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V CORPS' 22ND SIGNAL BRIGADE WELCOMES NEW TOP ENLISTED SOLDIER

By Pfc. Michael Howard

22nd Signal Brigade Public Affairs Office

DARMSTADT, Germany -- Command Sgt. Maj. Ray D. Lane passed on the duties of the senior enlisted member of V Corps' 22nd Signal Brigade to Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas J. Clark in a ceremony at the post theater on Cambrai-Fritsch Kaserne here August 30.



PFC MICHAEL HOWARD

Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas J. Clark (left) accepts the guidon of V Corps' 22nd Signal Brigade from Maj. Andreas S. Ulrich, the brigade's executive officer, during the August 30 ceremony naming Clark as the brigade's new senior enlisted soldier.

"This is the most significant event I've ever had the opportunity to comment on," said Maj. Andreas S. Ulrich, the 22nd Signal Brigade executive officer, "This event is here to honor two old soldiers, and one old organization."

Ulrich called Lane the man behind many of the recent achievements of the 22nd, citing the brigade's establishment of the largest tactical data network in history and vital tactical support that helped lead to the destruction of the Iraqi army and the capture of Saddam Hussein. "One of the images that will forever hold a place in the forefront of my mind is watching Command Sgt. Maj. [Clark] risk his own life in order to track down a Soldier whom we couldn't find

during combat operations.”

Lane aimed most of his comments during the ceremony at praising and thanking his fellow leaders and the Soldiers and NCOs of the 22nd. “When I came back from Iraq, you spent hours standing before me in formation, but today I stand before you, and I want to tell you a few things. This is my final farewell to the 22nd Signal Brigade, and I want to tell my Soldiers how extremely proud I am to serve with them.”

Lane’s next assignment will be as the Brigade Command Sergeant Major of the 160th Signal Brigade in Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

Clark said he is eager to continue Lane’s high standard of leadership, and honored that he was chosen as successor to his mentor and close personal friend. “I’m truly looking forward to serving on the behalf of [22nd Signal Brigade Commander Col. Fredrick A. Cross], the soldiers and non-commissioned officers of this combat-proven brigade. I proudly wear this brigade patch on both shoulders.”

“Command Sgt. Maj. Clark, you’ve got some big shoes to fill, but I know you’re up to the task,” said Ulrich.

Clark’s military and civilian education includes the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy; the USASMA First Sergeants Course; the Advanced NCO Course; the Basic NCO Course; the Battlefield Spectrum Management Course; the Mobile Subscriber Equipment System Planner/System Control Center Operator Course; the Battle Staff NCO Course and the Air Assault School. He has a bachelor’s degree from Excelsior College, where he graduated with honors.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal; the Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster; the Army Commendation Medal with 14 oak leaf clusters; the Army Achievement Medal with six oak leaf clusters; the Military Outstanding Volunteer Medal; the Good Conduct Medal (seventh award), the National Defense Service Medal with star; the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal; the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; the Korean Defense Service Medal, the NCO Development Ribbon with numeral 4; the Army Service Ribbon; the Overseas Service Ribbon with numeral 3; the Signal Corps Regimental Association Bronze Order of Mercury, and the Air Assault Badge.

