

## **Departure Ceremony**

**Eisenhower Auditorium, Lewis and Clark Center  
Fort Leavenworth, KS**

**LTG William B. Caldwell, IV**

**0900, Nov 2, 2009  
(As Prepared)**

To all – let me say welcome to the “Intellectual Center of our Army.”

GEN Dempsey – Sir, Thank you for your kind remarks. It has been an honor and privilege to work for you and to be able to train and educate some of our Army’s finest Warriors together.

LTG (R) and Mrs. Arter, our Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army for the state of Kansas, thank you for all you have done and continue to do.

Friends, members of the Fort Leavenworth and surrounding communities and most importantly, members of the CAC Team, welcome and thank you for attending.

It seems like just yesterday we gathered for the Assumption of Command Ceremony that marked the beginning of this treasured time in my family’s life.

The Soldiers, NCOs, Officers, Army Civilians, Contractors, and Families of this great team amazed and inspired me each and every day for the past 28 months.

You all welcomed Stephanie, our kids, Will, Anna and Hudson, and me with open arms as a part of this Team.

Each time we welcome a new CGSC Class, we show them an opening video. Along with some vintage video footage of me looking for a parking spot, the video also makes the statement that, “the contributions we make cannot be measured by our proximity to the fight”...wherever you go across CAC and Fort Leavenworth you find members of this team that understand the importance of their mission as well as the critical and demanding requirements facing our Army.

In the last 28 months, we have all seen the CAC Team be as agile and adaptive as the leaders we strive to create. The work you all have done and continue to do here at the “Intellectual Center of our Army” is pivotal to helping our Army change...change that is needed to meet the complex challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Like any great organization, everyone has contributed – from training support, to leader development and education, to knowledge management, to lessons learned, to combat developments and others .....to include our MPs and garrison team .....everyone from students, faculty, Soldiers, our DA Civilians, Contractors, our Families, and our community supporters have come together to contribute to the readiness of our Army and to make our community both a better place today than they were yesterday.

Together we have implemented the ABC's of leader development...creating those Agile and Adaptive leaders and Balanced warriors who are Creative and Critical thinkers.

We have added the first Command Sergeant Major of the Command and General Staff College...and I couldn't think of a better person to fill that role than my battle buddy CSM Phil Johndrow. CSM Johndrow –everything you do is a display of professionalism, there is no one that could have done what you have for our command. Thanks for your support, your leadership, and your dedication.

We have worked hard to develop our Army and Sister Service leaders; and within our education at CGSC this includes our Sister Service along with our international officers, DA Civilians, and now also interagency partners. The addition of our Interagency partners to our diverse student body will build lasting relationships that have already been tested on the battlefield.

Over the last two years your work has created a new culture of cooperation, collaboration, and coordination. You have taken the initiative in many different ways to integrate our interagency partners into our education, training, experiences and doctrine. This increased interagency coordination is a direct result of the relationships and trust we have built over time and our Nation is better for it.

We have also explored new terrain together...terrain in the information environment of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. We've embraced technology.

We gave our CAC Homepage an overhaul and saw the visitors jump from 24,000 to 514,000 in the last 2 years. We have shared the Army story, provoked thought, and created discussion through our over 40 CAC blog sites, our CAC YouTube site, Facebook, our CAC Twitter site.

The efforts our CGSC students' and others have devoted to the new information engagement requirements have provided countless radio interviews, newspaper articles, and community outreach that informed our Nation about the incredible commitment of the men and women in our military, and their families.

We have also seen the beginning of change, change in culture, in our Army through the publication of new doctrine including FM 3-0, Operations; FM 7-0, Training for Full Spectrum Operations; FM 3-07, Stability Operations; and FM 3-07.1, Security Force Assistance. This evolutionary doctrine will act as guideposts for our Army as we move forward during a critical time.

We have celebrated our history together. We've added 6 deserving members to our Hall of Fame to include the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> NCOs to be inducted in the last 40 years. We have celebrated the bridges our international program has built through the addition of 12 distinguished members to our International Hall of Fame.

During a time in our Army's history when balance is so very important for our long term health and success as an Army, you all have continued to build a community that supports Families and all are proud to call home.

Once again, we saw that our team and our support didn't stop at the front gates. The Army Community Covenant codified the bonds with our local communities that we have enjoyed in a relationship that is over 150 years old. To all of the members of our community – on and off post – Stephanie and I want to say thanks for the way you have embraced our family; and more importantly our military community. It is a wonderful relationship and one we have loved being a part of.

As I close, I trust that my time here does reflect our Army Values and with your help has left the organization in a little better shape than when we started – which is all you can really hope for. Together we have worked hard to make this organization and this installation the best possible to support our Army and our Nation.

Although this is the end of our tour here, you all will forever be a part of our lives. We know our children will remember with fondness the days they spent collecting bugs in the basement of 1 Scott, constructing rope courses in the grand trees of 1 Scott, or playing Army with the neighborhood kids. They'll also remember the "Brownie Lady" and the youth sports programs and the teachers in our school district and their many friends to include our church family downtown.

To Stephanie, my wife – you amaze me each and every day with the dedication, support, and care you show our children, those that serve our Nation, and this community. Thank you for your unconditional love and support.

We are grateful for the privilege to have served with all of you. It has been an absolutely wonderful assignment.

Today we are a part of the greatest military in the history of the world and it is because of the efforts of each and every one of you, every day.

Thank you for your service, your courage, and your commitment. Thank you for being America's finest men and women. God bless you all.