



SMDC / ARSTRAT



**1st Space Brigade Change of Command
LTG Formica Remarks – as Delivered
20 July 2012**

- Is this a Hooah day in Colorado Springs or what? Two days in a row!
- It's a great day to have a change of command – to continue a 200+-year military tradition where we formally recognize the change of leadership.
- Welcome to all of our special guests. In the interest of time, I won't mention you all by name, but your presence adds to this ceremony.
- Today marks a special day in the history of the 1st Space Brigade, where we mark the seamless passage of command from one commander to another.
- In doing so, we recognize the accomplishments of the command under the leadership of COL Eric Henderson –



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joined by his wife, Jean, and his daughters Francine and Jessica.

- And we welcome the 6th Commander of 1st Space Brigade – COL Jim Meisinger, and his wife Shannon, and their children Steven, Sarah and John.
- Today is about recognizing the transition of leadership from one commander to next.
- This marks an important week in the history of USASMDC/ARSTRAT – as we've now changed leaders in both of operational Brigades.
- Before I speak to Eric's tenure in command, I'd like to address the members of the 1st Space Brigade.
- SMDC/ARSTRAT has 3 core tasks – 1) Provide trained and ready Space and Missile Defense forces and capabilities to the Warfighter and the Nation; 2) Build future Space and Missile



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Defense forces; 3) Research, test, and integrate Space, Missile Defense, cyber, directed energy, & related technologies;

- Our Operations tasks are executed by our operations staff – and by the two brigades headquartered here in Colorado Springs, with Soldiers and Civilians on duty all around the world -- supervised by the Deputy Commanding General for Operations—BG Tim Coffin.
 - More than 875 Operational Forces providing space and missile defense capabilities around the world – CONUS-based, forward-stationed or deployed.
- We provide timely and relevant space and missile defense capabilities to the Army, USSTRATCOM, and the Geographic Combatant Commands every day.
- We say that the Army is the largest user of space capabilities.
- You are a provider of those space capabilities.



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- You are the Army's one Space Brigade – over 1100 Active, Guard and Reserve Soldiers, Department of the Army Civilians, and contractors geographically dispersed over 16 locations and 8 countries -- executing the mission -- providing Satellite Communications, Missile Warning, Space Control and Space support capabilities to the Army and Joint Warfighter.
 - The mission is one that requires selfless service and a commitment to excellence 24/7/365.
- As I said yesterday to the 100th GMD Brigade – and it applies equally here as well – when we say the Sun never sets on SMDC/ARSTRAT, we're talking about you – the US Army's only space brigade.
- So let me take a few minutes to highlight what the 1st Space Brigade accomplished during COL Henderson's 2 years in command:



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- The Brigade supported over 18 worldwide exercises, deployed and redeployed over 14 teams into the Central Command Area of Operations (CENTCOM AOR), and provided 24/7 satellite communications and early missile warning in support of worldwide operations.
- The Brigade successfully integrated two new satellites, WGS 3 and 4; provided space force enhancement support for the Iraq withdrawal; and deployed special mission assets to emerging mission requirements across the globe.
- The Brigade planned, coordinated and executed the successful relocation and activation of two new Wideband Satellite Operations Centers (WSOCs) in Wahiawa, Hawaii and Fort Detrick, Maryland.



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- The WSOC in Wahiawa now includes our Australian partners.
- The Army Space Support Teams (ARSST) equipment transitioned into an Army Program of Record.
- COL Henderson formalized the certification, validation and endorsement program for space control – and expanded it to also include WSOC operations, ARSST, CIT and JTAGS operations.
- The Brigade deployed Soldiers to Kirtland AFB to help SMDC/ARSTRAT reconcile the Big Crow Program Office inventory, a project exceeding more than \$130M in property.
- To support the Army deployment cycle, COL Henderson revamped the ARFORGEN cycle to align deploying teams with their supporting units' exercises.



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- The Brigade's excellence was also recognized through the awards and accomplishments of its Soldiers and Civilians:
 - GEN MacArthur Leadership Awards, honor graduates from NCOES; Sgt Audie Murphy inductees, and SMDC/ARSTRAT Soldier and NCO of the Year (2010, 2011);
 - A Department of the Army Supply Excellence Award for 2011;
 - One DA Civilian was selected by the AUSA Redstone Chapter as DA Civilian of the Year
- As COL Henderson ends his command of the 1st Space Brigade, the command remains ready to provide critical space capabilities to our Army, to USSTRATCOM and to GCCs around the world.



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- Eric's not going far – he will remain in the command and serve as the Chief of Operations in our G-3.
- Eric -- on behalf of the men and women of SMDC/ARSTRAT, we thank you for your leadership and your service. Job well done. Hooah!
- Now, a few words to our new commander, COL Jim Meisinger, and his family.
- COL Meisinger isn't new to the Command.
- He has a strong background in Army Space – with operational assignments here, in 3rd Infantry Division, in Iraq and in USSTRATCOM. His most recent assignment was in SMDC/ARSTRAT as Chief of Current Ops.
- Jim knows full well the tasks and mission we call on the Brigade to execute. Now he'll provide the leadership to execute those tasks.



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- The 1st Space Brigade has an exciting future – we have ongoing missions, along with expansion of our SATCOM responsibilities, modernization of our JTAGS capabilities, and increasing demand for our special missions.
- As we move forward, the 1st Space Brigade must continue to provide space capabilities to the Army and Joint Warfighter.
- You must remain in the fight – providing trained and ready space professionals.
- Jim – you are charged to lead, train, discipline, care for, and serve the Soldiers, Civilians and Families of the Brigade.
- We have full confidence that you and your wife, as the command team, will also take good care of those with whom the Army has entrusted to your care.
- Good luck and God speed.



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- The Sun Never Sets on SMDC/ARSTRAT! Secure the High Ground.
- Army Strong!