



JOINT IED DEFEAT ORGANIZATION NEWS STORY



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JIEDDO Welcomes Command Sgt. Major William E. High Jr. By Staci George, JIEDDO News Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Joint IED Defeat Organization welcomed its new command sergeant major during a ceremony on Sept. 16.

CSM William E. High replaces former CSM Todd Burnett, who joined JIEDDO in 2008 and departed in June 2011 to become the command sergeant major of the corps of cadets at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. CSM LaMont Washington filled in during the interim.

“It’s a great day for this organization to be able to gain a superb senior leader,” Lt. Gen. Michael D. Barbero, JIEDDO director, told personnel who had gathered for this important and time-honored tradition of posting a new command sergeant major. “He is the right leader with the right skills.”

Barbero praised High for being “a muddy boots soldier” who has served in troop units across the Army.

High enlisted in the U.S. Army in October 1982 as an artilleryman, and most recently served as the NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan/Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan deputy commander Afghanistan senior enlisted advisor before joining JIEDDO. A command sergeant since 2001, High has served in various artillery units around the world to include duty stations at Fort Sill, Okla.; Fort Campbell, Ky.; Fort Bragg, N.C.; Bamberg; and Flensburg, Germany. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, High served with the 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment.

High has two sons who currently serve in the U.S. Army and has spent his military career leading others, including a tour as a drill sergeant. Barbero deemed High’s leadership a valuable asset for JIEDDO.

“Given the mission we do, you cannot ask for a better background or experience,” Barbero said.

Barbero noted that High's recent experience and Iraq and Afghanistan is critical for this organization as "we continue to focus on our main effort, which is winning the current fights – finishing Iraq with honor and making sure our troops there have everything they need."

"Push information to him, seek his guidance and expertise," Barbero said to the JIEDDO audience. "He is an authority. You will see him all over this organization helping me."

High's focus will be on counter IED training, including new equipment for dismounted soldiers and home-station training.

"Trust is the bedrock of our organization," said High. "Trust in our organization and be responsible to one another. Always keep in mind the soldiers, sailors, Airmen and Marines we support in our job and in our mission."

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