

204th Military Intelligence changes command

VIRGINIA REZA

Monitor Staff

Lt. Col. Steven T. Koenig relinquished command of the 204th Military Intelligence Battalion to Lt. Col. Mark J. Radtke during a change of command ceremony Monday at Biggs Army Airfield.

"Lieutenant Colonel Koenig you have done an exceptional job leading this battalion," said Col. Cheryl Harris, 470th MI Brigade commander, Fort Sam Houston, Texas. "Although my association with you has been short, I can tell you that I would definitely like to keep you on my team for the two years I will command this brigade. Your actions have yielded numerous accomplishments at the 204th. Good luck to the both of you. I know you will continue to do great things."

"Saying goodbye to one commander means one thing, saying hello to another," she said. "Lieutenant Colonel Radtke and spouse, we welcome you today. I am confident you will enjoy your tenure here. You are now in command of a unique organization and I charge you with the first level of excellence to take it to the next level. I do look forward to serving with you in your tenure."

Koenig said he was privileged to command such an outstanding organization. He commended the battalion's Soldiers and civilians for their efforts and support.

"We have overcome many challenges these last two years," he said. "There is reason to be proud of what we have accomplished together. I wish each of you the best in the future both personally and professionally. Thank you my troops."

Koenig welcomed Radtke to the battalion and told him time would go fast.

"The sacrifices you make will be worth it, and these Soldiers and civilians will take you anywhere you chose to lead them," he said. "Although the guidon has been passed, the true symbol in a change of command in the 21st century is actually the pass-



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Col. Cheryl Harris, 470th Military Intelligence Brigade commander, passes the 204th MI Battalion colors to Lt. Col. Mark J. Radtke, during the change of command ceremony Monday at Biggs Airfield. Radke assumed command from Lt. Col. Steven T. Koenig.

ing of the blackberry. Mark I'm leaving mine to you on the podium. Enjoy it, particularly evening calls and beeps. Now the battalion is truly yours. May God continue to bless this battalion our, Army and the U.S. — the greatest nation on earth."

Radtke thanked everyone for attending the ceremony and wished Koenig well in his future assignment.

"What a privilege it is to follow you," Radtke said. "I will work hard and am committed to contin-

ue a successful battle rhythm."

Radtke was commissioned as an Army aviator in 1988, upon graduation from the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point. His initial assignment after flight school was to the 70th Transportation Battalion where he served as a fixed-wing section leader, company executive officer and battalion intelligence officer in Coleman Barracks, Mannheim, Germany. Upon completion of the Military Intelligence Officer's Advanced Course, Radtke was assigned to the Military Intelligence Battalion (Low Intensity) in Orlando, Florida where he served as a company operations officer, assistant battalion S3 and Charlie Company commander. Radtke was then assigned to Grafenwoehr, Germany where he commanded the Grafenwoehr Army Airfield and 7th Army Training Command Flight Detachment. He then moved to Heidelberg, Germany to become the battalion S3 for the newly formed 1-214th Aviation Regiment. Radtke transitioned from there to Headquarters, United States Army Europe G3 Aviation Division, serving as chief of the Centralized Aviation Scheduling Office. Radtke's next assignment was at Headquarters, United States European Command in Stuttgart, Germany where he served as the U.S. Army Branch chief in the J3 Joint Reconnaissance Center. Most recently, he served as the chief of USAREUR Aviation Operations in Heidelberg, Germany.

Radtke's awards and decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Kosovo Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary and Service Medals, Korean Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, NATO Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal, Master Army Aviator Badge, Parachutist's Badge and Air Assault Badge.

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