

Casey

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Gen. George W. Casey Jr.

said. "We are still closer to the beginning than the end of this fight."

He told the audience the pace of the Army's transformation and adaptation must accelerate, as well as the pace of conflict in Iraq.

"Although the burden of the long war is slowly beginning to shift to a more balanced approach using all elements of our nation's power," he said, "the road ahead will not be easy, and the stakes couldn't be higher."

The general, both the son and father of Soldiers, quoted former Army Chief of Staff Gen. Creighton Abrams as saying, "People are not in the Army, they are the Army."

"My four years as Army chief have only affirmed that Soldiers are our greatest strength because war is fought in human dimensions, and the men and women both in and out of uniform who are willing to put their boots on the ground are absolutely essential," he said.

Schoemaker said that while the technology of the Army has changed in its nearly 232-year history, the dedication to duty, patriotism and steely-eyed resolve of its Soldiers has not.

"I have looked into the eyes of today's warriors, and I am proud to report that they continue to exceed every expectation for courage, dedication and selfless service," he said. "They are the heart of all we do; they are our future."

"Our Army is strong today and every Soldier is a warrior because of your vision and leadership," Casey told Schoemaker during the ceremony.

Casey, who has spent 30 months as the commander of forces in Iraq, said that U.S. combat veterans have been baptized by fire and blood, but they have come out as strong as steel. He said he takes great pride in now being their leader.

He said the next decade will likely be one of persistent conflict.

"We've been at war for over five years, fighting for our freedom, our security and our future as a nation," Casey said. "We have made hard sacrifices, and we will be called on to make more."

Casey said the quality of the men and women of the Army is the best he's seen in his 36 years of service.

"The remarkable men and women of our all-volunteer force, supported by their families, are a national treasure and will be cared for accordingly," he said.

He added that Soldiers' care and quality of life should be commensurate with the magnificent service they render the American people.

"I want to renew my personal commitment to ensure these standards are met and maintained for our Soldiers, civilians and their families," Casey said.



Army community welcomes FFID commander

MELISSA HOUSE

Monitor staff

Members of the Fort Bliss and El Paso communities welcomed Brig. Gen. James L. Terry in a ceremony Friday. Terry leads the Future Force Integration Directorate, a unit of more than 200 military and civilian personnel charged with overseeing activities relating to the Army's Future Combat Systems.

Among those activities are synchronizing all FCS-related products, developing FCS doctrine and exercising direct authority over the Army Evaluation Task Force as its Soldiers train on, test and evaluate FCS technologies. According to the Army Capabilities Integration Center, FFID's parent organization, the FCS is the Army's principal modernization effort.

Terry's previous assignment was assistant division commander for operations of the 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, N.Y., where he deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom with Combined Joint Task Force 76, Afghanistan.

"This is an historic day and a real sign of the significant growth of Fort Bliss," said Commanding General Maj. Gen. Robert P. Lennox. He said Terry's experience in Afghanistan is exactly why the chief of staff of the Army selected him for the "important and critical job."

"He's a leader in touch with what his Soldiers need for the future and he brings a wealth of that experience to this unique position," Lennox said.

Less than one year ago, the Army made the decision to establish the FFID and designated a unit to perform the testing, said ARCIC Director Lt. Gen. John Curran. The FFID advance party arrived at Fort



MELISSA HOUSE

Brig. Gen. James L. Terry delivers remarks at a welcome ceremony in his honor Friday in front of Hinman Hall. Terry is the commander of the Future Force Integration Directorate, an organization charged with synchronizing all actions involving Future Combat Systems training and testing for the Army.

Bliss on June 14.

"[Fort Bliss] is, today, squarely in the center of a key component of the Army's modular brigade transformation," Curran said. "FFID will perform many critical functions in support of future modular force development. This team has a pretty arduous task – to put capabilities in the hands of Soldiers, to help refine doctrine, tactics, techniques and procedures ... and create the Army's first modular brigade equipped with FCS technologies. They are the building block upon which we will build the future modular force. Over time, the entire Army modular brigades will be equipped with future combat systems capabilities that have been tested and evaluated right here at Fort Bliss."

Terry said elements of the FCS program is empowering Soldiers with technologies, like the manned and unmanned systems, that go far beyond the current modular force and will improve the lethality and surviv-

ability of today's Soldiers.

"These are challenging and exciting times for our Army while we remain engaged globally," Terry said. "I can't think of a more important and rewarding assignment ... as we focus not only on spin out capabilities of the current modular forces, but also support the development of the systems and capabilities in the Future Combat System core program. I'm eager to assist in integrating those emerging capabilities in the current force."

"To each of you out there, I promise you a couple of things. I promise you that I will apply the collective experience within the Future Force Integration Directorate toward providing our Soldiers – America's sons and daughters – the best possible support and capabilities," he said. "They are true heroes and as protectors and defenders of our great Constitution, they deserve nothing less."

THAAD

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100 percent results each and every time from this new weapon system in testing," Zamberlan said. "First of all, it has been accelerated significantly, and second, it has not even gone through its developmental phase. However, so far, the tests have been very successful."

THAAD is complimentary with Patriot, not a substitute for the Patriot. THAAD is an area defense versus a point defense weapons system, encompassing a larger area, which gives more flexibility to commanders to do their planning and execute their missions.

Fort Bliss is scheduled to field the first fire unit in fiscal 2009. A second will be fielded in 2010, and eventually

a third and fourth will be stood-up. They will then be THAAD units ready for deployment. The first units will be assigned to the 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command and the 11th Bde. Personnel for the first fielded unit are expected to arrive here at the end of the calendar year to start putting the first battery together, said Zamberlan.

Obituaries

Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Johnnie Lee Jones

Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Johnnie Lee Jones was laid to rest in Lufkin, Texas, April 7. Jones entered the Army June 14, 1948, at 18, and served for more than 30 years. Jones' military career was an inspiration and his accomplishments paved the way for future generations. Early in his career, Jones became the first black sergeant in an Anti-Aircraft Artillery battalion. In 1974, he became the first black command sergeant major of the U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center. Jones was also the first black command sergeant major to compete for Sergeant Major of the Army.

Jones served with the 933rd Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion during the Korean War and held first sergeant positions for more than 16 consecutive years. He was command sergeant major of the 554th Engineer Battalion in Vietnam. He returned to Fort Bliss in 1972 to serve with the 4th Battalion, 62nd Air Defense Artillery and was selected as the ADA School command sergeant major.

His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Army Commendation Medal, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry and campaign medals for his service in the Korean War and Vietnam.

Jones is survived by numerous relatives and friends.

Zennovia Helen Koehler

Zennovia Helen Koehler died Jan. 17 in Alexandria, Va. She is survived by her husband, retired Maj. Gen. John J. Koehler, Jr., who was the Fort Bliss commander from 1977 to 1979. She is survived by nine children and 26 grandchildren. As an Army wife, mother, sister, and grandmother, she touched many lives with her selfless service to God and others. A mass was held Jan. 20 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Alexandria, Va., followed by internment at Arlington National Cemetery, Va. Contributions in her memory can be made to Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent DePaul House, 333 S. Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg, Md. 21727.