



# S M D C / A R S T R A T



Good afternoon. Is this a Hooah day in Colorado Springs or what? It's my honor to be here to talk to you today, representing the Soldiers and Civilians of U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command / Army Forces Strategic Command and the Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines and Civilians of Joint Functional Component Command – Integrated Missile Defense. We value good support – and I'm pleased to be here.

Close bonds are especially important in a city with such a diverse population of military and government civilian personnel. With Fort Carson, Peterson Air Force Base, Schriever Air Force Base, Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station, and the Air Force Academy, you certainly host many critical mission areas.

US Northern Command, North American Aerospace Defense Command, Air Force Space Command, the Missile Defense Agency, US Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, 50<sup>th</sup> Space Wing, 21<sup>st</sup> Space Wing, and Joint Functional Component Command – Integrated Missile Defense, the nexus of homeland defense, missile warning, missile defense, and space operations call Colorado Springs home.

Thank you for the invitation to speak, and congratulations to the Military Affairs Council of the Greater Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce on your 70th anniversary. You've been a tremendous supporter and booster of the men and women of the Armed Forces stationed in the greater Colorado Springs area, and I thank you for your continued support. A few examples of your great work that I'm aware of include February's Military Family Career Fair, May's Armed Forces Week



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concert and awards luncheon, July's Pike's Peak or Bust Rodeo and associated activities, and your active and very visible support at deployment and redeployment ceremonies for our Soldiers and Airmen departing to and returning from Iraq and Afghanistan – all ways the chamber demonstrates its interest in and commitment to active duty and reserve military members, their Families, Veterans, and retirees.

We appreciate your inclusion of our SMDC/ARSTRAT Soldiers in your Outstanding Enlisted Member Competition. Three of our Soldiers (SPC Rodriques, SFC Cardenas, SSG Sharp) were finalists, and we're very proud of SSG Sharp being selected as the 2011 Enlisted Member of the Year for the E-5/E-6 category. SSG Sharp is a master trainer and evaluator for our Joint Tactical Ground Station crews, ensuring our forces are trained and ready to provide assured missile warning for the theater commanders.

We also appreciate your efforts to engage with our senior leaders – meeting with the area Chiefs of Staff, your Senior Enlisted breakfasts – all helpful to sharing information between our military community and the Colorado Springs community at large. And thank you for your participation last week at AUSA.

Before talking about USASMDC/ARSTRAT and JFCC-IMD, I'd like to talk with you about three groups of people who are very important to me: Military members, Veterans – thank you for your service, and the Community.



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First, our Military: Today, Active, Guard, and Reserve Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Civilians are deployed or forward stationed around the world doing our nation's business. They serve with distinction, whenever and wherever they are needed – making enormous contributions vital to our Nation's security. They fight with courage and valor at the forefront of this war against global terrorism.

In recent weeks, I've visited a number of our Warriors receiving care through the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and the Bethesda Medical center near Washington, D.C. The Soldiers and Marines I visited inspire awe. They are incredible examples of courage, dedication, and selfless service. Despite their circumstances not one of them complained – they were proud of their service and understood the meaning of sacrifice. It's to these Soldiers and Marines – and all those serving in harm's way and around the globe that we're committed to providing space and missile defense capabilities.

Second, our Veterans: Veterans are an integral element in the fabric of our community –and they are visible reminders of service, patriotism, and enduring commitment to our Nation's values. They're active in our community – we see them at Memorial Day, on Veterans Day, at 4th of July celebrations and at events like these.

We are thankful for their service and so pleased with their continued involvement in our lives. If you're a Veteran, will you please raise your hand so that we can recognize you? To each of you and those who served alongside you, thank you for your service.



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Thirdly, Our Community: Many of you represent the community here in Colorado Springs. Communities across America demonstrate an outpouring of support to our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Civilians who serve today. They are the life lines to Families separated by numerous deployments. Something I've realized these past few years is that America has learned to say Thank You again. As I travel around the country, I proudly wear my uniform – and the outpouring of support and gratitude I get is simply overwhelming.

I understand that there is a 9/11 monument made of a steel beam from the World Trade Center at the NORAD/U.S. Northern Command headquarters, just a short walk from our SMDC/ARSTRAT building in Colorado Springs. The monument's concrete planter is in the shape of a pentagon, and the soil in the planter is from Pennsylvania. The monument and its counterparts at seven other locations around the city are reminders of the Coloradans and other Americans who were killed in New York City, at the Pentagon, and Shanksville, Pennsylvania, as well as those who have died in Iraq and Afghanistan these past ten years. On September 11th of this year, the tenth anniversary, the strong community outpouring of support here in Colorado Springs spoke volumes. You all represent that community support, and I thank you.

Now let me talk a little bit about SMDC/ARSTRAT and JFCC-IMD. The pictures you will see are the Soldiers and Civilians of SMDC/ARSTRAT executing or training for their real-life missions, the things they do 24/7/365 to provide Space and Missile Defense excellence.