



PRESS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

Umatilla Chemical Depot

For Immediate Release

Date: July 7, 2005
TIME: 9 a.m.

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Change of command set for July 14

Umatilla Chemical Depot, Hermiston, Ore. – Lt. Col. Donna Rutten will assume command of the Umatilla Chemical Depot from Lt. Col. David E. “Doc” Holliday in a July 14 change of command ceremony. The ceremony begins at 10 a.m.

Because of heightened security since 9/11, the ceremony will not be open to the public, but will be open to invited guests, all depot employees, and the media.

Rutten will be the 33rd depot commander and the second woman in the depot’s 64-year history. As commander, Rutten will be responsible for the safe and secure storage and demilitarization of the depot’s chemical weapons.

Michael Parker, director of the U.S. Army’s Chemical Materials Agency, Aberdeen, Md., which manages the Army’s chemical weapons storage and disposal facilities, will attend.

Born in Eau Claire, Wis., Rutten graduated from the U.S. Military Academy with a Bachelor of Science in physical geography. She is a graduate of the Chemical Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, Combined Arms Services and Staff School, the Naval Command and General Staff College and Airborne School. She has earned a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College, Newport, R.I., and a Master of Science in Environmental Systems Engineering from Clemson University, S.C.

Her previous assignments include: Battalion Chemical Officer, 1-4th Aviation (Attack); Platoon Leader and Company Executive Officer, 31st Chemical Company, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colo.; Special Munitions Instructor Writer and Battery Commander, B Battery, 1-31st Field Artillery, Fort Sill, Okla.; Environmental Program Manager and Operations Officer, Army Environmental Center, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Aberdeen, Md.; Commander U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Activity at Aberdeen Proving Ground; Operations Officer, Special Troops Battalion, and Deputy Corps Chemical Officer, I Corps, Fort Lewis, Wash.

Her awards and decorations include the: Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters; Army Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters; Army Achievement
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Award with three oak leaf clusters; National Defense Service Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Army Service Ribbon; and Parachute Badge.

She and her husband, Richard, have two children, Luke, 6, and Ariel, 3.

Holliday has served as depot commander since July 2003. His next assignment will be as chemical officer of U.S. Army Forces Command, Atlanta, Ga.

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UMATILLA CHEMICAL DEPOT MEDIA ADVISORY

The July 14 Umatilla Chemical Depot change of command ceremony will not be open to the general public. Since 9/11, the depot has maintained heightened security; therefore, only invited guests, depot employees and media representatives will be authorized to attend.

Media representatives need to arrive by 9 a.m. at the depot's front gate, located off Exit 177, I-84, just west of Hermiston, Ore. Media will park in the front gate parking lot and be transported with their equipment to the ceremony. Guests should be seated at the ceremony by 9:45 a.m.

Media planning to attend the ceremony need to contact the depot Public Affairs Office at (541) 564-5312/5418 by 5 p.m. Tuesday, July 12. Please bring a picture ID.

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