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During the convocation ceremony, Command Sgt. Maj. Malcolm Parrish assumed responsibility as the first Army War College Command Sergeant Major. Here he accepts responsibility from Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo, War College Commandant.

One of the newest members of The War College is here with a mission straight from the top of the Army. His mission is so important that for the first time in its history, the Army War College has its own command sergeant major.

Command Sgt. Maj. Malcolm Parrish has been charged by the Army Chief of Staff and Sergeant Major of the Army with many tasks, one of which is seeing how the educational programs here can be adapted for Senior NCOs.

“In the Army we have identified a gap in professional military education for our senior NCOs, especially at the command sergeant major rank,” he said. “One of my charges is to see how the programs here, at TRADOC, at [the Combined Arms Center], at the Sergeants Major Academy and West Point, as well as the other services, can be adapted to meet the needs of our senior NCOs.”

The task was so important that **Gen. Ray Odierno**, Chief of Staff of the Army, and **Sgt. Maj. Raymond Chandler**, Sergeant Major of the Army, created the position and authorized Army War College leadership to hand-select the person for the position.

“We’ve evolved as an Army, as an institution, and as a profession and we senior NCOs have much to offer our senior leaders, especially at the strategic level,” he said. “What we hope to do is to create more opportunities to learn alongside our officer counterparts and encourage leader development at all levels.”

Coming from a military family, Parrish knew he wanted to join the Army from a young age, he said.

“I was that kid who was wearing his father’s Korean War equipment, always playing outside,” he said. He enlisted under the delayed entry program during his junior year of high school. His career has taken him, his wife, Sharon, and daughter around the world to assignments in Germany, Ft. Riley, Ft. Bliss and Ft. Carson, just to name a few.

Nearly 31 years after his initial enlistment, Parrish is eager to tackle this challenge, he said.

“The opportunity to come here and be a positive part of this institution is very important to me,” said Parrish. “I wanted to come somewhere I could make a difference. I hope that by the end of my time here I am able to present options for our senior leadership that create new opportunities for leader development at the senior NCO levels.”

Parrish’s other roles will be to serve as a sounding board for the commandant and the students of the War College.



Parrish poses for a photo with his wife, Sharon, and their daughter, Samantha.

“A lot of times there may be an issue or something that they want to discuss but may not feel comfortable talking about it with their peers or the commandant. I have an open-door policy. A student can come in at any time and talk,” he said, adding that he plans to sit in on academic seminar sessions to provide an NCO perspective.

Parrish bio

A native of Arrington, Va., Command Sgt. Major Malcolm D. Parrish entered the U.S. Army in September 1982. He received his basic and advanced individual training at Fort Knox, Ky., where he was awarded MOS 19D, Armored Reconnaissance Specialist.

During 31 years of service, CSM Parrish’s leadership positions increased in responsibility: squad leader,

section sergeant, platoon sergeant, tank company first sergeant, headquarters and headquarters company first sergeant, headquarters and headquarters brigade first sergeant, battalion operations sergeant major, division G3 sergeant major, battalion command sergeant major.

Parrish deployed to Kosovo for KFOR 4A in 2002; and twice in support of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM.

Parrish is a graduate of numerous leadership courses to include the Command Sergeant Major Development Program and Senior Leader Development Course, the Senior Executive Education Program of the Kansas University School of Business and, as of August, the Army War College Senior Leader Seminar.

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