

Chief of Chemical Earns Star



By Specialist Tremeshia Ellis

“America’s finest, the best America has to offer, are standing on the field before you. I promise to give my best to lead these soldiers.”

—Brigadier General Stanley H. Lillie

As the 399th Army Band played “March Grandioso,” more than 1,000 soldiers marched onto Gammon Parade Field at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, to join members of the US Army Chemical Corps as Colonel Stanley H. Lillie, Chief of the US Army Chemical Corps and Commandant of the US Army Chemical School, was promoted to the rank of brigadier general.

Brigadier General Lillie, a native of Madison, Tennessee, had been anticipating the promotion for some time. “About time!” said Major General R.L. Van Antwerp, commanding general of the US Army Maneuver Support Center and Fort Leonard Wood, while addressing those in attendance before pinning a star on Lillie’s collar. According to Major General Van Antwerp, the brigadier general selection board looks for officers who are passionate about the care of their soldiers when deciding who is promoted. “It’s the greatest attribute an officer can have,” he said. “We have one such officer right here in Brigadier General Stan Lillie.” Van Antwerp went on to say that great officers have several things in common—great parents, family and support systems, challenging assignments,

the ability to solve problems, and the courage to do the right thing under all circumstances. The two-star general then offered advice to the newly pinned one-star. “Realize you don’t know everything, then pray for wisdom,” he said. “Also surround yourself with wise council,” he added. “Lastly,” he said, “remember, you are never alone. Call on your friends; have courage and confidence in your ability.”



Brigadier General Stanley H. Lillie: “I am truly humbled, truly honored.”

Brigadier General Lillie’s wife Bonita and Major General Van Antwerp pinned the general; and his daughters, Jana and Amanda, presented him with his general officer Kevlar helmet and belt. The presentation of his one-star flag by his mother, Mickey Lillie, was followed by the presentation of his 9-millimeter pistol by his father, retired Army Sergeant Major Hugh Lillie. As Brigadier General Lillie reviewed the troops for the first time as a general officer, he was joined on the stand by Mrs. Lillie and Regimental Command Sergeant Major Patrick Z. Alston.

According to the new brigadier general, soldiers should not expect a change in his leadership style, because he will continue to perform the way that



Brigadier General Lillie, Mrs. Lillie, and Command Sergeant Major Alston review the troops.



Brigadier General Lillie and Major General Van Antwerp

he has in the past. “However, I feel the weight that generals are supposed to be strategic thinkers, so I certainly want to concentrate on that,” he added.

As Brigadier General Lillie looked out upon the soldiers of the Chemical Corps, he expressed his excitement about future operations, addressing new areas like sensitive-site exploitation; new and better detection systems for weapons of mass destruction; nuclear, biological, and chemical agent reconnaissance; and faster and smarter decontamination operations. Later, Lillie offered encouragement to those considering a life of military service, saying that the Army offers challenges and leadership opportunities.

I can’t find the words to express the way I feel at this moment,” Lillie said as he addressed the crowd. “I am truly humbled,” he said, “truly honored.” Brigadier General Lillie went on to state that he never thought he would be in the position he is in today, having began his Army career as a cadet on an ROTC scholarship. “Only in America, only in the United States of America, can an old country boy from Tennessee grow up to be a general in the Army,” he said.

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