



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



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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Fort Polk to welcome a new Command Sergeant Major

Fort Polk, La. - The Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk will hold a welcome ceremony for Command Sergeant Major Earl L. Rice, at 10:00 a-m, on Thursday, September 23rd, at Warrior Field, here.

Rice is currently the Command Sergeant Major of the 173d Airborne Brigade, US Army Southern European Task Force in Vicenza, Italy.

Rice enlisted in the United States Army in November of 1981. During his 23 years of service, he has held numerous leadership positions including: Squad Leader; Section Leader; Platoon Sergeant, Drill Sergeant, First Sergeant, ROTC Instructor, Battalion Command Sergeant Major, and Brigade Command Sergeant Major.

Previous assignments include the 2nd Battalion (Airborne) 503rd Infantry, Vicenza, Italy; 1st Battalion 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment and Headquarters and Headquarters Company 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg N.C; 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry (Mechanized), Korea; 1st ROTC Region, Chapel Hill, N.C; XVIII Airborne Corps NCO Academy, Fort Bragg, N.C; and the 4th Battalion, 30th Infantry, Fort Benning, Ga.

Awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal with V device (2 oak leaf clusters), Meritorious Service Medal (3 oak leaf clusters), Army Commendation Medal (8 oak leaf clusters), Army Achievement Medal (7 oak leaf clusters), Good Conduct Medal (7th Award), National Defense Service Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal (2 Bronze Stars); Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal (Arrow Head), Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, NCO Professional Development Ribbon (Numeral 4), Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Ribbon (Numeral 2), Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia), Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait), Meritorious Unit Medal, Drill Sergeant Identification Badge, Master Parachutist Badge (Bronze Star), Pathfinder Badge, Ranger Tab, Expert Infantryman Badge, British Parachute Badge, Egyptian Parachute Badge, and the Paraguayan Parachute Badge.

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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.