



Photos by Pfc. Sean McGuire, 4th Sust. Bde. Public Affairs

Brigadier Gen. Paul Wentz, commanding general of the 13th ESC, re-established Col. Bruce McVeigh's command of the 1st Medical Brigade during an assumption of command ceremony Friday on Sadowski Field near III Corps headquarters.

1st Med Bde transfers command

BY PFC. AMY M. LANE
4th Sust. Bde. Public Affairs

During an assumption of command ceremony Friday at the III Corps flagpole, Brig. Gen. Paul Wentz re-established Col. Bruce McVeigh's command of the 1st Medical Brigade.

Members of the brigade headquarters, including McVeigh, recently returned from a year-long deployment to Iraq. During the deployment, Lt. Col. Lee Roupe was the rear detachment commander.

"I want to thank Lieutenant Colonel Roupe," McVeigh said. "You had one of the hardest jobs in the Army, but you handled it with professionalism, poise and diligence."

McVeigh also thanked his Soldiers and the two units within the 1st Med. Bde. that are currently deployed.

"I'm proud to join your team today; you look great," he said. "And I thank you for your commitment to making this the best medical brigade in the Army. I will lead you with passion every day."

Wentz mentioned that he had the opportunity to meet

McVeigh earlier this year while they were both in Iraq, and added that he is confident of McVeigh's ability to lead Soldiers.

"Lieutenant Colonel McVeigh, you have the honor and privilege of leading the largest, most capable and oldest color-bearing medical unit in the United States Army," Wentz said.

"There is no better example

of competence, professionalism and dedication than the recent deployment of this brigade's headquarters to Iraq," he added. "Perhaps the most significant accomplishment of this deployment is the unprecedented 98 percent survival rate of all trauma casualties who were treated within an hour of the injury. The significance of this success cannot be overstated," he emphasized.



Colonel Bruce McVeigh, commander, 1st Med. Bde., speaks to the Soldiers, families and friends of his brigade during an assumption of command ceremony Friday near the III Corps flag pole.

Wranglers back in the saddle after uncasing colors

BY CPL. JESSICA R. HAMPTON

15th Sust. Bde. Public Affairs

Soldiers of the 15th Special Troops Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and family members watched July 16 as the Wranglers uncased their colors during a ceremony at Fort Hood.

During their most recent deployment to Iraq, the Wranglers were responsible for the country's finance and human resources missions.

The 15th STB assumed control of the Contingency Operating Location Q-West mayor cell, where they were responsible for 1,200 Soldiers from Basra in southern Iraq to Habur Gate on the northern border with Turkey. They also played a vital part in the transfer of Q-West to the Government of Iraq.

The Base Closure Team executed its mission with dignity and honor, Lt. Col. Paula Lodi, commander, 15th STB, 15th Sus. Bde., 13th ESC, said.

"There was no greater sense

of satisfaction for our team than ending the mission on time and on target," Lodi said.

Lodi and Master Sgt. Donald Hutchinson, rear detachment senior noncommissioned officer, 15th STB, 15th Sus. Bde., 13th ESC, uncased the colors signifying the end of a nine-month tour in Iraq and officially marking the battalion's return to Fort Hood.

"We are back in the saddle ready to continue our tradition of taking care of families while accomplishing the mission," Lodi said.

During the ceremony, Col. Larry Phelps, commander of the 15th Sust. Bde., recognized the Soldiers assigned to the 15th's rear detachment, "Team Wagonmaster," for their support throughout the deployment. He said the rear detachment successfully executed an important mission of handling things on the home front so the brigade could focus on the mission forward.

Both the Wranglers and Wagonmasters are scheduled to relocate to Fort Bliss later this year.



Photo by Cpl. Jessica Hampton, 15th Sust. Bde. Public Affairs

Lieutenant Col. Paula Lodi, commander, and Master Sgt. Donald Hutchinson, rear detachment senior non-commissioned officer, 15th STB, 15th Sust. Bde., 13th ESC, uncasing the Wranglers' colors during a ceremony held July 16 at Fort Hood.

Aviation: Joint efforts streamline process, allow cross-leveling to fix deficiencies

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at the unit level," said Staff Sgt. Clay Lankford with the National Guard Bureau.

"Soldiers have to go from station to station during an SRP to determine their individual level of readiness - this is basically the same process on the unit level," he added.

Personnel, equipment and training are major points of interest for each unit during the AJA. Finding shortcomings in any category gives the unit, the NGB and First Army opportunities to determine action that should be taken to address deficiencies through cross-leveling of Soldiers, transferring equipment or coordinating necessary training.

The National Guard structure benefits from having cooperative efforts like the AJA and resources like the NGB that can reach across

state lines.

"There are really 54 National Guards - 54 different chains of command. That's one for every state and territory," Lankford said. "The AJA gives a kind of order to that by getting units to talk to us, and each other, because some

units will be crossing state lines for deployments."

Lankford said crossing state lines means units will have to reach outside their state's borders to obtain equipment or personnel they need for mobilization. The NGB aids in locating and making those



Photo by Sgt. Aaron Gott, 166th Avn. Bde., Div. West Public Affairs

Division West hosted an Aviation Joint Assessment July 20-22 for National Guard units that will deploy in the next year to identify each unit's needs regarding personnel, equipment and training.

assets available.

To address the units' other major training needs, representatives of First Army and First Army Division West were on hand. Capt. Richard Palagonia, an officer with the First Army's operations/plans office, works with Guard aviation units on a regular basis and reviewed the aviators' training plans at the AJA.

"It has been pretty tough for me as an active-duty guy taking on the responsibility of (National Guard) lead," Palagonia said. "It was tough at first dealing with the different states, but once you get to know the main people and figure out who they are, it's pretty easy."

"Since we have the unit, their subject matter experts and our subject matter experts here, we can look at the unit and say 'Here are some areas you need to work on,'" Traweck said. "If they're short

on people, equipment or training, we then look to see what we can leverage from ourselves, First Army, FORSCOM and the NGB to fix them so they're 100 percent ready to train and to perform their tasks when they arrive at the mobilization center.

"One of the other key points," he added, "is to discuss what the unit is expected to do in pre-mob training. Something that's happening now is units are expected to do more training leading up to their mobilization date."

Armed with the readiness assessments of their units obtained through the AJA, the soon-to-mobilize units can return to their home stations, address their personnel and equipment issues, schedule needed training, and have a greater understanding of the facilities they will have at their disposal.

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