

New Project Manager Takes Command of Close Combat Systems

PICATINNY ARSENAL, N.J. - The office of the Project Manager for Close Combat Systems (PM CCS) received a new leader here 29 July 2010.

COL Steven Cummings assumed responsibility for PM CCS from outgoing project manager, COL Raymond Nulk, during a Change of Management ceremony officiated by Mr. James Shields, Deputy Program Executive Officer for Ammunition (PEO Ammo).

COL Cummings will oversee the management and evolution of one of the Army's largest and most diverse project offices. With an annual operating budget of nearly \$1.3 billion, PM CCS manages more than 200 separate programs, many of which are actively supporting Soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"I am proud to have led PM CCS' extended inter-disciplinary integrated product teams and exceptionally large and diverse mission area portfolio," said COL Nulk. "Working in concert with scientists and engineers from the Armament Research Development and Engineering Center (ARDEC) and private industry partners, PM CCS has developed revolutionary advances in the technology of war and the creation of an intelligent battlefield."

COL Nulk highlighted several of PM CCS' numerous successes, including responding to over 30 urgent material requests for such critical capabilities as the updated Self-Protection Adaptive Roller Kit (SPARK); Spider, the first networked munition to be fielded; and the Confidence Clip, which improves hand grenade safety. PM CCS was also responsible for fielding over 8,000 Anti-Tank and 1,000 Bunker Defeat Munitions. Man-portable, these shoulder-launched munitions provide increased firepower to the dismounted Soldier. PM CCS also fielded over 3 million countermeasure flares in the last year alone. These flares protect aircraft against a wide range of surface-to-air threats.

COL Nulk applauded his senior leaders for successfully guiding their teams through numerous rapid response programs, executing challenging procurement actions under urgent and compelling conditions, and developing effective training and sustainment programs to ensure success of advanced technologies fielded to support current operations.

"Our team was responsible for developing a broad set of capabilities that allow the Warfighter to deal with and quickly adapt to the full spectrum of challenges he will face. I am confident that PM CCS, under COL Cummings' leadership, will continue to reach its mission of making our forces more powerful, more flexible, and more deployable."

COL Cummings' previous assignment was as Product Manager Joint Services, PEO Ammo. As PM Joint Services, COL Cummings integrated the Single Manager for Conventional Ammunition mission across the services – ensuring that Warfighters from the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines had the conventional ammunition required to train and go to war. This included managing the industrial base, maintaining the stockpile, and overseeing demilitarization efforts. "My time at PM JS certainly prepared me to lead PM CCS," said COL Cumming. "I am

honored to be joining this high-performing team, one that is exceptional responsive to the Warfighter and adept at fielding such critical capabilities.”

COL Cummings holds a Bachelor of Science from the United States Military Academy, a Master of Business Administration from Clemson University, and a Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College. He is a graduate of the Armor Officer Basic and Advance Course, Army Command and General Staff College, and the Defense Systems Management College Program Manager’s Course.

COL Nulk was awarded the Legion of Merit in recognition of his exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services and achievements to the U.S. Army. Additionally, his wife Missy Nulk received a certificate of appreciation for her outstanding civilian service. Ms. Nulk has contributed more than 1,000 hours of community service to Picatinny Arsenal. COL Nulk will continue to serve the Picatinny Arsenal and wider Army community as Deputy Military Director of ARDEC.