

WTB gets new commander

By Jeff Troth MEDDAC PAO



The Warrior Transition Battalion held a Change of Command ceremony May 19 at the Colorado National Guard's regional training center on Fort Carson. Lt. Col. Aaron Termain relinquished command to Lt. Col. David Laydon.

"Warrior Transition Battalions are very, very special," said Col. Dennis LeMaster, Fort Carson's Medical Department Activity commander. "They serve as a healing refuge for our Nation's Soldiers whether they be wounded, ill, or injured."

LeMaster said that due to the unique mission of the Warrior Transition Battalion "the very best cadre" are selected to lead and care for Soldiers assigned to the battalion.

The WTB mission is to take care of Soldiers who require at least six months of rehabilitative care and complex medical management. While assigned to the WTB these Soldiers are able to concentrate on medical appointments and transitioning to civilian life, or on returning to their original unit.

"Lt. Col Aaron Termain poured himself into every Soldier, into his cadre and to the betterment of every facet of his organization in every possible measure," LeMaster said. "He endeavored to maximize each of his Soldiers personal opportunities for success.

"But, it was never about volume to Aaron, it was about the healing, caring and education of each individual Soldier. He measured success one Soldier at a time," LeMaster said. "He knew every Soldier and their family members by name. He knew their background, worries, hopes and dreams."

Since taking command of the WTB in March 2013, Termain ensured the successful transition of over 750 Soldiers to civilian life or back to their Army units. He also instituted the first Tactical Athlete program, forged partnerships with the Veterans Administration and community members, established the Fort Carson Community Care Unit, and developed the battalion's transition and outreach services.

"During my time with the WTB, I have seen the cadre, this family of handpicked, specially trained, dedicated and caring professionals personally commit themselves to supporting the Soldiers and families that were entrusted to us," said Termain. "They did whatever it took to tailor the care and transition programs to the needs of the individual Soldier and family."

During his farewell speech, the out-going commander praised and thanked the civilian organizations that helped him and his staff complete their mission.

“Never in my 28 years of service have I been in a community like the one we have here in Colorado Springs and Colorado,” Termain said. “To have that network of teams to back stop you and to continue to help Soldiers and families after they’ve left the army is greatly touching and comforting.”

Although Laydon is new to the WTB, he is no stranger to the state of Colorado, nor the Colorado Springs community. He is a native of Pueblo and takes command of the WTB after having served as the operations officer, crew director, and plans and training officer for the Colorado Army National Guard’s 100th Ground Missile Defense Command, which is located at Peterson Air Force Base.

Prior to the change of command, Laydon met with the leadership and staff of several of the organizations that support the WTB.

“During these visits I continually observed a level of dedication to our mission, our Soldiers and their families that was truly inspiring,” said Laydon. “I believe this is a great testament to what Aaron has worked so hard to build during his time here. I also found it astonishing the number of community supporters that offer their help and resources which to me shows what a great state and country we live in.”

At the ceremony, Laydon talked to his new staff of Soldiers and civilians about what he expects of them.

“The mission we have been charged with is an enduring one. We must remain vigilant, dedicated, and continue our efforts towards success,” Laydon said. “We will remain mission focus and will ensure that in everything we provide we provide the best. We will provide the best support, the best leadership, and the best care. I look forward to working with each and every one of you.”



Lt. Col. David Laydon (center) takes command of the Warrior Transition Battalion as he takes the unit colors from the Fort Carson Medical Activity Commander Col. Dennis LeMaster. (Photo by Eric Ender, WTB)