

Chief of Staff of Army announces next Commandant, U.S. Army War College

March 19, 2014 -- On Tuesday morning, March 18th, the Chief of Staff, Army, announced the assignment of Maj. Gen. William E. Rapp, Chief of Legislative Liaison, Office of the Secretary of the Army,



Pentagon, Washington, D.C. to the U.S. Army War College as the 50th Commandant.

Maj. Gen. Rapp is a 1984 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Career highlights of the past 10 years include service at the highest operational and strategic levels of war: command of the 555th Combat Engineer Group at Joint Base Lewis McChord and in combat in Iraq; command of the Northwest Division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Portland, Oregon; and Deputy Commanding General-Support, U.S. Forces Afghanistan. He also served as Commandant of Cadets at the U.S. Military Academy, and most recently, as Chief of Army Legislative Liaison. He is a 2004 graduate of the Army War College, and holds a master's in Political Science, a master's in National Security and Strategy, and a Ph.D. in International Relations earned at Stanford University.

49th Commandant Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo, left, will pass responsibility for the U.S. Army War College to Maj. Gen. William Rapp in June 2014.

"With the selection of Maj. Gen. Rapp, there is no doubt that the Secretary of the Army and the Chief of Staff of the Army are sending the strongest possible message to the institution of the Army - and to all of us here - about the important role The War College plays in our Army right now," said Cucolo in a personal message to the Army War College faculty and staff.

"The 50th Commandant comes to us from one of the toughest two-star duties in the Army: Chief of Legislative Liaison.

"If there is one officer on the Army staff who knows how Washington runs and how the Army runs, it is MG Bill Rapp; if there is one two-star in the Army who can keep us on the trajectory of strategic relevance for the Army, the joint force and spirited engagement in national security discourse, it is Bill Rapp."

A ceremony to mark the change in responsibility will be scheduled at the Army War College in June.

Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo will complete 35 years of service to the Nation, as he completes two years as the 49th Commandant of the U.S. Army War College. He plans to relocate with his family to Texas.