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Col. Whippo takes command of Pacific region veterinary services

FORT SHAFTER— In a July 1 ceremony at Fort Shafter, Col. Paul E. Whippo took command of the Pacific Regional Veterinary Command from Col. John L. Poppe. Presiding at the morning ceremony at Fort Shafter's Palm Circle was Col. David S. Rolfe, U.S. Army Veterinary Command's commander, who praised Col. Poppe for his leadership of the Pacific region command for the past two years.

"A commander's role is to create the environment for success, to see the big picture, to prioritize and focus the unit's efforts, and to lessen the natural chaos. Col. Poppe has done just that, and done it in one of the most complex environments in the DOD," Rolfe said.

Rolfe noted that under Poppe's leadership, PRVC has led the Army's six regional commands in out-patient visits. PRVC also provided outstanding support to the U.S. Pacific Command's emergency cyclone relief efforts and stability operations throughout the Pacific.

To help prevent the spread of the deadly avian flu virus, Col. Poppe coordinated international military conferences and table top exercises with U.S. allies in the region. He also helped integrate a newly established veterinary district in Korea into the Pacific regional command.

Poppe new assignment is at Fort Sam Houston, Texas where he will head the veterinary science department at the Army Medical Department Center and School.

Incoming commander Col. Whippo comes to Hawaii after serving as the command veterinarian for Army Central Command in Kuwait. Whippo previously served in Hawaii in 1993 as Tripler Army Medical Center's chief of animal research. He also served in the Pacific region in Guam in 1997.

Originally from Indiana, Col. Whippo was commissioned as an Army veterinarian after graduating from North Carolina State University in Raleigh, North Carolina. He has served in Europe in Germany, Hungary, and United Kingdom. He deployed to Saudi Arabia for Desert Shield and Desert Storm. He also has served in assignments at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Fort Hood, and Fort Sam Houston.

PRVC's 300 personnel work on 28 military installations in Hawaii, Japan, Guam and Korea, supporting all of the U.S. Pacific Command's operations except Alaska. The veterinary command is responsible for food safety and quality assurance, care of government-owned animals, and animal disease prevention and control.



Col. Paul E. Whippo, Pacific Regional Veterinary Command's new commander, returns the guidon to Command Sgt. Maj. Franklin Davis, during ceremonies at Fort Shafter July 1. At right is outgoing commander, Col. John L. Poppe. U.S. Army photo by Leslie Ozawa



Col. John L. Poppe bids farewell to his Soldiers and guests during the Pacific Regional Veterinary Command's change of command ceremony at Fort Shafter. Seated at right is incoming commander, Col. Paul E. Whippo. U.S. Army photo by Leslie Ozawa