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## Fort Carson WTB gets new leadership team

By Jeff Troth, MEDDAC PAO

The Warrior Transition Battalion held a Change of Leadership ceremony November 16 at the William Reed Special Events Center on Fort Carson. Maj. Susan Tallman relinquished command to Lt. Col. Brenden Song, while at the same time Master Sgt. Paul Aguon turned over responsibility to Command Sgt. Maj. James Wheeler, Jr.

The Fort Carson WTB is one of 14 units in the Army whose mission it is to take care of wounded, ill or injured 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 military service.

"Our Warrior Transition Battalion plays a key role in supporting the Army's Warrior Care and Transition Program, which is the overarching effort to provide the best possible care and support through the recovery and transition process," said Col. Patrick Garman, Fort Carson's Medical Department Activity commander. "The WTB truly embodies the Army's Warrior Ethos of placing the mission first, never accepting defeat, never quitting and most of all, never leaving a fallen comrade behind.

"Maj. Tallman and Master Sgt. Aguon have exemplified those ideals during their time leading our WTB," he continued. "They have cultivated a climate of trust from their Cadre and compassion from the Soldiers in transition."

"Throughout my years of service I have been blessed to work with outstanding people and this is truly an amazing battalion because of its people and their dedication," said Tallman. "The officers, NCOs, Soldiers and civilians of the WTB are professionals and ensure that our mission of patient care is the best our military has to offer."

During Tallman's and Aguon's time at the WTB they helped to increase the number of their Soldiers enrolled in the Career and Education Readiness program, which partners WTB Soldiers who are separating or re-classifying with civilian and military employers to build or strengthen their skill sets in preparation for transition. Their efforts with this program led to four new businesses pledging to hire veterans.

“Command Sgt. Maj Theon Hart (MEDDAC command sergeant major) and I want to extend our appreciation to both of you for your persistence, dedication and professionalism in leading the WTB,” Garman said. “But as we all know the Army Goes Rolling Along, so we welcome Lt. Col. Brenden Song, his wife Chris and their four children to our Fort Carson community.” “I am very excited to be part of this battalion that provides exceptional care and much needed transitional support to our wounded warriors and their families,” said Song. “I promise the Soldiers, NCOs and officers of the WTB that I will do my best and expect the same in return.”

Song comes to the Warrior Transition Battalion from the 20th CBRNE Command (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosives), Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. While there he served as the CBRNE operations officer and deputy chief of operations.

The WTB’s new command team is rounded out by Wheeler, who joined the Army in 1990 as a combat medic. He comes to the WTB from 3rd Medical Command (Deployment Support), Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, where he served as the operations sergeant major.

Although this is Wheeler’s first time to Fort Carson, it is not his first time serving in with a Warrior Transition Unit. He was the first sergeant at the Fort Dix WTU, where he helped to develop and implement the Comprehensive Treatment Plan that is used worldwide by the Warrior Transition Command. He was also key in the development of what evolved into the Air Force Wounded Warrior Program.

“Lt. Col. Song and Command Sgt. Major Wheeler, you are now part of a great medical team and a great Fort Carson team,” said Garman. “These teams are passionate about providing quality transitional care, quality health care and improving the readiness of our Army units.”



Lt. Col. Brenden Song (right) becomes the Warrior Transition Battalion commander as he accepts the unit colors from Col. Patrick Garman, Fort Carson’s Medical Department Activity commander. (Photo by Jeff Troth)