

OCTOBER 18, 2012

A Space & Missile Defense NewsWire

THE EAGLE

*BETA
EDITION

 Army Space Journal

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CG briefs workforce at dual town halls



Photo by Carrie E. David

Ronald Chronister, deputy to the commander, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, center, answers a question following a command town hall at the Von Braun III auditorium. With him are Command Sgt. Maj. Larry S. Turner, SMDC command sergeant major, and Lt. Gen. Richard P. Formica, SMDC commanding general. Formica briefed the Redstone Arsenal, Ala., workforce Oct. 9, and conducted a town hall at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., the following day. During the town halls, Formica briefed on the Army Campaign Plan, suicide prevention training and sexual assault prevention training, program achievements, and much more, and presented three-star notes, awards, and length of service recognitions to employees.



• Space & Missile Defense Newswire

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U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command publishes the ASJ Eagle twice a month as a digital newswire. The newswire is an authorized publication of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command in accordance with AR 360-1. The Commanding General, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command, has directed that the publication of this periodical is necessary in the transaction of the public business as required by law. The views and opinions expressed in the Army Space Journal are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army or U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command. The Eagle Edition is intended to inform members of the command on happenings within the Army space and missile defense community. Distribution is made to the general public, Functional Area 40 officers and associated military officers, civilians and contractors.

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COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR

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Why we do what we do

Two minutes later, I got the polite-but-nasty e-mail response to my shotgun blast to our global audience. “Great. You will be a very popular man for sending out this extremely large file on Friday afternoon just before a long weekend. I deleted it immediately.” Sigh. The item the lady had deleted was our first-ever Eagle NewsWire.

Too bad, it was intended for command employees like her.

She was not alone. Two or three e-mails arrived suggesting we not send out the large files but instead hang the digital publication on a common server.

The issue with that is it does not solve the problem – we do not want to send out something that takes readers several more steps to get to.

Our intent with the ASJ Eagle is to put into the hands of each of our readers a digital product that packages together into newsletter format information about what is happening in the space and missile defense community and more particularly with what our distant Warfighters are doing or, stories about them.

Here’s the story that had hit my desk about how this new digital publication came about and why I sent the e-mail with the large attachment. Lt. Gen. Richard Formica and Command Sgt. Maj. Larry Turner – commanding general and command sergeant major of the command – were asked by a Soldier in one of our outlying units about the possibility of resurrecting our old print publication that we called the Eagle. The Soldier indicated that a void of information about happenings existed across the command and that the Eagle had once filled that void.

So our goal two weeks ago when we sent the first version of our Beta Edition was to introduce our concept of dovetailing the ASJ Eagle with our other command information products. It is important for you to know that we have a public website, social media sites and the Army Space Journal – all parts of an overall information program this NewsWire fits into.

We encourage you to become familiar with all the tools and take advantage of them. We want you to both stay informed and help us get the word out about the command.

This dilemma we are addressing actually illustrates the journalists’ challenge in a paperless society. We are working to electronically bring down the digital size of the publication. We are still in our Beta phase. If you have any comments, please let us know so that we can continue to make improvements to make this a beneficial communication tool.

We heard from several of our readers who felt our effort met both the commanding general’s and command sergeant major’s intent and that they appreciated receiving the publication. We also heard from several departments that emphatically indicated they wanted to be regular contributors.

We hope you recognize our effort.



Photos by DJ Montoya

The Combat SkySat military retransmission system lifts off into the Colorado sky to eventually reach an altitude of 30,000 feet during a demonstration on the morning of Oct. 11.

Combat SkySat balloon and payload launch impress SMDC leadership

DJ Montoya
Public Affairs

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. – The crisp early morning of Oct. 11 saw a number of hot air balloons in the sky above Colorado Springs Airport. However, one balloon had a particular mission and stood out from the rest. The launch was brief to the casual observer, but was part of a demonstration of the Combat SkySat military retransmission platform for members of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command.

The event included a briefing by members of the command's Future Warfare Center and Battle Lab to senior SMDC leadership on the Combat SkySat system, its capabilities, and how it can be applied to the Army mission. Those in attendance included Lt. Gen. Richard Formica, commanding general; Ronald Chronister, deputy to the commander; Brig. Gen. Timothy Coffin, deputy commanding general for operations; Laurence Burger, director of FWC; and other SMDC personnel in

See SkySat on page 7



Capt. Joseph Mroszczyk with TCM-SGMD, prepares to release the SkySat balloon and payload from 2525 Aviation Way, Colorado Springs, Colo., during demonstration of the system while Allen Kirkham with the Battle Lab looks on.

Honoring the sacrifice of families

Carrie E. David
Public Affairs

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala. – The U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command employees honored the families of America’s fallen Soldiers once again when they hosted their fifth Survivor Outreach Services event Oct. 13.

SOS Fall Fest took place at the home of Lt. Gen. Richard P. Formica, SMDC’s commanding general.

“We want to show we care. We want survivors in the north Alabama community to know that we haven’t forgotten their sacrifice and loss,” Formica said. “We host an event once a quarter to give the spouses, children and parents of fallen Soldiers a chance to come together and support each other. They get an opportunity to share their story, and we get an opportunity to hear it. We want to recognize their loss and let them know that we haven’t forgotten.”

The event featured face painting, balloons, rope toss, volleyball, moon bounce, a visit by the garrison fire department and Sparky the dog, and lots of food, much of it donated by the supporters and volunteers.

“We are very supported by Redstone Arsenal leadership, SMDC staff, and the many volunteers,” said Kerrie Branson, SOS coordinator. “We had more than 40 survivors who really enjoyed the fellowship of other families and who appreciate the embrace of the military family.”

According to survivor Perry Ramsey, a veteran of the Vietnam War, the fellowship is a big draw.

“I enjoy the fellowship and come to see if my grandkids will show up,” said Ramsey, whose son was killed



Photo by Carrie E. David

Survivors make their way through the lunch line at the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command-sponsored Survivor Outreach Services Fall Fest at the home of Lt. Gen. Richard P. Formica, SMDC commanding general, Oct. 13.

in Afghanistan in August 2011. “I get to meet a whole lot of very nice people. It’s good to meet other families who’ve lost a loved one. We have something in common.”

“They get an opportunity to share their story, and we get an opportunity to hear it. We want to recognize their loss and let them know that we haven’t forgotten.”

*Lt. Gen. Richard P. Formica
Commanding General
U.S. Army Space and Missile
Defense Command/Army Forces
Strategic Command*

Krystal Chaney and her son, Kay-Cee, have both been frequent participants in SOS events.

“I would like for my little boy to connect with other survivors... to focus on the positive things in life rather than on the challenges,” said Chaney, whose husband died in 2008. “It’s good for him to see all of

these people donating their time and resources to honor fallen Soldiers, and connecting with other families is important. It is encouraging seeing families eight or nine years down the road after their loss.”

According to Branson, a new activity for the fall fest was “art therapy.”

“The survivors were able to paint plates to express their feelings in a number of ways: their recovery process, a reflection of their relationship with their fallen Soldier, or just a dedication to their fallen Soldier,” Branson said. “The plates will be used to create a wall of hope in the new SOS facility next year.”

According to one survivor, events like this really do help.

“It helps being able to communicate with other parents who have experienced their child being killed,” said Faye Ausborn, whose son was killed in Afghanistan in April 2011.

See SOS on page 9

2nd Space Company welcomes new first sergeant



Photo by DJ Montoya
Sgt. Maj. Marcus L. Jones, 1st Space Battalion acting command sergeant major, passes the Noncommissioned Officer's sword to 1st Sgt. Joseph S. Taylor during a Change of Responsibility for 2nd Space Company, 1st Space Battalion on Oct. 2 in Colorado Springs, Colo. Taylor is assuming the responsibilities of first sergeant from 1st Sgt. Daniel A. Wachob.

217th Space Company welcomes new first sergeant

*Photo by
 Sgt. Benjamin Crane*

1st Sgt. Bonnie Boyes receives a sword representing her new responsibility as the company first sergeant from Maj. Joseph Verser, commander of the 217th Space Company, 117th Space Battalion, Colorado National Guard, during the change of responsibility ceremony at the 117th Space Battalion's headquarters building in Colorado Springs, Colo., Oct. 13. Boyes takes over for 1st Sgt. Dana Benjamin who had been in charge of the unit for the past four years. The 117th's Army Space Support and Commercial Imagery Teams fall under the training readiness and oversight of the 1st Space Brigade.



View SMDC's photos at www.flickr.com/armysmdc

CG pins Landstuhl signal Soldiers with Space Badge

Rick Scavetta

U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern

LANDSTUHL, Germany – During his recent visit to Company C, 53rd Signal Battalion, Lt. Gen. Richard Formica awarded Soldiers with something unique to the Army – space wings.

Formica, commander of U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command & Army Forces Strategic Command, pinned Army Basic Space Badges on two Soldiers and three Senior Space Badges on noncommissioned officers

“When I come out to see them, it’s always good to be able to recognize a few folks,” Formica said. “The space qualification badge is one of those ways to recognize these heroes.”

Earning their senior badges were Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy Marsac, Sgt. Vincent Samson and Sgt. Herman Ada. Earning their basic badges were Spc. Cynthia Dean and Pfc. Ryan Lesley. The Oct. 2 ceremony was held at the Company C’s small post on Landstuhl’s Kirchberg, near an array of large white antennas they use to manage military satellites hovering miles above Earth’s surface.

Company C maintains satellite communications capabilities for a worldwide military network, said Capt Jeffrey Keenan, Company C commander. The Army calls the Soldiers “space enablers.” To earn the badge, the Soldiers undergo training, plus demonstrate professionalism, either managing satellites or supporting customers’ uplinks, Keenan said.

“It’s a unique thing, something Soldiers aspire for,” Keenan said. “It’s a badge of acceptance in this community. It means you’ve been a controller, you’ve done the right thing and reached a high level of proficiency.”

Most military members can easily recognize the Army’s basic parachutist badge, combat infantryman badge or aviation badges. The space badge, however, often takes some explaining as so few know what the badge represents. Soldiers who’ve earned it may bend ears when describing their unique accoutrement – wryly calling it the “satellite door gunner” or “in-flight satellite repairman” badge.

The space badge is the Army’s newest. In fact, it has yet to make printed Army award regulations.

Worn on the upper left chest, the Space Badge



Photo by Rick Scavetta, U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern
During his recent visit to U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern, Lt. Gen. Richard Formica, commander of U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command & Army Forces Strategic Command, pins the Army’s Space Badge on Pfc. Ryan Lesley, 22, of Jensen Beach, Fla., a satellite controller with Company C, 53rd Signal Battalion.

evolved from an Air Force badge created in 2005. A year later, the Army first approved the Air Force badge for space Soldiers. By February 2011, the words “Air Force” were dropped and now it’s simply the Space Badge.

It’s awarded to active Army, Army Reserve and National Guard Soldiers who complete space-related training and have significant space operations experience. The badge has three levels – basic, senior and master. To those who earn it, the badge is a big deal and the command recognizes the achievement made, Keenan said.

“If a Soldier is doing the right thing as a technician and developing himself, he earns that badge,” Keenan said. “It’s not an automatic thing. It’s for someone you can rely upon.”

During a previous Landstuhl visit last September, Formica, a native of Connecticut who served much of his career as an artillery officer, also pinned space badges on several Company C Soldiers. He also wears a space badge and is proud to command Soldiers who provide the military such a unique capability, he said.

“It’s important for the Soldiers to know their commander and command sergeant major is checking on their ability and their well being,” Formica said. “I like to be able to do that.”

Yowell retires after 30 years



Photo by DJ Montoya

Lt. Gen. Richard P. Formica, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command commanding general, prepares to pin the Legion of Merit to Col. Michael Yowell during his retirement at the command's Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., headquarters Oct. 12. Yowell retires with 30 years of service.

Collins retires after 28 years



Photo by Carrie E. David

Col. Lester Campbell, deputy chief of staff G-8, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, pins a retirement pin to Lt. Col. Willie Collins, force management officer, during his retirement at the command's Redstone Arsenal, Ala., headquarters Oct. 17. Collins retires with 28 years of service.

SkySat from page 3

the Colorado Springs area.

After questions and a close examination of a sister system -- the Combat SkySat Tethered system -- on display inside a warehouse, the group moved outside to the back of 2525 Aviation Way.

At 7:31 a.m., Capt. Joseph Mrozczyk, space and missile defense officer, from the Training and Doctrine Command Capabilities Manager for space and global missile defense, assisted in the release of the balloon carrying a communications payload and power supply.

According to Battle Lab officials, the balloon and its payload reached an altitude of 30,000 feet and was brought down after 30 minutes aloft (the system is designed to stay up for 12 hours.)

The balloon and its package came

down safely 62 miles east of Colorado Springs.

As part of the demonstration, a second balloon was launched earlier that morning from the Comanche National Grasslands in south central Colorado.

Its purpose was to demonstrate the communications capability by providing comms relay with the group observing the demonstration launch in Colorado Springs. Officials stated it reached an elevation of 80,000 feet in one hour and 20 minutes.

“From that altitude, we communicated from here with the launch team 150 miles away, using a standard PRC 148 handheld radio with standard antenna,” said Mary Miller, chief, Operations Division, Battle Lab, and one of the action offi-

cers for this event.

SMDC leadership reaction was extremely positive, according to Miller.

“All parties were excited to see the launch and to witness firsthand the extended communications reach of this capability,” said Miller. “The power of a demonstration is that it makes the capability real, instead of a data point on a chart or a briefing slide.”

Allen Kirkham from the Battle Lab, and one of the briefers on the Combat SkySat, told the group, “This system solves the problems faced by troops on the ground where mission requirements place them in situations where distances exceed terrestrial line-of-sight and where satellite and airborne communications aren’t available.”

SMDC's CFC tailgate party raises more money, increases participation

Carrie E. David
Public Affairs

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala. – The U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command employees sponsored a Combined Federal Campaign fundraising tailgate party and car show Oct. 3 and surpassed previous figures.

Nearly \$1,600 was raised during this event, a 25 percent increase over the last CFC tailgate fundraiser in 2010.

“There was an increase in participation over the previous fundraiser,” said KC Bertling, SMDC CFC financial chairperson. “People prepared better because they knew what to expect this year. There was such enthusiasm and team spirit for supporting the CFC. SMDC’s employees lived the campaign’s motto this year, ‘give today and make a brighter tomorrow.’”

There were seven tailgaters set up and nine entries in the car show. Phillis Reid, deputy inspector general, won the category of best car story.

“I was so excited to receive the ‘best car story’ award at the SMDC CFC Tailgate kickoff,” Reid said. “Owning a Jaguar convertible has been a dream of mine since I was a little girl. As I grew older, it became a goal, and six years ago I found the exact model, color, and everything for sale out in the middle of nowhere. It was a dream come true!”

In addition to the car awards, awards were given for best tailgate display and best tailgate cheer. SMDC’s G-2, or security office, earned



Photo by Carrie E. David

Col. James Wetzel, deputy chief of staff G-2, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, right, and Reed Carpenter, G-2 staff, man the grill during the command’s Combined Federal Campaign tailgate fundraiser Oct. 3. Nearly \$1,600 was raised for CFC.

first place for a rousing cheer.

“It’s not often the intelligence and security staff earns points for making a lot of noise,” said Col. James Wetzel, deputy chief of staff G-2. “So when there is an opportunity to channel the incredible talent and commitment we have into a cause like CFC, it’s really no surprise that our G-2 staff would carry the day in the spirited cheering contest and fund raising effort.”

See Tailgate on page 9

Stacey McSweeney, congressional affairs, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, left, and Torri Johnson, information assurance analyst with SMDC’s G-6 office, play a game of cornhole during the command’s Combined Federal Campaign tailgate party fundraiser Oct. 3.



Tailgate from page 8

The best tailgate display was awarded to the G-1 office, with honorable mentions going to G-2 and the command group.

“We may have been the G-1 superheroes at the tailgate party today, but the real superheroes are the Warfighters we support everyday and all of you superheroes who have contributed to the CFC fundraising efforts,” said Lt. Col. Gregory Ash, deputy chief of staff G-1, whose entire staff dressed in superhero costumes.

The CFC was established in 1961, and has since become the world’s largest and most successful annual workplace charity campaign. This year’s CFC fundraising began Oct. 3 and will end Dec. 14.

“Each organization will conduct a host of smaller fundraising efforts during the campaign,” Bertling said. “CFC raises millions of dollars each year, and it truly makes a difference in the lives of so many people.”

The winners in the car categories are:

Commanding general’s choice: Pink Barbee Jeep, Bob Leffler

Chief of staff’s choice: 1923 Ford T-Bucket, Laura Ralph

Deputy to commander’s choice: 1967 Corvette, Joe Stiene

Command sergeant major’s choice: 1923 Ford T-Bucket, Laura Ralph

People’s choice (voted by command employees): 1967 Corvette, Joe Stiene

Veteran’s choice (Korean War veteran’s choice): 1983 Pontiac Firebird, James “Sam” Lee

Best car story (told in 100 words or less): 1999 Jaguar XK8, Phillis Reid

Highest mileages: 1983 Pontiac Firebird, James “Sam” Lee

SOS from page 4

“They are the only ones who understand what you are feeling and what you are going through. I’ve been to counselors and nothing has helped. This does.”

Branson was very pleased at the success of the SOS Fall Fest.

“We had a great turnout of survivors and supporters today,” Branson said. “I want to thank Lt. Gen. Formica and (his wife) Diane for their incredible support and for opening their home to us and hosting this event.”

According to Chaney, these events are life altering.

“Being able to connect with such wonderful people like Kerrie and the supporters is amazing. Everyone displays so much patriotism,” Chaney said. “These events have changed our identity from one of sadness to a feeling of honor.”

Deadline for comments and submissions for the Nov. 1 issue is
Oct. 26.

Please submit to Carrie David at
Carrie.E.David@us.army.mil.

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Command Surgeon's Corner

October is 'National Breast Cancer Awareness Month'

Screening is the key to beating breast cancer

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and the pink ribbons are reminders for breast cancer awareness.

TRICARE beneficiaries should know breast exams are covered. Breast cancer is the most common type of cancer in American women, according to the National Cancer Institute, only second to lung cancer.

Early detection and diagnosis are very important steps in the treatment of breast cancer. The medical community encourages women to conduct breast self-exams and get their annual mammograms. Regular mammograms can lead to early detection of breast cancer and improve the chances of survival, says the NCI.

Breast cancer is a malignant tumor that begins in the cells of the breast. This type of cancer is usually found in women, with less than 1 percent of all breast cancers being diagnosed in men. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the most common type of breast cancer begins in the cells that line the milk ducts in the breast.

TRICARE beneficiaries in specific age and risk categories have no copayment for mammograms.

Beneficiaries are entitled to an annual mammogram beginning at age 40 and at a doctor's discretion for women younger than 40 who have a higher risk of developing breast cancer. Beneficiaries can be identified as "high risk" for breast cancer because of family history.

The CDC offers several ways to lower the chances of developing breast cancer:

- Get screened for breast cancer regularly
- Control weight and exercise
- Know family history of breast cancer
- Discuss the risks and benefits of hormone replacement therapy
- Limit alcohol consumption

Even after taking preventive measures that may reduce the risk of developing breast cancer, some patients still develop breast cancer, which can be both scary and shocking. Hope exists as modern medicine continues to advance, helping more patients to become cancer survivors. There are several treatment options available to fight breast cancer depending on the stage of the cancer when it is discovered. Doctors will explain the risks and benefits of each treatment. It is important for



the patient to discuss options in detail to choose the best treatment for them.

TRICARE beneficiaries can learn more about breast exam coverage at www.tricare.mil/coveredservices. For detailed information on breast cancer and how to fight it visit www.cdc.gov/cancer/breast/index.htm or www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/types/breast.

If you are not a TRICARE beneficiary, do not have insurance, and are between the ages of 40 and 64, you may be able to get a free or low-cost mammogram through the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program in your community. To learn more, call 1-800-CDC-INFO or visit www.cdc.gov/cancer/nbccedp.



***The Command Surgeon's Office
will serve as your advocate.***

***Please contact your local
primary care manager for any
health questions or concerns.***

**USASMDC/ARSTRAT
(256) 955-3612**

SMDC's NCO, Soldier of the Year begin Army-wide competition



Photo by Jason Cutshaw
Sgt. Brandon Kitchen, left, and Sgt. Anthony Moore, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/ Army Forces Strategic Command, take a break after participating in the engagement skills trainer during the first day of the 2012 Best Warrior Competition Oct. 15 at Fort Lee, Va. See the Nov. 1 issue for much more about the competition.

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