

'From the Stars to the Foxhole'

Space and Missile Defense Battle Integration Center and Battle Lab

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May 11, 1995 — The U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command and the U.S. Army Space and Strategic Defense Command established a Memorandum of Agreement which described "how TRADOC and USASSDC's Missile Defense Battle Integration Center would work jointly regarding materiel development, analytical and/ or simulation capabilities."



The Missile Defense Battle Integration Center

The MDBIC had been established in January 1995 as a result of Army's need for a single voice in theater missile defense joint training, exercises and military operations. The MDBIC developed the Synthetic Theater of War — Theater Missile Defense (STOW-TMD), the Army's primary virtual interactive training for a synthetic battlefield.

With MDBIC products, Soldiers were able to solve tactical problems they would confront in combat in a virtual, digitized, simulated environ-

ment, defending against threat missile systems on designated terrain in anticipated light and weather conditions. The STOW-TMD successes led to the partnership with TRADOC in May 1995.

During its second year of operations, the MDBIC supported BRIGHT STAR, ULCHI FOCUS LENS, and PRAIRIE WARRIOR at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., and ROVING SANDS at Fort Bliss, Texas.

The Force-Projection Tactical Operations Center, another MDBIC product, provided the joint force land component commander with a command and control facility tailored for theater missile defense during these exercises. The MDBIC proved its worth and became a valuable asset to the Army as a whole.

Reorganization under the Army's newest Major Command

In October 1997, the USASSDC was designated a major Army command and was renamed the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command. SMDC became the Army proponent for space and national missile defense and overall integrator for theater missile defense. This was the culmination of over 200 years of Army involvement in strategic defense and homeland security.

As SMDC was commemorating its 40th anniversary in 1997 the very concept of strategic defense of the United States was undergoing a radical transformation. Three events in the last decade of the 20th century had a profound impact on perception of strategic defense and the role of space in military power.

The first of these was the demise of the Soviet Union and the reduced threat of superpower nuclear confrontation. This led to the emphasis

on a global defense against a limited strike from rogue nations.

The second event was the Gulf War of 1991. Desert Storm became the Army's first "space war" and was turning point in military technology and tactics that was dependant on space assets.

The third event was a series of futuristic war games conducted in 1997 and 1998 that highlighted the value of space resources for military operations. The USASSDC already had the skills and capabilities to capitalize on these international and internal Army changes.

These seminal events forced the Army to redefine its goals for space and missile defense and led to the reorganization of USASSDC (later redesignated SMDC in October 1997) into a major command. In anticipation of the reorganization to come, the command outlined its goals in a memorandum of Agreement dated 18 February 1997, between the commanding generals of TRADOC (Gen. William W. Hartzog) and USASSDC (Lt. Gen. Edward G. Anderson III).

The new MOA enlarged the scope of the previous May 1995 agreement. The new agreement defined the commands' role as the Army's proponent for space and national defense and integrator of theater missile defense.

It also identified the command's authority and responsibility to participate in TRADOC processes and to develop doctrine, training, leader development, organizations, materiel, and soldier products in the space and missile defense arenas. Moreover, the agreement authorized the establishment of a Space and Missile Defense Battle Lab.

SMDC established its Space and Missile Defense Battle Lab in Huntsville with its predecessor MDBIC forming the core of the new

organization. The Battle Lab was to interact with all other Army battle labs on space and missile defense models, simulations, experiments, and technology infusions.



The command also instituted a Force Development and Integration Center in Arlington, Va., as the Army's manager and developer for space and missile defense. Part of its mission was to act as a proponent for the entire spectrum of TRADOC responsibilities from personnel to combat development activities.

In addition, it had to articulate the Army's position on space and missile defense to technical development and operational sectors of all Army commands, joint commands and other uniformed services.

Since the signing of the TRADOC/ USASMDC agreement, the Space and Missile Defense Battle Lab, the Force Development Integration Center and the Information Science and Technology Directorate have been combined under one organization; the Space and Missile Defense Future Warfare Center.

All elements of the FWC continue a valuable relationship with TRADOC. Ongoing projects and coordination ensure the newest and most advanced space and missile defense products and concepts are available to our warfighters in the field.