

Army War College to farewell for Maj. Gen, Mrs Rapp: ceremony LIVE at armywarcollege.edu/live

Army War College to host retirement, farewell for Maj. Gen. & Mrs Rapp

MG Rapp's retirement ceremony will be live-streamed at 2:30 pm: www.armywarcollege.edu/live.

Major General William E. 'Bill' Rapp began his Army career in 1984 when he graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Army Corps of Engineers.

Thirty-three years later, Rapp will close his Army career at the



The image is a graphic announcement for a retirement ceremony. On the left is a portrait of MG Bill Rapp in his military uniform, standing in front of an American flag. To the right of the portrait, the text reads: "MG Bill Rapp", "Commandant", "Retirement Ceremony", "28 July, 1430", "Bliss Hall", and "All invited". In the bottom right corner of the graphic, there is a small illustration of a red flag with two white stars and a golden castle.

United States Army War College at a retirement ceremony Friday, July 28 at 2:30 p.m. in Bliss Hall, Carlisle Barracks. The ceremony will be officiated by Gen. David Perkins, commander of the U.S.

Army Training and Doctrine Command.

Rapp's retirement coincides with the change of command at Carlisle Barracks, that day at 1 p.m., when command and control of the Army War College and Carlisle Barracks will pass from 50th Commandant Maj. Gen. Bill Rapp to Maj. Gen. John Kem.

In the intervening years, Rapp's career led him from New York to Iraq, Germany, and Japan. Highlights are many. He commanded an airborne engineer company during Operation Desert Storm; the 55th Engineer Battalion (Combat) (Mech) in Bamberg, Germany; the 555th Combat Engineer Group deployed in support of the 101st Airborne Division for Operation Iraqi Freedom. In 2008, he served as Commanding General of the Northwestern Division of the Corps of Engineers, in Portland, Ore.

He served as Military Assistant to the Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) before battalion command, followed command by the Council of Foreign Relations Fellowship at the Institute for International Peace Studies in Tokyo. Before his group command, he served as the I Corps Chief of Plans and followed command with duty in Iraq as the director of the Commander's Initiatives Group, serving under Gen. David Petraeus in Multi-National Forces-Iraq.

Following ACOE division command, Rapp served as the 72nd Commandant of Cadets at the United States Military Academy; the National Support Commander and Deputy Commanding General for Support of U.S. Forces, Afghanistan; and Chief of Army Legislative Liaison prior to service as the Commanding General of Carlisle Barracks.

His studies led to a Bachelor of Arts from USMA, Master's degrees in Political Science and in National Security Policy, and a Ph.D. in Political Science from Stanford.

Maj. Gen. Rapp's path led him to marry Debbie Biggi, Army Nurse. The couple's three children have followed their parents' footsteps into the Army, all three through a West Point education.

Farewell to the 50th Commandant: appreciation of his enduring contributions

The Army War College community will gather to farewell their 50th Commandant and acknowledge his undoubted legacy, educating the nation's strategic leaders.

During Rapp's leadership at the Army War College, he fundamentally transformed the College through a vision and strategy to advance the institution's quality and contributions to the nation -- in strategic leader education and development, advancing knowledge, outreach and service to the Army and Joint Force, and quality of life and institutional support.

The Army responded to his vision and leadership by assigning the College responsibility for the Army's executive development program for general officers; commitment of Army funding for CSA-directed annual research projects; and, designation by the Army as the executive agent within the Department of Defense for stability operations and foreign humanitarian assistance.

Among his refinements are the Senior Leader Sustainment Program for student-officers, addition of a third Basic Strategic Art Program course, and successful accreditations by civilian and military oversight bodies. He oversaw new personnel recruitment policies that attracted highly qualified faculty and staff members to the institution and ensured assignment of talented military officers.

Rapp supported the Army's strategic communication effort through senior leader staff rides for army leadership, corporate leaders, and academic institutions. He improved public access to the College's intellectual products through armywarcollege.edu. He lectured and wrote frequently on national security issues, particularly relating to

civil-military relations and providing best military advice to senior civilian leaders.

He directed reforms focused on preparing strategic leaders' moral, ethical, and cognitive ability to operate in the complexity and uncertainty of the 21st century security environment. He guided immersion in mobile learning technology, recognition of superior student achievement supported by course end grades, refinement of the comprehensive oral exam to validate student synthesis of core concepts, and adaptations in the curriculum to further develop critical and creative thinkers who are value-added as strategic advisors and leaders.