



USASMDC FEATURES

Incoming CSM Chooses Actions Over Words

By SGT Michael Cost



4F

Ground Blessing Ceremony

Held for Army Wideband Satellite
Communication Operations Center

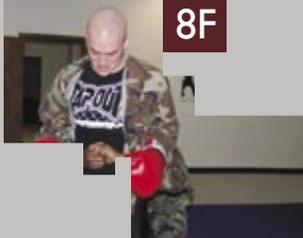
By SPC Kenneth Ehrhardt



6F

One Team, One Fight

By MAJ Eric Little



8F

Missile Defense Supply Sergeant Supporting Others Despite Personal Loss

By MAJ Laura Kenney

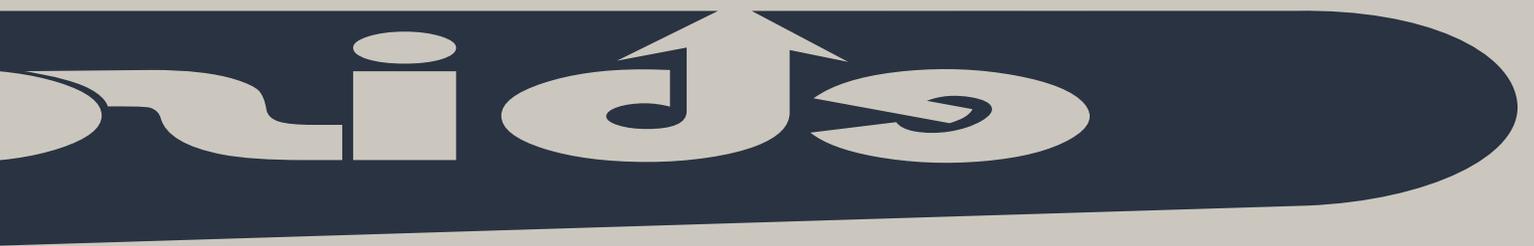


10F



BELOW: 1SG William Edwards, HHC, 53rd Signal Battalion, performs his portion of the traditional 'wetting down the stripes' of the newly inducted NCOs with a combination of wine, salt, honey and lemon during the 1st Space Brigade NCO Induction Ceremony.





SPACE SOLDIERS INDUCTED INTO NCO CORPUS

By DJ Montoya, 1st Space Brigade



Photos by Roberta McDonald, USAF Photographer

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. – The ranks of 15 newly promoted sergeants, from the U.S. Army’s only Space and Missile Defense Command and 1st Space Brigade, were ceremoniously dipped into a substance intended to resemble liquid rocket propellant. The curious act, which is equated to the traditional “wetting down of the stripes,” a part of the induction into the ranks of the time-honored Noncommissioned Officers Corps, was performed during an induction ceremony at the Base Auditorium on Peterson Air Force Base, Feb. 5.

According to 1SG Steven Adams from the 1st Space Company, 1st Space Battalion, this unique liquid is meant to “energize and motivate these new NCOs and keep our Soldiers and the satellites they utilize on target and on station.”



“Execute to the best of your ability”



SGT Dianalou R. Boone from HHC, 1st Space Brigade, performs the closing portion of the 1st Space Brigade NCO Induction Ceremony with the lighting of the Eternal Flame. This honor goes to the youngest inductee.

LEFT TO RIGHT SGT Christopher Kaufmann, SGT Brandon LaForce, SGT Michael Landry, and SGT Matthew Olevano all receive the Charge of the Noncommissioned Officer from 1st Space Brigade CSM Kevin McGovern as part of the 2009 1st Space Brigade NCO Induction Ceremony conducted at the Peterson Air Force Base Auditorium on Feb. 5.



1st Space Brigade's newest NCOs



Right: SGT Martin Santistevan from HHC, 1st Space Brigade, brings forth the Red Candle during the Lighting of the NCO Spirits portion of the 2009 1st Space Brigade NCO Induction Ceremony conducted at the Peterson Air Force Base Auditorium on Feb. 5.



NCO Induction continued //

The ceremony, made even more pertinent with 2009 being designated by the Secretary of the Army Peter Geren “The Year of the Noncommissioned Officer,” began with a brief history of the NCO Corps. Soldiers from the 1st Space Brigade showcased the various NCO ranks beginning with sergeant, then proceeding to staff sergeant, platoon sergeant, and ending with first sergeant. Three brigade NCOs read the Noncommissioned Officer Creed, while three others performed the Lighting of the NCO Spirits on stage.

Those inducted into the NCO Corps during the ceremony were: SGT Joshua Anderson, SGT Dianalou Boone, SGT Matthew Dawkins, and SGT Kristi Phifer, all from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Space Brigade; SGT Juan Caballero, SGT Matthew Caple, SGT Christopher Kaufmann, SGT Michael Landry, and SGT Christian Riley, all from the 53rd Signal Battalion; SGT Matthew Olevano, and SGT Matthew Vickers, both from HHC, 1st Space Battalion; SGT Carmelo Harmon, 4th Space Company, 1st Space Battalion; SGT Brandon LaForce, and SGT Clayton Ratliff, both from U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command; and SGT Stephen Urbany Jr. from U.S. Northern Command.

The Charge of the Noncommissioned Officer was then given to the inductees by 1st Space Brigade CSM Kevin B. McGovern, host for the ceremony. Afterward, brigade members came forth to perform “A Soldier’s Request” and “The First Sergeants’ Request” involving the new inductees. The ceremony ended with Boone, the youngest of the new inductees, performing the “Lighting of the Eternal Flame” on stage.

During his opening remarks, McGovern addressed the assembly by saying, “What a great event.”

“This has already touched my heart. If you are sitting out there and something hasn’t been stirred inside you, I think you are in the wrong place.”

McGovern stated, “Let’s not forget, even though we are celebrating here the passing of 15 Noncommissioned Officers ... into the Noncommissioned Officers Corps we have many Soldiers, many NCOs, many officers, many civilians and contractors who are deployed throughout this world in direct combat as we sit here in a free nation.”

Guest speaker for the event, CSM Ralph C. Borja, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, imparted some words of wisdom covering over 29 years of experience to the new inductees.

“When the civilian community comes to me and says ‘what makes you so successful being a sergeant major in our Army?’ I tell them ‘Number One – it is the way you were brought up in the family life. Different family traits, different ethnic backgrounds and most importantly, be yourself!’ ”

Borja told the inductees, “First and foremost, don’t be there to impress anyone. Get the orders from your commander, your first sergeant, from your platoon sergeant and execute them to the best of your ability. And do it right the first time.”

Secondly he stated, “Be pro active.”

“Be aggressive in what you do. In today’s Army you are professionals. You don’t have to yell, scream and holler in order to get things done. Take pride in what you do. In this year of the Noncommissioned Officer, Command Sergeant Major McGovern and your officers are going to tell you to get out there and tell the American public what the role of a Noncommissioned Officer is including our duties and our responsibilities. We are the ‘wingman’ of your commanders. You will never let them down.

“And lastly here, take your job seriously. You are professional, you are dedicated, you are motivated, but at the same time I want you to go out and have fun as well. With that I wish you all best in your career. I see future command sergeant majors, first sergeants and platoon sergeants here.”