

DSMC Change Of Command

Deputy Under Secy Preston Passes DSMC Colors to New Commandant, Brig. Gen. Richard A. Black, USA

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Brig. Gen. Richard A. Black, USA, became the 13th Commandant of the Defense Systems Management College (DSMC) on March 28, 1996, in a ceremony conducted at Howell Auditorium, DSMC's Fort Belvoir campus. He succeeds Brig. Gen. Claude M. Bolton, Jr., USAF, Commandant since March 25, 1993.

Mrs. Colleen Preston, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition Reform, provided the opening remarks and officiated at the change of command. Also in attendance were Mr.

Thomas M. Crean, President of the Defense Acquisition University; and Dr. James McMichael, Director of Acquisition, Education, Training, and Career Development.

Preston's Opening Remarks

Reflecting on the challenges he confronted and met, and the many accomplishments he instituted during his three years of leadership at DSMC, Preston emphasized his leadership qualities by stating, "General Bolton has been here presiding over the school during a period of intense revolutionary change through the acquisi-

tion process. General Black," she continued, "comes in behind him to carry on that tradition and to deal with a lot of additional initiatives that will be coming his way. DSMC is crucial in that role in the sense that it is our center of excellence, not only within DoD, but within the federal government, as well – a fact that has become increasingly more obvious throughout the world. This institution is looked to as the center of excellence for program management education, training and research..."

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FROM LEFT: DSMC COMMANDANT, BRIG. GEN. CLAUDE M. BOLTON, JR., USAF, STANDS AT ATTENTION AS DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR ACQUISITION REFORM, COLLEEN PRESTON, PASSES THE DSMC COLORS TO INCOMING COMMANDANT, BRIG. GEN. RICHARD A. BLACK, USA.

At the conclusion of her remarks, Lt. Col. John Mahony, USA, Executive Officer to the new Commandant, called the audience to order, at which time Preston presented Bolton with the Defense Distinguished Service Medal.

Bolton Challenges DSMC

Speaking to the DSMC audience for the last time in his position as DSMC Commandant, Bolton presented two challenges to DSMC's faculty and staff. He first challenged the College to provide Black with the same dedicated support that he had received over the past three years. As his second challenge he stated, "This challenge is for each of you to pledge to make yourself personally responsible and accountable to provide the best quality education for the men and women of our

acquisition workforce so that they, in turn, can perform their jobs with the utmost precision and dexterity."

Change of Command

In accordance with military tradition, Bolton passed the colors, the DSMC flag, to Preston representing the relinquishment of Command. She, in turn, passed the colors to Black representing the assumption of Command of the College.

In his new capacity as DSMC Commandant, Black then addressed the audience, focusing on change and preparation of the acquisition professional. He referred to DSMC as the premier school in the world for defense acquisition. In addition, he emphasized the importance of internal flexibility by stating, "When external changes occur at such a rapid pace, the challenge to any academic institution is not to keep up, but to be the proponent for the necessary internal

changes that will make the institution better...The College has been doing this and must continue to do this. We at DSMC must be prepared, leaning forward, not knowing which young acquisition manager is going to be putting the critical weapon system in the hands of soldiers just in time, be it an airplane, be it a ship, a missile, a radio, or a rifle."

Reception

At the culmination of the ceremony, Black and Bolton received former Commandants, family, and friends at a reception held at Building 184, DSMC campus.

Bolton departed the campus on March 28, 1996, and Black reported for his first full day as Commandant on March 29, 1996.

IT TAKES A BIG SWORD TO CUT A BIG CAKE! CUTTING THE CAKE AT A RECEPTION FOLLOWING THE CHANGE OF COMMAND WERE FROM LEFT: MRS. BLACK; BRIG. GEN. BLACK; MRS. PRESTON; BRIG. GEN. BOLTON; AND MRS. BOLTON.

