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NEW COMMANDER TAKES REINS OF V CORPS ARTILLERY

By Spc. Kristopher Joseph
V Corps Public Affairs Office

SCHWETZINGEN, Germany -- V Corps Artillery welcomed a new commander in a change of command ceremony July 14 at Tompkins Barracks here.

Col. Richard G. Cardillo Jr. accepted the "Thunder Strike" command from Col. Charles C. Otterstedt III. Otterstedt's next assignment is at the Joint Warfighting Center in Suffolk, Va.

Cardillo assumes the role of VCA commander following his assignment as commander of the 30th Field Artillery Regiment at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He previously served with VCA in 1995 as its operations officer.

The colonel has served in a variety of command and staff assignments, including tours as operations officer for 2nd Armored Division Artillery at Fort Hood, Texas; commander of Battery C, 1st Battalion, 92nd Field Artillery (Multiple Launch Rocket System); fire support officer and trainer at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif.; operations officer for the 2nd Battalion, 32nd Field Artillery in Giessen, Germany; V Corps project officer for the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the D-Day invasion; aide-de-camp to the V



SPC KRISTOPHER JOSEPH
Col. Richard G. Cardillo Jr. (right) accepts the flag of V Corps Artillery from acting V Corps Commander Maj. Gen. Walter Wojdakowski during a change of command ceremony July 14 at Tompkins Barracks in Schwetzingen, Germany.

Corps commanding general; operations officer for V Corps Artillery; commander of the 4th Battalion, 42nd Field Artillery at Fort Hood; joint doctrine development officer at the Joint Forces Command in Suffolk, Va., and as commander of the 30th Field Artillery Regiment at Fort Sill, Okla.

Cardillo graduated from Oregon State University with a bachelor's degree in physical education and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the field artillery in 1978. He holds a master's degree in military science from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., and has attended the Field Artillery Officer Basic and Advanced Courses; the U.S. Army War College and the U.S. Army airborne and Ranger courses.

His awards and decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal; the Meritorious Service Medal with five oak leaf clusters; the Joint Service Commendation Medal; the Army Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters; the Joint Meritorious Unit Award; the Army Superior Unit Award with two oak leaf clusters; the Parachutist Badge and the Ranger Tab.

The lineage of VCA dates back to the U.S. Civil War. Fighting throughout World War I, the unit received its current title March 4, 1944 during World War II when the 76th Field Artillery was redesignated as V Corps Artillery. VCA Soldiers deployed to Southwest Asia on Feb. 21, 2003 and oversaw the firing of over 18,500 projectiles in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

