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Division West conducts change of command ceremony

By Staff Sgt. Tony Lindback,
Division West Public Affairs

FORT HOOD, Texas – First Army Division West welcomed its fourth commanding general in a change of command ceremony at Cameron Field today.

Maj. Gen. Charles A. Anderson assumed command of Division West from Maj. Gen. Thomas G. Robinson, who had the reins of the command since Division West moved to Fort Hood from Fort Carson, Colo., in August.

Anderson most recently served as deputy commanding general of Third Army/United States Army Central at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. In that assignment, he was involved in the planning and execution of the United States military drawdown in Iraq and the build-up in Afghanistan.

“In my recent position in Third Army, we were the recipient of First Army’s work in providing training and ready forces for the (Central Command area of responsibility),” Anderson said. “First Army is known for their battle focused, tough, realistic training aimed at building competence and confidence in individuals and units. It is really a pleasure to be joining this world-class team.”

Robinson will return to First Army Headquarters at Fort Gillem, Ga., as the First Army deputy commanding general.

“The change of command brings mixed emotions for the outgoing commander,” Robinson said. “For me today, that is especially true. My time as part of the team has been brief, but it was long enough for me to appreciate the critical role that this unit plays in our nation’s defense and in our Army.”

Division West, a subordinate unit of First Army, trains and validates Army National Guard and Army Reserve Soldiers for deployment to combat or other contingency operations. The division also trains units of the active Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Marine Corps and United States partner nations, for a total of nearly 40,000 servicemembers every year. Since October 2007, Division West has mobilized more than 1,500 units and more than 85,000 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines.

Division West was established at Fort Carson in 2006, and the move to Texas co-locates the headquarters with two of its seven brigades, consolidating and maximizing training operations. The division expects to move a third brigade to Fort Hood next year.

Division West’s subordinate training brigades are the 120th Infantry and 166th Aviation Brigades at Fort Hood, the 181st Infantry Brigade at Fort McCoy, Wisc., the 191st Infantry Brigade at Fort Lewis, Wash., the 402nd Field Artillery Brigade at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., the 479th Field Artillery Brigade at Fort Sill, Okla., and the 5th Armored Brigade at Fort Bliss, Texas. The seven brigades have a total of 49 battalions located throughout the western United States from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean.

CUTLINES

1673:

Master Sgt. Lisa Billingslea presents a bouquet of flowers to Tammy Anderson, wife of Maj. Gen. Charles A. Anderson, who assumed command of Division West in a ceremony today at Fort Hood, Texas.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Gail Braymen, Division West Public Affairs

1789:

Maj. Gen. Charles A. Anderson, second from left, accepts the Division West colors from Lt. Gen. Thomas G. Miller, commanding general of First Army. Anderson assumed command of Division West in a ceremony today at Fort Hood, Texas.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Gail Braymen, Division West Public Affairs

1880:

Maj. Gen. Charles A. Anderson, who assumed command of Division West in a ceremony today at Fort Hood, Texas, speaks at the change of command ceremony.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Gail Braymen, Division West Public Affairs

1976:

General Charles G. Campbell, commanding general of Army Forces Command, right, talks with Maj. Gen. Charles A. Anderson, who assumed command of Division West in a ceremony today at Fort Hood, Texas.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Gail Braymen, Division West Public Affairs

2010:

Maj. Gen. Charles A. Anderson, right, commanding general of Division West, cuts a celebratory cake with Division West command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. Terry G. Young, at a reception following the Division West change of command ceremony today at Fort Hood, Texas.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Gail Braymen, Division West Public Affairs

Division West change of command panoramic:

Maj. Gen. Charles A. Anderson, who assumed command of Division West in a ceremony today at Fort Hood, Texas, poses with members of Division West and its seven subordinate brigades and 49 battalions.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Tony Lindback, Division West Public Affairs