



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



7073 RADIO ROAD
FORT POLK LA 71459-5342
Voice: (337) 531-1418
Fax: (337) 531-2403

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact: Maj. Ron Elliott

337-531-1418

83rd Chemical Battalion command to change hands

FORT POLK, LA – Command of Fort Polk's 83rd Chemical Battalion, Warrior Brigade will change hands at 9 a.m. June 27 during a ceremony at Honor Field here. The public is invited to attend.

During the ceremony Lt. Col. Leslie C. Smith will relinquish command to Lt. Col Mike Bolluyt. Lt. Col. Bolluyt comes to Fort Polk from the Pentagon where he served on the Joint Staff as a counter-proliferation planner for weapons of mass destruction.

Lt. Col. Smith will move to the Pentagon where he will serve on the Army staff. He has commanded the battalion since June of 2001.

The 83rd Chemical Battalion is a highly deployable, combat ready unit that can deploy worldwide to provide effective NBC reconnaissance, biological surveillance, decontamination and smoke support to protect military forces in any contingency operation.

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MEDIA ADVISORY:

Media representatives are welcome to attend and cover this event. Please arrive at Honor Field no later than 8:45 a.m. The ceremony will start promptly at 9:00 a.m.