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CAC bids farewell to CSM Wright

Jennifer Walleman | Staff Writer

During an Oct. 31 ceremony, Combined Arms Center Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Wright said goodbye to the Fort Leavenworth community as he relinquished his responsibilities and departed for Fort Bragg, N.C., with his wife Tina where he will be serving as the senior enlisted adviser for the Joint Special Operations Command.

Lt. Gen. Robert Brown, commanding general of CAC and Fort Leavenworth, spoke highly of his close friend and adviser whom he said was a humble leader and doctrinal expert. Brown also praised Tina Wright for her volunteer work in the community, including her service with the Fort Leavenworth Spouses' Club and the Friends of the Frontier Army Museum.

"Our Army and this community have been extremely lucky to have Jeff and Tina here at Fort Leavenworth," Brown said.

Brown said Wright has brought insight and travelled abroad to share Army ideas and initiatives like the Human Dimension concept and the Force 2025 and Beyond Directorate. Wright also joined Brown to speak with every battalion and brigade command-

ers and their command sergeants major in the Pre-Command Course.

"I learned every time to listen to Command Sergeant Major Wright talk to that group," Brown said. "I learned something new every single time ... He's really consistently provided inspiration, determination and thoughtful leadership for things that are changing our Army and will change our Army in the future."

During his speech, Wright acknowledged how little he knew about Training and Doctrine Command and CAC before arriving at Fort Leavenworth a year ago from an infantry and Special Forces background.

"After being here a short time I realized there's a lot more that goes on to it than that," Wright said. "Looking back over the past year reviewing some of the projects that we've been involved with together has been incredible."

He mentioned among those projects he and Brown had been a part of were the changes to the Pre-Command Course and the Command and General Staff College, the renaming of the Combined Arms Research Library, Doctrine 2015, the Army's Digital Training Management System version 7, NCO 2020 and others.



Prudence Siebert

Combined Arms Center and Fort Leavenworth Commanding General Lt. Gen. Robert Brown and CAC and Fort Leavenworth Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Wright applaud Tina Wright after she was presented the Outstanding Civilian Service Medal during Command Sgt. Maj. Wright's relinquishment of responsibility ceremony Oct. 31 at the Frontier Conference Center.

"I'm proud to have served with all of you who have spent so much time in this endeavor," Wright said. "Training and educating and developing our soldiers, civilians and leaders and their families is the most important task that we have. I go away a much better sol-

dier and leader having known you."

Before coming to Fort Leavenworth, Wright's most recent assignment was as the senior enlisted adviser to the Special Operations Joint Task Force in Kabul, Afghanistan. He was deployed to

Iraq and Afghanistan.

Sgt. Maj. Dennis Eger, from the Mission Command Center of Excellence, will serve as interim command sergeant major of CAC and Fort Leavenworth. A replacement has not been announced.

Culture, language emphasized in program

Jennifer Walleman | Staff Writer

The Language Training Center at Fort Leavenworth was established in September 2014 within the Command and General Staff College and provides language training to Special Operations Forces students and faculty to sustain or improve their existing capability. The center is just part of the Army's Culture, Regional Expertise and Language strategy implementation plan.

Training and Doctrine Command and CAC are working together to provide a culturally aware Army with CREL competencies and capabilities that will create adaptable soldiers, leaders and units and enable them to excel in unified land operations with allied nations, and sustain and enrich CREL competencies and capabilities for individual unit readiness.

With fiscal restructuring in 2013 came the disappearance of the 14 TRADOC culture and foreign language advisers at each of the Combined Arms Center's centers of excellence. To consolidate the implementation of the evolving culture and foreign language programming, the Language, Regional Expertise and Culture Program was established. With that program came the



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Diane Mielke, University of Kansas Language Training Center instructor, holds a lime and a lemon and asks related questions in Spanish to 2015 Command and General Staff Officer Course students Maj. Tim Driscoll, Maj. Michael Lundebey and Maj. Paul Castillo, with KU Language Training Center instructor Kate Pommerenke offering input as well, as the language class makes its way through the Fort Leavenworth Commissary, identifying foods and discussing them in Spanish, Nov. 4. The class took the field trip to work on vocabulary and communication used in daily life. Classroom time is often spent translating the news and working on the geopolitical, cultural and general conversation aspects of the language.

establishment of the LREC Management Office at CAC-Leader Development

and Education. The LRECMO coordinates, integrates, and syn-

chronizes training and support for the future Army CREL strategy projected to

be published early next year. Its immediate task is to support general force requirements and assess what is offered at TRADOC across all cohorts as far as culture in professional military education.

To assess what cultural content is offered in TRADOC in terms of culture in PME, CREL points of contact at TRADOC and CAC-LD&E centers of excellence and schools were assigned and fragmentation orders with questions regarding current core curriculum and electives. Those answers will be assessed and it will be determined what learning outcomes should be incorporated into the centers' education and training to help them reach their CREL learning objectives through the coordination and consolidation of internal resources.

Dr. Mahir Ibrahimov was hired in 2013 as the first program manager for LRECMO after his success in 2009 as the first Training and Doctrine Command culture and foreign language adviser at Fort Sill, Okla., for the Army Culture and Language Program and continued success after moving to Fort Leavenworth and acting as the Army's first senior cultural adviser for the Army Culture and Foreign Language Program in 2011. Ibrahimov said he's

gained invaluable knowledge and appreciation for culture during his diverse career that's he's utilizing in his efforts with LRECMO to provide training and education support in the implantation of the CREL strategy

Ibrahimov served two years of compulsory service in the Soviet Army from 1974 to 1976 and witnessed the breakup of the Soviet Union. He studied for his master's degree and doctorate in Moscow and was one of the first diplomats in Azerbaijan after the breakup of the Soviet Union. He helped open the first embassy of Azerbaijan in Washington, D.C., and was vice president of the first American University in Azerbaijan. He worked in the U.S. for the U.S. Department of State's Foreign Service Institute and in Iraq for a contractor as a translator at Balad Air Base and Logistics Support Area Anaconda.

In his current position as LRECMO program manager, Ibrahimov is using his experience to continue to highlight the importance of CREL in the military.

"I think it's important to the military because if we're going to continue being involved overseas with our military missions, in order to be successful if

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WEATHER

TODAY: Sunny
HI: 54 | LOW: 42

FRIDAY: Mostly sunny
HI: 58 | LOW: 42

HAPPENING THIS MONTH

■ Fort Leavenworth Garrison offices will have a SAFETY STANDDOWN Nov. 10. Offices may be closed or have reduced services during the required training.

■ The 95th annual Leavenworth County VETERANS DAY PARADE starts at 10:30

a.m. Nov. 11 in Leavenworth. See page A2.

■ The Friends of the Frontier Army Museum FAMILY FUN DAY is 1-3 p.m. Nov. 15 at the Frontier Army Museum. See page A6.

■ The NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE

MONTH CELEBRATION is from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nov. 20 in the Frontier Conference Center main ballroom. See page A6.

■ THANKSGIVING DINNER will be served at the Dining Facility 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 27. See page A6.

Corps releases climate, sustainability plans

Dave Foster | Army News Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers released its Climate Change Adaptation Plan and annual Strategic Sustainability Plan Oct. 31 in response to Executive Orders 13514 and 13653.

“The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been factoring climate change and its impacts into all its missions and operations for decades,” said Jo-Ellen Darcy, assistant secretary of the Army for civil works and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers senior sustainability officer. “The Corps of Engineers is

working with the Obama Administration to identify and address the existing and future risks and vulnerabilities of climate change and ensure that communities and ecosystems are protected and flourish.

“We are making sustainability a part of all the decisions we make in designing, constructing, and managing water infrastructure,” she explained. “In the coming years we will reduce greenhouse gas emission, reduce non-tactical vehicle petroleum consumption, and increase renewable electricity consumption.”

The sustainability plan pro-

vides an overview of how the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is saving taxpayer dollars, reducing carbon emissions, cutting waste and saving energy. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is concentrating on several focus areas, including implementing energy and water conservation measures, implementing a non-tactical vehicle fleet management plan, implementing not less than \$10 million in energy performance contracts in support of the President’s Performance Contracting Challenge, and influencing visitors’ behavior at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recreation facilities to reduce energy

and water consumption.

The Climate Change Adaptation Plan assesses key vulnerabilities to the impacts of climate change — such as severe weather, sea level rise, or flooding — and outlines how the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plans to address those impacts to protect its missions. It describes activities that evaluate the most significant climate change related risks to agency operations and missions both in the short and long term. It outlines actions the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is taking to manage these risks and vulnerabilities.

“The release of these two plans demonstrates the focus the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is placing on sustainability and on mainstreaming climate change adaptation for our constructed and natural water-resources infrastructure,” said Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick, chief of engineers and commanding general, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers. “Addressing sustainability and climate change are critical for us as an organization and the important work we do for the nation now and into the future.”

Culture, language program (continued from Page A1)

you are in an indigenous culture, you need to understand that culture to get your mission done successfully,” Ibrahimov said. “If you are a great military expert, but make mistakes in that culture, you could fail.”

Ibrahimov said culture in professional military education will help build regional expertise in a time of global geopolitical change. He’s currently teaching Russian in the evenings through the CGSC Language Training Center, which is an important milestone in implementing the CREL strategy.

As part of that continuing growth in education and culture, in September 2013, the Special Operations Directorate within CGSC worked with the University of Kansas to develop language and cultural training for SOF students and faculty. The

training will help provide SOF students and faculty the linguistic and cultural training needed for deployment to Africa, Europe, Eurasia and South Asia. KU received a Minerva grant sponsored by the Defense Language National Security Education Office and under this grant provides language training at Fort Leavenworth and Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

In its first semester, language classes offered include Russian, Modern Standard Arabic, French and Spanish, but future plans will add Indonesian and Thai. The current semester will last through May 2015 and then restart during the fall semester of 2015. Students must pass the Defense Language Proficiency Test before the course to demonstrate a basic proficiency of the language, which distinguishes the center from the Defense Language Insti-

tute.

During the academic year, distance technology and online learning is used for language courses, supplemented with intensive, evening or weekend training as determined by student needs. It’s anticipated that 40-60 personnel will take part in this training annually in future semesters.

Dr. Bob Bauman, director of graduate degree programs for CGSC, is taking the Russian advanced evening course with Ibrahimov as a refresher and sees the importance of soldiers and units being culturally diverse. He earned his doctorate in Russian history and spent time studying in Moscow during the Soviet era.

“The military always ends up operating in places that are culturally different from us and so learning about culture helps develop your intel-

lectual flexibility and helps you see yourself in different ways in ways that are helpful in helping you relate to various kinds of working or personal situations,” Bauman said.

Maj. Paul Castillo, 2015 CGSC student, specializes in psychological operations for SOF and said he’s taking the Spanish evening class at LTC to improve upon his basic knowledge to be able to converse if the situation arises in his profession. His Spanish class has taken field trips to a Spanish restaurant and the Commissary to converse with others in Spanish and learn practical vocabulary that may not be covered in military terminology.

“I think to be able to gain credibility and trust with the people you work with, it’s important to speak the language and be able to relate to someone,” Castillo said.



Prudence Siebert

Russian language instructor Dr. Mahir Ibrahimov, program manager for the Language, Regional Expertise and Culture Management Office at Combined Arms Center - Leader Development and Education, points to Maj. Suzanna Hutin, student in the 2015 Command and General Staff Officer Course, as she correctly responds to his question, posed in Russian, regarding advanced Russian grammar Nov. 4 at the Lewis and Clark Center.