



1st Space Brigade

Leader Notes

Continuing Pride



COL Eric P. Henderson
Commander,
1st Space Brigade

Recently, I had the opportunity to march with my unit, as we participated in the Colorado Springs Veterans Day Parade. The Brigade was joined by service members from Fort Carson, and Schriever and Peterson Air Force Bases. As we marched along Tejon Street, the applause and cheering filled my ears, as well as my heart, with joy. Everywhere I looked, I saw small children, old veterans, housewives, and Harley riders. All of those present stood and clapped in appreciation, as we marched by.

I took a few moments, as we marched, to think about the mission the 1st Space Brigade performs, and the trust that is placed upon us by the people of America. Our Commanding General's vision addresses the responsibility of "Providing Trained and Ready Space and Missile Defense Forces to the combatant commanders and to the Warfighters." What struck me was that every person we passed places a much greater trust upon us, and that is the care and welfare of their sons and daughters. Small children along the parade route had parents not in the parade, because they are serving our Nation

abroad. Old (and some "not so old") veterans rose to their feet, as our formation of flags passed. The colors seemed to make every heart swell, and every backbone stiffen with pride.

There is an old Army saying that "every meal is a feast, every day is a Holiday, and every formation is a parade." As I write this short column, I think about those from our ranks who serve our country. I think about the sacrifices families make. I consider whether they know how much they are appreciated, as they dutifully go about their jobs. Recently, the brigade had to extend six members of our command for an additional period of time in Afghanistan. While I know that this was not an ideal situation, I know it was the right decision. I want to thank those professional Space Soldiers, and their families who continue to serve. Every day over 800 Space enablers are spread globally, so that our Army, our sister services, and our Nation's allies have the best possible support. Even though our deploying units

CONTINUES
PAGE 18F >>

Back to the Basics



CSM Thomas L. Eagan
Command Sergeant Major
1st Space Brigade

Let me start by saying Maria and I are truly honored to be a part of the 1st Space Brigade and U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command team. We look forward to working with the Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers, Soldiers, and Families of the Command. Maria and I would also like to Congratulate CSM Ross and his wife Ashley on their selection to lead the Soldiers of the 32nd AAMDC and offer our thanks for their continued support of our transition into the Brigade.

Teamwork and cohesion are vital when it comes to achieving our mission. I

like to use the acronym TEAM: Together, Each, Achieves, More. This starts with leadership. We as Leaders serve a unique mission in this organization, and as such, our leaders must be tactically and technically proficient while fulfilling the Total Soldier Concept. This means not only being an expert in your field, but observing the Army Values and living by the Soldier and Non-Commissioned Officer creeds. I cite the line from the NCO creed: "No one is more professional than I." As a Professional Space Soldier you cannot be complacent when it comes to the day to day business. We are Professional Soldiers first, then Professional Space Soldiers. From the Soldiers, I expect the Army Values to be your moral

CONTINUES
PAGE 18F >>



100th Missile Defense Brigade

Leader Notes

Sun Doesn't Set on the 100th



CSM Russell A. Hamilton
Command Sergeant Major,
100th Missile Defense
Brigade (GMD)

Missile Defense support to a combatant commander begins with providing trained, educated, and certified Missile Defense forces. If we are talking Missile Defense crews, it means going to the Ground-based Midcourse Defense Operator Course, and going through our rigorous certification program. For our Soldiers who are assigned to the radar detachments, it includes the Sensor Manager's Course, and follow on certification on theater and strategic operator tasks. It's the cornerstone for what we do. As we become proficient at those fundamental tasks, we can then go a step further to bridge over into some of the Space courses, such as the Introduction to Space, Space 200, Space 300 and Functional Area 40 as well. Adding these courses gives us the well-rounded Space and Missile Defense knowledge as we work as subject matter experts in those arenas to better support

a geographic combatant command's mission set.

Since the brigade's inception when we stood up for initial limited defense operations in 2004, our exclusive focus was providing defensive capabilities against intercontinental ballistic missiles for U.S. Northern Command's area of responsibility (AOR). Since then, the additions of the Army/Navy Transportable Radar (AN/TPY-2) surveillance detachments have helped the brigade spread our capability into multiple geographic combatant commands. Our primary focus is still obviously strategic Missile Defense for the USNORTHCOM area of responsibility, but if you take, for example, the AN/TPY-2 Detachment (Det. 10), it also provides a theater ballistic Missile Defense capability for US Pacific Command. Now as we add Det. 11 for U.S. European Command, there is a theatre ballistic defense capability there, as well as Det. 12 for U.S. Central Command's AOR. Providing that ballistic Missile Defense detection and

1F

CONTINUES
PAGE 19F >>

An Insurance Policy for the Nation



COL Gregory S. Bowen
Commander,
100th Missile Defense
Brigade (GMD)

U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command has a long history of contributing to our nation's ability to defend itself from air and missile threats. From the early days of the Nike air defense system, to our nation's first deployed ballistic Missile Defense system called Safeguard, the Army has developed cutting-edge technology and delivered capability to Warfighters and to the nation. USASMDC/ARSTRAT's current work in developing and operating the Ground-Based Midcourse Defense (GMD) system is just the most recent chapter in this prestigious history.

Like military Space, Missile Defense appears to be a growth industry; one in which USASMDC/ARSTRAT is uniquely positioned. A careful study of recent

trends in ballistic missile proliferation paints a disturbing picture. Countries unfriendly to the United States are actively cooperating with one another in the development of lower-cost, higher-accuracy ballistic missile and Space launch systems. They are sharing the technology with one another, and with other state (and potentially non-state) actors. They have reached the conclusion that ballistic missiles provide them with a superb asymmetric threat against superior U.S. forces, and they realize how difficult and expensive the problem of ballistic Missile Defense is. Despite the cost and complexity of defensive systems, the ballistic missile threat is not one the United States can afford to ignore.

Ballistic Missile Defense is costly, and it is controversial. In the wake of the recent budget crisis and with significant budget cuts to the Department of Defense looming on the horizon,

CONTINUES
PAGE 19F >>

JAPAN

DISASTER TOUCHES SPACE WARRIORS



CPT Erol Munir, D Detachment, 1st Space Company commander, and SSG James R. Harris pause while helping clean up after an earthquake and tsunami devastated Japan in March. *Photo Courtesy 1st Space Company*

THESE

By CPT Erol Munir,
1st Space Company

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan – On March 11, a 9.0 earthquake struck off the coast of northeastern Japan and shook Misawa Air Base for several minutes. Almost immediately afterwards, the “giant voice” on base began to warn of an impending tsunami. Picture frames fell off the walls of homes, personal belongings fell off shelves, and the power went out. Luckily, no one was injured or hurt.

At the time the earthquake and tsunami struck, the base was in the middle of conducting a readiness exercise and was therefore already postured to respond. The first priority was to conduct a damage assessment and full accountability of personnel. Soldiers, airmen, and sailors from the base responded quickly and professionally to meet the task at hand. Announcements continued to be broadcast over the giant voice, and an Emergency Family Assistance Control Center was established at the community center. Generators were used to power key agencies on the base, and everywhere else, people huddled together by candlelight.

The first few weeks after the earthquake and tsunami were chaotic. Power was restored to the majority of the base within a week, and slowly things started getting back to normal. However, there was still the stress of continued aftershocks and the developing situation at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Plant which resulted in uneasiness, amongst the base population. The Department of State announced a voluntary departure of family members to safe havens in the United States, and a large percentage of spouses and children boarded planes to go home.

Throughout this stressful time, the Soldiers of Delta Detachment continued to flawlessly perform their vital strategic missile warning mission. Despite their already rigorous schedule, they continuously sought opportunities to help the local community and make a difference. On March 15 and 18, Joint Tactical Ground Station (JTAGS) Soldiers volunteered to conduct a tactical vehicle convoy to the Japanese town of Ofunato (150 miles south of Misawa) to deliver vital supplies to U.S. Agency for International Development search and rescue teams.

Since then, Soldiers from JTAGS Japan have continuously supported “clean up” missions in Operation Tomodachi. Tomodachi means friendship in Japanese. They have gone to numerous local areas along the coast where there has been unprecedented devastation and donated more than 400 hours cleaning debris from where the tsunami wave made contact with land.

JTAGS Soldiers continue to volunteer their time and help as much as they can, including an overnight trip to the village of Tanohata to help clear debris from damaged homes and buildings.

EDITOR’S NOTE

CPT Erol Munir is the former commander of D Detachment, 1st Space Company, 1st Space Brigade, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command.



SSG Christopher Douglas, PVT Jonathan Segarra and SGT Vyncent Beasley help clear debris after an earthquake and tsunami devastated Japan in March. All three Soldiers are with the Joint Tactical Ground Station at Misawa Air Base, D Detachment. *Photo Courtesy 1st Space Company*

One of the conference leaders, Walsh Althouse, welcomes delegates to the 2011 USASMDC/ARSTRAT Army Family Action Program conference that was held in Colorado Springs, CO.

FAMILY MATTERS



Delegates Choose Six Issues for Army Leadership

By KC Bertling, USASMDC/ARSTRAT G1 Photos By SGT Benjamin Crane, 100th Missile Defense Brigade Public Affairs



Delegates get to know each other during the 2011 USASMDC/ARSTRAT Army Family Action Plan Conference.

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — To improve the Army family's quality of life, Soldiers, Department of the Army Civilians, retirees, and family members from across the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command gathered for the annual mid-level Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) conference in Colorado Springs, Colo., in April.

A total of 33 delegates representing the command's many demographics were divided into three workgroups. Each group reviewed previously submitted issues, concerns, and ideas, and prioritized the group's top two issues. Everyone worked tirelessly with subject-matter experts, and each workgroup spokesperson briefed the top two issues to LTG Richard P. Formica and other senior leaders in the command April 22.

The following subjects were briefed to the commanding general and will be forwarded to the Department of the Army for further consideration during the 2012 worldwide AFAP conference.

1 Orthodontic coverage options for family members.

Recommendation: Provide optional plans for family members at sponsors' expense to purchase expanded orthodontic coverage under the TRICARE Dental Plan.

2 Environmentally hazardous Army family housing.

Recommendation: Provide environmentally safe housing for family members.

3 TRICARE Prime Specialty Care referrals between regional contractors.

Recommendation: Change current policy to allow TRICARE regions to accept referrals from the losing region to accommodate TRICARE Prime patients requiring specialty medical care upon arrival at the new duty station.

4 Support programs for Soldiers, Civilians, and families at remote locations.

Recommendation: Provide means to access relevant Army support programs, dependent on unique site needs, at all remote locations, regardless of total Soldier population.

5 Internal Department of the Army Civilian career advancement opportunities

Recommendation: Require increased career advancement opportunities for Department of the Army employees, GS-5 through GS-12, by making use of existing developmental options as opposed to hiring externally.

6 Voluntary leave donation program for Soldiers.

Recommendation: Implement a voluntary leave donation program for Soldiers.

A DAY IN THE LIFE

AFAP A Soldier's Perspective

By SGT Benjamin Crane, 100th Missile Defense Brigade Public Affairs

I was one of the Soldiers selected to represent the Army National Guard and the 100th Missile Defense Brigade at the 2011 U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command's Army Family Action Plan conference. I had never been to one of these conferences before and wasn't sure what to expect.

But it didn't take me long to realize that this wasn't just going to be time off of work. I was assigned to the employment group think tank. It consisted of ten or so other Soldiers and Civilians from around the world. None had the same job or assignment. I was amazed at the diversity of the group.

Tuesday we started getting into the real meat of the issues. The list had 15 issues submitted to USASMDC/ARSTRAT leadership. Some were local issues that were too broad, and others were too specific and didn't help the entire Army. Facilitators controlled the flow of discussion and kept us focused on what issues were something that could be fixed and help the greatest number of people.

The facilitators were very energetic and kept the discussion environment upbeat. Other groups didn't look like they were enjoying themselves; our group couldn't wait to get together. Instead of arguing and fighting through issues, we used laughter to keep focused and engaged. We also kept busy with the colored pipe cleaners that were put on our table each morning. Cars, animals, and mostly candy canes started to fill the room as the week progressed. There was even a four-foot pyramid that developed by the last day in one of the other group's room.

Slowly the issues dwindled from 15 to five to eventually two. Our group decided to take three similar issues and make them into one solid issue. Despite a little push back from the AFAP leaders, the issues were finally refined to be presented on Friday.

Friday was the last day of the conference and the day the three groups would present their ideas to LTG Richard P. Formica, commander of USASMDC/ARSTRAT. Our group picked a spokesperson and prepared a cheer which we were supposed to perform. I guess it was tradition despite sounding silly. But I think our group did the best it could, and we even made the general laugh a little. After the cheering and presenting of issues were complete, we were thanked for our participation and released.

I walked out of the hotel that afternoon with a sense of accomplishment because I knew that we had done well and the changes made through all this will make many people happier and improve military quality of life. And that made my week off of work worth the time.



Conference coordinator, KC Bertling speaks to the delegates on Monday of the 2011 Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command's Army Family Action Plan conference that was held in Colorado Springs, CO.

→ AFAP provides members of the Army community a "voice" in shaping their standards of living and identifying issues related to the current environment. Army leaders trust and support AFAP, and it provides real-time information that enables commanders to respond more rapidly to resolve problems, implement good ideas and guide policy information.

"I had no idea about the AFAP until I attended the conference this week," said Melva Tillar, a conference delegate. "This is an awesome program for the Army leaders to demonstrate that they do care about us."

Installations and local levels hold annual AFAP conferences where representatives of all Army elements meet to identify, develop and prioritize issues they believe are important to maintain quality of life for Army families.

Issues that are applicable beyond the local and mid-level conferences will be forwarded to the worldwide AFAP conference. The goals of that conference are to provide information on the implementation of AFAP issues and identify and prioritize issues for Army leadership for further actions to achieve the Army's overall goal of improving the quality of life for Army families.

CALIFORNIA MISSILE DEFENSE DETACHMENT

Activates, Changes Commanders

Story and Photos By SGT Benjamin Crane,
100th Missile Defense Brigade Public Affairs



6F

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. – The 100th Missile Defense Brigade (Ground-based Midcourse Defense) officially unfurled the guidon for its Detachment One during an Activation and Change of Command ceremony May 13.

The unit is comprised of seven California National Guard Soldiers working together to defend the skies over America in case of a foreign missile attack. They work hand in hand with other brigade units in Colorado and Alaska to accomplish the mission of defending the homeland.

The detachment has actually been working together for the past four years out of California but it wasn't recognized by the Army as an official unit.

"The original manning document had only Alaska and Colorado in it," said COL Gregory Bowen, commander of the 100th MDB (GMD) to the Soldiers and families in attendance at the ceremony. "We couldn't add California legally until we sent it (manning document) all the way back up to the Secretary of the Army and get his approval, which was a very long process that concluded about two months ago. So now we can formally activate Detachment One."

And with that, Detachment One's guidon was unfurled and handed to the outgoing commander, CPT Orlando Cobos.

"Bottom line, Orlando has done an absolutely phenomenal job as the detachment commander," said

Bowen. "If you think in terms of the responsibility he bears every day, this is a lot of pressure that we put on a captain to be out here in charge of this particular asset."

As Cobos accepted the guidon his official command time was started. But it didn't last long, as he stepped down and handed over the command to incoming commander CPT William Palermo.

Time in command 4 minutes, 31 seconds.

"It was an outstanding four minutes, it gave me very little time to screw up," laughed Cobos. "The four minutes was actually almost four years, but it was an amazing four years."

Cobos started coming out to California on temporary duty with six other Soldiers when the detachment first was formed and now as he leaves, it's a full-time duty station with plans to add more Soldiers to handle the mission.

"It's been a fun ride. We have had some challenges, especially integrating into the Air Force base here and the California National Guard, but overall I been very fortunate to be a part of this," Cobos added.

Palermo is leaving his assignment in Colorado Springs, Colo., as the 100th MDB's assistant intelligence officer. He has served in the unit since 2008 and has previously been deployed to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

"I've seen a lot of people come and go since I began working here. During my tenure, I've worked with some outstanding individuals and have been afforded

Outgoing commander, CPT Orlando Cobos, speaks to the crowd at the Ronald Reagan Missile Defense site at Vandenberg Air Force Base during the 100th Missile Defense Brigade (Ground-based Midcourse Defense) activation and change of command ceremony for Detachment One, 100th MDB May 13, 2011 at Vandenberg AFB, Calif.



Outgoing commander, CPT Orlando Cobos, hands flowers to his daughters, America and Reagan, at the Ronald Reagan Missile Defense site at Vandenberg Air Force Base.



great opportunities. That said, I will surely miss it here (in Colorado),” said Palermo.

But as he starts his tenure with the new detachment, he knows what he has to do to keep the standard up there.

“I want to develop a loyal team that is focused on accomplishing our mission, which is greater than any one person. If we embrace the true meaning of teamwork we will accomplish great things,” said Palermo. “I am very thankful that I was entrusted with the responsibility to lead Detachment One. CPT Cobos has accomplished great things over the past couple of years especially in standing up the detachment and I will have big shoes to fill, but I’m looking forward to the challenges that lie ahead.”

Cobos plans to leave the 100th to join the 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team located in San Diego. He will be the battalion’s training and operations officer.

“The guys have always been dedicated to the mission. All of them are good people. Soldier-wise, they execute the mission and they are great Soldiers so I have been very fortunate. CPT Palermo has a great group of guys that know the mission here and they will take care of him,” said Cobos.



COL Gregory S. Bowen speaks to the crowd in front of the Ronald Reagan Missile Defense site at Vandenberg Air Force Base.



Special guest, Pastor Rob Litzinger takes a picture with his cell phone of the activation and change of command ceremony for Detachment One.



CRUSHER SIGNS IN

CSMs May Come and Go, but the Sword Remains “Razor Sharp”

By DJ Montoya, 1st Space Brigade Public Affairs
Photos by Craig Dalton, USAF

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo.—Forty-five days after the 1st Space Brigade bid farewell to its top noncommissioned officer, CSM Thomas L. Eagan assumed responsibility for the role during a brief but important ceremony Aug. 11 in the ballroom of The Club at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado Springs, Colo.

In front of members of U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, Soldiers, Air Force personnel, community leaders, and family members, Eagan received the Noncommissioned Officer's sword from COL Eric P. Henderson, brigade commander, signifying the assumption of senior enlisted responsibilities for the Army's first and only Space brigade.

Henderson pointed to Eagan's accomplishments over a 26-year career. He previously was the battalion command sergeant major with the 3rd Battalion, 6th Air Defense Artillery Brigade at Fort Sill, Okla.

“Though new to us, he is not new to the arena,” said Henderson.

“Since the 20th of August 1985 Command Sgt. Maj. Eagan has distinguished himself from his peers. Whether it is his assignments as a platoon sergeant, a brigade maintenance NCO, a Patriot weapon systems adviser and trainer, a first sergeant, an operations sergeant major, or battalion command sergeant major, Eagan's resume is built upon the dust, sweat, and the blood that has taken him to become the professional noncommissioned officer that he is today.

“He just assumed the responsibility in becoming the command sergeant major of the world's only Army Space brigade. He is worthy of the task, and he is here. And he is here for a reason. He will continue to motivate, train, lead, provide direction, and further develop today's Soldiers of the 1st Space Brigade and more importantly the future leaders of our nation and of our Army.”

Eagan acknowledged the welcome and said, “To the leaders of our city (Colorado Springs) and our installation (Peterson Air Force Base) I look forward to working with both our civilian leaders and our brothers and sisters in arms to continue our great relationship and improving those to the next level. I will leave you with this from the Creed of the Noncommissioned Officer. Three letters form the foundation of the creed and begin each paragraph with a short sentence: No one is more professional than I. Competence is my watch-word. Officers of my unit will have maximum time to accomplish their duties; they will not have to accomplish mine.

“My word to the officers of the units, you will not have to accomplish my duties. To the leaders of the unit, competence is your watch-word and to all in the command, no one is more professional than you.

“It's truly my honor to be your Command Sergeant Major. Crusher signing in!”



1ST SPACE BATTALION GETS NEW COMMANDER

By DJ Montoya, 1st Space Brigade Public Affairs
Photos by Craig Dalton, USAF

11F

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo.—A change of command ceremony for the 1st Space Battalion, 1st Space Brigade took place June 20 at the Peterson Air Force Base auditorium.

The outgoing commander, LTC J. Dave Price, turned over the battalion colors to COL Eric P. Henderson, commander of the 1st Space Brigade. Henderson then passed the colors to the incoming commander, LTC Patrick J. Mullin.

Prior to the ceremony Price received the Meritorious Service Medal for his service as battalion commander from July 2009 to June 2011.

Henderson reflected on Price's tenure by saying, "As the operational arm of this command no other unit has done more to provide trained and ready Space forces than the 1st Space Battalion.

"Dave has deployed Soldiers consistently and systematically into theater numerous times. His battalion and staff have trained, equipped, prepared, deployed, performed, redeployed, and re-integrated Soldiers into theater. His Soldiers are trained, their units are ready, and they continue to provide Space-based products and services to those who need them the most—the sons and daughters of this great nation."

Price was the sixth commander of the battalion and had previous ties to the unit when he served as commander of the 1st Space Company from 2004 to 2006.

"Let me remind you that my real responsibility in command was only to build a team and serve Soldiers," said Price. "But the feats of these Soldiers rest solely on their shoulders.

And I give credit to all those deserving."

Among his other assignments in the Space arena Price served as the chief of Special Technical Operations for the Joint Functional Component Command for Space, and as the first-ever joint senior Space duty officer at the Joint Space Operations Center, Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., for U.S. Strategic Command.

The Army War College at Carlisle, Pa., is the next stop for Price.

Mullin comes to the battalion after serving as the S3 (Operations) at the 1st Space Brigade for the past two years.

"To the Soldiers and Civilians of the 1st Space Battalion—hooah!" said Mullin. "I have observed you from a close distance for the last two years. And I have to say, right now, to me you look better than ever."

His previous assignment include commander, Missile Warning Center, Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station, Colo.; chief of Space and missile operations for Cheyenne Mountain Operations Center; chief of the Space Support Element for the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Ky.; and chief of Space and Special Technical Operations, Combined Joint Task Force-101 and U.S. Forces-Afghanistan at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

The 1st Space Battalion was activated on Dec. 15, 1999. It was formed to provide an operational headquarters for command and control of Army Space forces.

DROP, THEN SHOP

Soldiers Support Commissary through Physical Endurance

TOP SGT Vincent Samson focuses while trying to complete the "Egg Walk."

LEFT SSG Michael Landry, SGT Toby Hensley, and SPC Theodore Furrow start the "Commissary Sweep" for C Company, 53rd Signal Battalion.

BOTTOM LEFT PFC Scott Fitzgibbons keeps pushing for C Company, 53rd Signal Battalion.

BOTTOM RIGHT CSM Richard Jessup watches while SGT Hensley does as many push-ups as possible.

*Photos by Rick Scavetta,
U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern*





LEFT SGT Toby Hensley does his lap during the "Shopping Cart Relay."

By SPC Simon Castillo, C Company, 53rd Signal Battalion

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Soldiers from Charlie Company, 53rd Signal Battalion, 1st Space Brigade joined Soldiers from U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern to show their appreciation for the local commissary by adding groceries to their morning physical training.

A team of ten C Company Soldiers competed against dozens of others during Commissary Appreciation Day, held June 24 at the Vogelweh commissary. The garrison's Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS) program supported the annual event. The commissary provided props for some unique competitions.

"It's our business to support events like this through our industry partners," said Defense Commissary Agency Europe spokeswoman Leslie Brown. "If it weren't for the military men and women, we wouldn't have a mission. We appreciate their patronage and their service to our country."

The morning began with shopping cart relay races around the track. Each team had to complete two, one-third-mile laps while pushing a shopping cart weighed down with several packages of bottled water. C Company completed the race with the fastest time, winning the first event.

The day's second event also had the Soldiers racing on foot, running a lap while balancing an egg on a spoon clenched between their teeth. C Company members again showed their dominance, winning the event. A pushup competition was made more interesting when Soldiers pressed to muscle failure with heavy sacks of dog food on their shoulders. C Company won the third event with 293 pushups.

"Thirty pounds of dog food was tough, but I really wanted to win this for the team," said SSG Danial Zweifel.

Soldiers then broke for breakfast provided by the commissary and BOSS. The fourth event was the egg toss which consisted of three teams of two given the chance to drop only three eggs total. Alas, C Company was brought down from the top seed of this event and left with only a handful of yolk.

The last event of the day brought the Soldiers inside the commissary to compete in a shopping spree. Working in teams of three, they had two minutes to fill a cart. The highest dollar value would win. C Company once more triumphed, with a bill of \$1,260.

In the end, it didn't matter. The Vogelweh commissary—part of the Kaiserslautern-headquartered Defense Commissary Agency Europe—allowed each team to keep their haul.

The C Company team then took the groceries to the parking lot and divided it all up. First was to supply the Family Readiness Group with anything that could be useful for its members and deployed Soldiers. Then the single Soldiers in the barracks were supplied. Finally, what was left was divided between the team as the spoils of victory. C Company also was awarded the DeCA Europe Cup, which sits in the company's trophy case.

C Company is one of six companies worldwide that make up the 53rd Signal Battalion which is headquartered in Colorado Springs, Colo. Their mission is to provide continuous communications transmissions and satellite payload control of the Department of Defense Wideband satellite communications constellation.

LIGHTNING AND THUNDER

Battalion MPs Train to Defend Missile Complex

Story and Photos by SGT Benjamin Crane,
100th Missile Defense Brigade Public Affairs

FORT GREELY, Alaska – The military police Humvee rattled down the road of the Missile Defense Complex just as it usually would any other time. The night was crisp and clouds had rolled in, but it was still light enough to see the outlying fences. As the vehicle rounded the end of Alpha Sector, a loud bang rang out as an artillery round exploded. Seconds later there were insurgents swarming over the fences and onto the complex. This was definitely a night not like any other.

That was the effect the leadership of the 100th Missile Defense Brigade (Ground-Based Midcourse Defense) and the 49th Missile Defense Battalion was going for during the Global Lightning exercise April 29 to May 3.

Soldiers from the 100th MDB brigade, based in Colorado Springs, Colo., came to Alaska to aid the 49th MDB battalion in putting on this annual exercise. Various planned “attacks” on Fort Greely’s Missile Defense Complex were carried out to test the skills and proficiency of the Soldiers in the 49th’s Military Police Security Company.

“Our primary purpose here is to test the 49th Missile Defense Battalion,” said COL Gregory Bowen, 100th MDB brigade commander. “We typically do this once a year where we as a brigade headquarters come up here and run the battalion through its paces and give the battalion commander a good outside set of eyes on the result of his training program.”

The scenarios in the exercise made the Soldiers use that training and tried to find ways to get them out of their comfort zones to see how they do under pressure.

“We want to be able to really put together a scenario that will run the full gamut and test all their functions, from emergency procedures to actual combat operations, but also testing personnel actions, supply and logistics and



MAJ Gary Casey, opposition forces leader and commander for the U.S. Army Reserve Strategic Command Troop Program Unit, lays out the plans of an “insurgent” attack on the Missile Defense Complex at Fort Greely, Alaska.

actually supplying for the Warfighters on the ground, so we’re testing full spectrum,” said CSM Russell Hamilton, the brigade command sergeant major.

The mission and goal of the exercise was to provide realistic training, while keeping everyone involved safe.

During the exercise, there was allotted time to stop and give corrections where needed.

“By being here we are able to coach, train, and mentor them when we do see things that need to be improved,” said Bowen.

The Soldiers who participated got to break up the monotony of their day-to-day jobs and enjoy a change of pace compared to their regular day. Getting to put their training into action helped platoon sergeants see how well they are doing training their Soldiers.

And for the 2nd Platoon, they looked like they were trained well.

“I think the exercise went very well. I am proud of my Soldiers,” said SFC Robert Carson, 2nd Platoon, platoon sergeant.

SPC Cristina Cost, 100th Missile Defense Brigade, observes SPC Carl Watson (kneeling) as he performs first aid on SPC Trevor Cousino during the first day of the battalion's annual external evaluation at Fort Greely, Alaska.



During the four days, Carson's Soldiers encountered a vehicle breakdown and rollover, an active shooter situation, several insurgent attacks and had to perform first aid on nominal casualties and handle a bomb threat.

But through all that, they hung tough.

"All the ones who were evaluated did really well, so I'm happy. They did a real good job," said Carson.

Because the brigade is headquartered in Colorado Springs, Colo., and has operators working out of California and Alaska, getting Soldiers together from various units can be a challenge. But exercises like Global Lightning 11 allow all the moving parts to get to see each other.

"Any chance to work with higher headquarters face to face is good," said LTC Joe Miley, the 49th's commander. "We tend to be an electronic society, and of course we have the tyranny of geography. There is a long distance between here and the 100th in Colorado Springs as well as 88th Troop Command in Anchorage, which are our two brigade headquarters." (The unit falls under both the Alaska National Guard and the 100th brigade.)

After the four days were concluded, the staff from the 100th put together their assessment of the 49th's military police company and submitted it to the commander for his review. Then they had a large after-action review time to discuss the exercise. Through comments made during the after-action review, it appeared as though the training at the battalion level was to standard.

"I am very proud of them (2nd platoon). It's not because of me, and it's because of the things that the squad leaders and team leaders are out there doing every day," said Carson. "Every shift, every cycle, we do training and physical training. We are going to have to obviously work on our communications over radio and other things but other than that, I am very proud of them and we just have to sustain that and keep it going."



COL Gregory Bowen, commander of the 100th Missile Defense Brigade (Ground-Based Midcourse Defense), talks to Soldiers during the pre-exercise brief for exercise.



SPC Cristina Cost, 100th Missile Defense Brigade, reviews with SPC Carl Watson and SPC Trevor Cousino on their performance of first aid during the first day of the battalion's external evaluation. Both Soldiers are military policemen with the 49th Missile Defense Battalion's MP security company.



SPC Carl Watson (kneeling) practices first aid on SPC Trevor Cousino during the first day of exercise Global Lightning 11 at Fort Greely, Alaska.



USASMDC/ARSTRAT's Soldier and NCO of the Year

By Carrie David and Rachel L. Griffith,
USASMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.—The top noncommissioned officer and Soldier from the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command's 2011 NCO and Soldier of the Year competition have been named.

SSG Andrew Brown, 1st Space Company, 1st Space Battalion, is the command's NCO of the Year, and SPC Brandon Kitchen, Company B, 53rd Signal Battalion, is the Soldier of the Year. Both battalions are part of the 1st Space Brigade.

"I'm excited and surprised," Kitchen said. "There was so much knowledge among these Soldiers, I'm honored to have been able to compete and still come out on top."

Brown said he was surprised also. "I'm surprised and speechless. This is such a wonderful group of Soldiers. I'm honored to compete with these guys. Now, we go back and complete the mission."

The eight competitors, who first won at the regional level from within USASMDC/ARSTRAT's units around the world, were put through four days of grueling events that included long hours and punishing physical activity. Members from all

sections of the command pitched in during the competition to make the events happen, such as weapons qualification with the M16 rifle, written exam, and oral presentation to a board of sergeants major. Soldiers from the 1st Space Battalion provided the combatants as well as team members for the competitors during the Situational Training Exercise combat event.

"We had such a small squad for such a large mission, and there was so much gunfire," Brown said. "It really pushed me to my limit."

Kitchen said the easiest event for him was the run portion of the Army Physical Fitness Test. "I'm originally from Colorado, so I had an advantage," he said. "It didn't take me very long to acclimate to the altitude."

The winners returned to Colorado Springs for a month of intense training to prepare them for the Sergeant Major of the Army's Best Warrior Competition held at Fort Lee, Va., in October. The train-up focused heavily on combative training, based on feedback from previous USASMDC/ARSTRAT Soldier and NCO of the Year winners.

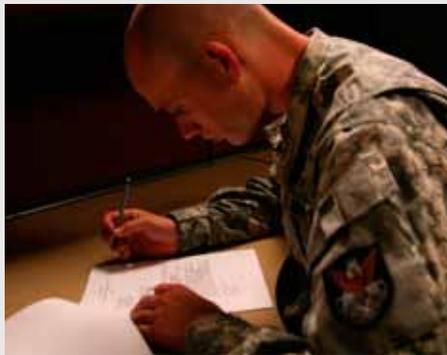


AFTER TITION

CSM William C. Baker briefs the competitors following their stationary qualification range on Fort Carson, Colo.
Photo by Dottie White

SPC Brandon Kitchen concentrates as he answers multiple choice questions on the written exam.
Photo by Carrie E. David

SSG Chauncey Carter uses a compass to plot points on a map during the land navigation competition.
Photo by Carrie E. David



SSG Christopher Miller goes over his land navigation equipment with his evaluator before beginning the course at Iron Horse Park on Fort Carson, Colo.
Photo by Dottie White



SSG Seamus Lynch does the push-up portion of the Army Physical Fitness Test administered to all candidates in the competition.
Photo by Carrie E. David

LTG Richard P. Formica, commanding general, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, gives the opening remarks to officially kick off the 14th annual Space and Missile Defense Conference at the Von Braun Center, Huntsville, Ala. Photo by Rachel L. Griffith



SPACE & MISSILE DEFENSE CONFERENCE

Highlights Innovations that Add Greater Capabilities to the Frontlines

By Jason B. Cutshaw, USASMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

HUNTSVILLE, Ala.—The Rocket City once again became the launching pad for leaders in the Space and Missile Defense universe.

With the theme of “Providing Capabilities to the Warfighter,” the 14th annual Space and Missile Defense Conference took place Aug. 15-18 at the Von Braun Center. The conference was presented by the Air, Space and Missile Defense Association, the National Defense Industrial Association’s Tennessee Valley Chapter, and the Air Defense Artillery Association.

“Our Space professionals are on point for our nation supporting the Warfighters and Civilians,” said LTG Richard P. Formica, commander of U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, during the conference kickoff. “Today the Army has some 246,000-plus Soldiers deployed and forward stationed with more than 114,000 in operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. Our Soldiers are focused, and they’re making progress every day under tough tactical conditions.”

“Our Space operations Soldiers are in the fight,” Formica added. “It’s to these Soldiers and the ones they support to whom we commit to providing timely, relevant Space and Missile Defense capabilities.”

Formica, along with USASMDC/ARSTRAT operations sergeant major, SGM John Mattie, introduced SSG Andrew Brown, 1st Space Company, 1st Space Battalion, Colorado Springs, Colo., and SPC Brandon Kitchen of B Company, 53rd Signal Battalion, Fort Meade, Md. Brown and Kitchen are the command’s 2011 Noncommissioned Officer of the Year and Soldier of the Year, respectively.

Other speakers throughout the week included Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle; LTG Patrick O’Reilly, director of the Missile Defense Agency; LTG Dennis Via, deputy commander of Army Materiel Command; and Lt. Gen. Susan Helms, the first female military astronaut and commander of Air Force Space Command and the Joint Functional Component Command for Space, U.S. Strategic Command, at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif.

During the week there were panel discussions with subject-matter experts, social receptions, and numerous other events to inform the public of the Space and Missile Defense community’s current and future endeavors.

At the conference, one SMDC leader talked about the importance that the week means to the men and women in uniform who are in harm’s way.

“The conference has been outstanding,” said COL Eric P. Henderson, 1st Space Brigade commander. “It is good to meet our partners in technology and industry and see what innovations they have, and to see if and when we will have capabilities that would apply to our mission set.”

“The work that is being done in the nanosatellite department looks like it will have an application that will benefit our Soldiers,” Henderson said. “I look forward to seeing how we can apply it to what the troops need.”

More than 250 companies, large and small, had booths featuring everything from full-size displays to computer simulations of future technologies. Companies presented military vehicles such as the Avenger weapon system, a Medium Extended Air Defense System Tactical Operations Center, a nanosatellite demonstration, and a mock battle command and control system.

A digital recreation of the control center of the Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site Operations Center located in Huntsville, Ala., as it tracks satellites from facilities located more than 7,000 miles away at the Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site at Kwajalein Atoll, Republic of the Marshall Islands. *U.S. Army graphic*



OPERATIONS CENTER WATCHES SKY

By Jason B. Cutshaw, USASMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. – Saving time and money while performing a vital mission for national defense from half a world away is the goal of the Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site Operations Center (ROC) located in Huntsville, Ala.

The ROC command and control facility at the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command in Huntsville will soon become the primary command-and-control facility instead of its current location on Kwajalein Atoll. The communications upgrade focuses on the core networking and communications infrastructure linking Kwajalein to the United States. Building a reliable, high bandwidth, low latency network is crucial to a distributed range in which the sensors are operated from more than 7,000 miles away.

“Here at the ROC, we are performing Space and Missile Defense tracking and helping ensure the development of Missile Defense assets and systems, as well as helping verify that operational assets, whether offensive or defensive, are working correctly for the defense of both the nation and the Warfighters themselves,” said LTC Brian Soldon, U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll and Reagan Test Site deputy commander (Continental United States), Kwajalein support director and Reagan Test Site (RTS) Space operation director.

The RTS Distributed Operations program will benefit Reagan Test Site customers in several key ways. RTS system engineers and mission planners will be available centrally in Huntsville, which is co-located with several major RTS customers. Customers will benefit from the range’s command and communication functions being “closer” through reduced flight times and fewer time zone differences for training, demonstrations, mission planning and mission execution than is experienced with Kwajalein-based RTS support.

RTS customers will have the ability to view missions in

real-time from the Huntsville control center, and only those mission support functions requiring physical access to RTS and test assets will need to deploy to Kwajalein.

“The ability to quickly make operational command decisions is a benefit,” he added. “We will always have the requirement to have a significant presence, and a command presence, out on the range due to tactical safety concerns.”

As the ROC mission continues to grow, one of the primary functions is to inform and support those organizations that monitor what takes place on the high ground.

“The U.S. Strategic Command mission that we support is primarily Space situational awareness which includes metric observations of Space objects so we know exactly where those objects are,” Soldon said. He talked about how most Soldiers may not see how the ROC capabilities help them directly, but noted that the unseen benefits are immense and help them on several levels when they are deployed and in harm’s way.

“A lot of people have a hard time identifying how Space situational awareness affects the Soldiers on the ground,” Soldon said. “What it boils down to, is that satellites up in Space are executing critical support requirements for the Warfighter. Whether that is navigational support, in terms of (global positioning satellites) or whether it is communication satellites in low-earth orbit and those in higher orbits, there are also a number of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance assets that are up there and we need to know exactly where those are at all times.”

“One, so we can know exactly where they are, but also to ensure they don’t collide with any other objects. RTS is one of the sensors that provide that capability,” he added. “We are one of the critical Space surveillance sensors that ensure nothing collides so that assets continue to do their support functions for our Warfighters on the ground.”



1st Space Brigade

Leader Notes

Continuing Pride from page C1

1st Space Marches in Flight of the Flags parade

By DJ Montoya,
1st Space Brigade
Public Affairs

18F



photo by Rachel L. Griffith

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. COL Eric P. Henderson, commander of the 1st Space Brigade, leads Soldiers and Airmen in the Flight of Flags entry down Tejon Street during the Colorado Springs 2011 Veteran's Day Parade on Saturday morning. The group, which was 8th in line, was composed of 30 Soldiers from the 1st Space Brigade, 11 Airman from Peterson Air Force Base, 10 Airmen from Schriever Air Force Base, and 10 Soldiers from Fort Carson. 'Pearl Harbor, 70 years in Remembrance' was the theme for this year's parade which boasted almost 100 entries.

are small in personnel numbers, they are the reason we exist as a Command.

Our forward deployed and forward positioned Soldiers were not able to march down the parade route, but believe me when I share that they were with us in spirit, and appreciated by those in attendance. It is an honor to lead such a patriot formation as we marched downtown, but is a much greater honor for a commander to be included in such a magnificent formation of heroes.

In 1944 at the surrender of German Army units at the Battle of Bastogne,

BG Anthony McAuliffe was asked by the German Commander "for his credentials." McAuliffe gestured to the tough, seasoned war veterans around him. "These are my credentials," he said.

When I am asked by friends and colleagues as to how brigade command is going, I often say, "Ask my Soldiers, for they are the ones that do the heavy lifting every day." They are the reason we can legitimately say, "The Sun Never Sets on USASMDC/ARSTRAT."



photo by DJ Montoya

Back to the Basics from page C1

compass and for you to embody the Warrior Ethos. If everyone is doing the right thing, it influences others to follow. As Professional Space Soldiers we will develop ethics to define our culture and enable Army Space to continue into the next decade.

We as leaders must ensure that every Soldier has balance in their day to day lives. Not only should our Soldiers be physically, mentally, and spiritually fit, they also must have a balance between Duty, Family, and Self. I will also place a high emphasis on fitness which will include Combatives. We will strive for all Soldiers in the Brigade to

achieve level 1 certification. The imperative of Combatives is for every Soldier to have faith in one self to close and engage the enemy in Close Combat.

Each Command Sergeant Major comes with their own way of accomplishing things, and their own philosophy about how to do it. For me, this means fostering a command climate that focuses on Pride, Respect, Trust, and Loyalty—above all, creating a command that exudes a winning attitude. To the Soldiers of the 1st Space Brigade: Be Intense, Be Professional, and Be the Best. I look forward to serving with you all.



100th Missile Defense Brigade

Leader Notes

Missile Defense – An Insurance Policy for the Nation from page 1F

there already have been a number of vocal opponents speaking out about the supposed waste of having a Missile Defense system. They argue that it is too expensive, the technology is unproven, and that it is destabilizing in terms of deterrence and arms control.

While the critics articulate their arguments well, they ignore some important considerations. Yes, Missile Defense is expensive, but it is a “cheap insurance policy” if you think about it. As we marked the tenth anniversary of 9/11, consider the costs and damage to our economy from that attack. Now raise that by an order of magnitude if just one nuclear weapon impacts a densely populated region of the nation. Missile Defense is cheap by comparison. The technology has had challenges, but that is normal with any cutting-edge program. Consider America’s first imagery satellite, Corona. The first twelve launches failed for various reasons, but we did not quit. We perfected the technology. And lastly, the point about Missile Defense being destabilizing is not valid,

provided the GMD system remains at about its current size and arrayed against limited threats. Growing it too large could have the effect of destabilizing deterrence vis-à-vis Russia and China, but in its current limited form, GMD actually enhances deterrence by complicating an adversary’s attack calculus.

As I write this, crews from the 100th Missile Defense Brigade and 49th Missile Defense Battalion are on duty, guarding the skies of America. They operate the GMD system 24/7/365, deployed in place, ready to execute their homeland defense mission on a moment’s notice. They work closely with our supported command, U.S. Northern Command, as well as with the GMD developer—the Missile Defense Agency and their industry team. As the GMD system continues to evolve, USASMD/ARSTRAT is providing critical capability to the Warfighter and to the citizens of our nation. 300 defending 300 million ... securing the high ground.

GEN Kehler Meets the Missile Defense Guards

Story and photo by
CPT Michael Odgers,
100th Missile Defense
Brigade Public Affairs



19F

Sun Doesn’t Set on the 100th from page 1F

tracking capabilities, and eventually a defensive engagement capability for those regions, will protect U.S. forces and our allies who are in those theaters as well as protect the population centers within those areas.

For strategic defense capability the brigade is under the operation control of USNORTHCOM for executing our mission and linked in with the NORAD/NORTHCOM command center. We are integrated within their communications nets for command and control (C2) to conduct that mission. If you take a look at those radar detachments again; for example, the USPACOM-based AN/TPY-2 Det. 10, their sensor managers for the radar are actually located within the air operations center for that combatant command. Similar

situations will exist for our USEUCOM and USCENTCOM-based assets. Because of that, anytime the PACOM, EUCOM or CENTCOM commands need missile defense information data regarding detection and tracking capabilities from those sensors, they only need to reach as far as their own operations center in order to get real-time data from our Soldiers who are serving within that detachment command.

As our program has started to mature with our radar detachments and with the European Phased Adaptive Approach capability, we are gradually starting to spread our capabilities into other geographic commands and with that, we are enforcing the mindset that “the sun never sets” on the 100th Missile Defense Brigade.

FORT GREELY, Alaska—SSG Duane Ostrowski, a crew operator for the 49th Missile Defense Battalion, Alaska Army National Guard, explains his duties in the Fire Direction Center to GEN C. Robert Kehler, commander of U.S. Strategic Command, CSM Patrick Z. Alston, and Steve Callicutt, J8 director. Kehler visited Fort Greely on Aug. 30 to speak with Soldiers of the 49th and tour the missile defense complex. “This is a perfect mission for the Guard. It’s what the Guard was meant to do – protect the homeland,” he said. “I occasionally meet with our nation’s leaders. While they may not know your name, they know who you are.” Kehler and Alston also had lunch with battalion Soldiers.