



Army SPC John Dempsey, SFC Cody Dorman demonstrate a response to a simulated missile launch at the Joint Tactical Ground Station here on Jan. 22, 2008. JTAGS is operated by approximately 24 people, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Eric Harris

## JTAGS Misawa sees “launch”

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**MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan** — In a history-making event Tuesday at 2:30 p.m., the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command deputy commanding general cut a red ribbon at the wing’s newest facility, as the Joint Tactical Ground Station marked its official opening here.

The ceremony, led by Army BG John E. Seward from SMDC/ARSTRAT on Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, Colo., gave attendees an opportunity to find out exactly what JTAGS is all about.

“The presence of JTAGS in Japan provides a more robust theater ballistic missile defense and ballistic warning capability and joins three other JTAGS units located around the world,” said Seward. “Misawa was chosen for the location of the unit because it provides the best location for this mission as well as a good quality-of-life for our Soldiers. The Japanese community is a

welcoming and supportive civilian environment for our Soldiers and their families.”

Although this JTAGS is the second system to be located in the Pacific Command, it is the first to be located in Japan. Guests at the ceremony included civic leaders from Misawa, Tokyo and surrounding areas and Japan Air Self Defense leaders. Masses of Japanese and American reporters were on hand to capture the event.

“JTAGS receives infrared data directly from the Defense Support Program satellites and Soldiers operating the JTAGS receive and process the data from the satellite sensors to warn and alert U.S. and Allied commanders,” said Army Sgt. 1st Class Steven Adams, 1st Space Brigade training and evaluations noncommissioned officer to the crowd.

System operators were also on hand to provide a simulation of what occurs when they detect the launch of a theater ballistic missile. “Once a missile launch is detected, it is verified and all allied and U.S. forces are notified of an incoming threat,” said SFC Cody Dorman, JTAGS operations crew chief. “We’re also able to determine the impact time of the missile.”

JTAGS is an around-the-clock operation. “I trust with the activation of this detachment, we will not only develop a stronger partnership, but will also increase the trust and friendship of our Japanese allies,” said Seward. “This unit stands as a symbol of our two nations’ long-standing security cooperation and commitment to peace and stability in this region.”

BG John E. Seward and Koji Haneda, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tokyo, cut the ribbon for the official opening of JTAGS Misawa on Jan. 22, 2008. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Eric Harris)

