

Command In Brief

CHANGING OF THE “GUARD”

By Sharon L. Hartman



PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. – The 2nd Space Company, 1st Space Battalion bade farewell to members of their Commercial Exploitation Team (CET) in a ceremony on Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., Feb. 27. The team, comprised of seven members; MAJ James T. Bushong, CPT John Yungbluth, SSG Timothy Drye, SGT John J. Scott, SGT Charles Chestnut, SPC Travian R. Debruce and SPC Brandon J. Rambo, deployed to Bahrain to replace the 193rd Space Battalion, Colorado Army National Guard (COARNG) CET who were deployed there for the past year.

The CET provides immediate and direct support to the joint military community through imagery collections from a variety of commercial satellite. The CET also works with the Measurement and Signal Intelligence-Advanced Geospatial Intelligence (MASINT-AGI) Node, formerly the Spectral Operations Resource Center (SORC), in Colorado Springs to provide classified imagery and analysis to other U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command forward deployed teams.

Organized under Headquarters and Headquarters

Company, 1st Space Battalion, the team was transferred to the 2nd Space Company last April, and was reorganized with the new team members and trained up for this mission.

“You have some pretty big shoes to fill when you get there,” said LTC Lee Gizzi, 1st Space Battalion commander. “The 193rd team has been doing an excellent job performing their mission for CENTCOM, and I know that you will also do a great job.”

Several weeks after the farewell ceremony, a heroes welcome awaited the eight COARNG members of the 193rd Space Battalion CET, as they returned from their yearlong deployment on March 22. Excited spouses and children held welcome home signs and balloons, and bystanders at the Colorado Springs Airport erupted in cheers as the members of the team ran into the outstretched arms of family and friends.

The returning members of the CET were CPT Matthew Bowes, 1LT Matthew Pollock, MSG John Fennern, SSG Brett Mills, SGT Brian Singmaster, SGT Nicole Bogenschutz, SGT Molly Patterson and SPC Brian Fitzgerald.



Opposite page, LTC Lee Gizzi, commander, 1st Space Battalion bestows advice to the members of the battalion's Commercial Exploitation Team as they prepared to depart on a one-year deployment. *Photo by MSG Dennis Beebe* Clockwise starting top, 1LT Matthew Pollock greets wife Missy and son Alex upon returning from a yearlong deployment in Bahrain. Pollock was able to be home for Alex's birth during his mid-tour leave in October 2005; SSG Brett Mills kisses his wife Ramona, CPT Matthew Bowes gets help from his son Dillon, MSG John Fennern holds his wife Tracie. *Photos by Sharon L. Hartman*