

Change of Command held at McAlester Army Ammunition Plant

COL Timothy Beckner takes over from COL Arnold Montgomery

MCALESTER, Okla.--Colonel Timothy D. Beckner assumed command of McAlester Army Ammunition Plant as the 32nd commander July 1 from COL Arnold P. Montgomery in an outdoor ceremony at the plant. Montgomery will be the next chief of staff at the Joint Munitions Command at Rock Island, Ill. Beckner's last assignment was at the Pentagon where he served as the Quadrennial Defense Review lead for joint logistics.

The change of command was conducted on a field surrounded by inert displays of bombs and equipment of various sizes representing the vast array of technical and mechanical expertise necessary for plant employees to accomplish their mission.

More than 200 plant employees, city officials, congressional representatives, military officials, family and friends attended the 30 minute ceremony which began at 9 a.m. The ammunition plant has about 1,400 employees.



In his farewell remarks, COL Montgomery praised the work ethic and accomplishments of the installation's Department of the Army civilians.

"Every day for the past three years I have been in awe of the mission performed here, the challenges taken on every day by MCAAP employees and with the outstanding leadership and hard work provided by MCAAP directors, supervisors and employees," he said.

Some of the challenges and hard work Montgomery recognized in his speech included shipping and receiving hundreds of thousands of tons of critical ammunition every year for the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Navy and allies like Canada, Australia, Israel, Great Britain and the United Arab Emirates. Other challenges met included packaging and shipping trainloads of ammunition almost routinely for destinations such as Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Korea and Germany.

He also mentioned accomplishing "middle of the night" urgent shipments of Patriot missiles to U.S. air defense units.

Montgomery also passed along a secret to his success at the plant—"the great men and women of MCAAP (who) do what they do best—complete missions and support warfighters."

Brig. Gen. Larry Wyche, commanding general, Joint Munitions Command, was the guest of honor and endorsed the success that Col. Montgomery lauded about his employees.

“Under your leadership this McAlester team continues to provide timely, quality ammunition support” for the joint warfighters, Wyche said.

The general also bestowed some accolades upon Col. Montgomery. “Commanding an ammunition plant is a different type of command assignment and the Army needs a different type of person to lead these unique facilities . . . you’ve met the test and exceeded expectations,” he said.

During COL Beckner’s remarks he paid tribute to plant employees for contributing to the countries freedom.

“You play an important part in providing a safe and secure place to raise and educate our children and creating opportunities for success regardless of a person’s background. This enables our nation to be a light of hope and freedom for other countries to follow,” he said.

Covering 45,000 thousand acres, McAlester Army Ammunition Plant is the Department of Defense’s premier bomb and warhead production facility producing bombs from 500 pounds to 30,000 pounds.

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Recent Facts about McAlester Army Ammunition Plant

- In FY09, McAlester Army Ammunition Plant produced more than 27,000 bombs for the Air Force, Navy and allied customers.
- MCAAP is on track to produce more than 50,000 bombs in FY2010.
- MCAAP is on track to issue, store and receive more than 150,000 tons of ammunition in FY10 while maintaining the lowest cost per ton efficiency in the Joint Munitions Command.