

Chief of Signal CHANGE of COMMAND



By Wilson A. Rivera

As the new Chief of Signal took command, the U.S. Army Signal Corps made history and paid tribute to it. Troops used historical semaphore flags to relay commands during the ceremony on 25 July 2012 for outgoing commander, MG Alan R. Lynn, and incoming commander, MG LaWarren V. Patterson. In front of Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen, and community leaders from around the Central Savannah River Area, MG Patterson became the 36th Chief of Signal.

"What Signaleer wouldn't dream of one day being the next Chief of Signal," MG Patterson said. "It feels exciting, like winning

the lottery."

During the ceremony, the historic semaphore flag signaling system relayed silent commands from the adjutant and commander of the troops to present arms, order arms, and parade rest on Barton Field. Semaphore flags have been used to communicate since 1914. Signaleers stood next to the commander on the battlefield, getting the message though.

LTG David G. Perkins, U.S. Army Combined Arms Center and Fort Leavenworth commanding general, was the officiating officer of the ceremony. LTG Perkins commented on the accomplishments by MG Lynn and the way forward under MG Patterson.

MG Lynn's next command

is with the U.S. Army Network Enterprise Technology Command, in Fort Huachuca, Ariz. MG Patterson makes a short move into the installation commander's quarters after relinquishing command of 7th Signal Command (Theater) headquartered at Fort Gordon.

MG Patterson says he plans above all to take care of all Soldiers and their families, and to make sure the Signal mission is done so that the Army can fight and win the nation's land battles. He added that he quickly wants to get to know the community and be an enhancement to the CSRA.

"This is something I've wanted to do my whole life," he said. "As retired GEN Eric K. Shinseki once said 'The Army is a passion, ...



Photos by Marlene L. Thompson / Multimedia & Visual Information Center

Soldiers from the the Fort Gordon Installation Support Detachment Cannon Salute Battery fire 13 rounds on 25 July 2012 during the change-of-command ceremony for MG LaWarren V. Patterson, incoming U.S. Army Signal Center of Excellence and Fort Gordon commanding general.



(Above) MG LaWarren V. Patterson, U.S. Army Signal Center of Excellence and Fort Gordon commanding general, passes the Signal Corps Regimental colors to CSM Ronald S. Pflieger, regimental command sergeant major, during the ceremony held 25 July 2012 on Barton Field. *(Below)* MG Patterson and the official party, are “piped aboard” by a cadre of sideboys at the start of the change-of-command ceremony. Fort Gordon has Navy, Air Force and Marine units stationed on the post.

you’ve got to love it, I love the Army, only second to my family,” said MG Patterson.

Wilson A Rivera is editor of the Signal Newspaper at Fort Gordon, Ga.

“I will give you my utmost...I shall expect yours.”

*MG LaWarren V. Patterson
36th Chief of Signal*

