



Then, 1LT Erol Munir (facing the camera), passes the detachment guidon to 1st Space Company Commander, MAJ Eric Little as Munir relinquished command of Bravo Detachment, 1st Space Company during a ceremony at Camp As Sayliyah, Doha, Qatar, Feb. 9. CPT Corey Ruckdeschel (facing Munir) assumed command of the Detachment. Photo courtesy Bravo Detachment, 1st Space Company

BRAVO DETACHMENT GETS NEW COMMANDER

By SSG Jonas Moody

CAMP AS SAYLIYAH, DOHA, Qatar – During an early morning ceremony here, CPT. Corey Ruckdeschel assumed command of Bravo Detachment, 1st Space Company, JTAGS-Central Command, from the outgoing commander, 1LT Erol K. Munir, Feb. 9. In attendance were numerous members of the Space community, including 1st Space Brigade Commander, COL Jeffrey Farnsworth; Director of Space Forces for Central Command, Col. Jeff Yuen, USAF; and the Deputy Director of Space Forces for Central Command, LTC Victoria Miralda. Also on hand to share in the event of the day were 1st Space Battalion Commander, LTC Thomas James and his senior enlisted advisor, CSM James Ross, as well as the 1st Space Company Commander, MAJ Eric Little and Company 1SG Steven Adams.

Leading up to the official Change of Command, a short award ceremony was conducted where Yuen presented Munir, as well as the Detachment first sergeant, SFC Mario Russo, and WO1 James Parker, with tokens of thanks and appreciation for their outstanding service to the warfighters in the Central Command Area of Responsibility. As an additional accolade, Little and Adams presented the detachment with the company's "Best Crew streamer" for their unparalleled success in the 2008 Best Crew Competition.

The official change of command commenced with a time honored Army ritual, the passing of the detachment colors from the former to the new commander. Like the passing of the sword of the Noncommissioned Officer, the passing of the colors represents the awesome responsibility that the commander accepts for ensuring the health, welfare and the disposition of the Service members under his care.

In a farewell speech that expressed the true compassion that Munir bore for his Soldiers, he remarked, "They are the heart and

soul of this detachment and I cannot give them enough credit. Over the last year I have watched them perform at a level beyond anyone's expectations ... all while dealing with the stress of being away from their loved ones. Even as I sing their praises today most of them are unable to attend this ceremony because they are ever watchful, conducting wartime mission in this very room. I would like to thank every single one of them; those still here and those who have since redeployed to Germany and Colorado."

In welcoming his successor, Munir stated, "It is the cumulative efforts of those who I have just thanked that led to the stellar performance of JTAGS-CENTCOM over the last year, a year that saw a crew from JTAGS-CENTCOM win the Best Crew Competition, and set the standard for missile warning. I truly believe that because of them, Captain Ruckdeschel is taking charge of the best detachment in JTAGS."

Following Munir's remarks, Ruckdeschel addressed his new detachment, saying, "it is an honor to have the opportunity to work with and lead such an outstanding group of Space warriors."

Fulfilling one of his first responsibilities as the new detachment commander, Ruckdeschel administered the oath of reenlistment to SSG Benjamin L. Sharp of Delta Detachment, 1st Space Company, JTAGS-Japan. Sharp took a moment after his reenlistment to thank all those in attendance, as well as his colleagues from JTAGS-Japan who could not be there to share in the experience.

Munir will be returning to Colorado Springs to assume responsibility as the 1st Space Company Executive Officer, Munir will hold that position only briefly, until he goes forward again to assume command of Delta Detachment, JTAGS-Japan in the summer of 2009. 