



# MIDCOURSE UPDATE



100th Missile Defense Brigade (GMD)

3rd Quarter 2009

## MATH & SCIENCE MAGNET SCHOOL ATTRACTS SPACE AND MISSILE DEFENSE SOLDIERS

by Maj. Laura Kenney  
Public Affairs Officer

**COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.-** Varicolored and multi-sized balls collided or more often not in mid-air, whilst foam rockets zoomed zaniily on trajectories aimed more or less at a menacing missile mounted on the gymnasium wall. Eager students hunted clues via mysterious machinations on whiz-bang gadgetry courtesy of U.S. Space and Missile Defense Command Soldiers.

All of the above and more took place at the Galileo School of Math and Science on a weekly or monthly basis when Soldiers of the command's two brigades volunteered to teach applications of their vastly differing sciences to the budding young scientists and mathematicians at this magnet middle school. The sessions are part of a new partnership between Colorado Springs School District 11 and the command. The deal was sealed in a ceremony in March when the Deputy Commanding General for Operations of the command, Brig. Gen. Kurt S. Story, signed an agreement with

District 11 leaders in a ceremony held at the school. They signed a formal document, and also a huge banner later held up by the children which combined the emblems of the command and of the school district.

Story scorned the podium and

applications of math and science in the incredible ways we're using them today, can only be good."

One brigade, the 100th Missile Defense Brigade, Ground-based Midcourse Defense, a Colorado Army National Guard unit on full-time duty with the mission

of defending the nation against ballistic missile attack, taught the students about the intricacies of the science behind the "bullet-hitting-bullet" technology of the intercept system. Hence, the multi-hued and sized balls thrown at each other across a volley ball net in mostly vain attempts at collision. The rarity of such a happening was a small example of how hard it would be for one missile to find another in the vast emptiness of space.

1st Lt. Lynsey

Yoder oversaw the (mostly) non-colliding balls experiment. She was very enthusiastic about the children's involvement in the partnership program.

"First, these kids are brilliant. Before we even began teaching them, they probably knew more about space and missile defense

*See Galileo on page 3* 1



*Maj. Kyle Zablocki, Brigade S-6, 100th MDB, looks on as a student from the Galileo School of Math and Science fires a missile at a target hung on the wall of the gymnasium. The activity is designed to show the students how difficult it is to "hit a bullet with a bullet," the same as the Soldiers from the 100th Missile Defense Brigade (Ground-based Midcourse Defense) would have to do if a threat country launched an intercontinental ballistic missile at North America...only with real interceptors of course. (Photo by Maj. Laura Kenney)*

ambled casually back and forth in front of the bleachers full of children, parents and teachers as he described the partnership and what he expected from it.

"I'm a hands-on kind of guy, so I wish I'd had this sort of help when I was in school. I think having the Soldiers working with the students, showing them



Col. Gregory S. Bowen  
Commander

# THE COMMAND SECTION



Command Sgt. Maj.  
Joseph Rhodes

It's hard to believe, but as I write this, summer is already nearly half over. I hope each of you has had the opportunity to get out and safely enjoy the abundance of summer activities available in Colorado and Alaska. Since it is always summer in California, the Vandenberg Det is on its own....

As I've looked across the brigade during my first two months in command, I have seen a lot of things going very well, and some things going not so well. We have a tremendous team of professionals dedicated to defending our great nation, but we need to increase the size of that team. One of the key challenges we face is building and managing our force. The three states, NGB and SMDC are involved in comprehensive discussions to establish a life cycle management process and improve recruiting, especially in Alaska. The goal is to fill the brigade to 100% strength and to have a process to manage the careers of those Soldiers. There are many challenges to overcome, and I will be asking for your help over the next several months as we work through the process. Additionally, we are in the final stages of our Force Design Update, which will shift some of our slots as the brigade is re-configured to accept the X-Band Radar detachments, the military CLE Operators and the European Interceptor Site (if funded).

In terms of improvements, you will see a different emphasis on training, focusing on the crews, MPs and Soldier tasks. Our operational missions- missile defense and site security- are the priority. The training shortfalls I am seeing are closely related to our manning problems, so solving that problem greatly helps the other. I am also going to re-energize the FRG here in Colorado Springs, and I ask for everyone's support in getting that program active again.

Enjoy the rest of the summer, and as always, be safe!

*COL Gregory S. Bowen*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

<i>GMD Operator Course</i>	<i>19 Jul-28 Aug</i>
<i>Staff Basic Course 15-09</i>	<i>27-31 Jul</i>
<i>Staff Basic Course 16-09</i>	<i>3-7 Aug</i>
<i>Hail and Farewell</i>	<i>7 Aug</i>
<i>Space &amp; Missile Defense Conf.</i>	<i>17-20 Aug</i>
<i>Brigade FTX</i>	<i>22 Aug</i>
<i>Staff Basic Course 17-09</i>	<i>31 Aug- 4 Sep</i>
<i>9mm Range</i>	<i>3 Sep</i>
<i>Labor Day</i>	<i>7 Sep</i>

## PAO ANNOUNCEMENTS

In the coming weeks an informational video will be released by our Public Affairs Office showcasing the 49th Missile Defense Battalion (Ground-based Midcourse Defense) and its day to day operations. A link to it will be sent via ALLGMDCO for viewing and if you think you know someone who may be interested in going up to Alaska and would like a DVD, please contact Sgt. Michael Cost at 720.250.3808. The purpose of this video is recruiting and retention. Thanks.

*PAO*

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## *Galileo cont. from page 1*

than your average citizen. As time went on, they'd ask us questions that sometimes we'd have to go back and do research on to give them the correct answer for, so they really gave us a mental workout too. I have a background in teaching, which is why I volunteered for this program, but it ended up being a great experience all around."

Another fun but educational experiment involved shooting foam rockets at a large and looming enemy missile poster posted on the gym wall, simulating how the 100th's interceptors would actually be employed in knocking out a nuclear missile aimed

at the United States. The science of trajectory was discussed, and students were awarded points for how close they physically came to hitting the target.

Sixth grade student Jarod Hawner said, "It's definitely not as easy as it looks. I had to try three times before I came even close to hitting the missile. We used math skills to figure out the best way to launch, from which position, etc."

Another 100th MD Bde. volunteer, Maj. Kyle Zablocki, described his six-month stint teaching about rockets, saying, no pun intended, "We had a blast."

"All total, it was seven visits. Each visit, we taught eight classes, so in some ways it was literally physically and mentally draining,

especially keeping up with these bright kids. My hat goes off to teachers everywhere! But I'm eager to do it again, because engaging these kids in pairing theory with reality was an exciting process. We taught them about



*1st Lt. Lynsey Yoder, Crew Member, 100th MDB answers questions from students of the Galileo School of Math and Science during a visit to the school after a new partnership between District 11 here and Space and Missile Defense command was formed. (Photo by Maj. Laura Kenney)*

what we do as a unit, taught them the science behind it, and then let those fantastic brains of theirs figure out just how hard it really is to do what we do."

1st Space Brigade volunteer Capt. Gary Kelly, whose brigade's mission is to conduct continuous global space force enhancement, space support, and space control operations, taught during the recent summer school session. As his command's communications officer, teaching the children how to use the Global Positioning System came naturally.

"We began with a mini-Space Fundamentals course, all about orbits, trajectories, satellites, space control – some of the history of the Army in space and how it all

ties in together with our current space dominance. After that, we narrowed it down to the GPS and how, although it originated as a military system, it's widely utilized by the civilian world today.

We then got into the details of how to use the system, and learned on the school provided Magellan hand-held navigation devices. We talked about satellites and triangulation, learned about latitude and longitude, map reading and land navigation. All that learning culminated in a "scavenger" hunt, in which the students had to locate eight landmarks (all located on school

property) by grid coordinates using the GPS.

It was very rewarding. I'd say the best part was seeing how a child, when given the opportunity to see how something he or she had learned about conceptually, then learns to actually apply it. The kids then took that information and ran with it, taking it to third and fourth level effects. I'd say they were at collegiate level understanding by the time we were done."

Sixth grade science whiz Haydee Rosas commented, "It's seriously cool having Soldiers in here teaching us how they use the science and math that before this, was only in the books..."

Who ever knew math and science could be so much fun?

# 100th MDB Sports News

**Our Softball team is currently undefeated in Peterson Air Force Base's intramural softball league**



## SMA Visits Fort Greely



*(left to right) Sgt. 1st Class Richard DeBilzan, Systems Integrator, 49th Missile Defense BN, Sgt. Maj. of the Army, Kenneth Preston, and Command Sgt. Major Bradford Quigley, 49th Missile Defense BN Command Sergeant Major, watch as Missile Defenders from the 49th Missile Defense Bn. conduct training on the Ground-based Midcourse Defense Systems Trainer (GST). (Photo by Sgt. Jack W. Carlson III, 49th Missile Defense Bn.)*



*Sgt. Maj. of the Army, Kenneth Preston watches as Sgt. Michael Freeman, Military Police Officer, 49th Missile Defense Bn., illustrates the complexities of the security systems used by military police officers in securing and defending the Missile Defense Complex at Fort Greely, Alaska. (Photo by Sgt. Jack W. Carlson III, 49th Missile Defense Bn.)*

# Missile Defense Soldier arranges special day for sister with cancer

by Michael Paschall.  
Delta Wind Reporter/Editor

**DELTA JUNCTION, Alaska** --When Lt. Nicole Vandall, with the Military Police Company, 49th Missile Defense Battalion at Fort Greely, learned her younger sister had stage three Hodgkin's lymphoma, she wanted to do something special for her.

Vandall's sister, Kayla Collyer-Platzer, is 15 and was diagnosed with the disease on May 7.

"She always wanted to be in the Army when she got older," said Vandall. So, at 15, Kayla joined the Army for a day.

Vandall, who has been at Fort Greely since October, talked to her commanders in the Alaska National Guard and arranged for Kayla to participate in some of the daily activities with the Soldiers on post.

The only challenge that remained for Vandall was to come up with the money to pay for her sister and mother to make the trip to Alaska before Kayla was too sick to travel.

Working with her fellow soldiers and friends, Vandall worked to raise the money and plan the trip. The Fort Greely Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers (BOSS) program also helped plan the day's activities. Desiring to help others, Vandall has created KaylaBeth Kreations to help raise money.

Kayla and her mother, Deborah Platzer, flew to Alaska from their home in Lewistown, Penn. Kayla

had no idea what was in store for her in Alaska. The normal tourist stuff and visiting occupied her first two days. She saw some of the classic sights in Interior Alaska.

After a couple of days visiting the area, Kayla was to go to work with Lt. Vandall and be a "soldier for a day."



*Spc. Jeffrey Slaughter gives a thumbs up as he and Kayla Collyer-Platzer sit on the rear ramps of CH-47 Chinook flyin near the Delta River. Collyer-Platzer, 15, has third stage Hodgkin's lymphoma. She flew in the Chinook as part of being a "soldier for a day," courtesy of her soldier-sister. (Photo by Michael Paschall)*

"I told her she would be my secretary, so she thought she would be running back and forth to the copier," Vandall said.

As Kayla was trying to decide what to wear for her soldier experience, Vandall gave her a uniform that just happened to fit and had her name above the pocket. With the rank of "corporal," Kayla was all set for her day

at Fort Greely.

With the summer solstice only a week away, it was daylight long before Kayla lined up for physical training at 6 a.m. The early morning was no problem for Kayla. The four hour time difference meant it was mid-morning for her, and she was ready to go. Dressed in her ACUs (Army Combat Uniform) and with an Army t-shirt tied around her head to hide the hair loss that is a telltale sign of chemotherapy, Kayla lined up for the early morning workout. Several of the other soldiers in the company also wore t-shirts around their heads in sympathy with Kayla.

*See Special Day on page 6*

## *Special Day cont. from page 5*

Kayla undergoes chemotherapy during a three-day stay at the hospital and then has a follow-up visit. “It’s not any fun,” she said.

She then gets two weeks before having to return to the hospital for the next round of treatment. She visited Alaska the weekend between two sets of treatments.

According to Platzer, Kayla’s mother, she “has an 80-90 percent chance of complete recovery.” The doctors say her age and the fact that the Hodgkin’s was caught early contribute to her ability to recover.

“It will get worse before it gets better,” she said. “It’s just amazing that so many people would go through this much effort to make her day special,” said Platzer.

Following the morning exercise routine, Kayla had the opportunity to use some of the training equipment the Soldiers use to prepare for their mission guarding the missile defense complex at Fort Greely.

“There were some cool video games,” she said.

Much of the Soldiers’ training is done using simulation equipment, including small arms training. Kayla had the opportunity to shoot several different weapons including an M-60, M-249, and M-16.

She also spent some time on the missile field, which included a ride in a military Humvee. She got to see what it was like to be in the gun turret on top of the vehicle, on guard against unfriendly forces.

Being a Soldier would not be complete without having the opportunity to eat an MRE for lunch. Kayla was provided a “Meal Ready to Eat” with ravioli as the main course. According to one of the others in the group with Kayla, “the ravioli isn’t the best you’ll ever eat.”

Kayla’s afternoon included a trip over to Allen Army Airfield, where she was briefed on her pending flight in an Army CH-47 Chinook helicopter. While waiting for the helicopter to arrive, Kayla said, “It’s been a great experience and I can’t believe she (Vandall) did this just for me.”

Two Chinooks arrived as scheduled from Task Force 49 at Fort Wainwright. Flight crews briefed Kayla and the others scheduled for the flight. There



*Lt. Nicole Vandall (right) Military Police Company, 49th Missile Defense Battalion, hugs her sister, Kayla Collyer-Platzer during Kayla’s “soldier for a day” experience, arranged to give the teenager, who suffers a severe type of cancer, a taste of life in the military. (Photo by Michael Paschall)*

was a look of surprise in Kayla’s eyes when it was explained to her that there was a harness for her to wear so she could sit on the back ramp of the helicopter during the flight.

Once the Chinook was in the air, after a little coaxing from Spc. Jeffrey Slaughter, B Company, 152nd Aviation Regiment, Task Force 49,

Kayla accompanied him out onto the rear ramp of the helicopter, where she rode for most of the flight south to the Trident Glacier and back.

What did Kayla think of her flight?

“It was the greatest thing I’ve ever done,” she said.

Kayla and her mother returned to Pennsylvania the following day for Kayla to prepare for her next round of treatment.

# PHOTOS FROM AROUND THE BRIGADE



*Cpl. Grant Henne, Detachment 1, 100th Missile Defense Brigade, charges out of a mud pit during the Vandenberg Warrior Challenge Mud Run at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. Henne and his teammates (pictured behind him in the mud-pit) trained four weeks for the event and comprised the majority of all Army competitors involved. (Photo by Airman 1st Class Kerelin Molina)*



*Above: Maj. Mike Strawbridge, Personnel officer, 100th Missile Defense Brigade, gets pinned with his new rank by his girlfriend Richelle (Photo by Sgt. Michael Cost).*



*Left: Staff Sgt. Duane Ostrowski, Military Police Officer, 49th Military Police Company and recent Audie Murphy Board Winner, takes apart an M-249 machine gun at Fort Greely, Alaska. (Photo by Sgt. Jack W. Carlson III)*

## Former 100th MDB officer takes command of military police company



*Capt. Bryan Murphy, Commander, 220th Military Police Company, passes the unit's guidon at the change of command ceremony for the 220th. Murphy spent 5 years in the 100th Missile Defense Brigade (Ground-based Midcourse Defense) and held multiple positions most notably as the Anti-terrorism Force Protection Officer for the brigade. (Photo by 1st Sgt. William Jewell)*



**CONTEGAMUS ET CASSAMUS**  
**Guard Engage Destroy**