

# DSMC Graduate Tapped to Lead Army's Acquisition Corps

## *Kern Replaces Hite*



*“Part of the [acquisition] challenge is to make sure we all understand [weapon system] capabilities, can articulate test issues, and fix problems. Secondly, we need to be able to explain our systems to people who may not understand the technical points.”*

**O**n June 20, 1997, the Army announced the nomination for promotion to lieutenant general of Army Maj. Gen. Paul J. Kern, formerly the Commander of 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized) at Fort Hood, Texas. Simultaneously, officials announced his reassignment to become the new

Military Deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Research, Development, and Acquisition (ASA[RDA]), replacing Army Lt. Gen. Ronald V. Hite, who retired June 30, 1997.

The Army's Acquisition Corps stands to gain a military leader who brings extensive command and acquisition experience to the job. In addition to his duties as the Military Deputy to the ASA(RDA), Kern will serve concurrently as the Director of the Army Acquisition Corps, of which he is already a member. Totalling about 2,300 military and 24,000 civilian employees, the Army's Acquisition Corps and workforce manages the development, integration, acquisition, and fielding of complex weapon systems.

A native of Orange, N.J., Kern graduated from West Point in 1967. He is also a 1982 graduate of the Defense Systems Management College's Program Management Course at Fort Belvoir, Va.

Kern learned to navigate his way around the Army acquisition system while serving as the branch chief of Bradley Fighting Vehicle Systems, U.S. Army Tank-Automotive Command (TACOM) in Warren, Mich. There he was involved in developing and fielding the Bradley from 1979 to 1982. Ten years later, as the Commander, 2nd Brigade, 24th Infantry Division, he observed the Bradley's performance under actual combat conditions during Operation Desert Storm.

According to Army press releases and news sources, Kern said that he is excited about moving into the Acquisition Corps leadership, honored to be nominated for his new position, and anxious to “get started.”

**Editor's Note:** According to the ASA(RDA) staff, Kern reported for duty as the Military Deputy to the ASA(RDA) on July 7, 1997.