

## Colorado Springs Chapter, CO Article for Officer Review Magazine

### TITLE: Chapter Dinner: Ballistic Missile Defense of the Homeland

The Colorado Springs, Colorado Chapter of MOWW held its monthly membership meeting on 25 August 2021. The Chapter was pleased to welcome GS-14 Steve Allen (Colonel, USAF, Retired) from United States Northern Command (NORTHCOM) who provided an unclassified glimpse at how this Combatant Command provides Ballistic Missile Defense for the United States. Mr Allen discussed the current long range missile threats posed by rogue nation states with emphasis on North Korea and Iran. He indicated that the primary focus of NORTHCOM strategic planners is defense against potential long range missile attacks launched against the United States from inside North Korea. Mr. Allen described the 10 step process for locating, tracking, targeting, and destroying an incoming threat missile by employing a projectile launched directly at the missile. This supersonic "bullet" must course correct to follow the trajectory of the threat missile, intercept it during its flight, and crash into and destroy the threat vehicle before it completes its intended flight. He adeptly addressed the questions posed by the MOWW members but often caveated his remarks in order to ensure that he did not divulge any classified operational information.

Mr. Allen served from 1979 through 2002 as a Missile Operations officer in the United States Air Force with assignments at Strategic Air Command, Air Force and US Space Command, and the Cheyenne Mountain Operations Center. He retired as a Colonel and, following a brief stint as a Defense Contractor, joined the US Northern Command staff where he was instrumental in bringing the Ground-Based Mid-Course Defense (GMD) system to its inaugural 24/7/365 operational capability in 2006. Mr Allen continues to serve as the Deputy Division Chief for the Ballistic Missile Defense Team at United States Northern Command (NC/J31).

A big thanks to companion Colonel (USAF, ret) Kerm Neal for hosting Mr. Allen as part of our Homeland Security/National Defense outreach.

Chapter Commander Steve Shambach (Colonel, USA, Retired) also welcomed Mike Boatner, George Gay, and RF Smith as new members and presented the Outstanding Service Award to Warren Gerig.

