

SUCCESSFUL FLIGHT

TEST PROVES MISSILE DEFENSE ABILITIES



**REST EASY AMERICA
... YOU ARE DEFENDED
IN ALL ELEMENTS**

**By SGT Michael Cost
100th Missile Defense Brigade (GMD)**

... 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4 and a giant stream of fire forced itself out of the in-ground silo on the coast of California.

A rumble of the earth and through a thick cloud of smoke the Ground-based Interceptor protruded almost slowly, but within no time was on its path to success. Cameras clicked and cheers came from the crowd as the missile being put to the test pierced the sky towards its target ... it was well on its way now — moving so fast it was hard to keep in camera viewfinders.

Minutes ticked by, with observers looking to the sky as if they actually expected (hoped) to see the impact hundreds of miles up. Then ... Missile Defense Agency contractors start cheering loudly, signaling ... MISSION SUCCESS!!!

None of this would be possible without the dedication of the U.S. Army

Soldiers and a multitude of contractors manning the system put in place as a sequel to President Ronald Reagan's "Star Wars" program.

"For that day and several days afterwards, myself and my fellow crew members felt like we were walking on air," said SFC Richard Mach, Future Operations Officer on Charlie Crew 100th Missile Defense Brigade. "These tests continually prove to the warfighters (operators) that this system works and continues to advance."

BG Stuart Pike, Colorado National Guard Deputy Adjutant General for Space, recently took his position after serving with Special Forces for several years. He was given a tour of the 100th Missile Defense Brigade's facilities here to get a clearer picture of how this city-saving system and its components work.

Wires upon wires kept so clean that every time a person stepped foot into any room ... a doormat-sized sticky mat removed any dust or dirt so that no destructors could penetrate. Each room is loud due to the massive amount

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, CALIF.
— Americans lay their heads down at night with the comfort that he/she/they will continue to wake up the next morning, and in most cases, this is true. Protecting a family from a home invasion is generally done with a firearm which is easy to obtain and use. What could an American citizen use to defend against an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile flying through Space at their hometown threatening not just their home but entire neighborhoods and cities? The 100th Missile Defense Brigade (Ground-based Midcourse Defense) has this angle covered ... and the system works.

The Department of Defense has instituted a system to "hit a bullet with a bullet" in Space while the average American sleeps, goes to work or plays with their children. Ground-based Midcourse Ballistic Missile Defense is coming of age, as a recent strenuous test of the system proved.

On Sept. 28, the 100th Missile Defense Brigade and the Missile Defense Agency tested one of their Ground-based Interceptors against a missile launched from Kodiak, Alaska. The Ground-based Interceptor launched from the test pad located here and hit pay dirt several hundred miles off the coast of California during yet another successful test launch.

A strong breeze blew in from the ocean as the countdown over the radios began ... some were concerned over foul weather reports out of Kodiak. Once the countdown reached under 10 seconds, all doubts were pushed aside

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AIR FORCE SPACE BADGE AWARDED TO ARMY SOLDIERS

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE,
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of mainframe computers ... so much so that briefings to the general must be close quartered however well articulated. The general moved from room to room, building to building.

The Missile assembly building is a massive structure that can be seen from miles away. This is where the contractors really come into play. Although not extraordinary in their size, these missiles contain so much advanced technology that a person has to remove all jewelry and badges before even entering the facility. An average man, who turns out to have a wealth of information inside of his head, briefed the general on how these groundbreaking missiles are assembled, and the tour continued.

Standing outside a "clamshell" (where the silo splits the ground and the Ground-based Interceptor proceeds on its mission- see photo bottom right) was the last stop for the newly appointed Space Deputy Adjutant General. Below him stood a \$50 million piece of equipment ready and waiting to be launched against any Intercontinental Ballistic Missile launched at North America.

"It's a missile in a hole," said CWO Barri Buehre, Systems Integrator for the 100th Missile Defense Brigade. Soldiers, Sailors, Coastguardsmen, Airmen and Marines stand ready to defend our nation, on the land, air or sea ... but who protects it from Space? Technology is gaining ground fast and the United States military is keeping ahead of the times. Tried and true, the system put in place to protect our nation from an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile attack stands locked and loaded — ready to defend. Rest easy America.

The Air Force approved the Army criteria for award and wear of the Air Force Space Badge (AFSB) at the Basic, Senior, and Master levels to Army Space Cadre members who meet the rigorous qualification criteria of training/education and experience gained while serving in validated Army Space Cadre positions. On Aug. 22, 2006, the Chief of Staff of the Army approved the acceptance and wear of the Air Force Space Badge on Army uniforms. The commanding general, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command was designated as the approving authority within the limits specified by the

Air Force for those applying for the badge.

On Dec. 19, three SMDC/ARSTRAT Soldiers who met the proper criteria for the badge were awarded the Basic Air Force Space Badge. SPC Ruben G. Villanueva, MAJ William E. Sherratt III and MAJ Craig W. Cox were pinned with their awards in a ceremony here in SMDC/ARSTRAT's operational headquarters in Building 3. Villanueva and Cox are part of SMDC/ARSTRAT's G-3 Operations division, and Sherratt is with the Integrated Air and Missile Defense section of the G3. The three Army Soldiers now not only work on an Air Force Base but share in the wearing of a badge from one of their sister Services.



MAJ WILLIAM SHERRATT III RECEIVES THE AIR FORCE SPACE
BADGE CERTIFICATE FROM COL MICHAEL MALONEY.

