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Space Enhancements & Missile Defense

Communication is a vital Space Enhancement and could not be done without the 53rd Signal Battalion Companies that control the payload of communications satellites. *Photo by DJ Montoya*

Over the course of my first year as the Command Sergeant Major of U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/ Army Forces Strategic Command, I've had the opportunity to travel throughout our truly "worldwide" command, with Soldiers assigned to places such as Kwajalein Atoll; Misawa and Okinawa, Japan; Wheeler Army Air Field, Hawaii; Camp Roberts, Calif.; Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif.; MacDill Air Force Base, Fla.; Colorado Springs, Colo.; Omaha, Neb.; Qatar; Bahrain; Iraq and Afghanistan. I've met outstanding Soldiers doing a phenomenal job and who are working twenty-four hours a day; seven days a week to support the Warfighter and our Nation.Our Soldiers provide our Nation

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Soldiers with the 1st Space Company (Theater Missile Warning) load equipment that will be part of the newest JTAGS detachment in Misawa, Japan. *Photo by DJ Montoya*

with the Global Ballistic Missile Defense capabilities that help protect the United States from attack. They also provide America's Warfighters with the Space Enhancements that enable our ability to decisively defeat any enemy on the battlefield.

From the perspective of the Soldier, Space has profoundly impacted combat operations and has changed the face of modern warfare. Our Army is no longer a static, forward deployed force. Today's Army is a modular force, fully capable of placing maximum fire power on a target with minimal notice. Today, we successfully deploy multiple unit configurations into unfamiliar areas in support of Joint and/or multi-national operations because of our effective use of Space Enhancements. Army Field Manual 3-14, Space Support to Army Operations, identifies five enhancement areas:

- Communications;
- Position, velocity and timing;
- Environmental monitoring (Space and terrestrial weather);
- Intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR); and
- Theater missile warning (TMW).

Space Enhancements assure the Army's ability to deploy its Warfighting capability to any location in the world. They allow our troops to maintain full situational awareness of their position, the position of friendly forces, terrain information, current and projected weather conditions, enemy troop locations and capabilities. Space Enhancements also gives our Troops the ability to effectively communicate with other Warfighters/Joint Services/Allies within their area of operation, and to reachback to rear support capabilities, including the United States.

Global Ballistic Missile Defense is another key mission area supported by our Soldiers. To meet the Army's commitment to missile defense, SMDC/ARSTRAT has Soldiers continually on point, manning Joint Tactical Ground Stations, Forward Based X-Band Radars and Ground Based Interceptor sites around-the-clock. These Soldiers continually train and carry out missile defense exercises in order to assure their ability to quickly and decisively respond to a missile attack.

Soldiers within SMDC/ARSTRAT are doing an outstanding job of supporting the Warfighter. We have Army Space Support Teams in the field, assuring the Warfighter has access to and fully understands Space Enhancements. SMDC/ARSTRAT Soldiers are deployed, operating Joint Tactical Ground Stations, providing missile warning to Warfighters in the field. Our Soldiers provide Satellite and Gateway Access Approval to the Warfighter, assuring their ability to communicate both within their Area of Operation as well as allowing reachback to the continental United States.

During the past year, SMDC/ARSTRAT Soldiers played a critical role in configuring the first Wideband Global SATCOM satellite for

Enhancements >> continues page 12

During the past year, SMDC/ARSTAT Soldiers played a critical role in configuring the first Wideband Global SATCOM satellite for operational use.

Theater Missile Warning is a critical Space Enhancement to the Warfighters on the ground. *Photo Courtesy 1st Space Company, 1st Space Brigade*

Enhancements

from page 7 >>

operational use. Members of the 53rd Signal Battalion work 24/7 providing the Warfighter with access to not only Wideband Global SATCOM, but also the Defense Communications Satellite System constellation of satellites which provide the bulk of the Department of Defense's military wideband satellite communications.

SMDC/ARSTRAT Soldiers successfully activated the U.S. Army's Forward Based X-Band Transportable Radar detachment last October at Shariki, Japan. This radar provides early warning against potential ballistic missile threats to the U.S. homeland, deployed forces and allies. It is the first radar site of this kind to be fielded and forward deployed.

We have outstanding Soldiers committed to supporting Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. This is truly Warfighters supporting Warfighters. All of our Soldiers are intensely focused upon their assigned missions. They are dedicated to providing the best possible support. As noted earlier, this support comes through Space Enhancements as well as Global Ballistic Missile Defense. To carry out their missions, our Soldiers undergo highly technical training. All are crew certified within their respective mission areas, and many are required to provide around-the-clock support to the Warfighter.

Our Soldiers can be justifiably proud of their accomplishments in support of SMDC/ARSTRAT's vision and mission. Their outstanding performance and continued dedication have assured that "Securing the high ground starts at SMDC/ARSTRAT." Well done Team.