

Semonite takes command of North Atlantic Division

Story by Lou Fioto, North Atlantic Division



NEW YORK – Brig. Gen. Todd T. Semonite assumed command of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-North Atlantic Division from Maj. Gen. William T. Grisoli during a formal change of command ceremony Sept. 18 at Fort Hamilton in Brooklyn, N.Y. Lt. Gen. Carl Strock, the Army's Chief of Engineers, officiated the ceremony.

The change of command is a military tradition dating back to Roman times. The ceremony emphasizes the continuity of leadership and unit identity, despite changes in individual leadership. It also symbolizes the transfer of command responsibility from one officer to another.

Prior to the ceremony, Brig. Gen. Semonite, a native of Bellows Falls, Vt., was the commanding general of the Maneuver Support Center at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. Maj. Gen. Grisoli moved on to become the Army's Director of Program Analysis and Evaluation, G-8, at the Pentagon.

"I'm looking forward to the challenge of commanding the North Atlantic Division," Semonite said. "It is one of the Corps' elite divisions in one of the most unique and visible regions in the world. It's going to be an exciting tour."

As division commander, Semonite, a registered professional engineer in Virginia and Vermont, oversees Corps of Engineers' work in the continental United States and overseas. Stateside, he oversees the planning, design and construction of projects to support the military, protect America's water resources, and restore and enhance the environment within a 180,000 square-mile area along the Atlantic Coast, including 13 states from Maine to Virginia and the District of Columbia. The division also supports numerous federal, state, and local governments and agencies.

Overseas, the division supports the European command and is responsible for engineering and construction activities for many countries and international customers. The North Atlantic Division, which has district offices in Concord, Mass.; New York, N.Y.; Philadelphia, Pa.; Baltimore Md.; Norfolk, Va.; and Wiesbaden, Germany, is one of eight permanent U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regional Business Centers.

"I'm proud to be joining the great North Atlantic Division team," Semonite said. "It has an outstanding reputation of performance and achievement that sets the bar high."

During his career, Semonite has served as Assistant Commandant, U.S. Army Engineer School and Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo., and in a wide variety of command and staff positions including: Director, Office of the Chief of Engineers, HQDA at the Pentagon; Deputy Commander, Task Force Restore Iraqi Electricity (responsible for designing and executing a \$1.1 billion reconstruction program); and Executive Officer to the Commanding General, USAREUR and 7th Army.

Brig. Gen. Semonite graduated from the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, N.Y., and was commissioned into the Corps of Engineers in 1979. He has a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the U.S. Military Academy, a Master of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Vermont, and a Masters of Military Arts and Sciences from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kan. He is a graduate of the Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the Combined Arms Services Staff School, the Command and General Staff College, and the Army War College.

Engineering in Europe

Contents

4 ▶ In defense of freedom
District engineer awarded
Purple Heart equivalent

8 ▶ Sharing knowledge
Professional development
prepares fellow engineers

11 ▶ NAU's largest contract OK'd
USAREUR Support Contract
opens many doors for the Corps

12 ▶ Air Force transformation
District's projects at Incirlik Air Base
help USAFE forces transform

16 ▶ Army family housing
Building to fit the needs of
the future face of the Army

18 ▶ Supporting other nations
Facilitating threat reduction
in Russia and Georgia

Engineering in Europe is an unofficial publication of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Europe District, authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1. The editorial views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or the Department of the Army. *Engineering in Europe* is a command information publication of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Europe District. Circulation is 800 copies. Articles, photographs, and other contributions are welcome. The editor reserves the right to make changes to all material submitted. The submission deadline is the 1st of the month preceding quarterly publication. Send submissions to: Editor, *Engineering in Europe*, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Europe District, CMR 410, Box 1, APO AE 09096. Details may be obtained from the PAO at (011) 49-611-816-2847 or DSN 336-2847. Material may be sent via e-mail to: brian.h.temple@nau02.usace.army.mil An electronic version of *Engineering in Europe* may be viewed on the Europe District Internet homepage at: www.nau.usace.army.mil

Commander:
Col. Margaret W. Burcham

Deputy Commander:
Maj.(P) Michael J. Farrell

Public Affairs Chief:
Brian H. Temple

Layout/Design/Editor:
Justin Ward



On the Cover

Ian Hogan wears Lt. Col. Mike Summers' hard hat at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Child Development Center at the Wiesbaden Army Air Field. Ian is the son of Staff Sgt. Jerry Wright, with the 66th Military Intelligence Battalion in Darmstadt and Air Force Staff Sgt. Adele Wright, with the 485th Intelligence Squadron at the Mainz Kastel Storage Station.

Cover photo by Justin Ward