



100th Missile Defense Brigade

Leader Notes

One Team, One Fight!



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

It is a cliché saying that can be heard on any installation where you find a formation of US Army Soldiers. However, in the arena of Space and missile defense, it is a saying that rings true every day. With the inaugural edition of the Army Space Journal-For Space and Missile Defense Operations, we now have the official acknowledgement that it truly is one team effort in accomplishing the mission. However, unofficially, this is something that has been true from the very beginning of the missile defense program. The mission of the 100th Missile Defense Brigade (GMD) is to conduct missile defense operations, 24/7/365, in order to defend the U.S. homeland from an inter-continental ballistic missile strike. While we are an Army organization, the missile defense fight is the epitome of multi-component, joint forces, and perhaps in the future, multi-national operations. Those

who are familiar with the Ground-based Midcourse Defense system understand that the system relies heavily on Space assets (from multiple DOD elements) for detection and tracking of threats. Protecting those Space assets from our adversaries, and avoiding the effects of a nuclear type event in Space are of vital importance to the conduct of missile defense operations.

In essence, Space operations are an enabler for the effective conduct of missile defense operations. Because of this importance, the 100th Missile Defense Brigade (GMD) has undertaken significant steps to train our Soldiers on Space operations and Space capabilities. Most of our Soldiers who man the GMD Fire Control System have been through the Space Fundamentals course as part of their professional development. Several have also attended, or are scheduled to attend the Space 200 course. A select few have even attended the FA-40 course. Doing so better enables our operators to understand the

1F

CONTINUES
PAGE 23F >>

The Other Half of USASMDC/ARSTRAT



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

Last year, I wrote an article for the Army Space Journal titled “Space — A Missile Defense Enabler.” In that article, I argued that Missile Defense was not a “Space enabler,” rather, Space is a Missile Defense enabler. I outlined all of the areas where Space assets support the Missile Defense mission and pointed out that without Space, the Ballistic Missile Defense System does not work. I also offered my opinion that the command had become too Space-centric and had drifted away from one of its core competencies. Further, I advocated for “cross-fertilization” between Missile Defense and Space professionals as well as more Space training for Missile Defense crewmembers. While I cannot take credit for the change, I am grateful that the new focus of our professional journal now gives

Missile Defense equal billing with our Space brethren. We are, in my view, two sides of the same coin.

In the past year, we have made some significant progress toward the goals I laid out last year. Missile Defense crewmembers and staff are now routinely attending the Space Fundamentals and Space 200 courses. The Army Space Personnel Development Office is actively exploring the possibility of assigning Functional Area 40 Space Operations Officers into some of the active component positions within the 100th Missile Defense Brigade. The Army National Guard has agreed to establish a Space and Missile Defense Branch within the headquarters G-3 to help manage cross-state manning, equipping, and resourcing issues for ARNG Space and Missile Defense units. Placing both disciplines under a single branch recognizes the synergies between Space and Missile Defense, as well as the impor-

CONTINUES
PAGE 23F >>



100th Missile Defense Brigade

Leader Notes

The Other Half of USASMDC/ARSTRAT from page 1F

tance of these low-density, high-priority units. And the 100th Brigade accepted transfer of the

100th Missile Defense Detachment (AN/TPY-2), with more detachments on the horizon. While the AN/TPY-2 radar is primarily a Missile Defense radar, in the future it may play a role in Space situational awareness, further blurring the lines between Space and Missile Defense operations. In short, it has been a good year, and the two communities are coming closer together.

The change in our professional journal will also enable us to begin a scholarly, professional exchange of ideas within the strategic ballistic Missile Defense community. The 100th Brigade is organized under SRC 40; as such, we fall outside many of the professional discussions occurring within the Air and Missile Defense community at the Fires Center of Excellence. The change in strategy and the emergence of the European Phased Adaptive Approach, coupled with emerging threats and diminishing resources, will generate a large number of topics as the Army grapples with the future of Missile Defense. The Army Space Journal's expanded focus will provide a valuable forum to discuss issues that will affect the command for years to come.

In a recent visit to Fort Greely, LTG Richard Formica repeated his view that the missile defenders there are at the "tip of the SMDC spear," and he considers them critical to our national security. They are. While some of the luster of Ground-Based Midcourse Defense has faded because it is no longer a new program, the mission remains very critical and has the attention of our senior leadership. The homeland defense mission received significant discussion in recent congressional hearings, and we are still seeing a significant number of flag officers and congressional staffers visiting the sites. EPAA may be the in the news, but GMD remains a very high-priority mission for the Department of Defense.

We are entering into what I refer to as the "sustainment phase" of GMD; the final portions of the system are being built out, and our 24/7 mission has become somewhat routine. That said, a quick analysis of current trends in ballistic missile development and proliferation leads to an inevitable conclusion: Missile Defense is here to stay. Ballistic missiles provide a superb asymmetric capability for an adversary; they are relatively inexpensive, can carry a variety of payloads, and are very difficult to defend against. As more nations obtain this technology, the threat to our homeland, friends, allies and deployed forces will continue to grow. The GMD system will remain a cornerstone of the Ballistic Missile Defense System for years to come.

As with Missile Defense, our reliance on Space systems will continue to grow. Having two "growth industries" under the same command will result in some challenges, but also in some opportunities. In an era of persistent conflict and diminishing resources, it is more important than ever that we leverage our capabilities, grow our cadre of Space and Missile Defense professionals, and posture ourselves for an uncertain future.

The expanded constituency of our professional journal into Space and Missile Defense operations is certainly a step in the right direction.

One Team, One Fight! from page 1F

capabilities (and limitations) of the assets that support the fight.

Current and future developments also open a door of opportunity that the 100th Brigade may be tasked to help support Space operations as well. With the 100th Missile Defense Brigade taking ownership of the current and future AN/TPY-2 radar detachments, there is the likelihood that missile defense operators will be involved in some aspects of the Space mission, through the use of these radars, and components such as the Command and Control Battle Management and Communications system (C2BMC).

USASMDC/ARSTRAT has two brigades with very distinct missions. However, there is similarity between these two unique brigades. Both brigades are multi-component organizations. The 1st Space Brigade is primarily an Active Component force, but contains elements of both the Army National Guard, and the US Army Reserve. Meanwhile, the 100th Missile Defense Brigade is primarily an Army National Guard force, but also includes elements from the Active Component. We each have (or soon will have) forces deployed to at least three different continents. Of course the greatest similarity of all is the technical and tactical competence, unwavering motivation, pride, and "warrior spirit" of the professional Soldiers assigned to both units.

The regular inclusion of missile defense operations into the Army Space Journal will have a positive effect on our profession as Space and missile defense warriors. It will provide us all with a professional forum in which to share information, exchange ideas, and highlight the accomplishments of these proud organizations. By doing so, it will also help strengthen the bond between Soldiers of both brigades, and across the Space and missile defense profession. It will give further credence to the statement "one team, one fight!"

"Guard, Engage Destroy;" "First in Space;" "Secure the High Ground!"