SMDC activates 1st Space Brigade (Provisional)

April ceremony creates sole Army space brigade

By Maj. Laura Kenney
Army Space Command

PETEON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — A significant milestone in the history of Army Space Command took place April 11 with the activation of the 1st Space Brigade (Provisional) in a ceremony held at the Command headquarters here.

The ceremony marked the creation of the Army’s first and only space brigade. Currently, elements of the brigade’s three battalions are deployed in Iraq and the surrounding theater in support of Marine Expeditionary Force 1, V Corps and Central Command.

“This activation represents a huge step forward in the normalization of space,” said LTG Joseph M. Cosumano Jr., commanding general, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command. “And what better time to do it than these historic times we find ourselves in with Army Space forces deployed on critical missions supporting the warfighters of Iraq Fnnizou. “Army Space Command just marked its 15th birthday, although the history of the Army in space is much longer than that. We’ve postponed celebrating that anniversary while our soldiers are in harm’s way, but this is still a great time to stand up the new brigade.”

The ceremony began with the symbolic uncasing and unfurling of the Army Field Flag, marking the activation of a provisional unit. Colors for the 1st Space Brigade will be authorized once the brigade’s status is made permanent.

The Army Field Flag was then posted in the waiting empty stand already flanked by the Army Space Command and three battalion flags. Then, while the official activation orders were read, Cosumano passed the formal, framed copy of the order to the brigade commander, Col. David Shaffer.

The mission of the 1st Space Brigade, as detailed in the order, is to “conduct continuous, global space support, space control and space force enhancement operations in support of U.S. Strategic Command and Supported Combatant Commanders enabling the delivery of decisive combat power.”

Army Space Command officially came into being April 7, 1988. Its three
May is a month filled with many opportunities to honor and remember those who have given their lives in service to our nation. This year Memorial Day is the most solemn observance we have and honors those who have given their lives for our nation.

Many of our military bases are open to the public and provide an excellent opportunity for us to showcase our equipment and activities and parades sponsored by the local military command. This year on May 17. On this day there are typically festive events. The third Saturday in May, Armed Forces Day will be the day to honor our men and women served and almost one million were either killed or wounded in the War's 3 ½ years.

May 9 marks Military Spouse Day, first proclaimed by President Ronald Reagan in 1984 to recognize all military spouses for the dedication and sacrifice of our families. May 8 is the anniversary of the Allies' victory in Europe during World War II in which more than 16 million American and women served and almost one million were either killed or wounded in the War's 3 ½ years.

We celebrate V-E Day, Military Spouse Day, Armed Forces Day and Memorial Day during this “appreciation” month of May. May 9 marks Military Spouse Day, first proclaimed by President Ronald Reagan in 1984 to recognize all military spouses for their personal sacrifices and dedication to our nation. Our spouses represent a true “combat multiplier” as they allow us to focus on our mission vice worrying about “home” while away from our loved ones. Our spouses are never “last but not least” but rather “first and foremost” in our minds when it comes to stability for the community, preserving family values and commitment to the great profession of arms. In 1962 President John F. Kennedy said, “Guard jealously your right to serve in the Armed Forces, for without them, there will be no other rights to guard.” He was referring to the recognition of Armed Forces Day celebrated on the third Saturday in May, this year on May 17. On this day there are typically festive activities and parades sponsored by the local military command. Many of our military bases are open to the public and provide an excellent opportunity for us to showcase our equipment and profession.

Memorial Day, observed this year on May 26, marks one of the most solemn observances we have and honors those who have given their lives for our nation. This year Memorial Day is especially poignant as we have so many of our fellow service members deployed in harm’s way supporting Operations Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom; a number have already made the ultimate sacrifice and their families will soon place flags and flowers “where valor proudly sleeps.”

These observances take on a special meaning this year, particularly within the SMDC family. As we have many of our own soldiers and civilians deployed around the world providing stability for the community, preserving family values and commitment to the great profession of arms, Memorial Day is a reminder not only of our accomplishments over the last 228 years, but also of our ongoing commitment to the nation today.

The Army will celebrate its 228th birthday on June 14. We cannot predict the myriad ways soldiers will be serving on our Army’s birthday. But there is no doubt — soldiers will be on point for the nation around the globe. They will be guarding the freedom and privilege we all enjoy. And they will be doing it with the same courage, determination and plain grit that they have for more than 227 years.

This year’s Army Birthday theme is “U.S. Army — At War and Transforming.” It is a reminder not only of our accomplishments over the last 228 years, but also of our ongoing commitment to the nation today.

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What We Think

The Eagle asks: Do you believe having embedded media during the war with Iraq helped keep family members better informed and less anxious? Why?

Ellen M. Smith
Personnel Assistant
Deputy Chief of Staff, Personnel
Arlington, Va.

I think the embedded media certainly kept the family members better informed and less anxious because the media proved we were winning despite propaganda from Iraq. The media gave the family members an idea of where their loved ones were, whether they were in combat or not.

Jay F. Daniels
Engineer
USAKA
Huntsville, Ala.

The media definitely kept people informed and the times when individuals were featured certainly helped those families. Reporters have always provided “reports” of the events, but to have virtual experience in real time was different. Having “step-by-step” accounts, especially the visual, gave us all a better understanding of the conditions under which the military was working — sand storms, heat, sleeping where you can, when you can, succumbing to jeers as well as cheers of the locals. But, I’m not sure anything can make you feel less anxious when a loved one is in the vicinity of danger.

Stephen Williams
Chief, Intelligence Division
Deputy Chief of Staff, Intelligence
Huntsville, Ala.

I feel that during OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM, it was helpful for the troops’ families to be able to see how well things were progressing. However, in general, I don’t think it’s a good thing to have untrained personnel embedded with troops. It’s too much of a liability for the troops.

Patsy Campbell
FA40 Program Manager
Arlington, Va.

I thought the media kept family members better informed but not necessarily less anxious. When soldiers’ names were not kept confidential, especially the POWs, I thought more stress and worry was created for family members. It would have been more appropriate for the military to privately inform families back home of a soldier’s status rather than the media broadcasting it to the world.

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Sgt. Todd Ricard
Maintenance NCO, D Company, 1st SATCON Bn., Army Space Command
Camp Roberts, Calif.

I feel that the media’s presence provided the families more information on the welfare of the soldiers. Because this was such a successful war with relatively few casualties, this information helped ease the families’ minds. However, had this war turned into anything near what past major conflicts have been, such as both World Wars and Vietnam, the families would have experienced increased anxiety due to the media’s presentation of the combat.

Thomas E. White
74th Army Secretary

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Thomas White says farewell

It has been my distinct privilege to serve as your secretary these last two years: the absolute high point of my professional life. Our soldiers and civilian employees have distinguished themselves in peace and war befitting our heritage and reputation of service to the nation since before its founding. I could not be prouder of the outstanding contributions you have made to our nation’s defense and the honorable manner in which you have shoulder the immense sacrifices required of you and your families.

The Army remains at War and transforming. We have significant challenges ahead. We will win the War on Terrorism as part of a Joint team regardless of duration and difficulty. Additionally, it is absolutely vital that we build on our successes and sustain our momentum to realize the vision of Army Transformation as part of the Joint Force.

America’s Army turns 228 years old next month. Our enduring commitment to our fellow citizens is to be ready to defend the United States and her allies when called. As I conclude my duty with you I am proud to report to the American people that their respect and admiration for their Army is well founded. God Bless you, the United States Army and the United States of America.

— Tom White
74th Army Secretary

The Army leadership has approved changing the name of the Program Executive Office for Air and Missile Defense (PEO AMD) to the Program Executive Office for Air, Space and Missile Defense (PEO ASMD). Along with the name change, PEO ASMD will gain operational control of the Army Space Program Office (ASPO), which includes Blue Force Tracking, Situational Awareness, the Army’s Tactical Exploitation of Capabilities/Tactical Applications Office (TENCAP/TAC APPS) Program, and the Army Core Space Control System (ACSCS).

Claude M. Bolton Jr., the assistant secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics and Technology), signed the agreement May 7. There will be a ceremony at a date to be determined. These moves are being made to comply with the October 2001 Chief of Staff of the Army guidance to realign acquisition programs to the PEO structure.

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Program Executive Office changes name, adds functions
Army Space Command to get new deputy commander

PETerson air force base, Colo. — Brig. Gen. Richard V. Geraci has been selected as the new deputy commanding general, U.S. Army Space Command (USASCOM). Geraci replaces Lt. Gen. Scott Netherland, who has been selected as the new commanding general of the 1st Space Control Squadron at Buckley Air Force Base, Colorado, with a report date to be determined.

Geraci, who has served as deputy commander of Army Space Command since August 2000, has been selected to be the director, National Security Space Architect (NSSA). In this capacity, he will be responsible to the Under Secretary of the Air Force and Director of the National Reconnaissance Office, Pentagon, Washington, D.C., for developing, coordinating and integrating DoD and the intelligence community's (IC) space system architectures for the mid- and long-term.

Currently, Geraci oversees the command's operations concerning space, computer network operations, missile defense and integration of theater missile defense. Until recently, he wore a "third hat" as the chief, Space and Information Operations Element, U.S. Strategic Command, to address full spectrum Information Operations support of regional combatant commanders. His previous assignment was as the deputy director for Joint Warning Experimentation at the U.S. Forces Command, Norfolk, Va.

Geraci received his commission as a second lieutenant into the Air Defense Artillery (ADA) upon graduating from New Mexico Military Institute, Roswell, N.M. He earned a master's degree in management from Webster University, a master's degree in systems management from Florida Institute of Technology, and a master's degree in national security and strategic studies from National War College. His military education includes the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and the U.S. Naval War College.

During his 27 years of active service, Geraci has served eight years in Germany with the 32nd Army Air Defense Command in operational command and staff positions. He deployed three times to Southwest Asia with PATRIOT units from Germany. He has commanded PATRIOT missile units at battery, battalion and brigade level, culminating with his command of the 31st ADA Brigade, Ill Corps.

Among his awards are the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Merito- rious Service Medal (Silver and 2 Bronze oak leaf clusters.) Brigadier General Geraci has also been awarded the Presidential Assault Badge, the German Armed Forces Rocket and Air Flight Personnel Professional Qualification Badge (Gold), and the Air Force Space and Missile Badge (Master).

Lennox, deputy commanding general of the U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss since July 2001, received his commission as a second lieutenant in the ADA upon graduating from the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. He earned a master's degree in business administration from Stanford University and a master's degree in national security and strategic studies from National Defense University. His military education includes the Air Defense Artillery officer basic and advanced courses, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and the National War College.

During his 26 years of active service, Lennox has served in numerous Air Defense Artillery leadership positions, as well as two years with the Missile Defense Agency. He is the Air and Space Superiority Assessment Division, J-8, The Joint Staff in Washington, D.C.

Among his awards are the Legion of Merit (with Oak Leaf Cluster), the Defense Meritori- ous Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (with 5 Oak Leaf Clusters), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, para- chicut Badge, Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge and the Army Staff Identification Badge.

Cosumano extended a special welcome to another senior officer attending the event, Air Force Maj. Gen. Mason C. Whitney, adjutant general for Colorado’s Army and Air National Guard.

"We couldn't be doing the tremendous job we're doing, supporting the warfighter in current operations, without his help," Cosumano said. In parallel, the 193rd Space Brigade, activated just before Sept. 11. What a great asset they have been. They, as well as their sister battalions, have been doing a magnificent job in supporting the warfighter, wherever he is deployed.

"Last week, it was announced that we were deploying to the Middle East for the next 12 months. This is the first time we have been deployed for this long," Whitney said.

Shaffer insisted that the honor belongs not to him, as first commander of the first-ever space brigade, but to that brigade's deployed soldiers, whom he and brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Reginald L. Leonard, presented the award as well.

"Our soldiers are out here, as we speak, doing tremendous things," Shaffer said. "This ceremony is for them as they give to the warfighter. We have come a long way in 15 years, and the brigade will allow us to continue doing that, to get to the symbolism of having this ceremony here in our new building. We have former commanders present who represent the blood, sweat and tears it took to get us to this point as we celebrate quietly while our nation is at war."

"And make no mistake, we are a crucial part of that war effort," Cosumano said.

"We've got Army Space Support Teams and Joint Tactical Ground Station sections and, a host of other elements providing communications, early missile warning — everything we have in terms of operational capability is involved in current operations."

"In Operation Desert Storm, we'd just begun offering the benefits of the Global Positioning System. Today, we're providing force enhancement and force protection. We've come a long way in 15 years, and the stand-up of this brigade today is an indicator of all the challenges we will meet in the future," concluded Cosumano.

Shaffer addressed those challenges.

"Today's activation as a provisional unit is a major step in the process of becoming a permanent Army unit," Shaffer said.

"This is a great thing about today is that it allow us to expand. By increasing the size of the brigade, we increase the support we give to the warfighter. This ceremony, unlike that of a change of command which is all about welcoming a new commander and saying farewell to the outgoing, this ceremony is about the unit, about its soldiers, past, present and future."

The present day commander of the 1st Space Battalion, Lt. Col. Scott Netherland, has been in Army Space Command for much of its lifespan. As a lieutenant colonel, Netherland, Demers Souza and Stovall, he demonstrated the benefits of the Global Positioning System to that conflict's warfighting.

"GPS got our foot in the door, showing what space had to offer," Netherland said. "We've come a long, long way since then. Today's brigade activation marks the increase of our investment in space — and it's a great day for Army Space Command and the warfighter."

Another long-time member of the command, John Marrs, director of Technical Support, said, "I've been with the command since 1990. The command has grown to its present size and mission completely in keeping with the vision held at its inception, that of increasing space command and staff positions. It's a fabulous day for Army space."

The ceremony ended with a ritual "call of a gallop" celebrating a ceremony held jointly by Cosumano and Shaffer. Under Army regulation, a provisional unit may be organized and designated by the commanding general of a command for a limited period of time, not to exceed two years. At the end of the two-year period, the commander will make a recommendation whether or not to permanently organize the unit.

Brig. Gen. Richard V. Geraci

Brig. Gen. Robert P. Lennox

"It's taken us 15 long years to get here ... we celebrate quietly while our nation is at war. And make no mistake, we are a crucial part of that war effort."

— LTG Joseph M. Cosumano Jr.
By Maj. Laura Kenney
Army Space Command

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — In the wee dark hours of an early March morning on a deserted stretch of road within streetlights, an Army Space Command soldier risked his own safety when he pulled over thinking, initially, to help a stranded motorist. Events took an unexpected turn, and 1st Lt. Jeff Maranich ended up rescuing a teen-ager from attempted rape.

Maranich, executive officer for Delta Company, 1st Satellite Control Battalion at Camp Roberts, Calif., was driving home at approximately 3 a.m. along a road described as “out in the boonies.” He spotted a car with a flat tire and a young woman by the side of the road attempting to change the tire.

“I wasn’t thinking any of those things when I stopped to help, though the thought did cross my mind that this was a set-up, similar to the terrible thing that happened to Bill Cosby’s son, but — I’ve always believed that choosing to live your life by doing good is sufficient. And, too frightened of the man to do so initially. I saw the man, I did cross my mind that this was a set-up, but she was hysterical and too frightened of the man to do so initially. I should take her home since that was what she wanted. He then got angry with me and told me to (expletive) mind my own business and that the girl was going home with him.”

Maranich attempted to close the door of his car, in which both he and the girl were by this time sitting, but the man blocked its closing. The verbal altercation continued, and events became violent when the man threw a punch at Maranich, bloodying his lip. Maranich, who’d been in college, reacted in self-defense. Blows were exchanged, and Maranich was eventually able to subdue his assailant with what he termed a “sleeper-hold/h�headlock.”

The man lost consciousness, and Maranich pulled him to the side of the road in front of the formerly disabled vehicle, leaving him safely outlined by its headlights. Maranich and the woman then left the scene, fearful that the man would follow them and offer further violence.

During the ensuing ride to the woman’s home, she told Maranich that the man had attempted to rape her. Maranich tried to convince her to call the police and report the incident, but she was hysterical and too frightened of the man to do so initially. “I found out later that her dad convinced her to call the police, which is the right thing to do. The man was arrested, and I expect to testify at his upcoming trial,” said Maranich.

Detective Rick Ince of the Paso Robles Police Department, who is handling the case, commented, “The lieutenant strongly urged me to put the man behind bars. It is really terrible is that the victim told me that quite a few other cars passed her when she was stranded and not one person made an assisting call. She’s very lucky that Lt. Maranich stopped.”

During the ensuing ride to the woman’s home, she told Maranich that the man had attempted to rape her. “He (Nimoy) didn’t offer to help the woman. I was amazed that all of this data was collected and cataloged for future use by agencies launching vehicles into space … He commented that with all of the launches and launches being put into space junk, a lot of junk must still be up there and our mission is important.”

The range actually conducts about 40,000 tracks a year, according to Dennis Simpson, RTS Space Operations lead. That number doesn’t necessarily reflect the number of objects, as tracks are missed more than once and not all are “junk,” Simpson added.

“Data collected by the ALTAIR radar and its importance to the U.S. space program,” McCready said. “He (Nimoy) was amazed that all of this data was collected and cataloged for future use by agencies launching vehicles into space … He commented that with all of the launches over the years that a lot of junk must still be up there and our mission is important.”

Leonard Nimoy, who played Mr. Spock in the original “Star Trek” series on TV, discusses RTS’s mission with Jack McCready.

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Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month salutes liberty
By Johnetta R. Graves
Equal Employment Opportunity Office

May is Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month. In June 1977, representatives Frank Horton of New York and Norman Y. Mineta of California introduced a resolution proclaiming the first 10 days of May as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week. On October 5, 1978, President Jimmy Carter signed a Joint Resolution designating the annual celebration. It became a monthlong observance in May 1990.

When they first arrived in the United States, Asian (usually Chinese) immigrants were welcomed, or at least tolerated. After the California gold rush brought thousands of Chinese to California, Asian immigrants faced restrictive laws and occasional violence. During the late 1800s, Chinese and other Asians were excluded from being American citizens; however, these laws were repealed during World War II, making it easier for Asians to enter the United States.

In 1952, the McCarran-Walter Act eliminated race as a barrier to immigration, thus facilitating further Asian immigration. During 1980, more than 2.5 million Asian immigrants entered the United States, up from nearly 500,000 in 1960.

The U.S. Census Bureau reports 11.9 million U.S. residents reported themselves as Asian in the 2000 Census. Of those, 2.4 million reported they were Chinese alone or in combination with one or more other races or Asian groups, making Chinese the leading Asian group; Filipino (1.9 million) and Asian Indian (1.7 million) followed.

Also reported was that the median income in 2000 of Asian/Pacific Americans in 2000 was $50,928, the highest median income of any racial group. The poverty rate of Asian/Pacific Americans in 2000 was 10.7 percent, the lowest rate ever measured for this race group.

You are encouraged to visit the U.S. Census Bureau Web site to find other facts about Asian Pacific Americans.

The U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command has 18 Asian/Pacific American employees. We value the Asian/Pacific American employees of SMDC and appreciate their contributions to our mission accomplishments.

Each of our employees is called upon to endeavor to learn more about the contributions and history of Asian/Pacific Americans and celebrate the role they play in the accomplishments of our society.

Marshallese join in Operation Iraqi Freedom
By Jim Bennett
Editor, Kwajalein Hourglass

Hern Jibbwa got a welcome call Tuesday morning. Her friend, John Santos, who lives in Hungary, received an e-mail from her son, Lenson Samson, asking Santos to let his mother know he was all right.

“I worry about him and pray for him every night,” Jibbwa said.

Jibbwa worries because Samson serves in the Navy aboard an aircraft carrier, the Persian Gulf, supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“It’s good,” Jibbwa said. “I’m OK with that.”

Samson grew up on Ebeve, went to the Seventh Day Adventist elementary school, and later to the Marshall Islands High School on Majuro. He also attended the University of the South Pacific on Majuro, she said. In 2000, he joined the Navy.

Meanwhile, Paul Alfred, son of residents Helbert and Leilani Alfred, serves in the Air Force and is stationed in Germany.

“I’m scared they’ll send him to Iraq,” she said, though he hasn’t received orders yet. Alfred joined last year after growing up on Majuro and in Iowa and working at Kwajalein. And they’re not alone.

Samson and Alfred are just two of 77 Marshallese citizens serving in the U.S. military, with 71 of them on active duty, according to a press release from the Republic of the Marshall Islands. Of those, 17 are deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The majority, 55, serve in the Army, with 10 others in the Air Force. The Marines list five Marshallese and Navy and Coast Guard each have three. The RMI reported one reservist but didn’t specify the branch.

“We must ensure that the service men and women, families and friends are fully aware that the government deeply appreciates their service and dedication to our country, said Foreign Minister Gerald Zackios. “The numbers can give us a better understanding as to how we can help the many families whose loved ones have been deployed to defend our freedom.”

For now, Jibbwa mans the cash register at Café Pacific and follows the war on the big screen TV near her work station.

“I worry,” she said.

Learning to resolve issues
Regional course studies people as well as places
By KW Hills
Feature Writer
Kwajalein Hourglass

As Host Nation officer, Stephan Notarianni’s job responsibilities include resolving issues between the U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll’s (USAKA) and the Republic of the Marshall Islands’ traditional and political leaders and keeping both countries’ perspectives in mind.

Over the last three months, he upgraded and discussed this and other negotiated and communica tions with the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies (APCSS) Course in Hawaii.

“The ultimate goal of the course … would be, before you push that button or make that call to attack or to invade, the hope is that you will talk to another,” he said.

The course put “a face and a voice on the people of other countries,” he said.

Notarianni’s job responsibilities include resolving issues between the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command (SMDC) and USAKA at the cross-cultural conference.

A total of 32 countries and 88 senior military and civilians attended the conference.

Countries represented at this course included: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Comoros, East Timor, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Laos, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Micronesia, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Palau Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russia, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu and Vietnam.

While students, some from countries with odds at odds with one another, learned over the three months of attending classes and socially interacting was “security as a shared mind, international security which entails cooperation,” Notarianni said.

Even with the beneficial atmosphere set up by APCSS and the Pacific Community, there was conflict, he said.

“We did have some confrontations because people don’t see eye to eye,” he said.

“When you talk about the chemical weapons that Russia was producing, the Russians are there trying to defend—emotional people crying.”

“You don’t only learn from the course, you learn from the people as well,” he said.

Both the war in Iraq and the SARS, or severe acute respiratory syndrome, which came up while the course was in session, brought emotions to the surface during discussions and gave the students a way to really understand each other from different view points.

“When Sheikh Mohammed was captured in Pakistan and we had four Pakistanis in this course, they had a hard time with that,” he said. “But you talk to them because you have to maintain dialog. Tape is the key.”

SARS caused a lot of worry especially for students from the hard-hit countries, he said.

At the end of the course many had to change their flight plans to return home.

The course and interaction with people from other nations gave him a new perspective on what he saw on the news and understanding others, he said.

Editor, Kwajalein Hourglass

Lenson Samson

Marshallees join in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Marshall Islands. Of those, 17 are deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and 10 more have received orders to the region.

The majority, 55, serve in the Army, with 10 others in the Air Force. The Marines list five Marshallese and Navy and Coast Guard each have three. The RMI reported one reservist but didn’t specify the branch.

“We must ensure that the service men and women, families and friends are fully aware that the government deeply appreciates their service and dedication to our country, said Foreign Minister Gerald Zackios. “The numbers can give us a better understanding as to how we can help the many families whose loved ones have been deployed to defend our freedom.”

For now, Jibbwa mans the cash register at Café Pacific and follows the war on the big screen TV near her work station.

“I worry,” she said.

Learning to resolve issues
Regional course studies people as well as places
By KW Hills
Feature Writer
Kwajalein Hourglass

As Host Nation officer, Stephan Notarianni’s job responsibilities include resolving issues between the U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll’s (USAKA) and the Republic of the Marshall Islands’ traditional and political leaders and keeping both countries’ perspectives in mind.

Over the last three months, he upgraded and discussed this and other negotiated and communications with the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies (APCSS) Course in Hawaii.

“The ultimate goal of the course … would be, before you push that button or make that call to attack or to invade, the hope is that you will talk to another,” he said.

The course put “a face and a voice on the people of other countries,” he said.

Notarianni’s job responsibilities include resolving issues between the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command (SMDC) and USAKA at the cross-cultural conference.

A total of 32 countries and 88 senior military and civilians attended the conference.

Countries represented at this course included: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Comoros, East Timor, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Laos, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Micronesia, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Palau Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russia, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu and Vietnam.

While students, some from countries with odds at odds with one another, learned over the three months of attending classes and socially interacting was “security as a shared mind, international security which entails cooperation,” Notarianni said.

Even with the beneficial atmosphere set up by APCSS and the Pacific Command, there was conflict, he said.

“We did have some confrontations because people don’t see eye to eye,” he said.

“When you talk about the chemical weapons that Russia was producing, the Russians are there trying to defend—emotional people crying.”

“You don’t only learn from the course, you learn from the people as well,” he said.

Both the war in Iraq and the SARS, or severe acute respiratory syndrome, which came up while the course was in session, brought emotions to the surface during discussions and gave the students a way to really understand each other from different view points.

“When Sheikh Mohammed was captured in Pakistan and we had four Pakistanis in this course, they had a hard time with that,” he said. “But you talk to them because you have to maintain dialog. Tape is the key.”

SARS caused a lot of worry especially for students from the hard-hit countries, he said.

At the end of the course many had to change their flight plans to return home.

The course and interaction with people from other nations gave him a new perspective on what he saw on the news and understanding others, he said.

Editor, Kwajalein Hourglass

Lenson Samson

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Forty-three soldier, family member and civilian command representatives will participate as delegates to this conference. Twenty other individuals will serve as facilitators, recorders, transcribers, issue support personnel and workgroup coordinators. Guest speakers and numerous national level exhibitors also will participate.

“AFAP is a grassroots level process that identifies issues of concern that affect SMDC and the Army community,” said Portia Davidson, SMDC’s AFAP coordinator. “AFAP is a ‘change management’ process which enables everyone in SMDC to influence his or her own well-being and standard of living, as well as potential Army-wide impact.”

To make this conference as successful as possible, SMDC is accepting issues and recommendations for review by the delegates attending the conference.

Information on “How to Develop Successful Issues” that warrant attention at Headquarters, Department of the Army, is available on the Web at http://www.smde.army.mil/FamilyPrograms. Click on Family Action Plan Programs and then scroll to Issue Development Training Slides. Please review the slides carefully before submitting ideas. Deadline for submission is May 27.

“This tip is quite useful, especially if you have a number of issues you submit within SMDC. Please ensure you carefully research any legislation that may be applicable. Among the areas we have seen issues in the past are: pay, child care and other family support issues. Review any laws, regulations or policies that have an impact on the issue. Make recommendations clear and specific.”

When submitting issue papers to be reviewed at the conference, Davidson suggests authors remember the following guidelines:

- Submit only one issue per form. There are no limitations to the number of issues you may submit for consideration.
- The document will be no more than one typewritten page in length.
- Write a brief statement summarizing the issue.
- Describe the problem or concern in paragraph form. Include enough information to ensure people unfamiliar with the issue will understand.
- Reference any laws, regulations or policies that have an impact on the issue.
- Make recommendations clear and specific.
- Prioritize recommendations if you are submitting more than one issue per paper.
- Answer the following questions:
  1. What am I trying to change?
  2. What approach should we use?
  3. How much time will it take?
  4. What is the best possible method?
  5. What are some alternative methods?
  6. How many people are needed?
  7. How much money or resources will it require?

If you have questions, please call your local AFAP representative.

“Our AFAP conferences are unique because we actively engage our youth delegation to create artistic murals and art projects that receive national level visibility and attention,” Davidson said. “Involving our SMDC youth in creative arts projects proved to showcase the important role our SMDC youth and the arts can play in building self esteem, promoting peer-based learning and nurturing creativity.”

Last year, the youth delegation painted two canvas murals to commemorate the Sept. 11, 2001, tragedies. The group presented the murals to the Secretary of the Army at the Pentagon.

This year, SMDC will participate in the 2003 International Child Art Festival (ICAF) in Washington, D.C., Sept. 9-11. The teen delegation will design and build a life-size Totem Pole “Peace Through Art” project for exhibit at the National Mall Sept. 9-12, 2003. Creative young Americans representing each U.S. state and territory, chosen through ICAF’s art competition, will host national child artists from 100 countries at the festival to “paint a new future for the world.” SMDC will have a major role in this event.
Huntsville mayor proclaims April 2, 2003, ‘Mark J. Lumer’ Day

Mark J. Lumer, principal responsible for contracting for the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command, recently received three military honors. On March 31, the Huntsville Association of Technical Societies named Lumer its 2002-2003 National Contract Management Association Professional of the Year. He received the award for his years of outstanding professional service to the U.S. contracting community.

Huntsville Mayor Loretta Spencer proclaimed April 2, 2003, to be Mark Joseph Lumer Day. Lumer was recognized for leading the grants partnership through two successful years and for his eight years of service supporting the North Alabama community.

The committee for Purchase from People Who are Blind or Severely Disabled under Javits-Wagner-O’Day Program selected Lumer to receive the E.R. “Dick” Alley Career Achievement Award April 6. The Alley Award recognizes individuals who provide extraordinary achievement and sustained effort in using the Federal procurement system to create employment opportunities for people who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

Employee earns doctorate

William (Bill) E. Hughes, a general engineer in the Command Analysis Division of the Research, Development and Acquisition staff, successfully defended his dissertation and received his doctorate in Industrial and Systems Engineering (Systems Engineering Option) from the University of Alabama in Huntsville April 8.

Awards/Promotions

On-The-Spot Cash Awards

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<tr>
<td>Donna H. Davis</td>
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<td>Jennifer L. Jones</td>
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Quality Step Increases

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<td>Paula R. Brumlow</td>
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<td>M. Eppes</td>
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Special Act Awards

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<tr>
<td>Robert G. Bowles</td>
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Time-Off Awards

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<tr>
<td>Maryanne P. Lane</td>
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Commander’s Award for Civilian Service

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<tr>
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Invention Award

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<td>John H. Hennings</td>
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Civilian Promotions

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<tr>
<td>Bonnie Draper</td>
<td>GS-13, Huntsville</td>
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Robert E. Wood

Huntsville mayor proclaims April 2, 2003, ‘Mark J. Lumer’ Day

Huntsville Mayor Loretta Spencer presents Mark Lumer a certificate proclaiming April 2, 2003, to be Mark Joseph Lumer Day.
Civilian News

Rumsfeld seeking more power over Pentagon’s civilian personnel

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld is seeking new powers that would greatly expand his office’s control over civilian personnel and civilian employees. Term limits for the Joint Chiefs of Staff would be eliminated and mandatory retirement ages for top generals and admirals would be raised under the 205-page proposal to be sent to Congress. Other rule changes would make it easier for the Defense Department to create civilian positions for functions now being carried out by military personnel and allow greater flexibility in determining how reservists will meet training requirements. David Chu, the under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness, described the plan as the most sweeping reorganization of military personnel since the Eisenhower administration. He said the proposed legislation requests greater flexibility over personnel policy affecting the very senior levels, allowing a defense secretary to extend the tenure of generals and admirals in especially important jobs, while easing the early retirement of those unlikely to be promoted further. Lower in the ranks, the legislation would clear the way for transferring a large number of military personnel to civilian jobs, while 300,000 are under consideration, Chu said. Rep. Vic Snyder, D-Ark., the ranking member of the House Armed Services Committee’s Total Force Subcommittee, which oversees personnel issues, said the proposed legislation is a “void” in a problem area that lawmakers want to be certain Rumsfeld isn’t trying to bypass congressional oversight with his proposal. Part of the plan would eliminate dozens of reports required by Congress.

DoD helping to facilitate use of smart cards throughout federal government

The Defense Department has opened the way for smart-card use throughout government with some 12,000 access cards issued a day. The total number of the cards in use is approaching the 2 million mark. “DoD is leading in identity management,” said Brett Michaels, head of government sales for RSA Security Inc. of Bedford, Mass. Government smart card use was a hot topic at the RSA 2003 Security Conference in San Francisco. The common access card program is “far and away the largest federal application of smart-card technology,” said Dave Ludin, North American vice president of sales and solutions at Gemplus Corp., of Redwood City, Calif. “It has spurred interest throughout the government. You can see it in the Transportation Security Administration,” Ludin said. DoD expects to have 4 million cards issued to active duty military personnel and contractors by the end of this year, said Mary Dixon, director of Human Resources Integration (EHRI) program will allow agencies to store, access and exchange standard electronic human resources information that can be used for force structure planning and analysis. When it’s implemented, EHRI will create a paperless environment and create an official electronic personnel record that will follow an employee from the time he or she is hired into retirement. Once the statement of work is out, OPM expects to make an award to a systems integrator by June 1, said Norm Enger, OPM’s e-government project director. “We’ve finished the design work,” he added. “Now we’re ready to award a contract.” EHRI will require agencies to submit employee information into a central electronic repository — something that OPM expects to have in place for agencies to use by Sept. 30. The repository will contain data on about 1.8 million civilian workers. EHRI will allow agencies the format in which to submit data to the repository. Agencies are expected to submit the information biweekly, Enger said.

Military News

SeaWorld, Busch Gardens, Sesame Place offer free day for military

Anheuser-Busch has announced it will give free single-day admission to military personal and their families at both military Place parks to active duty military, active reservists, U.S. Coast Guard, National Guard and Reserve personnel, National Guardsmen and up to four of their direct dependents, beginning the Friday of Memorial Day weekend and concluding Veterans Day, Nov. 11. The offer also has been extended to another coalition forces serving with U.S. troops in Operation Iraqi Freedom. “Operation Salute” will give free admission at Busch Gardens Tampa Bay; SeaWorld Orlando; Busch Gardens Williamsburg; SeaWorld San Diego; SeaWorld San Antonio; and Sesame Place in Langhorne, Pa. Universal Orlando and Disney World are also formulating special offers for returning U.S. military, which will be announced soon. For more details, see http://www.anheuser-busch.com/news/OperationSalute.htm.

Family Separation, Imminent Danger pays increased retroactively

President Bush has signed a wartime defense supplemental bill that raises military Family Separation Allowance by $150 a month and Imminent Danger Pay by $75 a month, retroactive to Oct. 1, 2002. Almost 200,000 service members drawing Family Separation Allowance will see the pay jump from $100 a month to $225. Anyone eligible for FSA back through October will receive back pay as soon as military finance centers can implement the change. At least 350,000 military personnel draw Imminent Danger Pay of $150 a month. That will rise, by 50 percent, to $225. Many of the eligible will include attendees at stateside service schools, on temporary duty assignments or deployed aboard ship or with aircraft squadrons, regardless of theater.

Wartime bill adds benefits for injuries

The wartime supplemental funding bill approved by Congress recently includes two measures to benefit service members who become ill or are injured because of service in support of Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom. The first is a $250 allowance for medically evacuated service members to buy civilian clothing. This provision stemmed from reports that some members injured in Iraq had arrived at Walter Reed Army Medical Center without civilian clothing and with no money to buy any. The second measure would authorize government-paid travel and lodging for family members to visit an injured service member without a requirement that be necessary to contribute to the member’s health and welfare. The President is expected to sign the bill soon.

SJA: ‘Read your life insurance policy’

Service members who have Servicemembers’ Group Life Insurance are covered in the event of death in a military conflict. However, many commercial life-insurance policies carry what is called a “war clause” or “military service exclusion” that excludes coverage for death or injury caused by acts of war, according to a National Guard Bureau staff judge advocate official. If the policy has a “war clause” or “exclusion,” the life insurance company is not required to pay the full face value of the policy to beneficiaries. Some commercial life-insurance companies — as a matter of company policy, customer service and public support — do not have war clauses in their policies, noted the official. It is important for active-duty Guard and Reserve members to read their policies carefully and maintain insurance for themselves that will ensure coverage and benefits during times of conflict.

Retirees ask for better health care

The Army Chief of Staff’s Retiree Council closed its 43rd meeting April 11 with a report citing health care and communication as the two primary concerns of retirees Armywide. The council also urged the chief of staff to support: (a) concurrent receipt of military retired pay and disability compensation and quick implementation of Combat-Related Special Compensation; (b) elimination of the reduction to the Survivor Benefit Plan annuity at age 62; and (c) a study group reviewing retirement benefits for the National Guard and Reserve and (d) continued funding of TRICARE for Life.
Iraqi Freedom proves Transformation concepts

speaking of the Stryker Brigade Combat Team, the official said it would have been ideal for operations in northern Iraq had it already been operationally tested. “It could have been flown in and provided the northern front more mobility and lethality than current forces have there,” he said.

The Army’s first Stryker BCT — 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, out of Fort Lewis, Wash. — is fully equipped and will undergo operational testing at Fort Polk, La., in mid-May. While much media attention is focused on the equipment technology aspect of Transformation, there is much more to it, the official said. “Technology is just a Transformation enabling,” he said.

Under the Transformation umbrella, the Army is considering changing its Train-Alert-Train-Deploy model for units conducting real-world operations to Train-Alert-Deploy. The current model is based upon units training day-to-day for the high-risk end of the conflict spectrum. When those units are alerted for a low-end mission such as humanitarian relief or peacekeeping, they have to learn a new set of tasks.

Changing the individual replacement system with a unit replacement one that locks everyone in for two years might free up time for units to train other tasks than those needed for combat operations. The problem the Army faces now is that with the individual replacement system, you constantly have to retrain the same tasks over and over again because you have a constant stream of people coming and going, the official said. It takes time to build effective teams and individual replacement system means teams are always being broken up in the short term, he continued.

The Army is also looking at changing discreet, specialized, stove-pipe systems and structures into networked enterprise ones. For example, when a soldier gets deployed, the systems he is telling report will tell the personnel system where he is. However, unless someone gets the paperwork to finance, he may not get the danger pay he is entitled to in the meantime, the official said. With a networked system, one stop tells everyone who needs to know what is happening with the soldier, he said.

A Transformation organization change might include combined arms teams organized from within during peacetime, rather than just being formed during combat operations down to the company level, the official said.

Speaking of current Army systems with the Future Combat System, the official said that being the best equipped Army in the world does not necessarily mean being the best organization. Each system has its own discrete needs in terms of parts and specialized mechanics — meaning a common logistic system would be too large. However, a common carrier, the logistics tail will be smaller than the current force — meaning more tooth or combat troops available to carry the fight to the enemy given similar-sized forces, he said.

FCS met seven joint interoperability key performance parameters during the end of April. It is scheduled for fielding by 2010.

The history of Memorial Day

Memorial Day was originally known as Decoration Day because it was a time set aside to honor the nation’s Civil War dead by decorating their graves. It was first widely observed on May 30, 1868, to commemorate the sacrifices of Civil War soldiers, by proclamation of General John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of former soldiers and sailors. On May 5, 1868, Logan declared in General Order No. 11 that:

The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land. In this observance no form of ceremony is prescribed, but posts and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may admit.

During the first celebration of Decoration Day, General James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, after which 5,000 participants helped to decorate the graves of the more than 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers buried there. This 1868 celebration was inspired by local observances of the day in several towns throughout America that had taken place in the three years since the Civil War.

In 1866, the federal government, under the direction of President Andrew Johnson, declared Waterloo, New York, the official birthplace of Memorial Day. They chose Waterloo because in 1866, the town had celebrated the day on May 5, 1866, because the town had made Memorial Day an annual event during which businesses closed and residents decorated the graves of soldiers with flowers and flags.

By the late 1800s, many communities across the country had begun to celebrate Memorial Day. After World War I, observances also began to honor those who had died in all of America’s wars. In 1917, Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday to be celebrated the last Monday in May, the President of the United States, by a joint resolution, set aside to honor all veterans, living and dead, is celebrated each year on November 11.)

Today Memorial Day is celebrated at Arlington National Cemetery with a ceremony in which a small American flag is placed on each grave. It is customary for the president or vice-president to give a speech honoring the contributions of the dead and lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.
Moving out
— Army Space soldiers in motion

Whether they’re deploying TO theater, or relocating IN theater, Army Space soldiers are highly mobile in current operations. Two more Army Space Support Teams deployed recently to the U.S. Central Command area of operations. Teams 13 and 14 flew out together in April. In Iraq, ARRST 5 moved with their Marine cohorts of Marine Expeditionary Force 1.

Army Space Support Team 13 members show they have the right stuff as they exit the hangar with their gear.

Inside one of the hangars at Peterson Air Force Base, Maj. Saundra Yanna, member of Army Space Support Team 14, adjusts her load-bearing equipment in preparation to board the plane.

Amber Tubergen, daughter of Army Space Support Team 14 member Capt. Timothy Tubergen, grasps a flag as she stands by Dad prior to his deployment.

In Iraq, Maj. Dan Cockerham, center, Army Space Support Team 5 leader, sits between a civilian reporter and two Marines on the C-130 flight back to the Marine Expeditionary Force 1 Rear after 23 days at the Force’s main location.

Army Space Support Team members form a single file and approach the rear of the aircraft with the beautiful Colorado mountains serving as a backdrop.
The Spectral Operations Resource Center (SORC) was also a key player. An element of the SORC was forward deployed to CENTCOM and, in tandem with home base, produced more than 300 products in support of IRAQI FREEDOM.

The SORC (Forward) produced imagery that provided spectral analysis of vegetative areas and rugged terrain to eliminate unsuitable sites for airborne assault operations during the planning process. Standard image maps were created to conduct standard mission planning. Working in tandem with ARSSTs, SORC (Rear) and (Forward) provided detailed change-detection assessments to identify potential enemy locations. Archived satellite imagery was merged with more recent spectral imagery to identify changes. The noted changes, identifying potential hidden enemy assets and assisting in the targeting process, were passed on to combatant commanders. The technology also assisted with locating mine fields.

Bo Dunaway, chief, Remote Sensing Branch, said, “This is the first time that we’ve been able to put all the pieces together and deliver spectral products from start to finish in a timely relevant manner. From units forward requesting products to downlinking unclassified imagery via Eagle Vision I and delivering digital products within 24 hours, all are a significant milestone for the commercial imagery arena. The use of SORC (Forward) ensured continuity and mission focus for all Army Space elements using commercial imagery products.”

A pair of boots and socks airing out in the dry desert still life with a two-man tent, illustrating the stark living for many deployed Army Space Command soldiers.

Sgt. Stacey Sorsdal, left from JTAGS Central Command, and Sgt. Brandi Harris of the Spectral Exploitation Cell-Transportable take a moment to pose with Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld during his visit to Central Command in Doha, Qatar, on April 23.

Photo by Lt. Col. Michael Yowell

Maj. Gary Curry, 193rd Space Battalion, Colorado National Guard, and team leader of Army Space Command’s Test and Evaluation section, proudly shows off twin souvenir camels made of dyed camel leather, outside his tent in Oman.
Another vital piece of the Army Space effort could be found in the 1st Satellite Control Battalion (SATCON). Although not forward deployed, the SATCON companies were as integral a part of IRAQI FREEDOM as their desert-located sister units.

The 1st SATCON supported the ground units involved in IRAQI FREEDOM since they first entered theater. SATCON units enabled satellite communications, connectivity, and voice and video teleconference capability to the combatant commanders of CENTCOM, V Corps, 3rd Infantry Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Special Operations Command and other deployed forces.

The two primary units involved in this support were B Co., Fort Meade, Md., and C Co., Landstuhl, Germany. They controlled the satellite links for tactical and strategic warfighter communications networks. Together, they supported more than 140 terminals and more than 50 tactical missions. These missions allowed combatant commanders to maneuver their units without breaks in communications.

Maj. Stephen Elle, executive officer, 1st SATCON, said, “We are extremely proud of the responsive and proactive support our units gave to forces on the ground. With the rapid pace of the war, and the rapid movement of ground forces, maintaining communications was absolutely essential. Our units enabled them to do that.”

The Space Based Blue Force Tracking Mission Management Center enhanced the tactical commander’s ability to maintain visibility of his deployed forces. The SB-BFT MMC worked closely with special operations forces in theater to monitor their aircraft and ground forces, especially in emergency situations.

And at the logical, if not geographic, center of all this energy and accomplishment, the SMDC Operations Center (OC) functioned. As of May 7, the OC had processed more than 96 requests for information that were then routed and monitored for deployed units. Requests for SORC imagery were answered after the OC researched the problem.

The officer in charge of the OC, Lt. Col. Steve Dreiling, said, “Even though the OC was a quiet element in the war effort, our soldiers were nonetheless very important. Our job is a 24/7 conduit for information from the front to the command elements. Each and every soldier who manned a console in the OC is an outstanding individual who really deserves a pat on the back for a job well done.”

Army Space Command presently has more than 100 soldiers, civilians and contractors deployed overseas in support of current operations. As they come home, Army Space will gather their personal stories about the missions described above to share with all.
SMDC, Local AFGE 1858 sign new agreement

A new contract has been signed between the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command and AFGE Local 1858 to cover most bargaining unit members of the command.

Maj. Gen. John M. Urias, deputy commanding general for Research, Development and Acquisition at SMDC, and Jim Brothers, AFGE Local 1858 president, signed the new contract April 3. It culminated two years of negotiations between SMDC management and union teams.

“This is a major event, and I believe this agreement will serve both management and employees well for the next two years,” Brothers said.

The new agreement includes an optional schedule of four 10-hour workdays. The first-line supervisor may approve participation of no more than one-third of the bargaining unit employees in the work unit.

Brothers, an engineer with the Directed Energy Directorate at SMDC in Huntsville, Ala., has served as the union’s president for more than 10 years. He decided not to seek re-election to the office of president, AFGE Local 1858.

The union election of new officers was held April 14; however, a run-off election for the president’s position is scheduled for June 9.

The new contract will apply to all SMDC bargaining unit members stationed at Huntsville and the Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site (RTS) at Kwajalein Atoll only. This agreement does not apply to the SMDC employees at the High Energy Laser Systems Test Facility at White Sands Missile Range, N.M., for which a separate agreement must be negotiated.

Either party may request to renegotiate the agreement in two years. If neither side asks to renegotiate, the contract will stay in effect on a year-to-year basis.

The management negotiating team included Mark J. Lumer (chief negotiator), Donna H. Davis, Walter Pickett, Terry Day, Juanita Sales Lee, Mark Lumer and John Cady.

The union negotiating team included Jim Brothers (chief negotiator), Frank Bowles, Thea Stewart, Susan Thomas and Brent Beason.

National Volunteer Week

President urges Americans to help neighbors, nation

National Volunteer Week is observed each year during the last week of April. The observance started in 1974 when President Richard Nixon signed an executive order establishing the week as an annual celebration of volunteering. Every president since has signed a proclamation promoting National Volunteer Week.

In his proclamation, President George Bush said, “Volunteering is central to the American character and is a fundamental expression of responsible citizenship. From our nation’s earliest days, people came together to do whatever was needed for the public good — from raising families and providing mutual security to organizing educational activities and caring for their neighbors.

“Though our country has changed dramatically since its founding, the need for service has not,” Bush said. “During National Volunteer Week, we recognize our proud legacy of volunteer service and resolve to encourage more Americans to continue strengthening our country by helping others.

“This is a time for all Americans to be active citizens, not spectators. For that reason, I have created the USA Freedom Corps to mobilize our citizens and provide opportunities for individuals and organizations to contribute to important causes. “As part of this initiative, I have asked all Americans to dedicate at least 4,000 hours over the rest of their lives to serving their neighbors and their nation. Since that call to service, our citizens have responded with an outpouring of kindness that is transforming our country, one heart and one soul at a time. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, more than 59 million Americans volunteered last year through charitable organizations.

“These individuals served in a variety of ways — mentoring and tutoring children, providing companionship to the elderly, running community theaters and arts programs, cleaning highways and parks, staffing essential community organizations, and offering physical and spiritual aid to the hungry and homeless. In addition, citizen volunteers have contributed to the ongoing war on terror by helping families and communities prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies.

“Across our nation, our citizens are recognizing that everyone can do something to help and that serving those in need benefits the volunteer also. “My administration has taken several steps to build on this progress and continue the momentum created by these millions of acts of service. Most recently, I formed the President’s Council on Service and Civic Participation, and charged them with creating a nationwide recognition program called the President’s Volunteer Service Awards. These awards will be given to individuals and organizations engaged in a variety of volunteer services who have made a sustained commitment to service over the course of 1 year, and enhance our ability to pay tribute to volunteers and the impact their service has on our communities and our country.

“National Volunteer Week offers each of us the opportunity to recognize one of the true strengths of our Nation — the compassionate spirit of our citizens. I urge all Americans to continue to uphold this spirit and answer the call to service to help ensure that all our citizens realize the promise of America.

Together, we can achieve a hopeful future for all.”

This year’s theme, “The Spirit of America Celebrate Volunteers!” was particularly appropriate as we witness the outpouring of contributions and compassion during these challenging times.

By celebrating the volunteer spirit, we can show the world that helping is healing and we can encourage men, women and children to help make positive change in the lives of others.
SATCON company does ‘dining out’ in style

By Sgt. 1st Class Brian Groves
Unit Reporter

OKINAWA, Japan — There’s a lot to be said for a military event that not only builds morale and esprit de corps, but also allows soldiers’ spouses to actively participate.

One of these events is the traditional Army dining-out. It offers one of the few chances available to perform the following multiple tasks: dress up, eat fine food, salute the colors and stick it to your buddy.

For a small unit like E Company, 1st Satellite Control Battalion, putting together a large event like this was not an easy task. The planners took advantage of off-base clubs, which had experience with formal banquets. They even set up the fallen soldier table, just to make sure it adhered to Army traditions, not Marine or Air Force, which are subtly different.

The planning committee followed standard protocols and traditions, providing a blueprint for the event.

The evening was full of theatrics, and the star of the show was Mr. Vice — a position of authority during the dining-out — played by Staff Sgt. Joseph Stensing. Mr. Vice tasted the wine and declared its fitness. “As sweet as nectar from a beautiful orchid used in the ambrosia of the Greek gods and very pleasing to the palate,” he declared.

He ensured the meal would not unsettle anyone’s tender palate for the next century, where a widely distributed student body gathered at Army universities of the tenth century, where a widely distributed student body gathered.

The evening was full of theatricals, and the star of the show was Mr. Vice — a position of authority during the dining-out — played by Staff Sgt. Joseph Stensing. Mr. Vice tasted the wine and declared its fitness. “As sweet as nectar from a beautiful orchid used in the ambrosia of the Greek gods and very pleasing to the palate,” he declared.

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Rumors of the grog being unfit for human consumption spread, unsettling anyone’s tender palate for the next century, where a widely distributed student body gathered at Army universities of the tenth century, where a widely distributed student body gathered.

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Marine turned famous actor speaks to troops

By 1st Lt. Jeff Maranic
Unit Reporter

CAMP ROBERTS, Calif. — A crowd formed around the speaker, pressing closer to hear him speak, not wanting to miss a single word. The man’s name is R. Lee Ermey. He spent 11 years in the Marine Corps, serving one-and-a-half tours in Vietnam. However, his popularity today is based on his career after serving his country.

Ermey is an actor, most famous for his chilling role in “Full Metal Jacket,” a long-time movie favorite of soldiers and Marines. Ermey played Gunny Sgt. Hartman, the profane and ruthless Drill Sergeant in charge of a group of basic trainees. It’s ironic that Ermey gained his legitimacy to stand in front of soldiers from a fictional character portrayed on the silver screen. In reality, he earned that right through the sweat and blood he shed in uniform.

Yet, even after his under- oath service to America has ended, he continues to serve. He serves today by making appearances to give thanks to fellow soldiers, some who will soon be shipping off to war and others who continuously support the troops indirectly. Among the latter group are soldiers from Delta Company, 1st Satellite Control Battalion, Army Space Command.

Ermey opened with a perfect rendition of the welcome speech Gunnery Sgt. Hartman delivers in “Full Metal Jacket.” The group of eager soldiers respond in character, thundering back, “Sir, Yes Sir.” Ermey addressed his views on the war, the president and, to the delight of the crowd, his fellow actors from “Hollywood.” Decidedly pro-military, Ermey spoke on the state of today’s Army, including comments directed toward the SATCON soldiers in the audience.

“I always hear the old guys talking about the old Army, the old ways — but you young hard chargers have technology on your side. Today, a grunt hides behind a rock and opens up his laptop. Without even having to poke his head up, he can defeat the enemy.”

Ermey admitted that he did not have the technological skills to be a soldier of today and, fortunately for him, that was not the role he was looking to play.

“To rid the world of terrorism — that’s your job. My job is to keep you motivated!” boomed Ermey, in best drill sergeant style.

One particular soldier listening intently was Sgt. First Class Timothy Gore. Gore previously served as a drill sergeant in charge of Army basic trainees. He has been a fan of Ermey’s since “Full Metal Jacket” was first released. “I think he epitomizes the image of the drill sergeant,” Gore says about his hero, “Now drop and give me 50.”

Ermey related stories and anecdotes and joked amongst the soldiers who were present. Obviously at home on a military base, he joined soldiers for a meal in the mess hall and even gave autographs after his speech. Sgt. Clarence Rhodes and Spc. Jarrod Mantz both brought their “Full Metal Jacket” DVDs to be signed by Ermey.

As the dust settled and Ermey moved on, he left the soldiers with a sense of self-appreciation they all deserved. He proved that his motto, “Semper Fi,” was more than just words. He stayed faithful to his beliefs, his cause and to the ranks of soldiers from whence he came. This man who served his country both in battle and on the big screen said it all with his concluding remarks.

“God bless the troops. God bless the commander in chief, and God bless the United States of America.”

Volunteers discuss career opportunities with students

By Dottie White
Assistant Editor, The Eagle

Five employees of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command participated in the 29th Annual Youth Motivation Task Force (YMTF) at Alabama A&M University in Huntsville, Ala., April 7-8.

The participants included Carolyn B. Harris, Contracting and Acquisition Management Office; Lucille B. Reeves, Information Management Office; Bill C. Reeves, Office of Technical Integration and Interoperability; Lt. Col. Undra Robinson, Contracting and Acquisition Management Office; and Bunnie R. Scales, Space and Missile Defense Technical Center.

The SMDC team joined representatives from other government agencies and industry to introduce students to the job market.

Ideally, the program brings knowledgeable, dedicated and successful professionals from various backgrounds together with students and teachers at predominately minority colleges and universities to discuss career opportunities, job responsibilities and key factors for success.

Students are made aware of the many career opportunities available to them in today’s work force and how to get there successfully.

Participants share their own career experiences, give advice on what to do and what not to do, inspire the students, and answer any questions they may have.

Students are encouraged to take responsibilities seriously and to manage their time wisely.

One student, Morgan Freeman, a Chicago native who is a freshman majoring in telecommunications, said the program was very beneficial.

“It gives me a clear picture of what I need to do to support myself,” said Freeman. “It’s helpful to hear things of this nature from other people instead of hearing it from my parents all the time. The speakers were very motivating.”

More than five million students have benefited from the YMTF program over the years.

One SMDC volunteer, Harris, was recognized for her 17 years of contributions to the students of Alabama A&M University through the YMTF.

Additionally, Harris received the Earlie Rich Award, presented once a year to an industry consultant exemplifying characteristics of dedication, motivation and outstanding service.

The award was created to honor Dr. Earlie Rich, who served Alabama A&M for 12 years and was dedicated to supporting the YMTF concepts and goals.

Harris was recognized for her exemplary service, commitment and dedication to the ideals of the YMTF concept.
SATCON volunteers give boost to sister battalion

By Sharon L. Hartman

Colorado Springs, Colo. — “I could write an entire book about the challenges of Pfc. Corey Wilson, Spc. Chad Duncan and Spc. Daniel Alvarez, soldiers from the 1st Satellite Control Battalion. These soldiers didn’t wait for the call or the “hey-you roster.” Instead, they volunteered to deploy in support of their sister battalion, the 1st Space Battalion.

Alvarez, from SATCON Battalion’s Delta Company, left in March to join the Test and Evaluation Unit deployed to Oman. A co-worker, Spc. Jarrod Mantz, said about him, “He was dedicated to what he did and always tried to be better at everything he did, and this deployment is just another example of that can-do attitude.”

Wilson, Alpha Company, and Duncan, Bravo Company, trained with Army Space Support Team (ARSST) 14 for several weeks before leaving. Duncan deployed with Team 14, and Wilson went to Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan to plus up Team 3, already on the ground. The three young soldiers heard of the need for volunteers through their respective chains of command and jumped at the opportunity.

“We really came down to whoever was working that day,” said Duncan, who is a native of Colorado. ‘They asked ‘Who wants to leave on Monday?’ That was on Thursday afternoon.”

“We were told, ‘You won’t know where you’re going. You won’t know what you’re doing. You won’t know whom you’re going to be with. You won’t know how long you will be gone.’”

Such uncertainties might leave others less eager to volunteer, but not Duncan and Wilson.

“It excited me,” Duncan said. “To switch battalions, get assigned to 1st Space, learn a completely different job, that’s really a once-in-a-lifetime thing. I’ve never heard of anyone ever doing it.”

“Getting to go do something like this — getting a combat patch when he’s an E-3 and I’m an E-4 — that just doesn’t happen. It doesn’t ever happen and being on a team with three officers right now is not something many guys in our shoes get to do,” said Duncan.

Wilson, originally from Arizona, had just arrived at the Space Operations Center in Fort Meade, Md., when the need for volunteers arose.

“My first sergeant and company commander brought it up to me and asked me if I wanted to go,” said Wilson. “I came into the Army with pretty much the same intentions and goals as Spc. Duncan. Ready to learn, ready to go and do Army things. To do things soldiers do.

“I’ve been in the Army three years,” he said, “straight out of high school. I did basic training at Fort Knox, Ky., Advanced Individual Training at Fort Gordon, Ga., went to Korea for one year, and came back to do the Satellite Network 1 Charlie course. Like I said, I’m new to the OC and jumped at the chance to go.”

Army Space Support Company 1st Sgt. Scott Ballard remarked on the challenges Wilson and Duncan have endured in preparation for their deployment.

In the first week of March 3 for a six-and-a-half week training process which includes two situational training exercises,” Ballard said. “Then, in addition to all the certification training for team support, they have had to step up to the plate and be prepared with weapons qualifications and nuclear biological chemical training.

“They’ve been really training to work the imagery aspect of being team members,” he said. “They are learning hardware and software maintenance as well as actually utilizing the different image products and getting them ready to provide products to the supported units.

“Duncan was also a combat lifesaver but his certification had lapsed, so we had to send him to a re-certification course. He has already put together his combat lifesaver bag and all the other stuff he needs for that,” said Ballard.

“I’m glad to have them,” he added. “They are taking on the responsibilities of an NCOIC for the team as an E-3 and E-4. They have proven to be a great asset to our effort.”

Although they are leaving the 1st SATCON Battalion, their move is not permanent.

“It’s a 179-day tour and they will be coming back to us after they are done there,” said Master Sgt. Javier Montero, 1st SATCON’s operations NCOIC. “We pulled them out of the operation centers, so they could supplement the ARSST teams that the command was putting together to support Central Command.

“As far as our mission is concerned, the Satellite Control companies will miss them, but we’ll carry on,” Montero said. “We have enough folks to cover the workload.”

But, for these young men, this truly unique opportunity puts them closer to the line of fire than soldiers in their military occupation specialty have ever been.

When asked if there was any anxiety about going into the field, both replied with an immediate “no.”

“There’s the inherent amount of fear that always comes with getting ready to go someplace you’ve never been before,” said Duncan.

“I’ve never left the country before,” he said. “Wilson has been to Korea, so he’s been abroad. He’s been a foreigner, so he knows a little about that. But I think we are probably the most anxious people in the state right now. We’re ready to rock and roll, and we have a lot of support from our families.”

“I called my mom one week from Maryland and told her everything was fine,” Duncan said. “Then, two days later, I tell her I’m coming home for a few weeks to do some training and then I’m deploying to who knows where. It was kind of a system shock. But they know it’s what I want to do, and they fully support me.”

The overwhelming understanding and support though, comes from the fact that both men were reared from families with military backgrounds. Duncan’s father was an Air Force Vietnam veteran and Wilson has family members who span the various military branches.

“My uncle is retired Air Force,” Wilson said. “I have a cousin currently serving in the Air Force, another cousin in the Marine Corps, and my sister is planning to go into the Navy following me in service to our nation.”

Everyone serving in today’s military all-volunteer force is, by definition, serving of their own free will, and thus a volunteer.

The three soldiers now deployed to dangerous areas of the world have taken that one step further — to the benefit of their unit and their country.
Casualty assistance, Army Knowledge Online among many topics of senior spouse VTC

By Debra Valine
Editor, The Eagle

A wide array of guest speakers provided information on casualty assistance procedures and Army Knowledge Online when spouses of senior U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command (SMDC) personnel met by video teleconference April 24 to discuss family readiness group activities that have taken place during Operation Iraqi Freedom, which has not ended. Lt. Col. Ed Mason, deputy chief of staff for personnel (G1), however, asserted that the senior spouses that the Army has a system in place for not only notifying family members when there is a death or serious injury, but also for helping families cope with the loss of their loved ones.

"We have put together a policy and program that augments Army doctrine. We want to take care of our own people," Mason said. "SMDC wants to handle casualty notification and assistance for SMDC personnel."

These procedures apply for any person who is lost to an organization by being wounded, declared deceased, missing, captured or injured, Mason said. The procedure is applicable in both hostile and non-hostile situations. In addition, a person identified as a casualty notification officer or casualty assistance officer receives thorough training.

In the case of a casualty, "a unit cannot informally notify next of kin," Mason said. "Notification must be done through official channels by someone who is trained, wearing their Class A (military dress) uniform, prepared to represent the Army." There are very strict guidelines. Casualty notification officers will be officers, warrant officers or non-commissioned officers, sergeants first class through sergeant major. The notification will be done promptly between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m.

Casualty assistance officers do not make notification calls; they must have six or more years of service and be mature, in the ranks of captain or higher and sergeant first class and higher. The casualty assistance officer is released from conflicting duties and is made available to assist the family for as long as it takes.

Face-to-face notification usually only occurs if a casualty is deceased, missing or captured. If a soldier is wounded, the next of kin will be notified by phone call, sometime by the soldier personally.

Glenda Bromberg, wife of the commanding general at Fort Bliss, Texas, gave the spouse’s perspective on wartime casualties.

"On Fort Bliss, we have 16,510 family members," she said. "Twelve days before the 507th Maintenance Company deployed, the new commander took over.

Capt. King wrote letters to each soldier’s family and thanked them for their service before the company deployed. He paid to mail the letters himself.

He wrote, ‘I have been entrusted with the lives of your husbands, wives, sons and daughters. Thank you for allowing them to enlist in the Army and for allowing me to lead them.’ Bromberg said. He included laminated cards with important phone numbers in each letter.

Bromberg then recounted the story of the members of the 507th Maintenance Company who were killed and the return of the soldiers killed and those taken prisoner of war.

"Still today most of those soldiers are engaged in the global war on terrorism such as both in Afghanistan and Iraq,

SMDC Commander LTG Joseph M. Cosumano Jr. said. "It is appreciated by Lydia and me. It takes a real team made up of people and volunteers, a team we should not take for granted."

"Your spouses have been decisively engaged in the global war on terrorism since 11-9-01," Cosumano said. "We have done a lot of work as we supported the operations in Afghanistan and this last operation we are still engaged in. We have deployed every single space capability we have. We deployed all the space support teams. Everyone we own in terms of space assets were deployed. We had to go to the 193rd Space Battle Group to get the depth we didn’t have.

"Still today most of those soldiers are deployed. We are in the recovery phase for the next two to three months. It is uncertain when the spouses are coming back," he said.

"We have people serving key roles on Jay Garner’s staff in Iraq," Cosumano said. SMDC has deployed two key prototype systems to Afghanistan: Aerostat and ZEUS.

"We are using Aerostat cameras to survey areas around key air bases. Commercial contractors of SMDC deploy, they all leave kin to be taken care of, and provide a caring shoul- der to the family.

"We have one local car dealership spon- sorship’ Operation Home Support’ to help spouses of deployed soldiers," Shaffer said. "If a spouse is on the road and runs out of gas, gets a flat tire, etc., the dealership will take them to lunch, etc.,” she said. “We have also been doing a lot of activi- ties with the soldiers deploying, such as taking them to lunch, etc.,” she said. "We even have one wife deploying with the Army and Air Force Exchange Service.”

"What is Operation Home Support?” asks Vickie Shaffer in Colorado Springs, Colo., wife of 1st Space Brigade commander Col. Daniel Bromberg. "All the family readiness groups are meeting regularly. We just finished with Easter. The 1st Satellite Control Battalion had an Easter egg hunt and other activities. There is a military relief bond and other activities. Their yellow ribbon committee is keeping them very busy. "We have also been doing a lot of activi- ties with the soldiers deploying, such as taking them to lunch, etc.,” she said. "We even have one wife deploying with the Army and Air Force Exchange Service.”

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OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM
Family Readiness Group sends care packages, letters to deployed soldiers

By Spc. Aaron Evans and Sharon L. Hartman

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Of paramount importance to our soldiers abroad is the need for contact with those they hold dear back on the home front. Likewise, there’s a good percentage of the population that, in the spirit of patriotism, wish to support our soldiers by mailing care packages and letters of encouragement to uphold their morale.

With many soldiers from the 1st Space Battalion deployed in support of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM, the battalion’s Family Readiness Group (FRG) held a meeting to discuss ways in which they could continue to support the soldiers from afar and their families close by.

“We conduct monthly battalion FRG meetings, and provide childcare to allow maximum participation,” said Bettina Balem, wife of the battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Lester Balem. “During our last meeting, we elected to take part in a bratwurst lunch fund-raiser and use the monies raised to finance a massive care package that would be distributed amongst the deployed teams.

“We also provided materials at the meeting for the children to make homemade Easter cards for the soldiers and family members from Army Space Support Team 1 and put together Easter goodie bags for all of the teams.”

The luncheon brought in $470 and helped offset the cost of the fund-raiser, as well as allowed the FRG to purchase items for the care packages such as coffee, lip balm, wet wipes and other necessities. Primarily because of security issues and the delayed mailing system, supporting soldiers via mail has become increasingly difficult.

“Packages can only be sent to an individual soldier, so we are sending it to one person, and he will distribute it to the other members of the teams,” said Jackie Netherland, wife of the battalion commander Lt. Col. Scott Netherland.

In addition to supporting the deployed soldiers with the care packages, the FRG additionally accepted the responsibility to show that same support for the family members left behind.

“We were also able to set aside some money aside for our Easter egg hunt,” added Mrs. Balem.

“On Easter Sunday, we conducted an Easter egg hunt for the children at the park on Peterson Air Force Base. We wanted to still be able to get the families together and do this for the children because many of them have a parent who is deployed.”

While the traditional letter or package has been the modus operandi for as long as many people can recollect, there have also been the mass mailings (i.e., form letter campaigns) to soldiers that show them that civilians at home support their efforts.

But, with the heightened concern for security, the U.S. Postal Service put firm restrictions on mailings to soldiers overseas.

Fortunately, a number of organizations have offered alternatives so that the flow of support can continue at a steady pace.

The U.S. Department of Defense, in concert with the U.S. Department of the Navy’s LifeLines2000 Services Network, in association with SPAWAR SCC (National Campaign Region) began Operation Dear Abby as a way for individuals to send messages via e-mail to personnel. The message can be anything from a holiday greeting, to a message stating how important their job is to the future of our nation. Individuals with Internet access can send messages to service members by accessing www.OperationDearAbby.net.

Other avenues one might explore would be donating a calling card via www.operationuplink.org/; signing on to a virtual thank-you card through www.defendamerica.mil/nmam.html; sending personal messages through the “Stars and Stripes” overseas newspaper, which can be submitted 24 hours a day at messages@estripes.com; or simply making a donation to relief agencies like the Red Cross, Army Emergency Relief or Air Force Aid Society. These are simply a few of the many ways in which we at home can continue to show our personnel abroad that they are remembered and cared for.

Young Galaxy Explorers learn from Space general, soldier

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Members of the Audubon Elementary School chapter of the Young Galaxy Explorers learn from Space general, soldier
Military Spouse Day

Soldiers have been “on point for our nation” for nearly 228 years now — courageously fighting and winning our wars, securing our liberty, and defending the freedom and privilege we all enjoy. But the American Soldier has never soldered alone — Army spouses have always been making their own, unique contributions to the Well-Being of the force, through ten wars and all the periods of restless peace in between. The dedication and support of our Army spouses is never more important than during the times of war.

Since Sept. 11, the days have been marked by incredible emotion — the toughest days when our Soldiers were lost, and the jubilant highs of battlefield victories. We have witnessed our Army’s magnificent moments — here at home and in faraway places like Afghanistan, the Philippines, Kuwait and Iraq — and all of them continue to be delivered by our people: Soldiers, civilians, retirees, veterans, and their families.

The Army family remains strong and vibrant. For that, we owe a tremendous amount to our Army spouses who rely on their own remarkable personal courage, indomitable strength, and great resolve to sustain our families. Over long months of separation from their Soldiers, they have served as both mother and father to their children and as leaders who bind their communities together.

Again and again, Army spouses have displayed in their abiding love and constant support their own magnificent moments. We are proud beyond measure of all of them.

On May 9, Military Spouse Day, we should all pause and take the opportunity to formally recognize our Army spouses and show them our deep gratitude — for their service, their sacrifice, and for their unyielding devotion to our Soldiers and our Army. We do ask a great deal of our Soldiers, but we receive an equal amount from our Army spouses — they are the most generous people I know.

Soldiering remains an affair of the heart, and Army spouses constantly reinforce the truth of that proposition.

So to all of our Army and military spouses, and on behalf of The Army and all of our Soldiers on point for the Nation, thank you — for your unyielding commitment, your profound strength and courage, and for your defender service. God bless you and your families, The Army, and our great country.

— Eric K. Shinseki
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff

These wives are service members ... without uniforms

By LuAnne Fantasia
USAKA Public Affairs

(May 9 is Military Spouse Day.)

I can’t speak for the husbands out there. They’ll have to write their own story. But I will say for military wives everywhere — you are soldiers, airmen, sailors and Marines, too. You just don’t get the uniform or the promotions.

Ah, these wives of our military — drawn to the pomp and circumstance by the thrill of serving their country through their chosen, right? Wrong. They each have their own war story, but chances are their military lives begin with promises of exotic travel, or maybe even bribes.

He said, “So, do you want to go to Germany with me and pick up a cuckoo clock?”

She said, “I do ... and I’m packed.”

So begins her life as an atta girl.

An atta girl is the woman who follows her big lug around the globe for at least 18 of his 20-plus years in uniform; unaccompanied tours and time at sea considered.

She memorizes her husband’s social security number as soon as she learned she couldn’t cash a check in the exchange, or have a baby in the military hospital with it.

The woman has changed jobs so many times that asking her to keep her resume to the preferred two pages is about like asking her which of her kids she wants to keep.

Oh yeah, the kids, the little darlings ... mini-family members. They’re born everywhere between Spokane and Savannah, except the twins, who always seem to debut in a foreign country when there’s no extended family to pull a sleepless night shifts. Maybe there’s a west coast baby or an accidental east coast baby. Often the kids can be solid food before Dad bays eyes on it for the first time, but that’s another story.

The dedication and support of our nation’s military families is never more important than during the times of war. We have witnessed our Army’s magnificent moments — here at home and in faraway places like Afghanistan for nearly 228 years now — Offices, rallies, community events and long lines at the commissary. They work and entertain guests that night in new government quarters.

Ahh, these wives of our military — a soldier, sailor, airman or Marine without the uniform. Nothing can stop her and she doesn’t ask for much.

She sometimes fails, but usually succeeds.

She knows the only constant is change. She gets lonely, but makes friends easily.

She lives and learns, and all that is important to her is having her teen-agers and husband on the same continent. If they’re all speaking to each other, that’s a perk.

She is a tough, uncompromising woman, although she can ask for very little.

So to all of those who have changed jobs so many times that asking her to keep her resume to the preferred two pages is about like asking her which of her kids she wants to keep.

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She is a tough, uncompromising woman, although she can ask for very little.
By Chief Warrant Officer Garth Hahn, Unit Reporter

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Sunrise found the soldiers hiking a trail, a slight breeze cooling the sweat on their brows. Moving up the hill in teams of four and five with their NCOS pushing them to haul their 40-pound packs just a little faster, the soldiers gave it their all. The goal they strove for was more than just making the top of the hill — the real prize was the honor of being known as “Best Crew.”

In the second quarter of 2003, the 1st Satellite Control Battalion received a tasking from higher headquarters, requiring a Best Crew competition. Headquarters and Headquarter Company, 1st SATCON Battalion, joined in and executed a comprehensive competition called the “Soul Survivor Challenge” involving leadership skills and operational and common task training.

The Best Crew competition consisted of an operational crew certification, a ruck march, a global positioning system (GPS) road rally, an obstacle course, a Jeopardy! game, a Class A inspection, and scores from the most recent Army Physical Fitness Test and scores from the most recent game, a Class A inspection, and an obstacle course, a Jeopardy!

During HHC, 1st SATCON’s Best Crew Competition, contestants Spc. Chaun Frink (left) and Sgt. Keith Barnhart (right) attempt to cross a rope obstacle while Staff Sgt. Steven Cato and Sgt. Jeremy Buratt watch.

One team took on obstacles such as rope swings, water traverses and belly busters in a timed circuit. Teamwork was encouraged and, in some cases, absolutely necessary. All the soldiers learned something about themselves as they pushed through the difficult course.

The Jeopardy! Competition was a mental challenge that followed the tough physical workout of the obstacle course. Done in the Jeopardy! model, answers were given under 12 categories in two rounds, and the team with the highest score in the end won. This game was complete with “Daily Doubles” and a “Final Jeopardy” question.

The categories covered military history, leadership, and a slew of operational inquiries that challenged the teams with both Army- and mission-related questions. Crew 2 answered the most questions correctly.

The next day, a Class A uniform inspection was held to determine the best-prepared team. This event evaluated the preparation of the uniform and personal appearance, and Crew 1 came out best in this “dress right, dress” event. As the final event in the Soul Survivor Challenge, the class A inspection wrapped up three weeks of good-natured, competitive competition.

Each of the teams did very well, excelling in one or more of the events, but the team that ended up with the highest overall score, winning the competition and becoming HHC’s Best Crew was Crew 3, led by Staff Sgt. Steven Cato.

Cato said, “We all enjoyed the competition, it was a fun change of pace, and the variety of areas tested really challenged the team.”

Cato’s crew will compete for the 2003 Best Crew title with the Best Crews from the other five companies in the 1st Satellite Control Battalion.

The Soul Survivor Challenge resulted in one Best Crew being chosen at HHC, but all crews shared the benefits of stronger, more cohesive teams as a result of the intense efforts required by the competition.

Army leadership releases new Space Policy

(EDITOR'S NOTE: In April, Gen. Eric K. Shinseki, Army Chief of Staff, and Thomas E. White, Secretary of the Army, signed a new policy enhancing Army Space capabilities. Below is an introduction to the policy. The complete policy can be seen on the Web at http://www.smdc.army.mil.)

The Army is in the midst of transformational change designed to continually enhance current force capabilities through the integration of new technologies. While designing and fielding Objective Force units with the characteristics articulated in the Army Vision, Objective Force units will be the full spectrum, decisive and disruptive component of future Joint forces. Space dominance and the full exploitation of space-based systems are vital to achieving the precision, information superiority and battle command capabilities essential for executing the responsive, full spectrum, distributed operations envisioned for Land Force units.

Space systems are essential and integral elements of national security, and a critical aspect of military operations. In the future, future warfighters will approach near real-time as information technologies and the commercial and military use of space accelerate. National security threats are increasingly diverse, lethal, typically asymmetrical and aided in many cases by innovative applications of space-based technologies. In this environment, military operations must fully exploit the strategic and tactical advantages offered by space while ensuring that space-based systems and their terrestrial components are protected from any potential vulnerability or adversary.

Space is inherently Joint and full operational integration of Space with Land, Air, Sea and Information capabilities is necessary to achieve the Army's Transformation objectives, an integral part of the Department of Defense (DoD) Transformation and the Army Vision. To support these objectives, the Army must promote a federated and distributed information network of sensors and communication devices among Commercial, Military and National Space-Based Capabilities as part of the Global Information Grid. A seamless space to soldier continuum of sensors, networks and information is the signature characteristic of well-integrated Space with Land Force and Joint Operations. To assure these objectives, we must also protect against the inherent vulnerabilities of space systems and, if necessary, interdict enemy space power.

National
National Race for the Cure set for June 7

The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation National Race for the Cure has raised the world’s largest five-kilometer (5K) run/walk, hosting more than 68,000 participants in 2002. The Race will run in the streets of the Nation’s Capital June 7. A minimum of $1 million from the net proceeds of the Komen National Race for the Cure is guaranteed to stay in the Washington, D.C., community to fund education, screening and treatment projects. The remainder will go directly to support the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation Award and Research Grant Program.

Entry forms are available at several local merchants in the greater Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. Due to National Park Service regulations, there is no registration on Race day. For information, please call (703) 848-8884 or visit the Web at: http://www.nationalraceforthecure.org

Background

The Komen National Race for the Cure has grown from 7,000 participants in 1990 to more than 68,000 participants in 2002. The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation was established in 1982 by Nancy Brinker to honor the memory of her sister, Susan G. Komen, who died of breast cancer at the age of 36. Today, it is an international organization with more than 70,000 volunteers and 100 Komen Race events across the country and internationally. The Komen Foundation and its affiliates have raised in excess of $4,000 million since the foundation’s inception.

Where the money goes...

The Komen National Race for the Cure is a significant contributor to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. Every donation to the Komen National Race for the Cure has a direct impact on the Foundation’s mission to eradicate breast cancer as a life-threatening disease through the advancement of research, education, screening and treatment programs. A minimum of $1 million of the Komen National Race’s net income remains in the metropolitan Washington, D.C., community – including Virginia and Maryland – to support local breast health education and breast cancer screening and treatment programs for the medically under-served. The remaining funds support cutting-edge breast cancer research through the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation Award and Research Grant Program, with many recipients in Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C. The Foundation’s Award and Research Grant Program is internationally recognized for its blind, peer-review process, which has provided funding for some of the most significant breakthroughs in breast cancer diagnosis and treatment during the last 20 years.

The Komen National Race is the flagship event of the Komen’s Foundation’s Race for the Cure Series, which is made up of more than 100 race events in communities across America.

The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation keeps overall general administrative and fundraising expenses to less than 25 percent. Eighty cents of every dollar raised by the Komen Foundation goes directly to mission-related expenses. For a copy of the Komen Foundation’s annual report, please visit www.komen.org.

Entry fees paid to participate in the Komen National Race are not tax deductible according to the Internal Revenue Service.

Any donations made in addition to the entry fee, including pledges collected, are tax deductible. The Foundation is audited annually by KPMG (Peat Marwick). Based on direction from the auditors, it has been determined that benefits provided to race participants – including T-shirts, water, food, entertainment and personalized results – equal or exceed the value of the entry fee paid, thus making the entry fee ineligible for consideration as a tax-deductible contribution.

At ‘home on the range,’ SATCON soldiers put through the paces

By Chief Warrant Officer Garth Hahn

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — On a crisp April morning, soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Satellite Control Battalion, headed out to Range 8 on Fort Carson for a day of common task and soldier skill training in a situational exercise.

Organized and led by Sgt. 1st Class Travis Adams, unit first sergeant, the exercise held April 3 pitted three teams of soldiers against a variety of situations that required them to react in a prescribed manner. Skills tested included land navigation, patrolling and other general Army procedures. At the conclusion of the range, the weary teams worked their way back to the start points for an after-action review and a re-enlistment.

One participant, Sgt. David Denio, described the daylong activity. “We were tested with a variety of realistic events that forced us to work through some fairly challenging problems. My favorite event was moving the ‘downed pilot’.”

That task entailed transporting a life-sized dummy, representing a downed pilot, half a kilometer to an extraction point. Each of the teams handled this task with different carries and one modified stretcher.

Other tasks included reacting to indirect fire, direct fire and performing MEDEVAC procedures. At the conclusion of the range, the weary teams worked their way back to the start points for an after-action review and a re-enlistment.

Sgt. Keith Barnhart re-enlisted for three years with an assignment of choice and a bonus. “The range gave me the chance to use many of the skills I learned during my time so far in the Army. I chose it for my re-enlistment site to make the moment a memorable one,” Barnhart said. He departs on a permanent change of station for Korea in September.

The day’s range activities provided the soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company the opportunity to satisfy an annual training requirement with the additional bonus of it being paired with an unusual event. Out of the office and into the “field” is sometimes the best way to break out of the day-to-day routine and make things new again.
The Army has released the final study conducted by the Army Training and Leader Development Panel (ATLDP) — the Army Civilian Study. Previously released studies addressed commissioned officers (Phase I), noncommissioned officers (Phase II), and warrant officers (Phase III). The Army Civilian Study is Phase IV of the largest self-assessment ever done by the Army.

The Army Civilian Study Panel’s purpose was to identify training and leader development requirements for current and future Army civilians. The panel emphasized that Army civilians are 15% of the total force. The panel recommended changing the Army Civilian Study to Ronald McDonald House, and that’s where Baca started the family to see if we could sponsor one of our own as an ambassador family,” she said. “Unfortunately, in the only one that we could find, the father was deployed, so the family had left the area to be with other family members.

“Since I volunteer with the Ronald McDonald House, I knew we would be able to find a family. We called Baca. That is how we found our ambassador family, the Umdens. The Umden family thus became the smallest member of the ranks.

After an emergency c-section, William Uden was born nine weeks early to Emily and Gerry Uden of Pueblo, Colo. He was taken to Memorial Hospital in Colorado Springs, Colo., where he stayed for nearly a month in the NICU.

Unable to make the daily drive while recuperating from the section and unsure of how to afford the cost of staying in Colorado Springs, the Umdens turned to the Ronald McDonald House, and that’s where Baca found them.

With the ambassador family selected, Baca started the process of recruiting members of the command to participate. They selected people who would sponsor him or her with a donation. In addition to that, Baca sold candy bars and team ARSPACE T-shirts to be added to the overall donation.

“Since we had never done this before, we didn’t know what to expect,” said Baca. “We set a goal of 10 walkers and $1,000.”

“I was also informed that in the 33 years they have done the walk in Colorado Springs, this is the first year the Army has had a team,” she said.

In the end, 17 soldiers, civilians, and family members included in the study. They are organized around four study imperatives: a) Accountability, make developing civilian leaders a high priority, tie personal and professional job performance together, and evaluate the effectiveness. b) Lifelong Learning — make it the standard, revamp career management with goals for progression, and build an effective Civilian Education System (CES). c) Interpersonal Skills — acknowledge they are pivotal to leader competence, teach them and select leaders that exhibit them.

Army Civilian Study: A report on the Army's Civilian Study, which highlighted five recommendations, the panel said were especially significant: Make Army civilian training, development, and leader development a priority; integrate civilian and military individual training, education, and development where and when appropriate; improve the relationship among the four Army cohorts (officer, noncommissioned officer, warrant officer, civilian create a training and development paradigm that incorporates lifelong learning, and make interpersonal skills development a priority.

In particular, the study recommends that the Army Chief of Staff begin the process leading to increased readiness, greater team cohesion and a new bond of professionalism by publishing a statement about the importance of the interdependent relationships of the Army Team; renaming Army civilians to the Army Civilian Corps; supporting reaffirmation of the oath of office for Army civilians; adopting a new Army Civilian Creed; implementing combined Senior Executive Service (SES) and general officer orientation training; implementing a strategic communications campaign plan for the Army Civilian Corps; publishing an Army Civilian Handbook; and committing to protecting resources for civilian leadership development under the leadership of the Army G3.

Army Chief of Staff, General Eric K. Shinseki, chartered the ATLDP in June 2000. He instructed the Panel, which convened at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., to examine issues affecting training and leader development, and empowered the Panel to examine appropriate institutions, processes, tools and the environment.

The Panel completed Phase I (Officer Study) in May 2001, Phase II (NCO Study) in May 2002, and Phase III (Warrant Officer Study) in July 2002. The Army instituted a management process under the proponent of the Army G3 to determine the feasibility, suitability and acceptability of the recommendations. The Army integrated the recommendations into its Transformation Campaign Plan and has implemented a number of the recommendations and developed actions, decisions and resources required to implement the others.

The ATLDP will conclude its mission by developing a final report on training and leader development for the Army that fosters battlefield and operational success and develops our operational commanders and leaders to meet the demands of our National Military Strategy.

Team Army Space marches for the tiniest soldier

By Sharon L. Hartman
Army Space Command
COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — What began as two ladies desiring an outing with their children quickly turned into 17 command members and their families teaming up for the smallest member of the ranks. Anjolee Baca, an electronics engineer, and Jeff Shigley, a telecommunications specialist, both with the Wideband Gapfiller Satellite SATCOM System Expert section of the 6-6, had decided to participate in the March of Dimes annual WalkAmerica as a chance to do something together with their children. They had just decided to invite other members of their section when Lt. Col. Robert King, the command chief of Operations Division, asked them if they would open it up to the entire command and coordinate a team effort.

Baca volunteered with the Ronald McDonald House and no stranger to charity fund raising, took on the mission.

The March of Dimes is an organization that focuses on prenatal, premature and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) programs. Back then, Baca said, we needed to sponsor an ambassador family,” said Baca.

“We looked first within the command to see if we could sponsor one of our own as an ambassador family,” she said. Unfortunately, in the only one that we could find, the father was deployed, so the family had left the area to be with other family members.

“Since I volunteer with the Ronald McDonald House, I knew we would be able to find a family. We called Baca. That is how we found our ambassador family, the Umdens. The Umden family thus became the smallest member of the ranks.

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“We had never done this before, so we didn’t know what to expect,” said Baca. “We set a goal of 10 walkers and $1,000.”

“I was also informed that in the 33 years they have done the walk in Colorado Springs, this is the first year the Army has had a team,” she said.

In the end, 17 soldiers, civilians, and family members took on the challenge of either the 2.5-mile or the 5-mile walk with the Army Space Headquarters and Headquarters Company guide leading the way. A total of $1,144 was raised for the March of Dimes by the Army Space team.

Unfortunately, William and his family were unable to make it to the walk because William ended up back in the hospital the night before with a fever.

On a good note, the littlest “soldier” was only battling a new tooth this time, but the motivated the ATLDP’s Army Space team will assist him in the bigger battles he has yet to face.
Army Space soldier’s toddler throws first pitch of season

By Sgt. 1st Class Dennis Beebe and Maj. Laura Kenney
Army Space Command

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Most 3-year-olds have only vaguely begun dreaming about growing up to be sports heroes. But for one Army Space Command family member, Noah Van Horn, that future dream got an early, realistic start when he pitched the first ball of the 2003 Sky Sox baseball season. He had a little high-powered coaching with Gen. Lance Lord, command-er of Air Force Space Command, assisting him on the mound.

The mound had been moved to 10 feet from home plate to accommodate the difference between an adult professional’s throwing arm and that of a child. Noah’s mother, Krista, said her son was quite excited by the opportunity. “He was thrilled to be up there and didn’t quite understand why he couldn’t stay there and continue to play.” Gen. Lord gave Noah tips on how to pitch the ball, and he actually threw it quite far. The general also gave Noah a four-star coin, which made his day since he loves money, said Mrs. Van Horn, laughing.

She had been asked if Noah could handle the job by the Colorado Springs AAA professional baseball team. The concept was for the child of a deployed soldier to perform the honorary function of pitching the first ball to represent all local deployed soldiers.

The Sky Sox are the top affiliate for the Major League Colorado Rockies. Noah, age 3, goes to Fort Carson preschool. His father has been with Army Space for nearly three years and recently deployed to Southwest Asia. He’s serving as the first sergeant of a Joint Tactical Ground Station (JTAGS) unit attached to U.S. Central Command, Forward, in Qatar.

Mrs. Van Horn regularly communicates with Marc via e-mail and with the DSN phone system, as well as sending numerous care packages. The idea to ask a family member of a deployed military member came about during a staff meeting in the Sky Sox Community Relations Department. Jenni-fer Shelton, marketing representative for the Sky Sox, described how it proceeded from there.

“We contacted a service member that we knew of who had season tickets. That was Air Force Senior Master Sgt. David Joyal at Peterson Air Force Base. He in turn contacted all the first sergeants on the base. When 1st Sgt. Gene Nixon, JTAGS, 1st Space Battalion, Army Space Command, was contacted, he came back with the perfect representative, Noah,” said Shelton.

“The next big thing for the Sky Sox and the military will be the Military Apprecia-tion nights June 11 and 12,” continued Shelton. “We are planning to invite all the military in the area to participate.”

As for Noah, does his mother foresee a big future in baseball? “I can’t really say,” Mrs. Van Horn responded. “When he walked off the mound he kept talking about how cool Sox the Fox (team mascot) was. I think seeing Sox up close and personal was the part that im-pressed him most!”

Ballroom dancing fun, stress relief for company commander

By Maj. Laura Kenney
Army Space Command

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — The size of the rumba, the sensual beat of the cha-cha, the flair of the merengue — all these allure characteristics divided into smooth and rumba and salsa. The tune which one will be performed without prior knowl-edge of which dance they will be competing in. There are six possibilities, and the couples don’t know till the first beat of the music which one will be required. Casely and her partner, her dance instructor Omar Castro, took third place amongst 15 couples competing.

With that positive, gung-ho attitude, it was probably a natural progression to move into the world of dance competition. She’s only been competing for about a year, in the Arthur Murray Dance Competition, but has already taken a first-place, in the Top First Time Female Routine category. Her specialties are the Latin dances, and in competition, she focuses on the cha-cha, tango, rumba and samba.

“I’d recommend ballroom dancing to anyone as a very cool form of expression, but as for competition, well, a caution-ary word. The dance outfits are extremely expensive, and a new one can easily set you back 82,000. Even the consign-ment shops where you can purchase second-hand will require a $500 investment, but they certainly are beautiful.”

One competition might require a competitor to dance 13 times, bringing to center stage Casely’s remark about staying in shape. There are elimination rounds and different categories featuring re-quired dance and optional dance. Types of dance are divided into smooth and rhythm.

Casely’s most recent chance to shine came with a competi-tion in mid-March. At the Arthur Murray Free Style Competition in the Washing-ton, D.C., area with seven schools competing, she took home significant honors. She won Top Student for her level and a third place in the All-Around category. The All-Around challenges dancers to perform without prior knowl-edge of which dance they will be competing in. There are six possibilities, and the couples don’t know till the first beat of the music which one will be required. Casely and her partner, her dance instructor Omar Castro, took third place amongst 15 couples competing in this category.

“Being Army, of course I’m competitive and wanted first place in everything, but I’m pretty happy overall with the results. Third place is still an honor, especially considering the talent we were up against,” said Casely.

Trying to fit in the strenuous demands of the level of dancing she aspires to with the chal-lenging life of a company commander is not always easy. But obviously, Casely isn’t one to live her life in one-quarter time.