



Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp, Corps of Engineers Commanding General, looks on as Col. Michael McCormick addresses Afghanistan Engineer District personnel for the first time during the Change of Command Ceremony.

Colonel Michael McCormick assumes command of the Afghanistan Engineer District

By Bruce J. Huffman

Colonel Michael McCormick took command of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Afghanistan Engineer District July 9th, replacing Colonel Thomas E. O'Donovan.

McCormick comes to AED from the Hurricane Protection Office in New Orleans, where he oversaw one of the most massive civil works projects in U.S. history: construction of the federal flood risk reduction system that protects the city of

New Orleans and southeast Louisiana. Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp, Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, presided over the ceremony, which took place at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters in Kabul, Afghanistan. During the ceremony, a formation of both military and civilian Corps of Engineers personnel stood at attention while members of the CJTF101 band played and Ms. Kendra Whaley, AED Resource Management Specialist, sang the National Anthem.

The Change of Command is a time-honored tradition which represents the continuity of authority and the passing of leadership responsibility from one individual to another. After the ceremony, AED personnel



Military and Civilian personnel participated in the Change of Command ceremony held at the Corps Headquarters in Kabul.

and guests welcomed McCormick at a reception held in the Qalaa House District Room.

The AED mission is to provide project management, construction and engineering services in the Central Asian Republics to facilitate the establishment of a secure and stable environment while promoting reconstruction and infrastructure development. AED is an integral part of a



Col. Michael McCormick receives the Guidon, symbolizing the transfer of authority of the District.

larger engineer community in the Afghan theater. It is comprised of seven Area Offices, 22 Resident Offices, and six Project Offices which are strategically located throughout Afghanistan. In the last year, the AED mission has more than doubled from \$1.6 to \$4 billion and the number of personnel has grown from 200 to about 500. To accommodate the increase in workload, a second Corps of Engineers District will be established in Kandahar during August 2009 to handle construction projects in Regional Commands South and West.

The District provides support in four major program areas: Afghan National Security Forces, which includes building facilities for the Afghan National Army and Police;



Col. McCormick was interviewed by the Afghan media after the ceremony.

U.S. and Coalition Forces Power Projection, which provides facilities for Coalition Forces; Counter Narcotics and Border Management Initiatives which provide

facilities to help stop the flow of narcotics and control Afghanistan's borders; and Strategic Reconstruction, which includes support to the U.S. Agency for International Development, and the Commander's Emergency Response Program. In FY09 the Afghanistan Engineer District will award and/or build more than \$4 billion in construction projects throughout Afghanistan. 