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95th Military Police Battalion welcomes new commander during Change of Command ceremony

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Mannheim, GERMANY—The 95th Military Police Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. John Bogdan relinquished command of his “Superstar” battalion on Wednesday to Lt. Col. Duane Miller during a ceremony at the Sports Arena on Benjamin Franklin Village in Mannheim.

Bogdan said goodbye to his Superstars in a heartfelt speech as he looked one last time on, “the Star battalion, in all its glory, shining as the pride of the 18th Military Police Brigade, as an example to us all.”

Bogdan recently returned from a 15-month tour in Iraq where he commanded the 95th Military Police Battalion, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 07-09.

Col. Mark Spindler, commander, 18th Military Police Brigade, 21st Theater Sustainment Command, spoke on behalf of Bogdan’s accomplishments as a commander, and the accomplishments of his Soldiers.

Spindler remarked on how Bogdan, “commanded the way it’s supposed to be done. He is handing over a unit that is combat-ready, tough, and better than when he took it.”

Bogdan's devotion to his unit and his Soldiers was evident during his farewell speech. He had nothing but thanks for the Soldiers, families, and civilians that he has worked with during his tenure as commander.

"The greatest thanks of all," he said, "goes to the Soldiers that you see before you, and the ones that you do not—to the countless men and women protecting our communities and the ones protecting our freedom in Iraq and Afghanistan as we speak," said Bogdan.

It is the Soldiers who meant the most to Bogdan, and who were the reason he seemed so reluctant to say goodbye to them.

"Your strength and your spirit inspire me," he said. "They drive me to be all that I can be—and I salute you. It is because of your spirit that I begrudgingly relinquish command of this magnificent unit."

Miller's speech also focused on the Soldiers now under his command. He spoke of how grateful he was for their service and how he looked forward to serving with not only the Soldiers, but their families, the civilians, and the local communities.

Miller's assumption of command was spoken of as a family affair. His wife, Heidi, and daughter, Madison, join him as members of the 95th MP Battalion.

"The opportunity to command the Army's largest and most diverse military police battalion, the soldiers, families and civilians, and to serve our country is a privilege that we don't take lightly. We are humbled, proud, and we are ready," said Miller.



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Lt. Col. Duane Miller, commander, 95th Military Police Battalion, receives the colors of the battalion from Col. Mark Spindler, commander, 18th Military Police Brigade, and thereby assumes command during a Change of Command ceremony in the Sports Arena on Benjamin Franklin Village in Mannheim, Germany on Wednesday.
(U.S. Army photo by Spc. Adrienne Killingsworth, 18th MP Bde. PAO)



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Members of the local German polizei await the start of the Change of Command ceremony for the 95th Military Police Battalion on Wednesday in the Sports Arena on Benjamin Franklin Village in Mannheim, Germany. The participation of the polizei in the ceremony was a testament to how closely the two groups work with one another.
(U.S. Army photo by Spc. Adrienne Killingsworth, 18th MP Bde. PAO)



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The Soldiers of the 95th Military Police Battalion and local German polizei present arms during a Change of Command ceremony in the Sports Arena on Benjamin Franklin Village in Mannheim, Germany on Wednesday where Lt. Col. Duane Miller assumed command of the battalion from Lt. Col. John Bogdan.

(U.S. Army photo by Spc. Adrienne Killingsworth, 18th MP Bde. PAO)