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Training & Education

“Talking ain’t fighting”

LTG Kevin T. Campbell passes the ceremonial sword to CSM Larry S. Turner during the change of responsibility on June 30 on Redstone Arsenal. Outgoing CSM Ralph A. Borja (far right) watches.



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First, let me take this opportunity to express my humble appreciation for being selected as the Command Sergeant Major of U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command / Army Forces Strategic Command. I've had the opportunity to visit the different units and organizations that make up this command since assuming the duties this past summer, and I am amazed at the global reach of this command. Talking to the Soldiers, Civilians, and Contractors of the USASMDC/ARSTRAT team, I have a newfound sense of appreciation for those who work tirelessly to protect our nation against ballistic missile attack, who provide space support to our Warfighters, and who develop the technologies that keep us the best in the world.

My background has been in infantry and airborne units. While that may not make me a rocket scientist, I do believe that it provides me with a unique perspective as the "end-user" of many of the products developed at USASMDC/ARSTRAT. I now have the opportunity to interject the "pointy-end-of-the-spear" perspective into space and missile defense conversations.

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It's easy enough to talk the talk, but as LTG (Ret.) Paul E. Funk is reported to have said on many occasions, "talking ain't fighting." And when it comes to keeping our Soldiers sharp, leaders need to invest the time and resources ensuring our Soldiers are able to attend the professional development training and courses they need to advance. We talk about helping our Soldiers get ahead, but when push comes to shove, many times the response is "the mission" gets in the way.

I urge leaders to expend the time and the resources to send our Soldiers to appropriate development courses. By the way, this includes our Civilian workforce. The Army has developed a new Civilian Education System that is designed to synchronize with the Officer Education System and Noncommissioned Officer Education System. According to the Army Training and Leader Development guidance, "this includes ensuring appropriate members of the Civilian Corps are as conversant on warfighting doctrine as their uniformed counterparts."

I believe sharpening our edge starts with keeping our Soldiers and our Civilians trained and educated.

Next, I want to congratulate two great examples of America's Army – our USASMDC/ARSTRAT Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Year. The competition was held during the summer and involved competition in marksmanship training, in the Army Physical Fitness Test, in Mounted Operations Urban Terrain exercises, in urban orienteering, and before a board of senior leaders. SSG James Harris, Delta Detachment, 1st Space Company, Misawa Air Base, Japan was selected as the Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, and SPC Matthew McLeod, Delta Company, 53rd Signal Battalion, Camp Roberts, Calif., was selected as the Soldier of the Year. Kudos to SSG Harris, SPC McLeod, and all who competed for these prestigious honors. I challenge each Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier to take up the challenge and compete for next year's titles.

Finally, the Army Space Journal is our professional magazine. I highly encourage Noncommissioned Officers and Soldiers who operate or use space-based assets to write and contribute articles. Engage in the dialogue.

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