



CSM Ralph Borja
U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense/
Army Forces Strategic Command



Well Done Soldiers

In this edition of the Army Space Journal, you will read about the “Best Crew” competition carried out by the 1st Space Company (Joint Tactical Ground Station). The article focuses on the unique contributions provided by our Joint Tactical Ground Station crew members to the safety and security of our Warfighters and our Nation and provides a jump-off point for a topic that I’d like to address in my column.

Army Enlisted personnel assigned to USASMDC/ARSTRAT are performing critical operational tasks around the globe, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Our Soldiers are manning operational crew positions in Joint Tactical Ground Station shelters, Wideband Satellite Operations Centers, Missile Defense Fire Direction Centers, and as members of deployed Army Space Support Teams.

They provide tactical missile warning, satellite communications, ballistic missile defense, and hands on Space force enhancement support to the Warfighter and for our Nation. Each of them contributes significantly to USASMDC/ARSTRAT’s vision and mission, and every one is uniquely qualified and certified to fill the position he or she is assigned.

A good example of our Soldiers’ professionalism is the successful interception of a threat-representative target missile launched from Kodiak Alaska by a Ground-Based Interceptor missile launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. The Ground-Based Interceptor was launch-controlled by an operational crew located in the alternate fire control center at Fort Greely, Alaska. Another excellent example is the performance of our crew members in the Wideband Satellite Operations Centers as we worked to certify and declare operational the first Wideband Global Satellite this past year.

As highlighted in the “Best Crew Competition” article, our Soldiers work hard to obtain and maintain crew certification and proficiency within their specialized area of expertise. They maintain a hair-trigger level of readiness; always ready to carry out their assigned mission in a moment’s notice, under any conditions. They reach this level through constant training and execution during real-world events or exercises.

However, they are Soldiers first. This means that in addition to working expanded hours as members of operational crews or teams – maintaining crew certification/proficiency or currency on up to date Space force enhancements – our Soldiers are also maintaining currency and proficiency as Warriors; first and foremost.

This fact was clearly reflected in the overall success our candidates for Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer of the year enjoyed during head-to-head competition with other Soldiers and Noncommissioned Officers from across the Army. While SSG Christopher Barber and SPC Michael Moore unfortunately did not win this year’s Army “Best Warrior Competition,” they performed extremely well and were ready for action throughout the competition.

Their performance is a great source of pride for the command. It illustrates the fact that each of our highly qualified and specialized Soldiers is not only an expert within the mission area currently assigned within USASMDC/ARSTRAT, but is also a highly qualified and proficient Warfighter.

To each and every one of you I say “well done Soldier.” I also encourage you to remain focused. Focus on being the best Soldier you can possibly be, while at the same time remaining a highly qualified and valued member of the USASMDC/ARSTRAT team.

“SECURE THE HIGH GROUND”



COL Dawn Capozzella, (back to the camera) commander of the 89th Troop Command, Colorado Army National Guard, congratulates SPC Bennie Dennis from Army Space Support Team 27, 117th Space Battalion, COARNG during a deployment ceremony on Dec. 16, 2008. The ceremony took place in U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command's Operations Building 3, on Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. Dennis is one of a six-member team which is being sent in theater to help provide Space-based capabilities to the Warfighter on the ground. *Photo by DJ Montoya*