

Naval Special Warfare Command Holds Change of Command Ceremony

NAVAL SPECIAL WARFARE PUBLIC AFFAIRS (AUG. 3, 2016)

Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Richard Miller

SAN DIEGO—Rear Adm. Tim Szymanski relieved Rear Adm. Brian L. Losey as commander, Naval Special Warfare Command (CNSWC) during a change of command ceremony at Naval Amphibious Base, Coronado, Aug. 3.

Gen. Raymond Thomas, commander, U.S. Special Operations Command, was the guest speaker for the ceremony. In his remarks, Thomas praised Losey's leadership within Naval Special Warfare (NSW).

"This ceremony commemorates the completion of 33 years of historic service for [Losey], most recently, three years of remarkable service here as commander, Naval Special Warfare Command," Thomas said. "The global impact of this 9,000 member force under his command is hard to overstate."

Losey will leave CNSWC and retire after more than three decades of service. Losey, a career SEAL officer, has previously served at Naval Special Warfare Development Group (DEVGRU) and as a director on the National Security Council in the Executive Office of the President, among other assignments.

"I want to start by first and foremost thanking the CNO and Gen. Thomas, U.S. Special Operations Command for their presence here today," Losey said at the ceremony. "There is no higher honor within the military than to have these two leaders of our nation's military to be here for Naval Special Warfare."

Losey's remarks touched heavily on the people that make up the NSW community, and he specifically thanked his family for their support, the SEALs that came before him, and his NSW staff members for all their assistance over the years. Losey also made it a point to reach out to the new class of hopeful SEALs by thanking Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL class 321 for showing their support and wished them well in their future careers.

Losey's time at CNSWC was marked by an emphasis on the SEAL Ethos, a return to the

community's maritime roots, and a focus on caring for the NSW force and families.

Thomas said he was impressed by Losey's efforts to take care of those under his command.

"Most recently [Losey's] applied his exceptional vision and energy to this organization with a special renewed focus on undersea warfare and support to the Navy in the form of full-spectrum special operations," Thomas said.



CORONADO, Calif. (Aug. 3, 2016) Navy Rear Adm. Tim Szymanski, left, salutes Rear Adm. Brian L. Losey during the Naval Special Warfare Command (NSWC) change of command ceremony at Naval Base Coronado. NSWC mans, trains, equips, educates, deploys, and sustains forces to conduct primarily direct action and special reconnaissance core activities, and to build partner capacity in or out of the maritime environment, in order to support USSOCOM, the U.S. Navy, Geographic Combatant Commanders, and ultimately, national objectives across a full range of political and operational environments.

U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Richard Miller

Losey was relieved by Szymanski, another career SEAL officer. Szymanski most recently served as assistant commanding general, Joint Special Operations Command, Fort Bragg, N.C. A 1985 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, Szymanski also served as commander, Naval Special Warfare Group 2 and commander, SEAL Team 2.

Szymanski said he was honored to take command of CNSWC from Losey.

"I thank Adm. Richardson and Gen. Thomas for attending the change of command today and recognizing the exceptional leadership and performance of Adm. Losey leading and advancing the Naval Special Warfare community the last three years, and the trust and confidence to put me at the helm of this community," Szymanski said at the ceremony.

NSW is comprised of approximately 8,900 personnel, including more than 2,400 active-duty SEALs, 700 Special Warfare Combatant-craft Crewmen (SWCC), 700 reserve personnel, 4,100 support personnel, and more than 1,100 civilians.

CNSWC in San Diego leads the Navy's special operations force and the maritime component of USSOCOM, headquartered at MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Fla.

NSW groups command, train, equip, and deploy components of NSW squadrons to meet the exercise, contingency, and wartime requirements of the regional combatant commanders, theater special operations commands, and numbered fleets located around the world.

For more information, visit <http://www.navy.mil>.

Flag Officer Assignments

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PRESS OPERATIONS (AUG. 5, 2016)

The Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus and Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John M. Richardson announced today the following assignments:

- Rear Adm. (upper half) Mathias W. Winter will be assigned as deputy director, Joint Strike Fighter Program, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Arlington, Virginia. Winter is currently serving as chief of naval research, Arlington, Virginia.
- Rear Adm. (lower half) David J. Hahn will be assigned as chief of naval research, Arlington, Virginia. Hahn is currently serving as special assistant to the deputy chief of naval operations for information warfare, Washington, District of Columbia.

General Officer Announcement

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, PRESS OPERATIONS (SEPT. 8, 2016)

Secretary of Defense Ash Carter has announced that the president has made the following nomination: Air Force Lt. Gen. John W. Raymond for appointment to the rank of general, and for assignment as commander, Air Force Space Command, Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado. Raymond is currently serving as deputy chief of staff, Operations, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Pentagon, Washington, District of Columbia.

General Officer Announcement

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, PRESS OPERATIONS (SEPT. 9, 2016)

Secretary of Defense Ash Carter announced today that the president has made the following nomination: Air Force Gen. John E. Hyten for appointment to the rank of general, and for assignment as commander, U.S. Strategic Command, Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska. Hyten is currently serving as commander, Air Force Space Command, Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado.

Flag Officer Assignments

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, PRESS OPERATIONS (SEPT. 9, 2016)

The Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus and Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John M. Richardson announced today the following assignments:

Capt. Carl P. Chebi, selected for promotion to rear admiral (lower half), will be assigned as program executive officer for Command, Control, Communications and Intelligence, Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command, San Diego, California. Chebi is currently serving as program manager for Air Warfare, PMA-298, Program Executive Office for Tactical Aircraft, Patuxent River, Maryland.

Capt. Douglas W. Small, selected for promotion to rear admiral (lower half), will be assigned as program executive officer for Integrated Warfare Systems, Washington, District of Columbia. Small is currently serving as executive assistant to Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition, Washington, District of Columbia.

Four-Star Career Comes with Many Trials and Tribulations

ARMY NEWS SERVICE (SEPT. 26, 2016)

Megan Cotton

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala.—For the Army Materiel Command's top leader, Gen. Dennis L. Via, a 36-year career in the military started with a challenge.

A newly pinned second lieutenant from Virginia State University, Via joined the Signal Corps and was assigned as the

platoon leader of what was considered the worst platoon in the worst company—A Company, 3rd Platoon, 25th Signal Battalion at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

“The majority of my platoon had been given the choice of join the Army or go to jail. I was a little apprehensive, but I said this is the job the Army has designated for me, and I’m going to do it well,” Via said. “It was probably the best leadership devolving assignment that I’ve had.”

As Via moved his way through the ranks of the 25th Signal Battalion, he recognized the importance of wearing the wings. He avidly pursued jump school and earned his jump wings after negotiating with his new battalion commander.

“He asked me to command D Company, and I said I was honored, but I had to go to Airborne School. He said he couldn’t afford three weeks to send me to school. I told him I would take three weeks leave to go ... That is what it means to me,” Via said. “Here I was, negotiating with the new battalion commander, not even a captain yet, but I got to go to Special Forces Airborne school, which was accelerated at two weeks.”

Reflecting on his many assignments, Via credits the Army with giving him opportunities he would have never had, including traveling the world. One of his early assignments was to Naples, Italy, and he was later stationed in Mannheim, Germany.

“For someone who had never traveled out of the country, being able to live abroad in Naples, Italy, was unbelievable,” he said. “The experiences, travel, and opportunities I had were nothing I ever could have dreamed of as a young boy in Martinsville, Virginia.”

A member of the 82nd Airborne, Via said he wanted to spend his life jumping out of airplanes until his mentor Lt. Gen. Robert Gray told him that he needed to go to Fort Hood, Texas, and learn about tanks.

“I was so grateful for my experience at Fort Hood. There, I met people and learned things I never would have experienced anywhere else,” he said about his time with III Corps. “I learned so much about program management, the program executive offices, and the business of fielding systems and capabilities.”

During his assignment at Fort Hood, the attacks on September 11th changed the country, and Via knew his brigade would be going to war. He faced one of the toughest chal-

lenges of his career in changing command before the unit’s deployment.

“I wanted to ensure that they had everything they needed to deploy, and I did all the things I could do to get them at their peak level of training, not knowing if I would be extended in command or not,” said Via. “Leaving Fort Hood was probably the saddest day for Linda and me. We knew they would be going to war. I was confident that they would be able to do what they needed to do, but at the end of the day, I wasn’t able to stay there.”

A few years later, Via was once again challenged as he took the reins of the Communications-Electronics Command at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. CECOM was in the initial planning for relocation to Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, under Base Realignment and Closure.

“I went in not understanding the impact of BRAC on the command. I was in the Army; I thought let’s line up the trucks and get going, but only 13 percent of employees said they were going to move,” he said. “I knew I had to win the trust of the people in order to move forward.”

Via set out to make sure the command took care of every employee, whether they were moving or not. To embrace the entire community, the command planned bus tours to Maryland, a celebration of Fort Monmouth’s 90th anniversary, and transition offices for those who didn’t want to move.

“It was the toughest job I had in the Army because it involved people and their lives,” Via said about the move, where ultimately, 69 percent of the command transitioned to Maryland. “How you treat people and how you gain their respect and confidence is how you get things done.”

Following CECOM, Via was promoted to three-star general and moved back to Washington for his third assignment in the Pentagon as the Director for Command, Control, Communications and Computer Systems, J-6.

One year into the assignment, it was announced that the J-6 would be stood down, eliminating Via’s position.

“With the announcement, I was often asked, ‘What’s going to happen to you?’ At the time, we were happy to go back to the rank of Major General and finish what had been an amazing career. What I cared about is what was going to happen to my people, taking care of my staff through this difficult time,” he said.

Focused on finding positions for all of his personnel, it was towards the end of his time at the J-6 that Via received a call from Gen. Ann Dunwoody, then the commander of AMC, asking if he would like to become her deputy.

“As one door closes, another one opens. Had that decision not been made, I wouldn’t have been the deputy at AMC and certainly wouldn’t have had the opportunity to become the commanding general,” he said.

After nearly four decades in uniform, Via said he was most proud of watching those under his command develop personally and professionally, and achieve their goals.

“It really is all about people,” he said. “It has always been about the people I’ve served with, and that’s what I’ll miss most.”

General Officer Announcements

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PRESS OPERATIONS (SEPT. 23, 2016)

Secretary of Defense Ash Carter announced today that the president has made the following nominations:

- Air Force Lt. Gen. John F. Thompson for appointment to the rank of lieutenant general, with assignment as commander, Space and Missile Systems Center, Air Force Space Command, Los Angeles Air Force Base, California. Thompson is currently serving as commander, Air Force Life Cycle Management Center, Air Force Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.
- Air Force Maj. Gen. Robert D. McMurry Jr. for appointment to the rank of lieutenant general, with assignment as commander, Air Force Life Cycle Management Center, Air Force Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. McMurry is currently serving as commander, Air Force Research Laboratory, Air Force Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.



Gen. Dennis L. Via, then at the rank of brigadier general, conducts a pass and review as commander of 5th Signal Command during a formal ceremony in Germany.

U.S. Army photo

Dwyer Retires After More Than 40 Years of Service

ARMY MATERIEL COMMAND (SEPT. 26, 2016)

Elizabeth Behring

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala.—He may have spearheaded the development of a single manager to ensure Soldiers have the right equipment and helped save nearly \$50 million in software with an enterprise resource planning system, but James Dwyer is adamant every success is not his own.

Instead, he said, that credit belongs to the people he’s worked with and for during more than 40 years of combined federal and military service.

“The best part of the job is the team that we’ve formed. They are just tremendous, great assets for the Army. It’s just amazing what they do,” Dwyer said.

Dwyer is due to retire Friday after serving as Army Materiel Command’s Principal Deputy, G-3/4. He was promoted to the Senior Executive Service in 2006 after serving as a General Schedule 15 at Tank-automotive and Armaments Life Cycle Management Command, which falls under AMC.

A retired colonel with more than 27 years in uniform, Dwyer said he cannot distinguish which assignment was his favor-



James Dwyer, Army Materiel Command principal deputy, G-3/4, retired Sept. 30 after more than 40 years of combined federal and military service.

U.S. Army Materiel Command photo

ite, but commanding Red River Army Depot, in Texarkana, Texas, and serving as executive officer for retired Gen. John G. Coburn during Coburn's tenure as AMC commander from 1999-2001, are among the most memorable.

"Every job I've had is really interesting, and it's really been an honor to have worked for the 40-plus years for the taxpayers, and to keep this country as great as it is. I've had a very, very small part of that. But I have to tell you, working with troops every day, they amazed me every day," Dwyer said.

And Dwyer said he extends those sentiments to the civilians he worked with once he left active duty, particularly when AMC moved from near Alexandria, Virginia, to Redstone Arsenal during his time as XO.

"I enjoyed working as a team. The folks here are the best part of the job. We were all up at [Fort] Belvoir; I talked them into moving. They're the biggest part of what I'm going to miss. They're just tremendous, and [it's amazing] what these folks do each day to continue to produce each day, and continue to take care of the soldiers, every day," Dwyer said.

Even though he spent the majority of his career commanding or working in the logistics field, Dwyer did not initially start along that particular path. The Cincinnati native commissioned from Xavier University's ROTC program as a Field Artillery officer, and was branch detailed from the Quartermaster Corps, as the requirement for a regular Army commission at the time was to first serve in a combat arms branch.

Dwyer went on to command a maintenance company as a quartermaster lieutenant—a position typically for captains—and then transferred to the Ordnance Corps, where he continued to excel, earning a Master's of Business Administration, and moved his family a total of 17 times, spending eight years in Europe.

Dwyer also worked some eight years in project manager shops and rounded out his time as a field grade officer as an Army Division G-4, divisional support battalion commander, divisional material readiness officer, and support battalion XO during Operations Desert Shield/Storm.

"It's truly been an honor to not only serve in the military on active duty, but also here at AMC. The Army has really transformed itself into a huge readiness asset for this nation.

"My proudest accomplishment is helping to make sure the focus is on the soldier in the foxhole, and that what we do every day contributes to their readiness. You can't support them in the foxhole and produce the equipment in the factory if you don't know the entire supply chain. And if their readiness is increased, then their chances of going down-range and coming home to their families is increased," Dwyer said.

General Officer Assignments

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PRESS OPERATIONS (SEPT. 29, 2016)

The chief of staff, Army announced the following assignments:

- Maj. Gen. Joseph M. Martin, commanding general, National Training Center and Fort Irwin; director, Joint Center of Excellence; and deputy director-Training, Joint Improvised-Threat Defeat Agency, Fort Irwin, California, to commanding general, 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley, Fort Riley, Kansas.
- Brig. Gen. Jeffery D. Broadwater, director, CJ-35, Resolute Support Mission Joint Command, North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Operation Freedom's Sentinel, Afghanistan, to commanding general, National Training Center and Fort Irwin; director, Joint Center of Excellence; and deputy director-Training, Joint Improvised-Threat Defeat Agency, Fort Irwin, California.

Flag Officer Assignments

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PRESS OPERATIONS (SEPT. 30, 2016)

The Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus and Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John M. Richardson announced today the following assignments: Rear Adm. (lower half) Jon A. Hill will be assigned as deputy director, Missile Defense Agency. Hill is currently serving as program executive officer for Integrated Warfare Systems, Washington, District of Columbia.

Flag Officer Assignments

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PRESS OPERATIONS (OCT. 5, 2016)

Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus and Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John M. Richardson announced today the following assignments:

- Rear Adm. (lower half) Troy M. McClelland will be assigned as deputy for naval construction force, Navy Expeditionary Combat Command, Washington, District of Columbia. McClelland most recently served as deputy commander, Naval Construction Group One, Port Huene, California.
- Rear Adm. (lower half) Matthew P. O’Keefe will be assigned as reserve deputy commander, Navy Installations Command, Washington, District of Columbia. O’Keefe most recently served as Navy emergency preparedness liaison officer for South Florida, Navy Region Southeast, Jacksonville, Florida.
- Rear Adm. (lower half) Alan J. Reyes will be assigned as deputy, N4, U.S. Pacific Fleet, Honolulu, Hawaii. Reyes most recently served as deputy chief of staff for reserve operations, Naval Supply Systems Command Global Logistics Support, San Diego, California.
- Rear Adm. (lower half) John A. Schommer will be assigned as deputy commander, Military Sealift Command, Norfolk, Virginia. Schommer most recently served as deputy commander, Navy Region Northwest, Reserve Component Command, Everett, Washington.