



NEBRASKA NATIONAL GUARD

NEWS RELEASE

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NEBRASKA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD BRIGADE MARKS TRANSITION DURING CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY

Released by
Lt. Col. Kevin Hynes

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LINCOLN, Neb. – Soldiers assigned to the Nebraska Army National Guard’s 67th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade welcomed a new commander while wishing farewell to their former leader during a change of command ceremony conducted Aug. 16 at the Spirit of 1776 Armory in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Standing before a formation of Soldiers representing the headquarters and various battalions and companies that make up the brigade, Lt. Col. Rich Gray assumed command of the organization from Brig. Gen. Richard Dahlman, Nebraska Army National Guard assistant adjutant general-Army. Gray replaces Col. Kevin Lyons, who is moving on to an assignment in the Nebraska National Guard’s joint force headquarters.

According to Dahlman, Lyons’ tenure will be long remembered as an era of high-paced training that took the organization to a Warfighter exercise at Fort Lewis, Washington, a major exercise at Camp Ripley, Minnesota, a numerous other ones along the way. Dahlman took time to give the members of the brigade special praise for how they handled the pressures of the high operational tempo during the past 18 months.

“To our Soldiers, thanks for serving,” said Dahlman. “Thanks for raising your hand once and then coming back weekend after weekend, annual training after annual training. This has been a busy year for the brigade again... thanks for giving it your all and thanks for serving this great nation. Your contributions are noticed as is your service.”

Dalman said Lyons’ leadership helped ensure that the brigade’s Soldiers were successful throughout the exercises. “You were right there with your Soldiers at these events. You sacrificed as well as they did, time and time again. When you took command, your team was on course for an extremely busy year... you and your team knocked it out of the park.”

“Thanks for all your efforts in the past and for what you will do for us in the future,” he said.

Lyons is a native of Gibbon, Nebraska, where he graduated from Gibbon High School in 1984. He also earned a bachelor of science degree in Education from Kearney State College and a master of arts degree in School Administration from the University of Nebraska- Kearney. He also recently completed his master of science degree in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College.

Lyons’ military career began in 1986 when he enlisted into the Nebraska Army National Guard’s 1-195th Armor Battalion in Kearney. After earning his commission as a second

lieutenant, Lyons went on to serve in numerous leadership positions throughout the Nebraska Army National Guard including stints as a scout platoon leader, cavalry troop commander, battalion commander at Camp Ashland's 209th Regiment (Regional Training Institute) and as the commander of the 209th RTI.

Lyons is also a veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom, serving in several leadership positions in Afghanistan in 2005 where he helped train members of the Afghan National Army at the Kabul Military Training Center in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Lyons assumed command of the 67th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade in April 2014.

Lyons said commanding the brigade was a significant event in his military career. "There is a lot of heritage here and I'm very humbled because now I'm a part of that," said Lyons, who is also the superintendent of schools at St. Edwards Public Schools in St. Edwards, Nebraska.

Lyons added he knows the success he achieved was the direct result of the work done by the brigade's Soldiers.

"It's a reflection upon me as a commander, but it's about you. It's about the Soldiers," he told the assembled formation, adding that the success a total team effort between the brigade staff, the battalion commanders and the Soldiers of the organization. "I'm up here today because of you...because of your great success and your great ability to step forward and meet the challenges."

"I know you will do the same for Colonel Gray as he takes over," Lyons said.

Gray received his commission in October 1995 after serving for nine years as an enlisted infantryman within the Nebraska Army Guard's 1-134th Infantry Detachment (Long Range Surveillance). After completing the armor officer basic course, Gray then attended initial entry rotary wing training, where he trained to become a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter pilot. Following flight school, Gray was assigned as a platoon leader with the Nebraska Army National Guard's 24th Medical Company (Air Ambulance)

During the course of his military career, Gray has served as a platoon leader, company commander and battalion commander. He is also a veteran of numerous overseas deployments including stints in Bosnia-Herzegovina in support of Operation Joint Forge, Egypt in support of the Bright Star Exercise, Iraq as an operations officer assigned to the 110th Medical Battalion (Evacuation) in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, El Salvador in support of Beyond the Horizons exercise, and as a company commander during a second mission to Iraq in support of OIF.

Gray is a full-time member of the Nebraska Army National Guard where he serves as the state training and operations officer.

Dahlman said he has complete confidence in Gray's ability to build upon the work done by Lyons. "Your career up to this point has prepared you for command," said Dahlman. "You have commanded before and I have no doubt you will do well."

"I charge you to take these Soldiers and continue to recognize their talents and achieve success," Dahlman added.

Gray said he is humbled by the opportunity that serving as commander of the 67th Battlefield Surveillance brings with it. "I take this privilege and responsibility of command very sincerely and I will not let you down," Gray said. "I am deeply humbled and greatly appreciate your confidence."