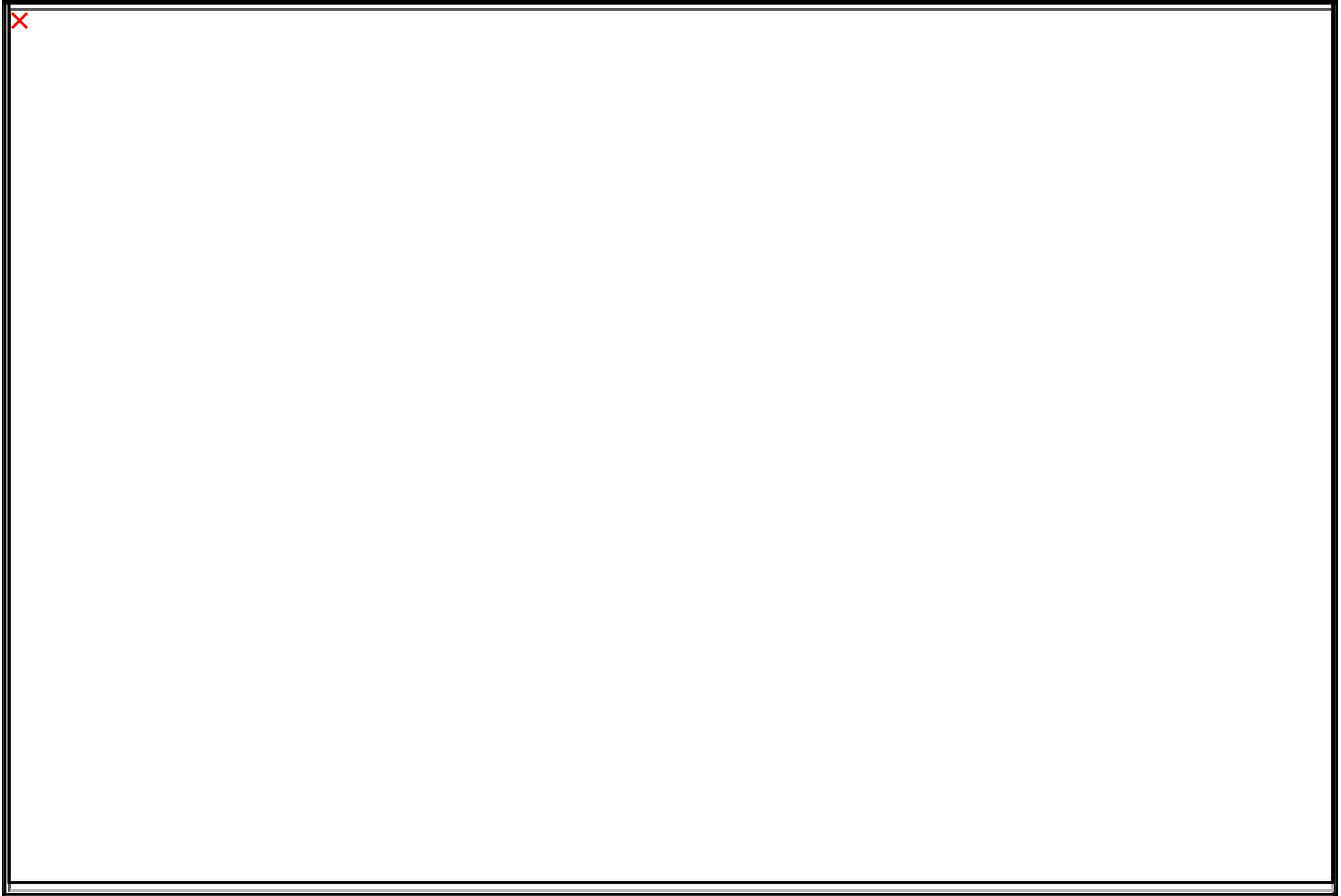


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May 1, 2014 -- The plan was for an informal ceremony. The reality was all the more meaningful for its simplicity when Dr. Rory Cooper was invested as a Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army, at the Army War College's Collins Hall, May 1.

Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo, host of the Mid-Atlantic Regional CASA Convention, shared honors with the Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Army, Gerald O'Keefe, who executes CASA program oversight on behalf of the Secretary of the Army.

Administrative Aide to the SA, Gerald O'Keefe, observes as Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo administers the oath of CASA service to Dr. Rory Cooper (right).

The oath that Cooper took is the oath that U.S. Soldiers around the world take when they swear to “support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic ... bear true faith and allegiance to the same” New colleagues within the CASA community congratulated him for the commitment that inspired the Secretary to select him to represent the Army in Pennsylvania -- on yet another level.

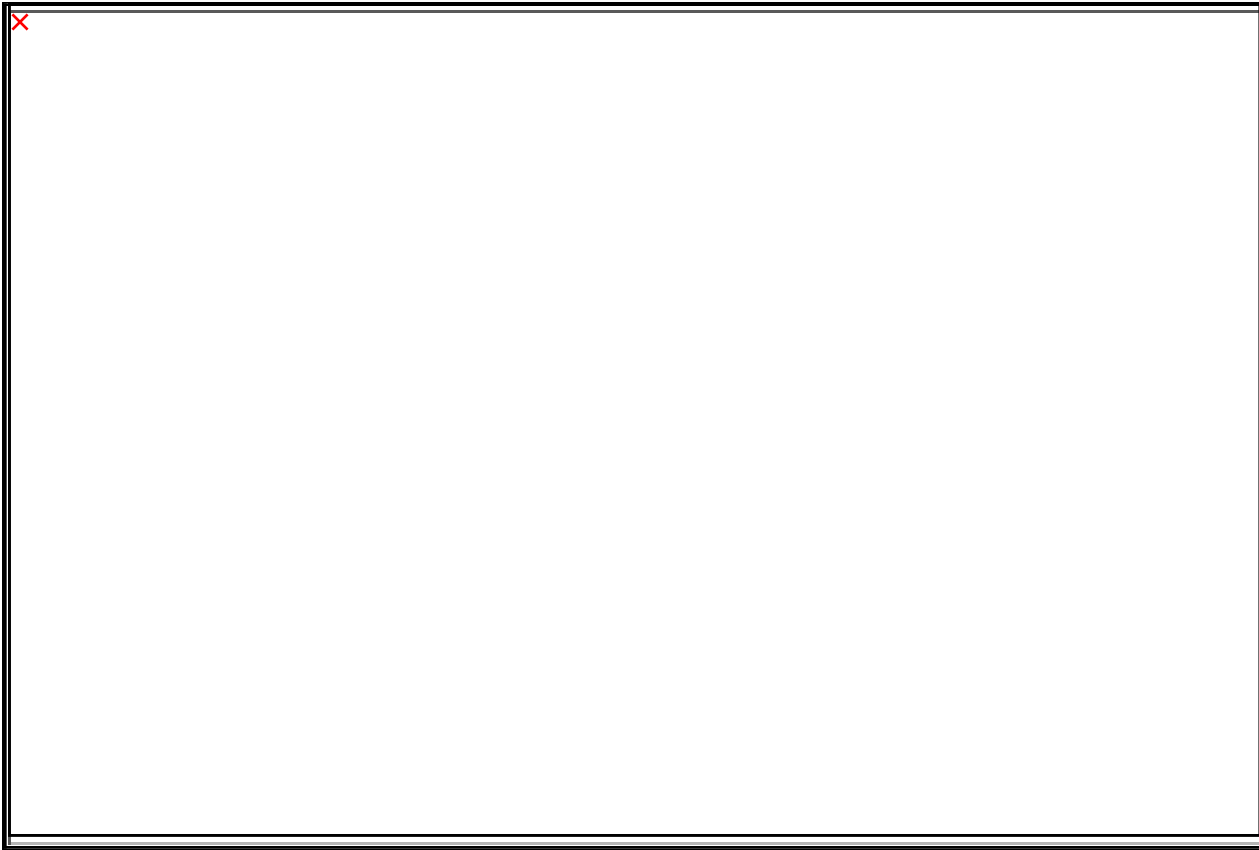
Dr. Cooper has already committed skill and commitment on behalf of Soldiers. He is Director of the Center of Excellence for Wheelchair and Related Technology, VA Rehabilitation Research & Development Center, and a Senior Research Career Scientist at the VA Rehabilitation Research and Development Service, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Dr. Cooper holds an appointment as chair and distinguished professor of the Department of Rehabilitation Science and Technology of the University of Pittsburgh; and a secondary appointment at Pitt as Professor in both the Departments of Orthopaedic Surgery and of Mechanical Engineering and Bioengineering. Dr. Cooper is also a Professor in the Robotics Institute, School of Computer Science, Carnegie Mellon University.

Dr. Cooper works in collaboration with several organizations, such as the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society North America, and the American Congress of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. Dr. Cooper holds 8 patents and is the author/editor of 10 books, 30 book chapters, and over 600 journal publications, editorials and letters, and peer-reviewed abstracts and proceedings publications. He is a Founding Editor of the Assistive Technology Research Book series. He serves as an editorial board member for *American Journal of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*, *Assistive Technology*, *Journal of Spinal Cord Injury Medicine*, and *Medical Engineering and Physics*.

Dr. Cooper has received numerous honors for his work, including the Paralympic Sports Science Award from International Paralympic Committee, Secretaries Award for Diversity and Inclusion from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Outstanding Civilian Service Medal from the U.S. Army War College, Mentor Award from the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Power of Work Award from Goodwill Industries of Western Pennsylvania, the da Vinci Lifetime Achievement Award from the

National MS Society - Michigan Chapter, and the Certificate of Appreciation from the National Institute on Child Health and Human Development - National Institutes of Health, amongst many others.



Secretary of the Army John McHugh selected Dr. Cooper to represent Army interests within Pennsylvania and, in turn, to represent Pa. interest with the Secretary. The CASA program, dating formally to 1922, is a critical link between the Army's leadership and the American public. CASAs are often business or civic leaders who are asked to be official advocates for the Army to business, professional, and government audiences within their communities.

In attendance for the multi-day conference at Carlisle Barracks were these CASAs: Terry Wiley for Delaware; Woody Goldberg, District of Columbia; Turhan Robinson of Maryland; Bob Maguire representing New Jersey; Tony Keating of New York; Bill LaPrise and Bill Willoughby of Ohio; Karen Conlin, Joe DeFrancisco, and Carter Melton representing Virginia; Bruce Moss of W. Virginia; and, now, Rory Cooper of Pennsylvania.