

406th Army Field Support Brigade gains new commander

By SHARILYN WELLS

PARAGLIDE

With temperatures reaching over 80 degrees at 9 a.m., representatives of the 406th Army Field Support Brigade stood in formation on the Main Post Parade Field welcoming their new commander, Col. John J. Johnston, Monday.

Johnston, a native of Spring Lake, N.C., replaces Col. Kenneth D. Dyer who has served as the brigade's commander since July 2008. Johnston set the mood as he got up to speak to his new command, he joked that all his airborne friends, should take as many pictures of him wearing a black beret as they could within the next 15 seconds.

"I am humbled to be blessed to have the honor and privilege to command this command," Johnston said after thanking his friends and Family who were in attendance.

Johnston took command of a battalion from Dyer and now has taken over a brigade. Johnston joked, "Ken, you best believe I'll be monitoring your next jobs closely."

Major Gen. Yves Fontaine, Army Sustainment commanding general and host of the ceremony, welcomed Johnston to the constantly changing and evolving unit.

"Johnny, today we pass the flag onto you. As commander you'll be taking over a mission that has been seen and will continue to see many changes," said

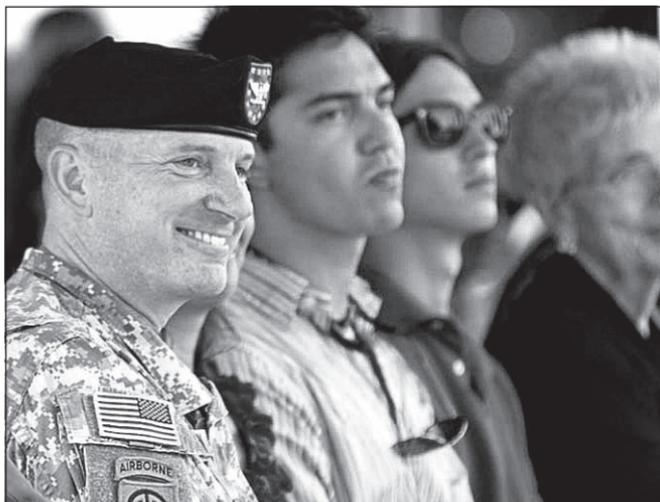


Photo by Sharilyn Wells/Paraglide

406th Army Field Support Brigade's incoming commander, Col. Johnny Johnston, smiles during his change of command ceremony, Friday. Johnston received the command from Col. Kenneth Dyer.

Fontaine. "The 406 is a moving train taking on new initiatives. So hang on tight and enjoy this assignment."

Originally from Cleveland, Ohio, Dyer's next assignment will be in support of the 1st Theater Sustainment Command stationed at Fort Bragg, which will be deploying soon.

"Ken, you and your team have done a magnificent job in taking on the large, complex mission and making it look easy," said Fontaine. "You have been given a lot of challenges and you've overcome them through your leadership, dedication, focus, and basic hard work."

The 406 FSB's mission is to execute materiel enterprise functions for Army Materiel Command and provide a single face to the field by integrating and synchronizing acquisition, logistics and technology at the tactical, operational and strategic level to ensure the combat readiness of all

Army units in the eastern United States.

"You have taken this young organization and helped it grow into an efficient logistics unit," Fontaine said to Dyer. "Under your leadership the 406 (FSB) has evolved into a mature organization focused on ensuring our combat troops get the equipment they need."

Dyer thanked his Family for their continued support, selflessness and inspiration, as well as the honor to serve beside the Army's finest Soldiers.

"Having the privilege to command this great command over the past two years has been nothing but humbling and rewarding," said Dyer. "Without a doubt, Fort Bragg is an absolute treasure because of the Soldiers and civilians who serve here, the Families who reside here, and the great support network we have in the surrounding communities."