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FIRST WOMAN WEST POINTER TO BE PROMOTED TO GENERAL ASSUMES LEADERSHIP OF V CORPS' SUPPORT COMMAND

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WIESBADEN ARMY AIRFIELD, Germany — One of the first women to be admitted to the U.S. Army Military Academy and the first female West Point graduate to be promoted to general officer rank assumed command of V Corps' 3rd Corps Support Command in a ceremony here September 2.



Brig. Gen. Rebecca S. Halstead follows outgoing COSCOM Commander Brig. Gen. Vincent E. Boles. Halstead, whose previous assignment was as deputy commander for U.S. Army Europe's 21st Theater Support Command in Kaiserslautern, Germany, pinned on her first star August 31.

During the ceremony, Halstead accepted the COSCOM flag from V Corps Commander Lt. Gen. Ricardo S. Sanchez.

STAFF SGT MANUEL TORRES-CORTES
Brig. Gen. Rebecca S. Halstead (center) accepts the colors of the 3rd Corps Support Command from V Corps Commander Lt. Gen. Ricardo S. Sanchez during a change of command ceremony at Wiesbaden Army Airfield, Germany Sept. 2.

In his remarks at the event, Sanchez lauded the leadership and skill he says Halstead brings to the COSCOM and V Corps.

"The good news about any change of command is the arrival of an equally impressive leader and warrior, who is eager to maintain the standard as the organization takes on the challenges that lie ahead," said Sanchez.

"She is arriving as a remarkable leader and logistician," said Sanchez.

"This is an awesome responsibility, honor and privilege to lead and serve with 3rd COSCOM," said Halstead. "Thank you for a first-class change of command, and for training (and) leading the (COSCOM's) Soldiers and families with character, compassion and discipline."

Halstead's complete biography is available on the 3rd COSCOM web site at www.3coscom.army.mil.

Boles passed on the flag of 3rd COSCOM a year after becoming its commander on a parade field at Logistic Support Area Anaconda in Balad, Iraq, while the unit was deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"I charged (Boles) with one task," said Sanchez. "That was never to cause a maneuver commander to look back because of a logistical issue, and you lived up to your motto, 'Sustaining the Line,' and you did it superbly."

Before the ceremony, Sanchez awarded the Meritorious Service Medal to Boles for his contributions to the COSCOM. He then presented Boles' wife Cheryl with a Commander's Award for Public Service for her contributions to the COSCOM, and a Heart of Victory Award for her volunteer and quality of life projects.

Boles next assignment will be as commander of U.S. Army U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools and the Army's Chief of Ordnance, at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

