

DSMC Welcomes 15th Commandant

Vincent Retires, Anderson Takes Over at July 30 Change of Command

NORENE L. BLANCH

Air Force Brig. Gen. Frank J. Anderson Jr., became the 15th Commandant of the Defense Systems Management College (DSMC) July 30 in a change of command ceremony at DSMC's main campus, Fort Belvoir, Va. He succeeds Navy Rear Adm. Leonard "Lenn" Vincent, who has served as DSMC's Commandant since Dec. 30, 1997.

The ceremony not only marked transfer of DSMC's leadership to Anderson, but also celebrated the culmination of a distinguished 32-year military career for Vincent, who retired from active duty effective Aug. 1.

Continuing the legacy of his 14 predecessors, Anderson brings a wealth of acquisition and contracting experience to the position of Commandant, including his most recent assignment as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Contracting, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition.

Soloway on Vincent's Legacy

Stan Z. Soloway, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition Reform and Director, Defense Reform, spoke of the impact of Vincent's leadership on the education of the acquisition workforce and Anderson's future role as DSMC's newly appointed Commandant.

"Lenn recognized early on, the extraordinary challenges facing our educational system" as the college adjusts to the de-



FROM LEFT: NAVY REAR ADM. LEONARD "LENN" VINCENT, DSMC OUTGOING COMMANDANT, STANDS AT ATTENTION AS DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (ACQUISITION REFORM) AND DIRECTOR, DEFENSE REFORM STAN Z. SOLOWAY PASSES THE DSMC COLORS AND MANTLE OF LEADERSHIP TO AIR FORCE BRIG. GEN. FRANK J. ANDERSON JR., JULY 30.

mands of a "dynamic and different acquisition environment," said Soloway.

"He has been a forceful champion for creative and innovative thinking and teaching, and has worked tirelessly to help DSMC to move into a new era. He has also been a leader in our efforts to define our program manager of the future and to massage and create a training and education program that will genuinely provide our program management community with the tools of expertise they will need.

"And in his usual team-focused manner," Soloway told the overflow audience assembled in DSMC's Scott Hall, "Lenn has always shown incredible decency and a genuine belief in providing an environment where people are not *forced* to work together, but [one] in which they would *want* to work together. Indeed,

throughout his career, Lenn Vincent has fostered environments where *listening* was as important or sometimes more important than *directing*."

Once Vincent's intent to retire became official, Soloway knew that finding a replacement for him would create a major challenge.

"Finding someone to fill Lenn's shoes would not be and was not easy," said Soloway. "As often happens, the answer was right there before us ... There could not be a better or more natural successor for Lenn than Frank Anderson. His varied background, his deep commitment to change and reform, his well-established skills as a leader, and his very real understanding of the training challenges and educational challenges that we face, add up to an obvious and a wonderful choice.

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VINCENT RETIRES, ANDERSON

Soloway Passes DSMC Colors to



NAVY VICE ADM. JOHN A. LOCKARD, RETIREMENT CEREMONY GUEST SPEAKER; NAVY REAR ADM. LEONARD "LENN" VINCENT, OUTGOING DSMC COMMANDANT, AND AIR FORCE BRIG. GEN. FRANK J. ANDERSON JR., NEW DSMC COMMANDANT, CHAT PRIOR TO THE CHANGE OF COMMAND.

DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (ACQUISITION REFORM) AND DIRECTOR, DEFENSE REFORM STAN Z. SOLOWAY CONGRATULATES VINCENT AFTER AWARDING HIM THE DEFENSE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL.



VINCENT AND WIFE, SHIRLEY, ARE HONORED WITH A "PIPING OVER THE SIDE" CEREMONY.



ZACHARY YOUNG (LEFT) AND HIS COUSIN, HENRY DILLON SALUTE THEIR GRANDFATHER, ADMIRAL VINCENT, AS HE RETIRES FROM 32 YEARS OF ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE IN THE U.S. NAVY. ZACHARY ALSO HAD CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION ON JULY 30 — HIS 5TH BIRTHDAY.

AIR FORCE BRIG. GEN. FRANK J. ANDERSON JR. ADDRESSES THE OVERFLOW CROWD, INCLUDING THE DSMC STAFF AND FACULTY, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HIS NEW ROLE AS DSMC COMMANDANT.



BECOMES 15TH COMMANDANT

Anderson at July 30 Ceremony



TWO OFFICERS AND THEIR LADIES. FROM LEFT: ANDERSON; BONNIE ANDERSON; SHIRLEY VINCENT; VINCENT.

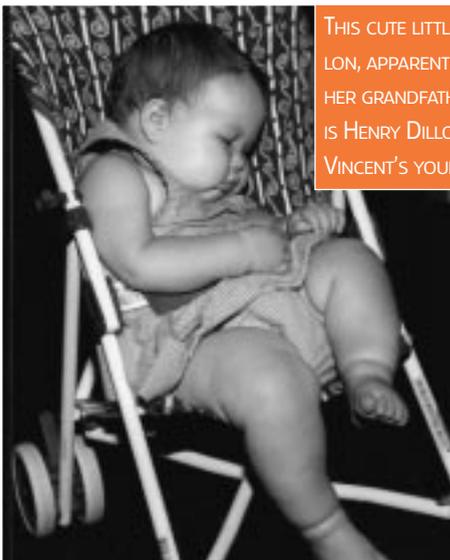


DSMC PROVOST AND DEPUTY COMMANDANT, RICH REED (RIGHT)

THANKED VINCENT FOR THE LEADERSHIP, FUN TIMES, AND "RESTORING A SENSE OF BALANCE TO THE COLLEGE." ON BEHALF OF THE COLLEGE, HE PRESENTED VINCENT A FLAG FLOWN OVER THE *USS ARIZONA*, A WWII BATTLESHIP SUNK BY THE JAPANESE ON DEC. 7, 1941. THE *ARIZONA* STILL LIES AT THE BOTTOM OF PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII — A PERMANENT MEMORIAL TO THOSE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES THAT DAY.



FULL PARTNERS IN THEIR HUSBANDS' MILITARY CAREERS, BONNIE ANDERSON AND SHIRLEY VINCENT WATCH PROUDLY AS ANDERSON BEGINS ANOTHER CHAPTER IN HIS MILITARY CAREER, WHILE VINCENT CONCLUDES A 32-YEAR NAVAL CAREER.



THIS CUTE LITTLE CHERUB IS ELIZA DILLON, APPARENTLY NAPPING THROUGH HER GRANDFATHER'S RETIREMENT. ELIZA IS HENRY DILLON'S BABY SISTER AND VINCENT'S YOUNGEST GRANDCHILD.

LONGTIME DSMC FRIEND AND SUPPORTER, R. NOEL LONGUEMARE, FORMER PDUSD(A&T), OSD, WAS A WELCOME GUEST AT THE CHANGE OF COMMAND AND RETIREMENT CEREMONY.



“Frank has earned a well-deserved reputation,” he commented, “as an innovator, a forward thinker, a leader who is not afraid to take risks, and more than willing to support his people when they do so.”

DSMC and the acquisition workforce, Soloway concluded, will be the beneficiary of the excellence-in-leadership passed from Vincent to Anderson.

“I Believe in People”

In keeping with military tradition and ceremony, the audience remained silent as Vincent passed the DSMC colors to Soloway who, in turn, passed them to Anderson. With this symbolic gesture, the transfer of leadership was completed, marking a new era of Air Force leadership at DSMC.

With dignity and enthusiasm, Anderson accepted the DSMC mantle of leadership, addressing the college’s faculty and staff for the first time in his new role as Commandant. He referred to the ceremony as a “new beginning” for the Vincents, as well as for DSMC.

Describing what he refers to as having a “healthy belief and confidence in people,” Anderson said he looks at his new responsibility as an “opportunity to command and lead.

“I am pleased and challenged to be following in the footsteps of Admiral Vincent,” he told those attending. “I know I have a huge hill to climb. But what my experience has taught me is [that] if I do not [try to] take the hill by myself, I’ll succeed. And what I plan to do is to build lots of teams as we take on this monumental challenge of aligning our educational institution so that we can satisfy the challenges in front of us to prepare our workforce for the 21st century.”

Anderson discussed the important task that DSMC has in preparing students to go back to the workplace so that they can build a work environment in which they can excel in everything they do.

The education community is challenged, he noted, because “We are asking more of our people in the workplace today

than we ever have. This concept of empowerment and depending on our folks is absolutely real and critical to our success in the community. That is why I am proud to be a part of DSMC and the Defense Acquisition University.

“If we are going to win,” he concluded, “it is going to be because of our people, and we play a key role in preparing them so that they are ready for the challenges that we are placing on them every day.”

Vincent — Teacher, Coach, Leader, Champion

Navy Vice Adm. John Lockard officiated at the retirement portion of the ceremony, referring to Vincent as a champion, a teacher, a coach, and a leader. Reviewing many of his career accomplishments, Lockard also talked about Vincent’s career progression from humble beginnings in McAlester, Okla., to the elite minority of military officers who ultimately attain flag officer rank.

Although Lockard touched on many key accomplishments of Vincent’s career, he focused more on Vincent’s character. Lockard maintained that he could go on and on talking about all of Vincent’s achievements, “But I don’t think I will. Instead,” he countered, “I think I’ll talk about the man from McAlester, Oklahoma — the man who had a dream as a youngster to become a teacher and a coach.” He described hard work, continuous personal growth, and a desire to do better as Vincent’s most notable attributes.

Lockard also spoke of Vincent’s commitment to “taking care of people, setting the example for people to follow, and mastering the fundamentals himself before trying to teach them or equipping someone else.” This, he said, was an example of how Vincent effectively applied his acquired skills as teacher and coach to his role as DSMC’s Commandant.

Rich Reed, DSMC Provost and Deputy Commandant, also spoke briefly about Vincent’s DSMC tenure, saying that he “built bridges over previously troubled waters,” and allowed the staff and fac-

ulty to “regain their sense of respect and put balance back in their lives.”

The End of a Story, The End of a Military Career

Vincent described his retirement by saying, “This is the ending of the story of a career. I am finishing up one of the finest experiences that I believe anyone could hope for — a wonderful career in the United States Navy, also capped off by being the Commandant of the Defense Systems Management College.”

He spoke of the Department of Defense’s tradition of the Change of Command, a tradition that for him holds a much deeper meaning than just the changing of leadership. Not only was the ceremony the “passing of the baton,” but for him personally, it was also “the marking of a milestone.”

Vincent went on to describe his view of DSMC as an organization “embracing change, and one that wants to grow, improve, experiment, and to be on the cutting edge of all of the new techniques, methodologies, and education.”

Assuring DSMC’s faculty and staff that Anderson would lend his talents to DSMC just as all of the commandants before him, Vincent said, “I am confident DSMC will continue to move upward from a foundation that has been carefully laid. The DSMC team has been and is every general manager’s dream. We have Hall of Famer’s in every position.

“I want to thank every member today here at DSMC,” he concluded. “You gave me your best day in and day out ... I can honestly say that it has been my sincere honor to be DSMC’s fourteenth Commandant, and I am grateful for the opportunity that you have all shared with me.”

Looking pointedly at his successor, Vincent had a few departing words of Oklahoma-style, down-to-earth advice that will undoubtedly go down in DSMC history: “General Anderson, DSMC is not your father’s Oldsmobile. You’re about to get behind the wheel of a roadster, so *strap yourself in and have fun!*”