

Tip of the Sphere

SPACE SOLDIERS LEADING FROM THE FRONT

SMDC/ARSTRAT inducts Space Soldiers into SGT Audie Murphy Club

By MSG Dennis Beebe



Six members of U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command, to include four Space Soldiers, were inducted into the SGT Audie Murphy Club during a ceremony on Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., on June 24. SMDC/ARSTRAT deputy commander for operations, COL Jeffrey C. Horne, and SMDC/ARSTRAT's CSM David L. Lady participated in the ceremony. Pictured from left to right, SSG Brandon Deaton, 2nd Space Company, 1st Space Battalion; SGT David M. Knotts Jr., 49th Missile Defense Battalion, 100th Missile Defense Brigade (Ground-based Midcourse Defense); SGT Francena M. Scott, 2nd Space Company, 1st Space Battalion; COL Jeffrey C. Horne; CSM David L. Lady; SSG Gaylon R. Hensley, Charlie Detachment, 2nd Section, 1st Space Company; SSG Sonya R. Smith, Alpha Company, 1st Satellite Control Battalion; SFC Curtis L. Kimbrell, 100th Missile Defense Brigade (Ground-based Midcourse Defense). *Photo by MSG Dennis Beebe*

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — “You lead from the front.”

Some of the most memorable words spoken by SGT Audie Leon Murphy, the most decorated Soldier in the history of the United States Army. But they were more than just words to him; they were a code he truly lived by. That is why those words are also the motto of the SGT Audie Murphy Club, an organization that was established in 1986 to recognize Noncommissioned Officers who have proven themselves to be cut from the same cloth as SGT Audie Murphy.

At a ceremony on June 24, six U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command NCOs, who had aspired to become members of this elite group of professional Soldiers, achieved their goal.

The newest inductees to the SGT Audie Murphy Club included four Space Soldiers, SSG Brandon L. Deaton, 2nd Space Company, 1st Space Battalion, 1st Space Brigade, Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.; SSG Gaylon R. Hensley, 1st Space Company, 1st Space Battalion, 1st Space Brigade, Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.; SSG Sonya R. Smith, Alpha Company, 1st Satellite Control Battalion, 1st Space Brigade, Fort Detrick, Md.; and SGT Francena M. Scott, 2nd Space Company, 1st Space Battalion, 1st Space Brigade, Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.; two missile defense Soldiers, SFC Curtis L. Kimbrell, 100th Missile Defense Brigade (Ground-based Midcourse Defense), Colorado Springs, Colo.; SGT David M. Knotts Jr., 49th Missile Defense Battalion, 100th Missile Defense Brigade (GMD), Fort Greely, Alaska, were also inducted.

“You are part of an elite circle,” said then COL Jeffrey

C. Horne, Deputy Commander for Operations, SMDC/ARSTRAT during his remarks at the induction ceremony.

“You will achieve greatness. The members of this club will lead for the future. Our Sergeants Major of the Army, Command Sergeant Major (Kenneth) Preston, Command Sergeant Major (Jack) Tiley and Command Sergeant Major (Robert) Hall were all members of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club. Our FORSCOM (U.S. Army Forces Command), TRADOC (U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command), MEDCOM (U.S. Army Medical Command), USAEUR (U.S. Army Europe), 8th Army, and of course our own Command Sergeant Major (David) Lady are all members of this club,” added Horne.

“The new inductees championed the qualities of leadership and knowledge that it took to become a member of this prestigious club,” said Lady, who served as president of the board.

They proved their right to be inducted by standing in front of boards made up of senior NCOs within their units, and by then appearing in front of the most senior command sergeants major and first sergeants in the command, who asked them tough questions about the Army’s history, leadership and programs making up life in the Army today. Some of the questions had definite answers and some were more subjective to allow the board members to see how the Soldiers would act and react to certain questions and situations.

“I wanted the board to be able to question each candidate and make a decision as to whether this Soldier had what it took to become a member of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club,” said Lady.

“Either he or she had it, or they didn’t.”

The decision to accept a candidate had to be unanimous by the board. The board had each candidate in front of them for about 30 minutes and their questions ranged from how the NCOs and leaders would handle training, morale and motivation in the lives of the troops they lead. Topics ranged from NCOERs, punishment for DUIs, tattoos and appearance regulations, attitude, awards and citations, counseling, AER programs, unit mottos, battle focused training and leading female Soldiers.

During the boards, the candidates were asked how they incorporate the Warrior Ethos into their daily work.

Although the candidates had various occupations that brought

on a diversity of answers, each candidate came up with good examples of how they live and breathe the creed and how they strive daily to pass on the willingness to follow the concepts put forth in it to their subordinates, peers and supervisors.

“Sergeant Audie Murphy is certainly a remarkable icon for all professionals in the Army. When you read about his life, you will find he was an extremely quiet professional,” added Horne.

“I found a quote that I thought rang fairly true today ‘When talking of Soldiers and Soldiering, you have a comradeship, a rapport that you’ll never have again. There is no competitiveness, there is no

money value, and it’s not about financial well-being. It’s about trust. Trust of the Soldier on your left and Soldier on your right. That you trust them with your life.’ That’s what Soldiering is all about. Sergeant Audie Murphy set a good path for us to follow in this regard.”

With the new inductions, the SMDC/ARSTRAT SGT Audie Murphy Club now boasts a total of 18 Soldiers inducted into the esteemed club since its first inductee in 2001.

“The Audie Murphy Club is clearly on its way to being a large organization here in Colorado Springs,” added Horne.

“This is largely due to the great efforts of you Soldiers, and Command Sergeant Major Lady’s leadership and what he has been doing for us the last several years in getting this club off the ground. Your professional competence is clearly some of the best in the Army. Army values — loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor,

integrity, and personal courage set the standards for all of us, for our children, for our family members.”

Before the end of the ceremony, Lady posed a challenge to some members of the audience. “Senior NCOs out there, you are the leaders I need inspiring those younger Soldiers sitting in the back rows to be up here next year,” said Lady.

“We succeed as we develop all of our Soldiers to be more than they’ve imagined they can be.”

MSG Dennis E. Beebe is a Mobilized Reservist with U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command. He has been in the Public Affairs Office since 2001 and has 23 years combined Active Duty and Reserve experience as a photographer, psychological operations specialist and photojournalist. He has been deployed to Haiti, Korea, Bosnia and Afghanistan and has been stationed in various locations in the Continental United States and Hawaii.

WARRIOR ETHOS

I AM AN
AMERICAN SOLDIER.

I WILL ALWAYS PLACE
THE MISSION FIRST.

I WILL NEVER
ACCEPT DEFEAT.

I WILL NEVER QUIT.

I WILL NEVER LEAVE A
FALLEN COMRADE.

I AM AN
AMERICAN SOLDIER.
