

Harvey sworn in as new Secretary of the Army

Dr. Francis J. Harvey was sworn in Nov. 19 at the Pentagon as the 19th Secretary of the Army. The Senate confirmed President Bush's nomination of Dr. Harvey Nov. 16.

As Secretary of the Army, Harvey has statutory responsibility for all matters relating to Army manpower, personnel, reserve affairs, installations, environmental issues, weapons systems and equipment acquisition, communications, and financial management. Secretary Harvey is responsible for the department's annual budget of \$98.5 billion. He leads a work force of over one million active duty, Army National Guard, and Army Reserve Soldiers, 220,000 civilian employees, thousands of contractors, and has stewardship over 15 million acres of land.

Prior to his appointment, Harvey was a business executive with broad experience centered on the defense industry. He held various professional, management and executive positions within the Westinghouse Corporation from 1969 to 1997, including president of the Electronics Systems Group, president of the Government and Environmental Services Company, and chief operating officer of the \$6 billion Industries and Technology Group.

Most recently, Harvey was a director and vice chairman of Duratek, a company specializing in treating radioactive, hazardous, and other wastes. In his career, he has been involved



Photo by Staff Sgt. Carmen L. Burgess

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld looks on while Raymond DuBois, director of administration and management, swears in Dr. Francis J. Harvey as the 19th Secretary of the Army Nov. 19.

in one or more phases of more than 20 major Department of Defense programs.

Harvey earned his doctorate in Metallurgy and Material Sciences from the University of Pennsylvania and his Bachelor of Science at the University of Notre Dame in Metallurgy Engineering and Material Science. He was a White House Fellow at the Department of Defense in the late 1970s.

Harvey succeeds Les Brownlee, who served as the acting Secretary of the Army for the past 18 months.

Gipe named to succeed Lever as Army National Guard CSM

Command Sgt. Maj. John D. Gipe of the Kentucky Army National Guard has been selected as the 8th command sergeant major of the Army National Guard. He will succeed Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Lever III who was appointed to the position on Jan. 8, 2001.

The promotion of Gipe, a 22-year military veteran and resident of Floyds Knobs, Ky., was announced Dec. 3 by Lt. Gen. Roger C. Schultz, director of the Army National Guard.

Gipe will report for duty in January, first deploying to Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom, and then assuming his new responsibilities in August.

As command sergeant major, Gipe will serve as the director's adviser on enlisted matters, with special emphasis on quality of life and training. He also will act as a representative and advocate for the 50 states, three territories and the District of Columbia to the Army

leadership and Congress.

He was born in Owensboro, Ky., on June 12, 1957. He graduated high school in 1975 from Madison Consolidated High School in Madison, Ind. His military education includes the Primary Leadership Development Course, Basic Noncommissioned Officers Course, Advanced Non-Commissioned Officers Course and the Sergeants Major Course.

He joined the Kentucky Army National Guard as a member of the Scout Platoon, Combat Support Company, 2/123



CSM John D. Gipe

AR Battalion in July 1982. His Army National Guard leadership assignments have included: Scout Section Leader and Scout Platoon Sergeant, Det #1, 2/123rd AR Battalion; Mortar Platoon Sergeant, Det #2, 2/123AR Battalion; First Sergeant, Co D, 2/123AR Battalion; Operations Sergeant Major, 2/123 AR Battalion and NCO Academy Commandant / Command Sergeant Major, 238th Regiment. Other assignments include ANCOG / BNCOG Branch Chief, 238th Regiment and Chief Instructor, 238th Regiment.

His awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal 1OLC, Army Achievement Medal 2OLC, the Kentucky Distinguished Service Medal, the Kentucky Merit Ribbon, the Kentucky Commendation Ribbon with 2OLC and the Air Assault Badge. He is a member of the Honorable Order of Saint Barbara.

Department of Defense announces next Iraq, Afghanistan rotations

The Stryker Brigade in Alaska and a brigade of the Georgia National Guard are scheduled to begin deploying to Iraq in mid-2005, along with the returning 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and 4th Infantry Division, a brigade of the 10th Mountain Division and a brigade of the 1st Infantry Division from Fort Riley, Kan.

Two other brigades of the 10th Mountain division from Fort Drum, N.Y., will deploy to Afghanistan next year along with the headquarters of the Florida National Guard's 53rd Infantry Brigade, Defense officials announced.

As other units are identified and alerted, officials said subsequent announcements will be made.

OIF Rotation

For Operation Iraqi Freedom, the rotation is consistent with the current force structure in Iraq of 17 brigades and three division headquarters, DoD officials said. The partial troop deployment list includes:

48th Infantry Brigade (Separate),



Photo by Spc. Sean Kimmons

Georgia Army National Guard; 172d Stryker Brigade Combat Team, Fort Wainwright, Alaska; 1st Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, N.Y.; 101st Airborne Division, Air Assault (division headquarters and 4 brigades), Fort Campbell, Ky; 4th Infantry Division (division headquarters and 4 brigades), Fort Hood, Texas; and 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Kan.

The first units deploying to Iraq in the next rotation are scheduled to arrive in

mid-2005 and successive units will deploy at various times through mid-2006.

OEF Rotation

For Operation Enduring Freedom, the 3rd and 4th Brigades and headquarters elements of the Army's 10th Mountain Division from Fort Drum, N.Y., will deploy to Afghanistan along with the headquarters of the Florida National Guard's 53rd Infantry Brigade.

This OEF rotation is consistent with the current force structure of three brigades and a division headquarters in Afghanistan, DoD officials said. They said the first units deploying to Afghanistan are scheduled to arrive in mid-2005, and successive units will deploy at various points through mid-2006.

DoD's goal is to increasingly pass responsibility for security and governance of Iraq and Afghanistan to the security forces of those nations, officials said. They added that U.S. force rotations may be tailored based upon changes in the security situation in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Task Force Eagle cases its colors, leaves Bosnia-Herzegovina

Just like the 14 rotations before them, the Cyclone Soldiers of the 38th Infantry Division (Mechanized), Indiana National Guard, are packing up and preparing to go home. However, this Stabilization Force rotation will end differently than previous rotations.

Task Force Eagle, the U.S.-led effort of the SFOR in Bosnia-Herzegovina, cased its colors during a disestablishment ceremony Nov. 24.



Sgt. Luis Lopez and Sgt. 1st Class Malcolm Peoples, 529th Military Police Company, prepare one of two 105mm howitzers for the Task Force Eagle disestablishment ceremony held Nov. 24, at Eagle Base, Bosnia. The disestablishment marks the end of the major U.S. involvement in Bosnia after nine years, and is in conjunction with the end of the Stabilization Force as NATO transfers control to the European Union. About 250 Soldiers will remain in Bosnia as part of a quick reaction force in support of the EU.

The close of the nine-year mission of TF Eagle is part the completion of the SFOR mission and the inauguration of the European Union Force. The EUFOR is a coalition involving 33 countries, 11 of which are non-EU members.

The EUFOR will reinforce the EU's political engagement, its assistance programs and its ongoing police and monitoring missions, officials said, to help BiH continue to progress toward European integration. More than nine years ago, on Dec. 16, 1995, NATO launched the largest military operation ever undertaken by the Alliance with the Implementation Force or IFOR, in an effort to enforce the General Framework Agreement for Peace, negotiated in Dayton, Ohio, and generally referred to as the Dayton Peace Accord.

The Dayton Peace Accord brought to an end a four-year civil war which is estimated to have left more than 200,000 people dead.

The disestablishment of TF Eagle does not, however, mark the end of NATO or U.S. involvement in Bosnia, officials said. "NATO will maintain a small, but meaningful headquarters in Sarajevo. Also the United States will contribute small but important numbers of forces that will be stationed both in Sarajevo and at Eagle Base in Tuzla," Gen. B.B. Bell, Commander U.S. Army Europe, said.

Editor's note: This is a condensed version of a story written by Jason Austin, U.S. Army Europe, Public Affairs.

Registration underway for Bataan Death March

The 2005 Bataan Memorial Death March will be March 20 at White Sands Missile Range, N.M.

The memorial march recognizes the sacrifices made by thousands of U.S. and Filipino service members overwhelmed by the Japanese in the Philippine Islands during World War II.

Bataan Memorial Death March information and registration is available at www.bataanmarch.com. There is a limit of 4,000 marchers.

The 26.2-mile march starts on the Army



Photo by Miriam Rodriguez

More than 3,000 people, both military and civilian, participated in the 2004 Bataan Memorial Death March at White Sands Missile Range.

installation's main post, crosses hilly terrain, winds around a small mountain and returns to the finish line

through sandy desert trails and washes. The elevation varies from about 4,100 to 5,300 feet. While marathon length, the memorial march is not a sanctioned marathon.

The event is open to military (active-duty, Reserve, National Guard, ROTC, JROTC or retired) and civilian teams and individuals in either heavy or light divisions. Military personnel marching in any military category must wear full field gear. Civilian marchers in any category should wear attire appropriate for a road march through desert terrain. All marchers entered in heavy division categories must also carry a 35-pound rucksack.

For information about the march call the White Sands Missile Range Community Recreation Division at 505-678-1256 or the Public Affairs Office at 505-678-1134. Questions and comments may be e-mailed to bataan@wsmr.army.mil.



Photo by George Baird

Generations meet at the finish line. Marchers in the Junior ROTC category shake hands with Bataan survivors after completing the march.

International Web surfers find 30,000 ways to connect to a Soldier

Every day in cities, towns and rural outposts throughout America and around the world, hundreds of people sit down at their computers to carry out one mission: they head to the "To Our Soldiers" Web site.

The Army.mil Web team first envisioned "To Our Soldiers" a week after the ground war started in Iraq, said Donnie Steele, Army.mil technical director.

Less than month after the idea started being discussed, it was a reality.

The site, which has been accepting well wishes for more than 18 months, receives about 35,000 visitors per month. On Oct. 1, the 30,000th message was posted to the Web site, addressed to a Soldier with the 4th Infantry Division.

The Army community relations team posts several dozen messages per day, from supporters in countries from Iceland to Australia, and from Iraq to Afghanistan. In many cases, the screening staff has attempted to connect friends and family members

To Our Soldiers

NOTE: We are providing this service as an opportunity to send a message of support to Soldiers who are serving in the War on Terrorism. It is not designed to be a letter writing service, instant-messaging service, e-mail service, bulletin board or general chat service. These messages are viewed individually and edited or deleted based on content. Profanity and violations of operational security, privacy, and propriety will not be posted. Soldiers around the world appreciate your thoughts and feelings of support.

[view 2004 holiday messages](#)

search messages:

Total Search Results: 33,903
Displaying 1 - 15

To: Everyone not home
From: Kevin and Irene Mullen in New York
Praying you have a peaceful thanksgiving reflecting on family and fond

with deployed loved ones, considering the restriction on posting senders' e-mail and mailing addresses.

Initially, there was some concern about the site being used as a means to lash out at Soldiers or the administration, Steele said. However, there were only about 30 negative messages out of thousands sent the first year, he said, and those were mainly spouses venting their frustration at their Soldiers being deployed.

The site went live in April 2003 to meet a demand for ways to support

Soldiers, according to an officer who was involved in the inception.

Some messages have even touched off their own campaigns of patriotism.

Earlier this year, Tammi Ketteman of Ohio, whose son was deployed, wrote a tribute and submitted "A Letter from Mom" to the site. The community relations staff turned the composition over to the U.S. Army

Field Band and Soldiers Chorus, whose arrangers set the letter to music and performed a dramatic reading at a concert near Ketteman's hometown.

Those wishing to express their support for Soldiers deployed around the world are encouraged to log on to www.army.mil/tooursoldiers/ and submit a message.

Editor's note: This is a condensed version of a story written by Mark Heeter for Army News Service.

Army families not responsible for utility bills

Despite what an official called confusing news reports, Army families in privatized housing will not be responsible for utility bills until at least the spring of 2006.

Technicians began reading utility meters last month for new and remodeled privatized housing at some installations, said Ivan Bolden, Residential Communities Initiative Program Manager for Policy. Under RCI, about 40,000 family housing units at 15 installations have been turned over to private developers.

Bolden said the meters are being installed to collect data to determine a monthly allocation for utilities that will be supported by a Soldier's basic allowance for housing or BAH/rental payments.

The data will be reviewed in March, Bolden said, and then a "mock utility billing" program will begin sometime thereafter.

The mock billing period will accomplish several things: First, it will help residents track their usage and consumption patterns; Second, residents will receive monthly tips on how to conserve;



Photo by Master Sgt. Lisa Gregory

Residents of the new privatized housing at Fort Meade, Md., will participate in the mock utility billing program, along with those at five other installations.

and house type will need to pay the difference, he explained.

Families that use less than the allocated rate may, in fact, earn a rebate, Bolden said.

Installations participating in the mock utility billing program include: Fort Carson, Colo.; Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Meade, Md.; Fort Bragg, N.C.; Fort Stewart, Ga.; and Fort Campbell, Ky.

For more information on the RCI program visit <http://www.rci.army.mil/>.

and finally, they will be offered training to help families learn to be more energy efficient, Bolden said.

The mock billing program is scheduled to last a year, Bolden said. After this period, he said the Army will make adjustments (if needed) to the program and then begin the phase where Soldiers will be responsible for excessive use of their utilities.

Even after billing begins, good conservation will mean that most families will not be required to send in payments, Bolden said. Only those who use more than the average for that area

Tricare benefits improved significantly for Reservists

The National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal 2005 improves the overall health benefits available to guardsmen, reservists and their families and makes permanent several of the Tricare benefits while extending secretarial authorization for others.

For reserve component members with delayed effective date orders to serve on active duty in support of a contingency operation for more than 30 days, the new legislation permanently authorizes Tricare eligibility for up to 90 days prior to member's activation date for eligible members and their families. It also makes permanent a 180-day transitional Tricare health benefit after deactivation for Transitional Assistance Management Program (TAMP) eligible members and their families. Members must also now receive a comprehensive physical examination prior to separating from active duty service.

The legislation also authorizes waiver of the Tricare standard and extra deductibles of reserve component family members for members ordered to active duty for more than 30 days and authorizes Tricare to pay nonparticipating providers up to 115 percent of the Tricare maximum allowable charge, which enhances continuity of care

for these family members with their civilian providers. In order to ensure seamless implementation of these provisions, Tricare has extended the Tricare Reserve Family Demonstration Project through Oct. 31, 2005. The demonstration, which began on Sept. 14, 2001, was due to end Nov. 1.

Members of the reserve component called after Sept. 11, 2001, to serve for



more than 30 days in support of a contingency operation, who served or will continuously serve for 90 or more days, are now given the opportunity to purchase Tricare standard healthcare coverage for themselves and their family members after they demobilize. The member must sign an agreement to continue serving for a period of one year or more in the selected reserve after their active duty ends. For every 90 days of consecutive active

duty service, the member and family member may purchase one year of Tricare standard coverage for the same period they commit to serve in the selected reserves. Members will be able to purchase the new Tricare standard coverage on a self-only or self and family basis. The Tricare standard coverage under this program will begin once the member's eligibility for 180 days of transitional Tricare coverage under the TAMP program ends. Members who served on active duty in support of a contingency operation for 90 days or more on or after Sept. 11, 2001, and were released from active duty before Oct. 28, 2004, or within 180 days of that date, may enter into an agreement to serve continuously in the selected reserve for a period of one or more years and begin participation in this program at that time. These members must enter into this agreement to serve in the selected reserve within one year of Oct. 28, 2004.

Congress requires implementation of the new Tricare standard enrollment program by April 26, 2005.

Additional information can be found at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/> and <http://www.defenselink.mil/ra>.