

Lt. Col. David R. James assumed command of Camp Parks Reserve Forces Training Area, Dublin California at a change of command ceremony held Aug 6 at the Camp Parks Parade Field. James, who succeeds Lt. Col. Mike Friend, previously served at the Department of the Army, as the Chief of Logistics Readiness Branch for the Deputy Chief of Logistics in Washington D.C. and has recently returned from Iraq where he worked as a liaison with United States Forces Iraq.

The heart of the Change of Command Ceremony is the passing of the command flag, symbolizing the organizations identity and cohesion. It also signifies the transition of responsibility from Lt Col Friend to Lt Col James, who accepts command responsibility for the soldiers, civilians, and families that live and work at Camp Parks.

Immediately after the flag ceremony Col James Suriano presented Lt. Col. Friend with a Meritorious Service Medal for his superb leadership of the PRFTA Soldiers and staff for the last 2 years. He commended him by saying, " (Lt.) Col. Friend congratulations on a job well done, you and your family have done and outstanding job while you were here."

In his parting remarks Lt. Col. Friend said, "Parks wouldn't be what it is without the communities support...my heartfelt thank you to all that have supported Parks." Further, he went on to thank all the staff for their hard in making Parks a great place to live and work.

To conclude the ceremony Lt. Col James stated, " Command is an honor and a privilege...I stand here today humbled before you and I look forward to leading Camp Parks Reserve Forces Training Area in the days ahead."

Camp Parks Reserve Forces Training Area is a United States Army Reserve installation located in the Northern California Bay Area, focusing on providing support for training individual soldiers from around the country, providing a home and training support for units in and around the Bay Area. In all, over 40 thousand soldiers, sailors, airmen, federal agents and marines train at Camp Parks on a yearly basis. They train in everything from leadership development, nursing, culinary arts, and administration.



Video Comments from Col. James Suriano



Video Comments from Lt. Col. Michael P. Friend



Video Comments from Lt. Col. David R. James



Parks Reserve Forces Training Area Change of Command August 6, 2011

