America and its armed forces have benefitted greatly from the hard work and dedication of these and many other Hispanic Americans.

It was the Borinqueneers of Puerto Rico's 65th Infantry Regiment during the Korean War who launched the last recorded battalion-sized bayonet charge and overran the Chinese 149th Division south of Seoul on February 2, 1951. This battle exemplifies the unwavering courage and indomitable spirit that has earned our Hispanic American Soldiers a distinguished legacy. With more than 40 Medal of Honor recipients dating back to the Civil War, Hispanic Americans continue to represent our military with deep and abiding patriotism and heroism.

During National Hispanic Heritage Month, we encourage our entire Army Family to commemorate the many successes of the Hispanic community. We are extremely proud of what our Army accomplishes; and we know that our strength comes from our diversity. This month, we give special notice to our Hispanic-American Soldiers, Civilians and Families, whose contributions help make our Army what it is today: the premiere fighting force in the entire world. Army Strong!

*Raymond F. Chandler III*  
 Raymond F. Chandler III  
 Sergeant Major of the Army

*Raymond Odierno*  
 Raymond Odierno  
 General, United States Army  
 Chief of Staff

*John M. McHugh*  
 John M. McHugh  
 Secretary of the Army

