



G-5's "Eye on AMC" U.S. Army Materiel Command

Essential in Peace, Indispensable in War

November 26, 2003

Army names new sergeant major of the Army

The acting Army Secretary Les Brownlee and Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker have selected Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth O. Preston as the 13th Sergeant Major of the Army. Preston will succeed Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack L. Tilley who retires Jan. 15. The Sergeant Major of the Army designee has been serving as the command sergeant major for V Corps in Heidelberg, Germany, since April 2001. He is also serving as the command sergeant major for the Combined Joint Task Force 7 in Baghdad, Iraq.

Preston will be sworn in as the Army senior enlisted advisor during ceremonies at the Pentagon Jan. 15.

AMC names new contracting director

The Army Materiel Command has named Jeffrey P. Parsons as its new director of command contracting for the headquarters. Parsons' most recent assignment was the director of contracting for the Air Force Materiel Command at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. He was responsible for developing and implementing contracting policies and processes to acquire research and development, production, and test and logistic support for Air Force weapons systems and infrastructures.

Parsons will report for duty on Dec. 15.

First Japanese exchange engineer reports to Night Vision

The Army Materiel Command's Night Vision and Electronic Sensors Directorate recently welcomed the first Japanese scientist to come to the United States under the new Japan/U.S. engineer scientist exchange program.

Dr. Kei Ota will spend one year at NVESD investigating the parameters of solid state laser materials and determining which combination of ion concentrations, host material, and laser cavity design will result in high efficiency, eye-safe lasers for Army applications. Additionally he will evaluate laser diode pumping techniques including beam-forming optics to efficiently couple pump light into laser rods and slabs.

Army surgeon general visits Sierra

The Army's Surgeon General, Lt. Gen. James Peake recently visited Sierra Army Depot, Herlong, Calif., to see the medical items it stores and, when needed, packages and ships to Soldiers in the field. Peake thanked the depot for its efforts and urged the audience to always find the most efficient and cost effective ways to provide the latest medical equipment to Soldiers while being good stewards of our taxpayers' money.

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"I just like the feeling I get from helping our Soldiers over here," said Larry Phillips, a welder from Anniston's Army Depot who's in Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, fixing vehicles. Phillips and Master Sgt. Tom Ray of the Alabama National Guard 226th Area Support Group worked together to customize a HMMWV with a .50 caliber machine gun to help protect convoys.