

October 10, 2003 Proclaimed Colonel Augustus Mays Junior Day in Oklahoma!

DDOO Change of Command and Retirement Ceremony

By Stacy L. Umstead, DDC Command Affairs Office

On October 10, 2003, Colonel Augustus Mays, Jr., United States Air Force, relinquished command of Defense Distribution Depot Oklahoma City, Oklahoma (DDOO) to Colonel Ann M. Smith, United States Air Force. Colonel Mays then retired from the United States Air Force after having served 43 years. Phyllis C. Campbell, Senior Executive Service, Deputy Commander, Defense Distribution Center, officiated.

The ceremony began with the presentation of colors presented by the Tinker Air Force Base Honor Guard, as Petty Officer Mary Ellen Ringel, United States Navy, performed the National Anthem. Pastor Joe Brooks provided a very inspirational invocation setting the tone for an emotional day for Colonel Mays.

Campbell reflected on Colonel Mays' 43-year career, "Both leadership and responsibility have certainly been a huge part of his life." Campbell reminisced about a book she had read entitled, "Leadership Secrets of Attila the Hun", "Attila the Hun figured out years ago that you cannot grow leaders overnight. There is no quick way to develop leaders, we must learn throughout our lives - never ceasing as students, never being above gaining new insights. Hun said there were certain qualities that each leader must possess: By their own actions, not their words, do leaders establish the morale, integrity and sense of justice of their subordinate commanders. They cannot say one thing and do another. Leaders must attach value to high standards of performance and have no tolerance for the uncommitted. Chieftains must never shed the cloak of honor, morality and dignity. Chieftains must hold a profound conviction of duty above all other ambitions. Having made those observations, I would say we are honoring one who took all these concepts to heart."

Prior to relinquishing command, Colonel Mays was presented with the Defense Superior Service Medal for his outstanding leadership as Commander, DDDOO.

During the change of command ceremony Colonel Mays accepted the organization flag from Staff Sergeant Michelle Weaver, United States Air Force, DDC Military Affairs, he then passed the flag to Ms. Campbell and uttered the words, "Ma'am I relinquish command." Campbell accepted the organization flag and passed the flag to Colonel Smith charging her with responsibility of command of Defense Distribution Depot Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

During the retirement ceremony, Colonel Mays, with wife Janice by his side, was presented with a personal letter from the Commander In Chief, President George W. Bush that read, "As your commander in chief, I am pleased to congratulate you



on your retirement from the United States Air Force. Americans are grateful for the dedicated service of all our men and women in uniform. I commend you for your patriotism and your proud service to our nation during times of peace and war. The sacrifices you have made for our freedom, and the freedom of others around the world, will not be forgotten. Best Wishes on this special occasion and every good wish for the future. Sincerely, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America."

Guys Mays, Jr., Colonel Mays' son, made a presentation to his father on behalf of the Office of the Governor of Oklahoma. Governor Brad Henry, proclaimed October 10, 2003, Colonel Augustus Mays, Jr Day in the state of Oklahoma. A teary-eyed son, further proclaimed that his mentor, and best friend, was most deserving of the honor.

Campbell then presented Colonel Mays his retirement certificate, and wife Janice pinned the "Air Force Retired" pin on his lapel, making it official.

Janice was then recognized with a certificate of appreciation from the United States Air Force that read, "In grateful appreciation, the United States Air Force presents this certificate of recognition to Mrs. Janice L. Mays for the commitment and numerous contributions that made positive impacts to the nation's defense. Thank you for the support, which gave strength and purpose to your spouse's service. Signed, Mary L. Saunders, United States Air Force, Vice Director, Defense Logistics Agency, and John P. Jumper, General, United States Air Force, Chief of Staff."

Colonel Mays took the floor in what he stated, "Would be a speech with no message, just thank you's to the people he has had the opportunity to meet along the way." He began by

thanking his wife Janice, son Gus, and daughter, Michelle, who were presented tokens of his appreciation for their support during his career. He further recognized the many family and friends who came to the ceremony from throughout the country to share in his special day.

Colonel May—Congratulations on 43 years of service to our country!



*Col Ann Smith,
USAF, Commander,
DDOO*

CDR Pearson, SC, USN, Assumes Command of DDMA

CDR John Pearson, SC, USN, assumed command of Defense Distribution Depot Mapping Agency (DDMA) January 9, 2004 at a ceremony officiated by BG Kathleen Gainey, USA, Commander, Defense Distribution Center (DDC).

DDMA is responsible for the worldwide physical distribution of all maps, charts, and other geodetic material produced by the National Geospatial Agency (formerly NIMA), as well as those produced by other U.S. government agencies and foreign countries. The primary distribution facility is located in Richmond, Virginia.

“Together with the great workforce, your customers who depend on you each and every day are in good hands,” BG Gainey said of CDR Pearson. “DDMA has a proven ability to manage and it is the cornerstone of your success in support of OPERATIONS ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM and winning the Global War on Terrorism. I am confident that you will continue to provide the outstanding support that this depot has always provided our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines. It is the great men and women of the Defense Distribution Mapping Activity that make me proud to serve!”

CDR Pearson’s most recent assignment was at another part of DLA, the Defense Energy Support Center (DESC) at Fort Belvoir, as the Assistant Chief, Contracting Division. Bulk Fuels Commodity Business Unit.

CDR Pearson earned his Bachelor of Business Administration Degree in Finance from Baylor University, a Master in Business Administration from Hawaii Pacific University and a Master in Science from the Naval Postgraduate School. Commissioned through the Naval Reserve Direct Commission Officer Program in 1987, CDR Pearson entered active duty in 1988 and attended the Navy Supply Corps School before reporting on board his first tour as the Assistant Supply Officer of USS MCCLOY (FF-1038). An additional afloat tour included the USS PLATTE (AO-186) as Supply Officer. He participated in Operation Desert Storm and Provide Comfort on board the USS PLATTE and achieved his initial warfare qualification.

CDR Pearson’s shore tour assignments include Petroleum Intern at Fleet and Industrial Supply Center in Norfolk, VA; Petroleum Plans Officer at U.S. Pacific Command, Camp H. M. Smith, HI; Business Financial Manager for the F-14 “Tomcat” and later the E-2C, “Hawkeye” Program Offices at Naval Air Systems Command in Patuxent River, MD.

CDR Pearson’s personal decorations include the Navy Achievement Medal, the Joint Service Achievement Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the Navy Commendation Medal with one Gold Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal.

John Stroup, DDMA Deputy Commander, was the Acting Commander of DDMA from October of 2003 to January 2004.

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