



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL
MATERIALS AGENCY

NEWS RELEASE

Umatilla Chemical Depot

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 6, 2009
Time: 10:15 a.m.

For more information contact:
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Umatilla Chemical Depot Change of Command set for July 16

Umatilla Chemical Depot, Hermiston, Ore. – Lt. Col. Kris Perkins will assume command of the U.S. Army Umatilla Chemical Depot (UMCD) from Lt. Col. Bob Stein in a July 16 change of command ceremony at the depot. The ceremony begins at 10 a.m.

Invited guests, depot employees and media representatives will attend the Thursday morning ceremony.

Perkins, 39, will be the 35th commander in the depot's 68-year history. As commander, he'll be responsible for safe and secure storage of the depot's chemical weapons and depot closure efforts during his two-year tenure. The Umatilla Chemical Depot is slated for eventual closure under the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Act (BRAC) when the chemical weapons disposal mission is completed.

Conrad Whyne, director of the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) headquartered in Aberdeen, Md., will lead the change of command ceremony. CMA is the parent command of UMCD.

Lt. Col. Stein is being assigned to U.S. Army Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland at the end of his two-year command tenure here.

Born in Lockney, Texas, Lt. Col. Perkins graduated from Oklahoma State University in 1992 with a Bachelor of Arts in Communications. Prior to that, he was commissioned as an infantry officer in 1990. His military education includes Chemical Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, Airborne School, and Command and General Staff College.

From 1987-1992, he served both as an enlisted infantry soldier and infantry officer in the Oklahoma National Guard. He was called to active duty in 1993 as a chemical officer.

During his military career, Perkins served in numerous staff and leadership positions. Assignments included Battalion Chemical Officer and Battery Executive Officer, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Air Defense Artillery, Fort Hood, Texas; Brigade Chemical Officer, 1st Brigade, 2nd Infantry
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Division, Camp Casey, Korea; Brigade Chemical Officer, 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas; and Company Commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas. He also served as Company Commander at the Sacramento Valley Recruiting Company, Sacramento, Calif., and as Senior Chemical Observer Controller, Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, La.

His most recent assignment has been with the Army's III Corps as G4 Chief of Logistics, Plans and Operations and Combat Operations Integration Cell Officer in Charge of Logistics, Fort Hood, Texas. Prior to that, he was III Corps Battalion Executive Officer.

He deployed in support of Operation Sea Signal at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; in Bosnia and Herzegovina; and Operation Iraqi Freedom in Baghdad, Iraq.

His military awards include the Bronze Star Medal, Joint Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Army Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Coast Guard Meritorious Citation, Coast Guard Special Operations Ribbon, the National Defense Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, NATO Medal, Foreign Parachute Badges from Russia and New Zealand, and Recruiter's Badge.

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UMATILLA CHEMICAL DEPOT MEDIA ADVISORY

The July 16 Umatilla Chemical Depot change of command ceremony will not be open to the general public. For security reasons, only invited guests, depot employees and media representatives will be authorized to attend. A brief news conference with Lt. Col. Perkins will follow the Change of Command ceremony.

Media representatives should plan to arrive by 9:15 a.m. at the depot's front gate, located just north of Exit 177, I-84, just west of Hermiston, Ore. Media will park in the front gate parking lot and be transported with their equipment to the ceremony. Guests should be seated at the ceremony and media should be in place by 9:45 a.m.

If you plan to attend, please contact the depot Public Affairs Office at (541) 564-5312 or (541) 564-5418 by 5 p.m. on Thursday, July 9. Please provide your photo ID name and number, and bring that same ID with you on July 16. Plan to arrive no later than 9:30 a.m.

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