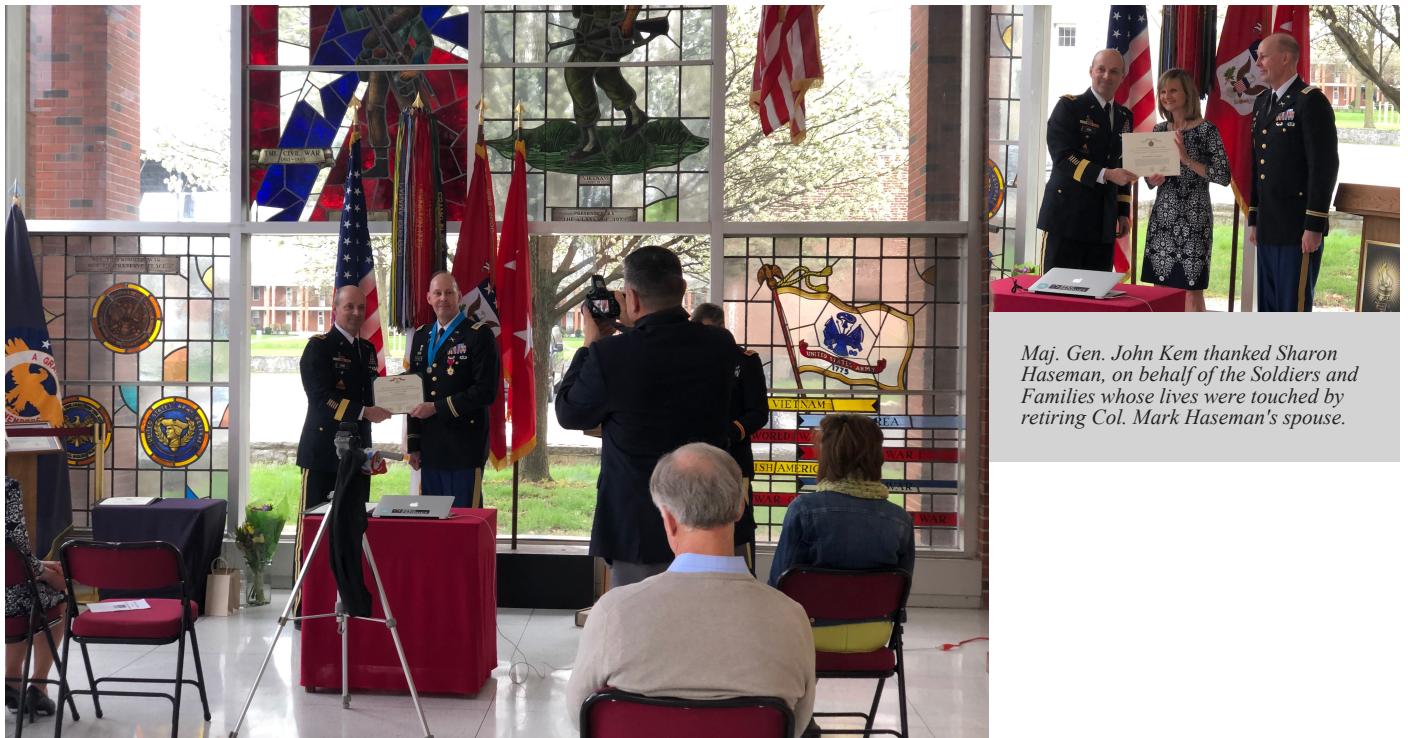


Living in the time of coronavirus: Retiring while social distancing

By Public Affairs Staff 10 April 2020



Maj. Gen. John Kem thanked Sharon Haseman, on behalf of the Soldiers and Families whose lives were touched by retiring Col. Mark Haseman's spouse.

Flexibility marked the occasion of Army Col. Mark Haseman's retirement, April 3, 2020. All but a handful of attendees were remotely located and linked online to the retirement of Haseman (right), officiated by USAWC Commandant Maj. Gen. John Kem (left).

It's a beloved tradition and arguably the most meaningful moment of a service member's career when friends, family, professional colleagues and a senior leader celebrate a life of service, sacrifice, dedication and duty. As often happens at the home of senior leader education, the normal schedule was paused to honor a retiring Army colonel.

Col. Mark Haseman's retirement ceremony reflected the creative problem-solving that marked his 30 years of contributions to the Army and the nation. Haseman's family and a handful of war college leaders gathered with a social-distancing seating plan, while friends from West Point and follow-on assignments watched a live-streamed event, officiated by USAWC Commandant Maj. Gen. John Kem, April 3 in the Bliss Hall foyer.

The formal ceremony began with awards to Sharon Haseman, marking her

contributions as an Army wife - to Mark, to family, to unit families and military communities.

“We appreciate the many folks who wanted to celebrate with us,” wrote Haseman as he guided his invitees to the live-stream video platform. “As I wrap up my 30 years in the Army, I want to express my gratitude to those who I’ve been fortunate to work alongside.

“Thank you for all of your professional interactions, insights, friendships, and great memories,” he said in his email. “I walk away a blessed man with an incredible career behind me my wife and kids beside me and the rest of my life ahead of me to continue to serve others and take on new adventures.”

Haseman’s last assignment in the Army has been as the Director of Strategic Intelligence in the College’s Military Strategy, Planning and Operations department. He guided the intelligence elements of the core curriculum, taught intelligence-associated electives, and initiated the first Intelligence Day for the School of Strategic Landpower. He began his service as an Infantry officer and transitioned to Strategic Intelligence in 2001, including support to five combatant command commanders and Ambassador Eikenberry in Kabul.