

SMDC/ARSTRAT Gets New DCO

By Sharon L. Hartman

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Without the customary flare of the passing of a flag, a new era began within U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command, as the torch of the operational arm of the command was placed in the hands of COL Roger F. Mathews during a ceremony on Jan. 4. Mathews comes to SMDC/ARSTRAT from Fort Bliss, Texas, where he served as the assistant commandant, deputy commander for the U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss, Texas.

LTG Larry J. Dodgen, Commanding General, SMDC/ARSTRAT, hosted the ceremony that welcomed Mathews to the command and bade farewell to Mathews predecessor, BG Jeffrey C. Horne, who's next assignment is as the Joint Fires and Effects Chief, Multi-National Corps — Iraq. During his remarks, Dodgen commended Mathews on his past accomplishments and encouraged him in his future role within the command.

"I challenge you and I charge you with the responsibility of maintaining the operational side of this command and the welfare of Soldiers, their families and civilians, and the operational missions from STRATCOM and from the United States Army. So even though we have not passed a piece of a flag, you are hereby officially charged with those responsibilities," said Dodgen.

Upon accepting his new responsibility as the deputy commander for operations, Mathews remarked on his previous dealings with SMDC/ARSTRAT and his excitement in joining the command.

"General Dodgen, I thank you for the trust and confidence for allowing me to serve in this dynamic and important organization ... it's an outstanding organization that is bringing cutting edge Space technology to warfighters to enable them to decisively win our nations wars. I had a chance to witness SMDC's contributions first hand during Operation Iraqi Freedom. While there deployed in Israel with the 69th ADA brigade, the best Army Air Defense brigade, SMDC Soldiers provided first class support. They did a fantastic job of using Space operations, Space-based capabilities and missile warning to help us and other coalition forces succeed in battle. It's great to be joining a command that makes such a

difference," said Mathews.

Dodgen also spoke of the many successes achieved under Horne's leadership as deputy commanding general for operations.

"From ensuring Space-based capabilities are embedded at critical levels in support of joint warfighters, to laying the foundation for the future of the Army Space cadre, to establishing a credible capability for the defense of our homeland, deployed forces, friends and allies from a ballistic missile attack, to integration with U.S. Strategic Command planning efforts, you can be extremely proud of what your team has accomplished during your tour here in Colorado Springs," said Dodgen.

In his farewell remarks to the members of SMDC/ARSTRAT, Horne gave his thoughts on Iraq and his vision of the U.S. role in the war as he prepares for his next assignment there.

"We're bringing freedom to a people that have not experienced it in a very, very long time," Horne said. "We're working to give every citizen there an opportunity to raise their children in a safe environment, to be able to play in their front yards without fear of gunfire, ... to be free to practice (his or her) faith, ... to be free to build their country. These are simple goals and goals we founded our country on."

As deputy commanding general for operations, Horne played a key role in the positioning of the first ground-based midcourse defense brigade, the creation of the Joint Functional Component Command for Integrated Missile Defense, the integration of the former SMD Battle Lab and the Force Development and Integration Center into the SMDC Futures Warfare Center, the expansion of the Space cadre and the placing of trained Space Soldiers into divisions

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Clockwise from left:

COL Roger F. Mathews, right, incoming deputy commander for operations, SMDC/ARSTRAT, makes a point as he speaks with CW3 Chris Wehmeier during a welcome reception for Mathews. *Photo by Ed White*

Front to back, LTG Larry J. Dodgen, Commanding General, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command, BG Jeffrey C. Horne, outgoing deputy commanding general for operations, SMDC/ARSTRAT, and COL Roger F. Mathews, incoming deputy commander for operations, SMDC/ARSTRAT, arrive during the ceremony that welcomed Mathews and farewelled Horne. *Photo by Sharon L. Hartman*

BG Jeffrey C. Horne, left, outgoing deputy commanding general for operations, SMDC/ARSTRAT, presents COL Roger F. Mathews, incoming deputy commander for operations, SMDC/ARSTRAT, with a token during a Jan. 4, ceremony. *Photo by Sharon L. Hartman*

