

DECEMBER 19, 2013

A Space & Missile Defense NewsWire

# THE EAGLE

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## Happy Holidays from SMDC



*Photo by Carrie E. David*

**Santa Claus, aka Phil Patterson, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command's Future Warfare Center, reads "The Night Before Christmas" to children during the command's holiday building party Dec. 19.**



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

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## Command helps Marines deliver presents



Photo by Carrie E. David

**Command Sgt. Maj. James N. Ross, command sergeant major, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, presents a donation to the Toys for Tots lead, Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Michael Williams, Battery K, 2nd Battalion, 14th Marines, on Dec. 13 at the command's Redstone Arsenal, Ala., headquarters. Also pictured are from left: SMDC Toys for Tots team Laurie Barber, Clara Pride, and Phillis Reid, coordinator, and Marine Corps Sgt. Jaymes Collins, also with Toys for Tots. Almost 200 toys and more than \$400 were donated to Toys for Tots by SMDC employees.**

## Soldier joined by friend at promotion



Photo by Carrie E. David

**Sgt. 1st Class James Metts fastens the rank insignia onto the uniform of Sgt. 1st Class Angela Fernandez, enlisted aide to the commanding general, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, while participating in her promotion ceremony at the command's Redstone Arsenal, Ala., headquarters Dec. 16. Lt. Gen. David L. Mann, USASMDC/ARSTRAT commanding general, officiated the ceremony. Metts traveled from Fort Carson, Colo., to attend.**

# SMDC team provides targets for MEADS test

**John H. Cummings**  
*SMDC Public Affairs*

**REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala.** – The U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command's target team provided tactical targets supporting NATO Medium Extended Air Defense System Management Agency, or NAMEADSMA, during recent flight testing at White Sands Missile Range, N.M.

MEADS intercepted and destroyed two simultaneous targets attacking from opposite directions during a stressing demonstration of its 360-degree air and missile defense, or AMD, capabilities at White Sands Missile Range. The flight test achieved all NAMEADSMA criteria for success.

While the MEADS interceptors were successful, the USASMDC/ARSTRAT target team also met its objective of providing low-cost, reliable targets for air and missile defense testing.

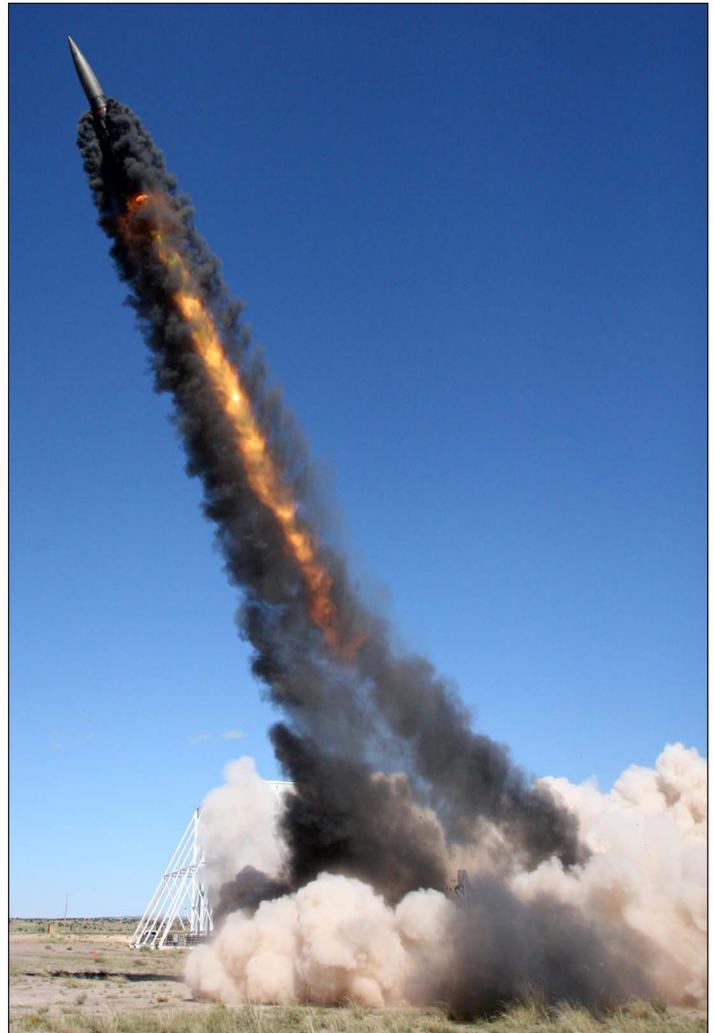
The first target was a QF-4 air-breathing target simulating a fighter jet attacking the defended area from the south. To accomplish this, SMDC personnel teamed with the U.S. Air Force Detachment 1, 82nd Aerial Targets Squadron at Holloman Air Force Base, N.M. A Vietnam-era F-4 fighter jet was retrofitted to operate by remote control to achieve performance objectives for the MEADS system.

"The 82nd aerial targets office is a responsive, mission-oriented organization that delivers top notch services," said Bryon K. Manley, SMDC Test Execution Support Division chief.

The second target intercepted was a Lance tactical ballistic missile launched out of the north.

"Lance is another in our low-cost target suite," said Manley. "The Department of Defense no longer has operational Lance missiles, and my division went and picked them up because there are programs that need cheap targets. We refurbished and provided 10 Lance tactical ballistic missiles test articles to exercise the defense system at a fraction of the cost of other targets normally available in the integrated missile defense community."

"SMDC provided MEADS targets, support and analysis that allowed us to execute an unprecedented test at White Sands Missile Range," said NATO MEADS



*Courtesy photo*

**The U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command targets team launches a Lance missile during flight testing in September at White Sands Missile Range, N.M. The team refurbished and provided 10 Lance tactical ballistic missiles test articles supporting NATO Medium Extended Air Defense System Management Agency, or NAMEADSMA, during testing from July to mid-November.**

Management Agency general manager, Gregory Kee. "MEADS couldn't have executed this complex mission, that being the first simultaneous intercept of two threats coming from opposite directions with a single fire unit and demonstrating the 360-degree capability of the MEADS system, without the dedication and commitment of SMDC."

There were 18 pre-intercept missions flown to check

**See TARGETS on Page 5**

# Army vehicle-mounted laser tests successfully

John H. Cummings  
SMDC Public Affairs

**WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE, N.M.** – The U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command for the first time used a vehicle mounted high energy laser to successfully engage more than 90 mortar rounds and several unmanned aerial vehicles in flight.

This occurred during multiple test events of the Army High Energy Laser Mobile Demonstrator, or HEL MD, conducted between Nov. 18 and Dec. 10 at the High Energy Laser Systems Test Facility, White Sands Missile Range, N.M.

“We have just completed six weeks of high-powered testing at the High Energy Laser Systems Test Facility with the HEL MD platform,” said Terry Bauer, USASMDC/ARSTRAT HEL MD program manager. “The high-powered testing is a culmination of our efforts with the platform. The testing started two years ago and HEL MD is the first mobile, high-energy laser platform the Army has had and is utilizing solid-state lasers, which are electric lasers, as the next generation of lasers that we are looking to put on the vehicle.”

This was the first full-up demonstration of the HEL MD in the configuration that included the laser and beam director mounted in the vehicle. A surrogate radar (Enhanced Multi Mode Radar) supported the engagement by queuing the laser.

The HEL MD is being developed to show directed energy force protection capabilities against rockets, artillery, mortars, unmanned aerial vehicles and cruise missiles. The HEL MD program is managed by SMDC’s Technical Center.

Mortars travel at low velocities for short ranges in high-arching trajectories. These weapons as well as UAVs are representative of the threat encountered by U.S. and allied forces on the battlefield.

“With HEL MD, we are demonstrating the technology for the Army, and what the technology gives us is speed of light targeting and destruction of targets,” Bauer said.

Initial system effectiveness was proven through low and medium power test demonstration that took place in 2011. High power testing is now concluded at HEL-STF. The demonstration and testing confirms the capability of a mobile solid state laser weapon system to counter mortars, UAVs, and intelligence, surveillance



U.S. Army photo

*The High Energy Laser Mobile Demonstrator successfully engaged more than 90 mortar rounds and several unmanned aerial vehicles in flight during testing between Nov. 18 and Dec. 10 at White Sands Missile Range, N.M. The HEL MD program is managed by the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command's Technical Center.*

and reconnaissance sensors mounted on the UAVs.

“When we engage a 60mm mortar, it is about the size of a football in length and has a typical operational range of 2,000 to 3,000 yards, and what is interesting is that the system is able to rapidly acquire, with a radar hand-off, these very small, dim targets and point a laser beam, about the size of a quarter, and destroy these targets while they are flying,” said Mike Rinn, Boeing Directed Energy Systems program manager. “It is remarkable in the fact that the team was able to do that over and over in this mobile demonstrator. It is something that makes it unique from other demonstrations that have been done in the past.”

The recent testing utilized a 10 kW class laser. In the future, a 50 kW class laser will be integrated into the HEL MD platform. The 50 kW laser is scheduled to be upgraded to a 100 kW class laser in subsequent demonstrations. The supporting thermal and power subsystems will be also upgraded to support the increasingly powerful solid state lasers. These upgrades increase the effective range of the laser or decrease required lase time on target.

The Boeing Company is the prime contractor for the HEL MD program.

“It has been a very exciting month,” said Blaine

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# Army deploys four nanosatellites

**John H. Cummings**  
SMDC Public Affairs

**REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala.** – Four U.S. Army nanosatellites were launched into earth's orbit from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., on an Atlas V at 11:14 p.m. PST, Dec. 5.

This launch is part of the Army's continuing effort to develop low-cost space support capabilities thru the evolution of advanced nanosatellite technologies and concepts.

This is the fourth launch of U.S. Army-built nanosatellites and is part of the Government Experimental Multi-Satellite, or GEMSat, Program.

The satellites will remain on orbit for several years supporting Army experiments and demonstrations before reentering the Earth's atmosphere.

The inexpensive nanosatellites are designed as cost effective

research platforms and will not survive reentry after their relatively short orbital life.

The U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command is leading the Army initiative to explore cost effective space support options through the utilization of nanosatellite platforms.

A nanosatellite on this flight is a SMDC Nano-satellite Program-3, or SNaP-3, Joint Capabilities Technology Demonstration.

The GEMSat program is part of a continuing evolution of Army nanosatellite capabilities, which started with the first SMDC-ONE nanosatellite launch in January 2010, and was followed by the launch of additional SMDC-ONE nanosatellites in September 2012.

This series of nanosatellites represents the first U.S. Army designed and built satellites in more than 50 years.



*Photo by United Launch Alliance*

**A United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket carrying a payload for the National Reconnaissance Office lifted off from Space Launch Complex-3 on Dec. 5 at 11:14 p.m. PST. Designated NROL-39, the mission is in support of national defense.**

## TARGETS from Page 3

out the MEADS 360-degree capability and work the interface between system components. As another test execution service, SMDC also stationed a telemetry van nearby the MEADS system in the middle of White Sands Missile Range.

From this position, SMDC technical teams were able to collect target telemetry and provide real-time position truth data for each mission.

“With 10 missiles launched between July and mid-November, we were able to provide NAMEADSMA with many opportunities to calibrate their system and perfect their engagement algorithms,” continued Manley.

The summer of target launches was not without issues as the target team encountered and overcame some electrical interference issues on the Lance.

“The Lance issues required the test execution

engineers from all test participants to buckle down and find solutions to get back on track,” Manley said. “I am grateful to my entire team for their long hours and hard work to keep the program on track.”

Using excess Army inventory to convert Lance missiles to targets gave SMDC the opportunity to help affordably advance a modern missile defense system designed to defend America's Soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines.

SMDC is additionally developing solid propellant ballistic missile concepts designed to create assets span a broader short range ballistic missile spectrum. These concepts, coupled with the retired liquid missile system Lance, are part of a suite of short range ballistic missiles designed to meet Army Integrated Missile Defense needs while focusing on reduced cost and increased threat representation.

# SGM Prioleau relinquishes USAG-KA duties

Jordan Vinson  
SMDC Public Affairs

**KWAJALEIN ATOLL, Republic of the Marshall Islands.** – Sgt. Maj. Roderick Prioleau ended his tenure at U.S. Army Garrison-Kwajalein Atoll Dec. 5 in a Relinquishment of Responsibility at the Island Memorial Chapel.

The ceremony showcased the passing of a sword between the hands of Prioleau and U.S. Army Garrison-Kwajalein Atoll commander Col. Nestor Sadler. It is a rite of passage steeped in military tradition that signifies the transfer of official responsibilities from the incumbent back to command, formally ending Prioleau's tenure as the base's highest ranking enlisted advisor.

Sadler welcomed the crowd of nearly 100 people at the chapel, extending thanks to everyone in attendance from fellow enlisted and commissioned Army officers to civilians and contractors. Special visits to the ceremony were made by Republic of the Marshall Islands Iroij Senator Mike Kabua, Iroijlaplap (Paramount chief) and former RMI president Imata Kabua, RMI post master General Heran Bellu, KALG protocol Officer Jesse Riketa and RMI liaison Lanny Kabua.

"It is only fitting to have so many people here this morning to bid farewell to Sgt. Maj. Prioleau and to recognize the great contributions to the Kwajalein community [he's made]."

Sadler spoke at length about Prioleau's larger-than-life character and dedication to the job during his 18 months working within command on USAG-KA. He made it clear that the bonds Prioleau had made on the island were both professional and personal in nature – and certain to endure well into the future.

"Conducting this ceremony is strongly difficult for me," the colonel said. "Because the command is not only losing a great sergeant major – but I'm losing a great friend."

Prioleau had been instrumental in helping Sadler, who arrived four months ago, get up to speed on the complexities of running a state-of-the-art U.S. Army missile defense installation in a foreign country. But he has also been a smiling face and dependable comrade that the commander and his wife, Monica, had been so grateful to have while they adjusted to life so far away



Photo by Jordan Vinson

**Sgt. Maj. Roderick Prioleau clasps the ceremonial sword, a symbol of adherence to military duty and honor, during his Relinquishment of Responsibility Dec. 5. Sgt. Maj. David Negron, looking on in the background, assisted in the ceremony.**

from home. Sadler told the story of how Prioleau had taken him and his wife under his wing their very first night on the island.

"The sergeant major said, 'Hey guys, don't worry. I'll make sure to get the colonel and his wife back to their quarters for the night,'" Sadler said. "Unbeknownst to me, that night lasted well through midnight. But during that night ... I paid attention; I listened to everything he had to say; and I took his sage advice. ... During that night we were able to bond, build that trust, caring and mutual respect that was forged forever. You see, I couldn't have asked for a better sergeant major. But more importantly, a friend."

After wishing Prioleau good luck and many blessings during his next assignment at Fort Bliss, Texas, Sadler stepped away to let Prioleau take to the podium under a wave of applause from the crowd.

He began his address by thanking everyone in attendance and giving a brief explanation of what he strove for during his tenure on USAG-KA.

"It has been an honor to be part of team Kwajalein," Prioleau said. "I have tried to do my best to support the Reagan Test Site, the mission and its customers. I have tried to do my best to work hard to support our Soldiers and ... Army civilians ... contract employees, families

# History: Project SCOREs with holiday message

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

Even before the first satellite was launched, scientists began to explore the concepts of satellite communications. From the 1940s, researchers sought to improve long-distance and over-the-horizon communications. The moon for example, served as a passive relay station with signals bounced off its surface and back to the Earth.

Although the United States launched its first satellite in January 1957, it was not until December 1958 that the American space program was able to deploy the world's first communications satellite with Project SCORE, or Signal Communications by Orbiting Relay Experiment.

Under the direction of Advanced Research Projects Agency this six-month project was conducted in strict secrecy. Upset with leaks on other space programs, President Dwight D. Eisenhower had apparently threatened cancelation of the project if any information was leaked before the launch. According to one source, only 88 people knew of its existence and 53 of them were purposely led to believe that it was canceled prior to launch.

The U. S. Army Signal Research and Development Laboratory at Fort Monmouth, N.J., developed the communications package using modified commercial equipment. The resulting payload weighed only 150 pounds. The package however was incorporated into the fairing pods of the launch vehicle, an Air Force Atlas intercontinental ballistic missile. As a result, the



*Department of Defense photo*

**An Atlas rocket stands on the launch pad ready to launch America's, and the world's, first communications satellite with Project SCORE, or Signal Communications by Orbiting Relay Experiment.**

satellite weighed 9,000 pounds, the heaviest piece of equipment to orbit the Earth to date.

The plans for this experiment called for a low earth orbit 114 miles by 920 mile, at 30 degrees south inclination. As a result, the satellite had a short life expectancy of only two to three weeks. This factor dictated a battery powered configuration rather than a solar power supply. The low orbit, which limited access to the satellite, also defined the system design.

The resulting equipment, deployed in duplicate, included "a store-and-forward mode through a tape recorder subsystem in addition to a real-time radio relay capability." A series of special ground stations for satellite interrogation and communications were also constructed at Fort MacArthur, Calif.; Fort Huachuca, Ariz.; Fort Sam Houston, Texas; Fort Stewart,

Ga.; and Cape Canaveral, Fla.

With the Atlas reconfigured for this space launch, the project was ready to move forward. A test message – "a "nonpolitical, patriotic document from U.S. history" recorded by team member Herbert Hawkins was loaded into the system. As the Atlas 10B stood on the launch pad, a new message was delivered by the ARPA director, Roy Johnson, this one from the president. With no means to physically access the equipment, in the early hours of Dec. 18, the SCORE team substituted the original recording via radio interrogation and transmission.

At 3:15 p.m., on Dec. 19, 1958, President Eisenhower's message, the first radio message transmitted from space, was broadcast and heard via shortwave radio by people around the world as the satellite circled the globe. Preserved by the National Archives and the Smithsonian, the 30-second Christmas message was:

"This is the President of the United States speaking. Through the marvels of scientific advance, my voice is coming to you from a satellite traveling in outer space. My message is a simple one: Through this unique means I convey to you and all mankind, America's wish for peace on Earth and goodwill toward men everywhere.

A newsreel detailing the Atlas mission and Eisenhower's message can be viewed at [www.collectspace.com/news/news-032113a.html](http://www.collectspace.com/news/news-032113a.html).

Through 78 interrogations, the communications package continued to operate in voice and teletype mode for 12 days until the batteries failed. The satellite reentered the atmosphere in January 1959.

# SMDC employee saddles up to win competitions

Jason B. Cutshaw  
SMDC Public Affairs

**PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo.** – One U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command civilian employ trains to win whether in space or on horseback.

When not working, Kristine Alcorn, USASMDC/ARSTRAT Narrowband Consolidated-SATCOM system expert Global Narrowband Watch Office, G-6 watch officer, spends her free time showing American Paint horses, or Paints, with the American Paint Horse Association, or APHA, and the Colorado High Plains Paint Horse Club, or HPPHC.

“I grew up in Oregon with horses, and other than my time in the Navy, I have tried to keep horses in my life,” she said.

Alcorn served in the Navy for eight years and her last duty station was at the Naval Satellite Operations Center, or NAVSOC, as a duty satellite manager, where she stayed on after her military service. She left NAVSOC after 18 years to join the ARSTRAT team in May. Her office is responsible for UHF satellites, global payload management, configuration management, EMI resolution and situational awareness for Narrowband SATCOM systems.

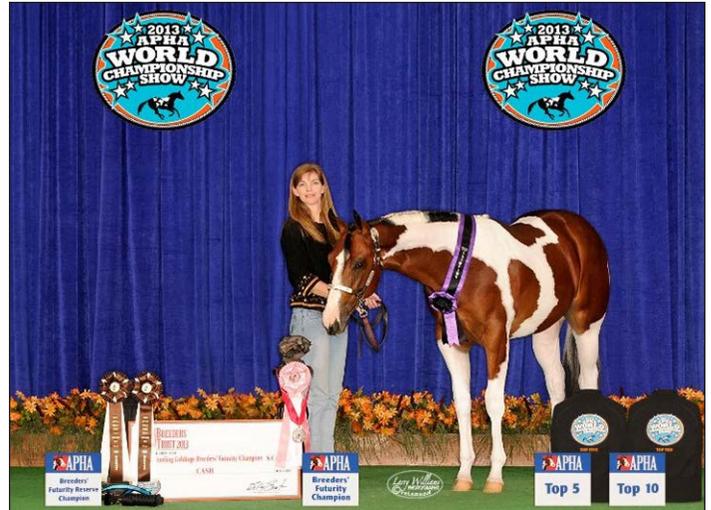
She talked about what made her want to begin competing and why she enjoys it.

“Having a goal to work toward helps me stay focused and motivated when I work with my horses,” Alcorn said. “Judging is subjective, so I am not as concerned with placings as I am with having a good ride.

“The best part of competing is the atmosphere,” she added. “I have a group of friends that show together, and I really enjoy spending time with them. We clean stalls, ride horses, and cheer each other on. Getting to the barn early, having my horse ‘nicker’ at me, getting him fed and clean and shiny – it’s a great feeling. When you have a great ride, and the judges reward you with a good placing, it feels fantastic.”

Alcorn said she has done shows all around, competing in many events, including halter and showmanship, as well as Western and English classes. In December 2012, she bought her 4-year-old mare, Sayitwithflowers, barn name Daisy, and began training her.

Alcorn began showing her in May, and won the High



Courtesy photo

**Kristine Alcorn, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command Narrowband Consolidated-SATCOM system expert Global Narrowband Watch Office, G-6 watch officer, and Peter Parker, barn name Spidey, after winning competitions in the 2013 American Paint Horse Association World Championship Show.**

Point Overall Champion or Reserve Champion at every show they entered this year. She ended up the HPPHC Year End Novice Amateur High Point Champions and the Open Horse Reserve High Point Champions.

“I knew she wasn’t ready for the World Show, as it was her first year under saddle, so I decided to buy a yearling and take him to the World Championships, as he would be on a more level playing field, as most yearlings were at the same experience level – all new to the show ring,” Alcorn said.

Alcorn talked about competing and what makes the crowds come out and support these events.

“I have competed all over Colorado and gone down to the World Championship in Texas,” Alcorn said. “The people who watch the shows are typically owners and exhibitors of the other classes, family and friends. The Denver Stock Show and the State Fair has a lot of non-horse spectators as well, and I try to make sure I let the curious come up and pet my horses or let the little kids sit on them, so they take home a special memory.”

Alcorn purchased Peter Parker, barn name Spidey, in late May.

“He had the breeding and flash I was looking for, but there was a catch: he was an unbroken baby, 14 months

**See COMPETITION on Page 11**

## SMDC Soldier recognized for excellence

Photo by Carrie E. David



Master Sgt. Edward B. Hintz, G-1 noncommissioned officer in charge, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, shows off his Major General Horatio Gates Bronze Medal award that he received Dec. 12 from the Rocket City Adjutants General Corps Regimental Association at their monthly meeting. Hintz was recommended for the award by Chief Warrant Officer 4 Sheren Roberts, SMDC executive officer to the commanding general, for his meritorious service and exemplary leadership. The award recognizes the significant achievements or service of individuals who promote the objectives and purposes of the Adjutant General's Corps.

### CHANGE from Page 6

and our host nation partners.”

Prioleau expressed gratitude for having the chance to work with Sadler in managing the garrison.

“A special recognition for United States Garrison-Kwajalein commander – aka Nestor Sadler,” Prioleau said gesturing toward the colonel. “It’s not easy acknowledging that a Soldier of my character would get the opportunity to work with a Special Forces airborne ranger. Soldiers in many units dream about working alongside the extraordinary leaders like yourself, sir. ... We dream about being part of your lineage. ... My dream has come true.”

He said that, while it was an honor to serve with the colonel on the job, it was also nice to have Sadler as a friend.

“Thanks for giving me the opportunity to help lead team Kwajalein and being your battle buddy,” Prioleau said. “Along the way, I really enjoyed the talks while cruising around in the [golf] cart doing base ops'. I enjoyed those ocean view cookouts.”

Prioleau discussed the joy he took directing the litany of projects he tackled as USAG-KA’s highest-ranking enlisted advisor. Tasked to manage garrison operations, Prioleau had a hand in anything from planning and managing the RMI Trade Fairs and to handling all the real property tasks on the island. Working with his team to improve base operations is an experience he will take with him on future assignments, he said.

“I am proud of what we have accomplished together. We’ve tackled several tough challenges and made significant improvements to many of our most important programs,” he said. “We have enhanced the access to services and improved the quality of life for our Soldiers, Army civilians, contractors and families. In doing so, we have increased the capabilities and overall readiness of team Kwajalein.”

Looking forward, Prioleau talked about how much he will miss the little things that make Kwajalein special.

“I’ll never forget riding my shiny

bike,” he said. “Greased down and looking pretty on Emon Beach while watching a baggo game and divers coming out of the water.”

Even walking to the KRS billing office to pay his phone bill and chat with employees there was a treat for him, he said.

He said he will miss catching the sunsets with his friends and playing in all the sports leagues that residents occupy themselves with on Kwajalein. Indeed, the volleyball games, softball tournaments and soccer matches will be a bit quieter now with Prioleau gone. His booming voice that had cheered on so many teams during the last 18 months had become quite the staple at these gatherings.

In the end Prioleau’s attitude on USAG-KA, both in uniform and off duty, reflected the way in which he viewed the folks on USAG-KA: as a family. It was not a group of random U.S. Soldiers and contractors he was cheering on and chatting up in the community. He and everyone on the island are part of the same family, he said – “Team Kwajalein.”

# Soldiers graduate from missile defense course

Clement Morris

**SMDC Missile Defense Training Division**

**PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo.** – Nine Soldiers graduated from the Ground Based Midcourse Defense Fire Control Operator Qualification Course in Colorado Springs Nov. 8.

These students participated in the seven-week program of instruction under the tutelage of instructors from the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command's Directorate of Training and Doctrine.

The students will be assigned to the 49th Missile Defense Battalion at Fort Greely, Alaska, and the 100th Missile Defense Brigade at Schriever Air Force Base, Colo.

The students ranged in rank from specialist to major. Collectively, they achieved a class average of 97.6 percent on eight graded closed book written examinations. They also achieved perfect scores on three performance tests, which were graded on a “GO/NO-GO” standard.

The course teaches Soldiers how to defend the homeland from incoming intercontinental ballistic missile attack. Students learn the behavior of the GMD weapon system, including sensors, communications and shooters and how the system of systems works together to defend the nation.

They also learn how to operate the system by practicing in a lab designed to replicate the nodes they will work in and how the computer allocates missiles to conduct an intercept in the midcourse phase of an enemy attack. The students are required to brief instructors and classmates on threat engagements, to include predictive analysis of weapon system performance.

Graduation was held on Peterson Air Force Base, and Brig. Gen. Don Laucirica, Land Component



*Courtesy photo*

**Maj. Andrew Cornwell, Ground Based Midcourse Defense Fire Control Operator Qualification Course 12-002 honor graduate and class leader, left, receives his certificate from Jim Traverse, course manager; graduation speaker Brig. Gen. Don Laucirica, Land Component commander, Colorado National Guard; and Col. Edward Hildreth, 100th Missile Defense Brigade commander, right, during the course graduation Nov. 8 at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.**

commander, Colorado National Guard, served as the graduation speaker for class 12-002. Also in attendance were Col. Edward Hildreth, 100th Missile Defense Bde. commander, and Col. Greg Bowen, deputy commander for support. Jim Traverse, GQC course manager, presented certificates to the graduates; Tim Deramus, GQC instructor, narrated the ceremony; and Mark James served as proffer.

The class honor graduate was class leader Maj. Andrew Cornwell, with a grade point average of 99.8 percent. Maj. Kyriakos “Kit” Sarafis, Capt. Jason Brewer, Capt. Bernard Smith, 1st Lt. Luis Lugo, 2nd Lt. Mindy Cason, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jacob Moore, Sgt. Benjamin Maye and Spc. Mark Risner are the other graduates.

## HEL MD from Page 4

Beardsley, Boeing Strategic Missile Defense Systems. “We have been able to have HEL MD out here at White Sands Missile Range and

actually show immediate success against both mortars and UAVs. This demonstrator really represents a significant capability for the Warf-

ighter, and this testing that we have performed over the last month really provides a big step in the proof of high-energy laser capabilities.”

Deadline for comments and submissions for the Jan. 16 issue is Jan. 10.

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

**COMPETITION from Page 8**

old, fresh out of the pasture,” Alcorn said. “I wasn’t sure if I could get him ready in time. I brought him home and started baby boot camp immediately. I took him up to my trainers for a month, then brought him home in July and worked with him twice a day to get him ready.

“We started him on a new diet, grooming, and exercise schedule,” she added. “On the days I couldn’t work him, my 21-year-old daughter, Kellie Ashby, stepped in and made sure he continued his training. I taught him to lead at the walk and trot; go over obstacles; perform side pass and back up; and set up, standing correctly for the judges. We took him to the last local shows of the year, and he got better each time. When he earned a Grand Championship and a Reserve Grand Championship in Halter, I knew he was ready.”

In November, Alcorn headed down to Fort Worth, Texas, for the APHA World Championships. They entered Halter Classes and In Hand Trail Classes. Halter classes are judged on the appearance of the horse, its balance and conformation. In Hand Trail classes have obstacles set up in different patterns and the handler and horse must navigate them precisely without touching an obstacle, going off pattern, or showing hesitation or fear.

Spidey and Alcorn also entered the Silver Yearling Halter Futurity and the Silver Yearling In Hand Trail Futurity, which are classes that only nominated horses can enter, and that offer cash and trophies for the winners.

“ARSTRAT has been incredibly supportive, both in allowing me the opportunity to attend the World Championship show and in encouraging me and supporting me,” Alcorn said. “Having the support of your command and coworkers makes it so much nicer, and getting to share successes with great people is fantastic.”

Over the course of the seven days, they showed, placed in all their classes and won the Silver Breeders Trust Halter Futurity Championship, among others.

“Spidey went from not understanding how to lead to being a World Show Futurity Champion in just over five months, so I am incredibly proud of him and our accomplishments,” Alcorn said. “Placing in the Top Five was a goal, and I am very glad we achieved it, but I am ready to go back next year with a new prospect and try to improve upon my performance and maybe come home with that In Hand Trail World Championship.



*Courtesy photo*

***Kristine Alcorn, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command Narrowband Consolidated-SAT-COM system expert Global Narrowband Watch Office, G-6 watch officer, and Peter Parker, barn name Spidey, after winning competitions in the American Paint Horse Association and the Colorado High Plains Paint Horse Club.***

“Spidey will sit out this year, I’ll start him under saddle in the spring and ride him lightly,” she added. “Daisy will be back in the ring this year, and I am breeding her to a World Champion stallion this spring. Hopefully that baby will be my first home grown World Champion.”

During this year’s competition, Spidey’s world show results included: 2013 APHA Silver Breeders Trust Futurity Champion Yearling Gelding, 2013 APHA Silver Breeders Trust Futurity Reserve Champion In Hand Trail, 2013 APHA World Show Top Five Amateur In Hand Trail, 2013 APHA World Show Top Ten Open In Hand Trail and 2013 APHA World Show Top Ten Tobiano Color.

Alcorn spoke about how special these animals are, and what she enjoys most about competing.

“So much is special about horses,” Alcorn said. “Having this big, powerful creature happily meet me at the gate, seeking out my attention, is pretty rewarding.

“I enjoy the challenges of teaching my horses how to move correctly for the ring, how to listen to my cues,” she added. “I then refine the cues until they are so subtle the judges can’t see them. I love watching them gain confidence, both in me and in themselves, and that is when I know we are ready for the ring. Then we just go out and give it our best.”

# Command Safety Gram

## *A safer New Year*

Tacking up a new calendar in January signifies a chance for change. Last year's mistakes and shortcomings are over and done. This year is a new opportunity to do things better. With the whole New Year stretching out ahead, what can be done to improve the safety aspects of someone's working life? First, people can plan to be better drivers. Motor vehicle accidents are still the leading cause of job-related fatalities in this country.

Consider what can be done to improve safety on the job. Consider these areas:

- **Training:** Take advantage of any opportunities for continued training in how to do the job safely and well. If hazards and precautions related to work are not understood, ask until satisfactory answers are received. Take first aid and CPR training.

- **Awareness:** Stay alert and know what to do at all times when on the job. Tune into surroundings so as to not be surprised by events such as a moving vehicle or an item falling from above.

- **Communication:** Report any hazards and safety concerns to a supervisor. Warn fellow workers of danger. Follow up to make sure safety problems are corrected promptly.

- **Personal Protective Equipment:** Use the recommended gear whenever it is needed – even for quick tasks. Learn how to maintain protective gear so it will continue to protect. Safety eyewear, gloves, and other protective equipment have proven their value countless times in preventing serious injuries.

Look beyond workplace safety and consider some tactics for self-improvement.

- **Improve safety at home and at play:** Pay more attention to home and community safety, which today far surpasses the workplace in accidental death and injury rates.

- **Focus on fire safety:** Get in the habit of checking smoke alarm and carbon monoxide detector batteries twice a year, with the time changes. Make sure to store flammables safely.

- **Improve driving habits:** Put away cell phone and text messages while driving. Be an active participant in teens' learning to drive safely.

- **Control blood pressure:** Learn to control unsafe blood pressure with diet, exercise, weight loss, and



medication as prescribed by a doctor. Visit the doctor for a complete physical before embarking on any change in current exercise levels. For added personal safety, make sure to have regular checkups.

- **Eat for health:** Reduce fat and cholesterol intake and increase the fiber in any diet. Avoid food with saturated fats, which can contribute to heart disease. Add whole grain breads, cereals such as oatmeal, fresh fruits, vegetables, beans, and peas to meals. Cut down on, or avoid altogether, alcohol and caffeine in beverages.

- **Be active every day:** Try climbing extra flights of stairs on the way to work; try swimming, gardening, or mowing the lawn. Being in good physical condition makes people safer by giving them the ability to respond quickly to a hazard.

- **Reduce stress:** Learn to control stress with exercise, diet and plenty of relaxation – not drugs and alcohol. At work, get away from the job by taking a 10-minute stress-break at coffee time and go for a brisk walk on lunch breaks. Learn to say “no” to extra commitments and “yes” to time with friends and family.

- **Quit Tobacco Use:** People know why they should quit smoking. They have heard countless times of the health dangers – heart disease, stroke, lung cancer, and other deadly illnesses.

When opening a new calendar to January 2014, resolve to make this a safer year at home and work. Take some time now to consider personal safety resolutions.

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