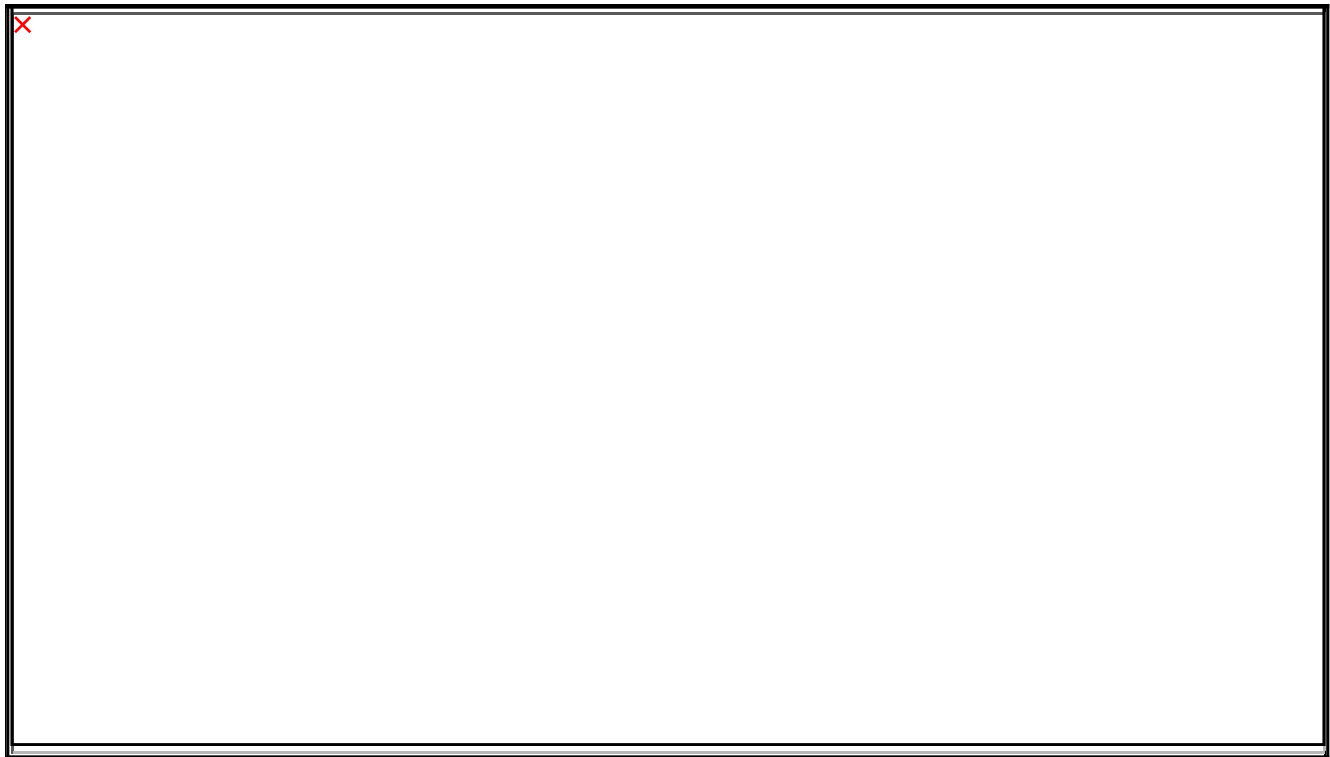


Army War College change of command ceremony open to all, June 13

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A change of command ceremony will mark the passing of authority and responsibility for the U.S.



Army War College and Carlisle Barracks, Friday, June 13, 10-11 a.m. in Bliss Hall, Carlisle Barracks, when Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo (Anthony A. Cucolo III) will retire after 35 years of service to the nation and Maj. Gen. Bill Rapp will assume responsibility as The War College's 50th Commandant since its establishment in 1901, and commanding general of Carlisle Barracks.

The change of command is a timeless Army tradition initiated when the 28th Infantry Division Band ensemble, of the Pa. Army National Guard, plays Ruffles and Flourishes and the salute battery of the 1st Battalion, 109th Field Artillery (55th Brigade Combat Team) fires an artillery salute.

The “passing of the colors’ is the symbolic passing of authority for a military unit which is, in turn, symbolized by the unit colors (flag) under which a unit fights, records historic deeds, and inspires Soldier for the future.

The Army’s Vice Chief of Staff Gen. John Campbell will preside over the change of command ceremony, and the retirement that follows immediately. Gen. Campbell will present the Distinguished Service Medal to Maj. Gen. Cucolo on behalf of Secretary of the Army John McHugh and Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Raymond Odierno; and the Presidential Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of President Barack Obama.



Command Sgt. Major Malcolm Parrish will present the US flag in honor of his years of service, on behalf of the men and women of the Army with whom he has served. His aide, Maj. Jarod Parker, will present to Maj. Gen. Cucolo the last round fired from the artillery salute. Following remarks by Campbell, Cucolo and Rapp and the singing of “The Dog Face Soldier” and “The Army Song”, the Rapps will greet guests at a reception at the

Letort View Community Center.

Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo, left, will pass Army War College responsibility to Maj. Gen. Bill Rapp (right) at a formal change of command ceremony, followed by retirement activities for Maj. Gen. and Ginger Cucolo, June 13.

Maj. Gen. William Rapp, his wife, Debbie, and two teen sons are moving from the Washington D.C. area where he has been serving as the Army’s Chief of Legislative Liaison. His daughter is a West Point cadet. This will be his second assignment to Carlisle Barracks after his 2003-2004 student year.

A 1984 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Maj. Gen. Rapp has served 30 years in the continental United States, Germany, Japan, Iraq, and Afghanistan culminating in the past two years serving as the Chief of Legislative Liaison for the Army in Washington DC. He has been fortunate to serve in a wide variety of assignments over those three decades. Maj. Gen. Rapp commanded an Airborne Engineer company in the First Gulf War, a mechanized engineer battalion in Germany, a multi-component Engineer Group in Iraqi Freedom, and the National Support Element for US Forces Afghanistan. He served a year with Gen. Petraeus in Baghdad during the Surge of 2007-08 as his Initiatives Group Chief. Maj. Gen. Rapp commanded the Northwestern Division of the US Army Corps of Engineers, and was the 72nd Commandant of Cadets at West Point.

Maj. Gen. Rapp earned a PhD in Political Science from Stanford University, served a year in Tokyo as a Council on Foreign Relations fellow, and taught International Relations in the Social Sciences Department at West Point. Rapp brings to the Army War College an appreciation of the opportunity to educate and develop senior leaders and to serve as a catalyst for the strategic renaissance needed by our Army today, he said.

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