

Leadership Torch Passes to Mr. Keith Ernst



On Jan. 12, in a ceremony at Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) Headquarters in Alexandria, Va., Air Force Maj. Gen. Darryl A. Scott relinquished his position as Agency director to Mr. Keith D. Ernst.

Mr. Ernst, DCMA deputy director since October 2005, will serve as acting director until Maj. Gen. Scott's military successor is named. In attendance were several former DCMA directors, current DCMA employees and Defense Department dignitaries, including the Honorable Kenneth J. Krieg, Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, who presided over the ceremony.

Maj. Gen. Scott, who assumed leadership of DCMA on Dec. 5, 2003, is now commander, Joint Contracting Command—Iraq and Afghanistan in Baghdad, Iraq. His legacy is one of strong leadership through a time of change and increased focus on the customer.

Maj. Gen. Scott expressed his gratitude for having had the opportunity to serve as DCMA director, telling attendees that it had been a “blessing and an honor.”



Mr. Ernst, a former Marine Corps pilot and acquisition veteran, pledged to continue the vision set forth by Maj. Gen. Scott, emphasizing the continued importance of performance-based management and the conversion of customer requirements into customer outcomes. “We must hold ourselves individually and collectively responsible for achieving those outcomes,” he said.

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(Above) From left: the Honorable Kenneth J. Krieg, Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics; Air Force Maj. Gen. Darryl A. Scott, former DCMA director; Mr. Keith Ernst, acting director, DCMA (DCMA staff photo)