



**JOINT READINESS TRAINING CENTER
AND FORT POLK
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
News Release**



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Change of Command Ceremony set for June 6

Fort Polk, La. --- The 1st Battalion (ABN) 509th Infantry, will receive a new commander Friday, June 6. Change of command ceremony begins at 10:00 am at Honor Field here and is open to the public.

The colors and command of the 1/509th Infantry will pass from Lieutenant Colonel Cecil (Skip) T. Lewis to Lieutenant Colonel Daniel C. Griffith

The 1/509th Infantry, or Geronimo as they are known, is one of the Army's most elite units--a parachute infantry unit highly trained in all levels of combat.. Its full-time mission is portraying the opposing forces for all those who train at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk.

LTC Griffith, a North Carolina native, graduated from Appalachian State University with a Bachelors of Science degree in Business Administration. He entered Active Duty 1981 and was commissioned under the Early Commissioning Program in 1984 as a Second Lieutenant.

Currently, Griffith is the Task Force 3 Senior Observer/ Controller and Chief of the Leaders Training Program for the Joint Readiness Training Center here at Fort Polk.

LTC Cecil T. Lewis, also a North Carolina native, was commissioned from Elon College ROTC in May 1984. His military schools include the Command and General Staff College, Infantry Officers Basic and Advanced Course, the Light Infantry Leaders Course, Ranger Course, Jumpmaster Course, and the Basic Airborne Course.

LTC Lewis has been reassigned to serve as the J-3 Operations Officer, Joint Staff, at the Pentagon.

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Media representatives are welcome to attend and cover this event. Please call Major Ron Elliott at 531-1418 or Samantha Bingham at 531-4630 to coordinate access on to Fort Polk.