



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 10, 2004

V CORPS ATTACK HELICOPTER SQUADRON WELCOMES NEW COMMANDER

By Spc. Kristopher Joseph
V Corps Public Affairs Office

ILLESHEIM, Germany – The 6th Squadron, 6th Cavalry of V Corps' 11th Aviation Regiment welcomed a new commander in a ceremony at Storck Barracks here June 10.

Lt. Col. Paul K. Reist accepted command from Lt. Col. Michael J. Barbee.

Barbee's next assignment is at the Combat Maneuver Training Center in Hohenfels, Germany, where he will serve as the senior aviation observer-controller.



SPC KRISTOPHER JOSEPH
Col. George Bilafer, commander of V Corps' 11th Aviation Regiment (right) welcomes Lt. Col. Paul K. Reist, incoming commander of the regiment's 6th Squadron, 6th Cavalry, during Reist's change-of-command ceremony at Storck Barracks in Illesheim, Germany June 10.

Reist assumes the role of squadron commander following his assignment as

the operations officer for the U.S. Corps of Cadets at U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. He also deployed for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm as an aeroscout platoon leader and assistant operations officer with 1st Armored Division's 3rd Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment.

Reist graduated from the USMA and was commissioned in May 1987. He also has a master's degree from the Georgia Institute of Technology. His military education includes the Aviation Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the Initial Entry Rotary Wing Course, and the Command and General Staff College. He is also a graduate of the Army's Airborne and Air Assault Courses.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, and the Air Medal with "V" device.

Since their conception during the Civil War, the 6th Cavalry have participated in 35 major campaigns in a dozen foreign countries, including five campaigns in World War II. On October 15, 2001 the 6th Squadron officially made the transition from flying the AH-64A Apache to the AH-64D Apache Longbow, becoming the first unit in Europe to field the world's most advanced attack helicopter.

Flying its mission to perform deep-strike attacks on targets behind a main battle area, the 6th Squadron fought in the opening days of Operation Iraqi Freedom, supporting the 3rd Infantry Division's movement through Iraq and securing the seam between V Corps and the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force. In April 2003, the squadron, along with the 11th Aviation Regiment headquarters, moved to Balad, Iraq, and conducted tactical missions in support of V Corps and the 4th Infantry Division in OIF.

The 6th flew more than 10,000 hours in combat and conducted 944 combat missions ranging from convoy security; zone and route reconnaissance; air escort; and quick reactionary force missions for ground forces in enemy contact. They are credited with destroying 33 Iraqi air defense systems, 10 tanks, 13 artillery systems, and 40 ammunition caches.

In his remarks at the change of command ceremony, Col. George Bilafer, the 11th's commander, called the "Sixshooters" of the 6th Squadron "the (Combined Joint Task Force-7) weapon of choice."

