



Forward Observer

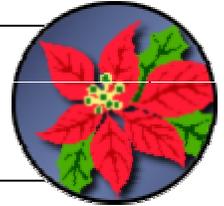



BG Bond reflects on his first months at STRICOM.

[Message from the Commander](#)

STRICOM's Holiday Dinner is to be held at Tusawilla Country Club December 12th.

[Holiday Reception and Dinner](#)



Early morning Candlelight Ceremony pays tribute to Service members and their families on POW/MIA

[Recognition Day.](#)



SHAPE PAGE highlights the Fitness Trail and gives great pointers for a healthy 1999. [Fitness trail.](#)



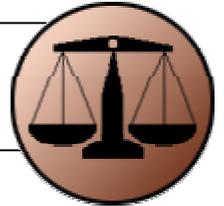
Change of Command Ceremony welcomes new STRICOM Commander, BG Bond.

[Change of Command.](#)



From A Legal Point Of View....

[Acceptance of Travel Benefits from Non-Federal Entities \(NFE\).](#)



BG Bond addresses STRICOM personnel at UCF Arena during his first [Commander's Call](#)



Logistics Directorate Oktoberfest welcomes fall in grand style. See [Recipe for Success](#)



NEXT COMMANDER'S CALL

UPCOMING EVENTS

STRICOM'S first Army Ten-Miler Team Competes in Washington, DC at the beginning of AUSA Convention.

[Army Ten-Miler Team](#)



STRICOM Arrivals and Departures [Hail And Farewell](#)



**Distributed to the employees of the U.S. Army Simulation Training and Instrumentation Command (STRICOM)*

The Forward Observer is published electronically on the STRICOM Web Internal Homepage. Contents of the Forward Observer are not necessarily official views of the Department of Defense, Department of the Army, the Army Materiel Command or STRICOM.

We welcome your articles and ideas on STRICOM projects, people and events. You may submit articles for publication by email to Mary Jane Herwick or Mary Trier.

TARGET DATE FOR THE NEXT PUBLICATION IS: 15 JAN 1999

Co-Editors: Mary W. Trier and Mary Jane Herwick
Graphics and Design: Dwain Fletcher Company

STRICOM's [1998 Combined Federal Campaign](#) goal exceeded once again!



[Featured people and projects](#)



Message from the Commander



Well, I have to be honest with you all. My first couple of months at STRICOM have been anything but boring. After only three days on the job, we were responding to media inquiries about STRICOM leaving the area. What a welcome! Nevertheless, I do have to say that I have enjoyed meeting with you and answering your questions on that and many other topics. I am extremely happy to be here. I think that, together, we have a great opportunity to launch STRICOM forward with technologies that will make a difference to the soldier.

The next couple of years will hold some changes for STRICOM. I don't know what they are yet; but, as I told you in our Commander's Call, I believe in open and honest communication and I will keep you informed. We all know that change is inevitable (except in vending machines).

I believe that STRICOM does provide the best value for the money. That will be my message as I market STRICOM and become the

champion for our organization, within the Army, the other Services, our community, and within Congress. I intend to tell our customers that we will meet or beat other prices and quality.

My personal management style is to be involved with the workforce. You may see me out wandering around. This is my invitation to you to tell me what you think. I want to learn about you, about your interests and what you think we can do to improve STRICOM and its support to soldiers.

Once again, I want you to know that Kathy and I are thrilled to be here, and I look forward to posturing STRICOM for a successful launch into the next millennium.

COMMANDER'S CALL
8 December , 1998
<p>On Tuesday, December 8, I will hold my second STRICOM Commander's Call. I look forward to these events as another opportunity to share my vision with you. There will be an opportunity for your comments and questions. We will meet at the UCF Arena. The session will begin at 1300 hours and is expected to conclude by 1430 hours.</p> <p>UPDATE: BG Bond answered all questions relating to Command business at the recent Commander's Call. Questions concerning sensitive personnel and privacy issues <u>will not be addressed in an open forum</u>. If you believe you have sensitive concerns which merit explanation, please send an email to COL Godwin or BG Bond.</p>

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CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY



BG Geis relinquishes command to General Johnnie Wilson, Commander, AMC

General Johnnie E. Wilson officiated during STRICOM's impressive Change of Command ceremony on 15 September 1998. Brigadier General John P. Geis turned over the reins of command for STRICOM to incoming Commander, Brigadier General William L. Bond. Many distinguished guests, including friends and family members of the Geis' and Bond's, looked on as the Color Guard, Army Band members from Ft. Stewart and the Command Formation performed flawlessly. The function was supported by TEAM Orlando including the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, JSIMS and the National Guard. Formations from each participated in the ceremonial welcome to BG Bond, narrated by LTC Matthew Fair. The ceremony also featured sound effects and film clips which added much to the overall pageantry.



BG William Bond accepts Command of STRICOM



Color Guard



3rd Infantry Division Band Ft. Stewart, GA



Change of Command Formations

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ADDRESS FROM



BG WILLIAM L. BOND



BG WILLIAM L. BOND ADDRESSES STRICOM EMPLOYEES DURING HIS FIRST COMMANDER'S CALL 22 SEPTEMBER 1998

STRICOM employees gathered at the UCF Arena on 22 September for BG Bond's first Commander's Call. He gave those present a glimpse into his personality, management style, and his primary focus as Commander. He answered many questions during the meeting; some related to STRICOM's current status, as well as an outlook on future opportunities. Heavy on many minds were rumors of a closure or move to another locale. BG Bond firmly stated his intentions to "fight for this organization" and to maintain our viability and visibility in Washington.

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National POW/MIA Recognition Day



About 75 people attended the ceremony by the pond between the deFlorez and Annex buildings. Brigadier General Bond called upon the group to remember the POWs, those still missing and all their families, not only on the third Friday of September, but throughout the year. He noted that the POW/MIA flag, raised on Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, and Veteran's Day, should serve as a reminder to take a moment from our busy days to REMEMBER.



Each year, our Nation observes National POW/MIA Recognition Day on the third Friday of September. On September 18, 1998, military units, veterans and family groups, as well as civilian communities across our country observed the day in various ways. Here in Orlando STRICOM joined our Team Orlando military partners in a pre-sunrise candlelight ceremony. As we gathered to honor former Prisoners of Wars, Service members, and civilians who are still unaccounted for, we recognized the great sacrifice these Americans and their families have made for our Nation.



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TRAINING made safer

By Scott Brookins

Program Overview

The OSV is a training vehicle used by the Opposing Forces at the NTC to represent the BMP-2 threat. The OSV consists of a M113 surrogate chassis modified to M113A3 and OSV specifications. Visual modifications (VISMOD) are applied to the front, side and rear of the vehicle. The OSV also has a fully functional stabilized turret (based on M2A2 Bradley turret drive components) with an OSV unique fabricated outer shell.

The OSV is in Full Rate Production at Anniston Army Depot (ANAD) with fifteen vehicles produced to date. Fourteen out of 160 vehicles have been fielded to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment (ACR) at NTC.



**M113/BMP-2 Opposing Forces
Surrogate Vehicle
M113/BMP-2 OSV**

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Safety Concern

During a final Technical Data Package (TDP) review, the OSV Integrated Product Team (IPT) determined that the OSV may have a potential design discrepancy. This discrepancy could potentially result in structural integrity of the turret and the nose VISMOD less than previously assessed. The concern lies in the fact that, in the event an OSV encounters a rollover or a front-end crash situation, the structure could fail, potentially resulting in serious injury to soldiers.

This structural inadequacy is due to the degradation in welding dissimilar aluminum alloys at the heat-affected zone. The dynamic simulation used for the crash worthiness analysis, conducted July 1995, formed the basis for determination that the structures would survive the simulated crash scenarios. The dynamic simulation did not take into account the degradation in the aluminum at the welds. The discovery that the material property data in the heat-affected zones was not consistent with the data used as input to the dynamic simulations formed the grounds for the safety concern.

The dynamic simulation was performed again, taking into account the degradation in the aluminum at the welds. The results indicated degradations up to 30% in overall material deflections.

continued

TRAINING made safer

Action Taken

The OSV IPT initiated a Safety of Use Message (SOUM) on 24 Sep 98 placing the OSVs in a non-mission capable status, avoiding a potentially fatal scenario.

The OSV IPT, ANAD Impact Team, and United Defense (UDLP) personnel designed a field modification to reinforce the structure. The Tank Automotive Research Development and Engineering Center is conducting additional dynamic simulations to verify integrity of the corrective modifications.

Conclusion

A potential safety concern was discovered, the OSV IPT demonstrated quick and aggressive action to correct and eliminate the safety concern with the OSV.

MAJ John Hort , Executive Officer, 11th ACR, stated, "The 11th ACR was very impressed with the response, work, and professionalism of the team repairing the OSVs. Additionally, I would like to say thanks for the quick response and developing a solution to problem that initially appeared to be quite daunting."



Reinforced Turrent I Beam

A prototype field modification kit was fabricated and successfully installed on one OSV at ANAD. Upon successful completion of the prototype kit, the team fabricated the field modification kits to retrofit all OSVs.

On 6 Oct 98, the Team arrived at the NTC to begin retrofitting the fielded OSVs. The Team worked 12 hours a day, 7 days a week to completing the mission ahead of schedule. All OSVs at the NTC were retrofitted and released back to the 11th ACR on 21 Oct 98 in mission capable status, lifting the SOUM.

The appropriate production line changes have been implemented for the OSVs currently in the manufacturing stage.

COL Craig Hanford, PM TRADE stated, "The OSV Team in the CSTS PMO has done a great job to ensure that the OSV success story remains so".

On the Web

<http://www.stricom.army.mil/PRODUCTS/OSV>.

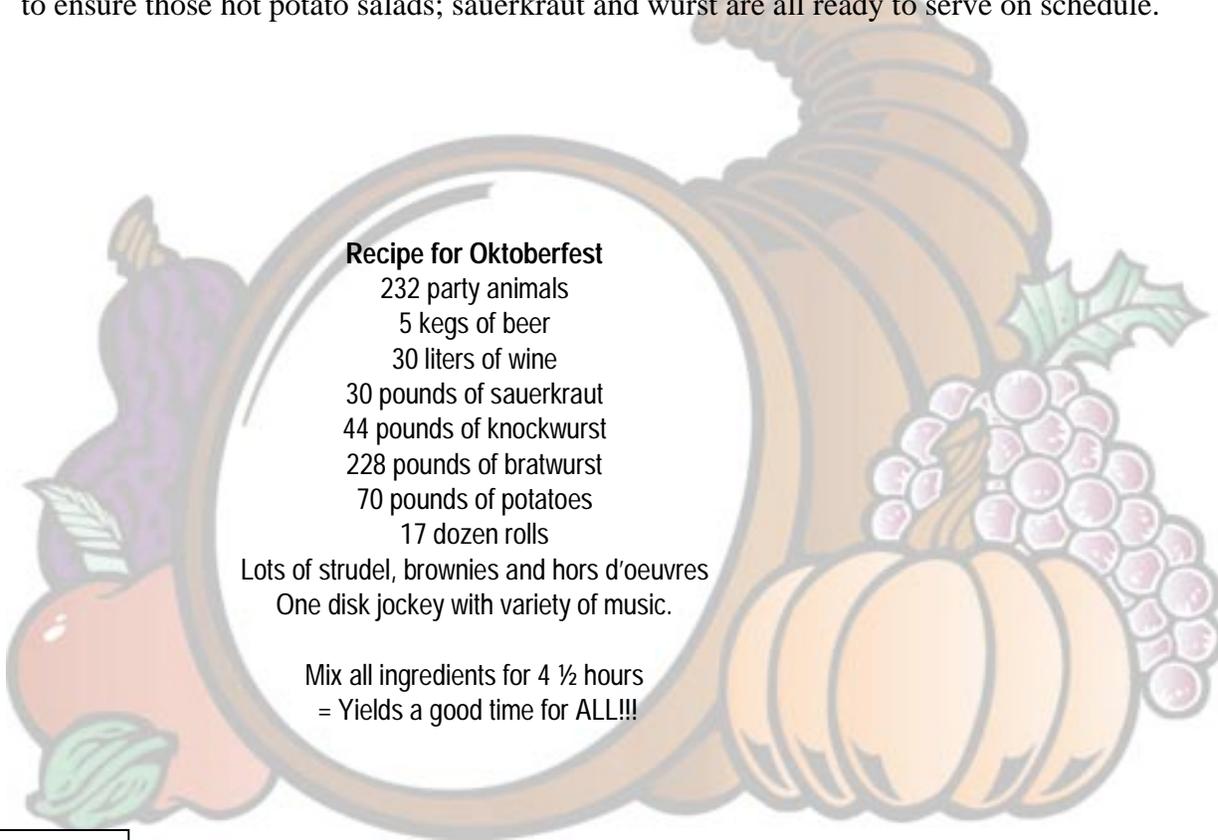
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Oktoberfest 98'

The 17th annual Oktoberfest, sponsored by the Logistics Directorate, was another huge success. There were over 232 participants this year, despite a few thunderstorms in the area. Only one other year were there more participants! However, this year's Oktoberfest revelers consumed record amounts of food, beer and wine. Everyone danced to a variety of music provided by Jim Mitchell, a local disk jockey. Music selections included German polkas, contemporary and classic rock and roll, and country western. Many people even participated in the foot stomping, heart pumping, arm flapping, chicken dance!

Logistics Directorate personnel plan and execute all aspects of the Oktoberfest, which is totally supported from ticket sales. To make the most of the available funding, volunteers prepare most of the food, purchasing some of the snacks and desserts. They prepare hors d'oeuvres, sauerkraut, potato salads, knockwurst and bratwurst. The knockwurst, fresh and specially prepared just for STRICOM is grilled at the Oktoberfest and goes from the grill to the serving tables. Everything has to be carefully orchestrated to ensure those hot potato salads; sauerkraut and wurst are all ready to serve on schedule.



Recipe for Oktoberfest

232 party animals
5 kegs of beer
30 liters of wine
30 pounds of sauerkraut
44 pounds of knockwurst
228 pounds of bratwurst
70 pounds of potatoes
17 dozen rolls

Lots of strudel, brownies and hors d'oeuvres
One disk jockey with variety of music.

Mix all ingredients for 4 ½ hours
= Yields a good time for ALL!!!



STRICOM'S 10-MILER RACING TEAM

Congratulations to STRICOM's first Army Ten-Miler racing team

The six member team placed 18th in their division with an average mile time of 8 minutes 10 seconds. The Army Ten-Miler is the Nation's premier ten mile race held every year at the beginning of the Annual AUSA Convention in Washington, D.C. Over 14,000 runners participated in this year's race, held on 11 October 1998. If you are interested in running on next year's team, contact CPT Rick Stroyan at 384-3605 or email at Rick_Stroyan @STRICOM.army.mil



CPT Richard Stroyan, LTC Clovis Gault, BG William Bond, COL Alan Hammond, MAJ Frank Rhinesmith, Rita Simons



ACCEPTANCE OF TRAVEL BENEFITS FROM NON-FEDERAL ENTITIES (NFE)

FROM A LEGAL POINT OF VIEW...

By Harlan Gottlieb

The general rule is that official travel is funded by the Federal agency. However, in certain circumstances, an agency can accept in kind or payment of expenses.

If a NFE offers to fund travel expenses for an agency employee (e.g., to attend a technical conference or to present a speech) the travel approving authority (normally the employee's supervisor) must perform a conflict of interest analysis. This is done in conjunction with the agency Ethics Counselor. The analysis seeks to ensure that the employee is not involved in any matters that would impact the financial or business interests of the NFE.

Assuming that there is no conflict of interest, an employee can accept travel benefits, whether in kind or by a direct payment, from the NFE. An employee can never accept payment in cash or by check made out to the employee. If the NFE reimburses for the travel expenses, the check should be made out to the U.S. Treasury.

Finally, if an employee accepts travel expenses in excess of \$250, he or she must report the expenses on their OGE Form 450, Confidential Financial Disclosure Report, for that calendar year.

Please contact Harlan Gottlieb (ext. 3513) or Michael Lassman (ext. 3509) for further advice.

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1998 Combined Federal Campaign

The 1998 Combined Federal Campaign came to an official close on November 23. The Command's target of \$38,500 was exceeded again this year for a total contribution of \$41,690.00

PM WARSIM won the intra-office competition, which awards the office that best exceeds their goal. Congratulations to PM WARSIM and a special thank you to everyone for your generous contributions!

STRICOM Holiday Reception and Dinner



The holidays are here and that means parties and celebrations!! STRICOM's Holiday Reception and Dinner is planned for Saturday, December 12, starting at 6 p.m. at the Tusawilla Country Club. Several events are planned for the evening to include skits and songs, a visit from Santa Claus and dancing to the music of DJ Tom Miller. Dress for the evening is Dress Blues for the military. For civilians it means business suits for the men and cocktail dresses for the women. Tuxedos/floor-length gowns are optional. Seating is limited and STRICOM employees are encouraged to make your reservation as soon as possible. Questions should be directed to the Protocol office at 384-3520/3519.

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CAREER SERVICE Awards for 1998

10 YEARS

Ziad Aboul-Hosen - EV
Joseph Brennan, Jr. - ED
Brian J. Holmes - ET
David E. Horrigan, III, EA
Vickie L. McDevitt - PM ITTS
Craig D. Thornley - ED
Paul Watson - PM WARSIM

15 YEARS

Carolyn Burt - RF
Kevin Clark - LC
Rhonda Meyers - CSP
Dean Runzel - EV

20 YEARS

Bonnie Harrison - PM GCTS
Carlos Rivera - LV
Jerome Sirmans - EC

25 YEARS

Larry Cruse - EL
William Foxworth - LL
Jackie Magee - LL
Mark McAuliffe - ES
Patricia McCardell - RF

30 YEARS

Alvin Boudreaux, II, PM CATT



Shape



Have you been on our Fitness Trail?

SHAPE has three exercise areas; one located to the north side of the main entrance driveway to our deFlorez parking area; one to the north of the volleyball courts, north of de Florez; and the thirds area is located to the southwest of the deFlorez Building. This picture depicts the north-main entrance location.

With the holiday season upon us, what better time to become committed to a good exercise and fitness program?

**Have a Safe and Healthy
Holiday Season!!!**



McGRUFF visited the SHAPE Safety Fair on 3 September 98. He encouraged employees to "take a bite out of crime!"



BG Bond leads 9 Oct 98 Fun Run. UCF Army ROTC Cadets provided motivational cadence during the run.

[SHAPE Get in SHAPE - Read the Shape Web Page](http://www.stricom.army.mil:81/SHAPE/)

<http://www.stricom.army.mil:81/SHAPE/>

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Hail and Farewell

MILITARY ARRIVALS SINCE AUGUST 1998

MAJ Richard McCracken
MAJ Billy E. Pitts, Jr.

MILITARY DEPARTURES SINCE AUGUST 1998

LTC Charles Stevens

CIVILIAN ARRIVALS SINCE AUGUST 1998

Tamara Griffith - ED
Mike Garretson - LL
Elizabeth Lunch - LC
Ronald Stone - LV
George Whitley - LV

CIVILIAN DEPARTURES SINCE AUGUST 1998

Larry Wakefield - PM TRADE
Dan Gilbert - AP
Peter Schmid - PM ITTS
R. Dunfee - PM ITTS
Judy Armell - PM TRADE
Barbara Wilbanks - PM ITTS
Herb Igo - PM ITTS
Doris Cantrell - PM ITTS

UPCOMING EVENTS

S T R I C O M



December

**8 December - Commander's Call
1300 Hours
UCF Arena**

**12 December - Holiday Reception and Dinner
1800 Hours
Tuscawilla Country Club**

January

**16 January - Hail and Farewell
A Directorate Hosting CJs**

February

**15-17 February - AUSA Winter Symposium
Orlando, FL**

**17-19 February - American, British, Canadian,
Australian Conference
STRICOM, Orlando, FL**