



Media Advisory



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For Immediate Release |

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Command of Joint Project Office Changes Hands at Detroit Arsenal

DETROIT ARSENAL, WARREN, MI – U.S. Marine Corps (USMC) LTC David C. Thompson assumed command of the organization responsible for developing, acquiring, fielding and sustaining ground robotics for the U.S. Army and USMC, during a Change of Management ceremony at the Detroit Arsenal Sept. 28.

Thompson took the reins of the Robotic Systems Joint Project Office (RS JPO) from USMC COL James R. Braden. Braden, who had served as RS JPO program manager since August 2007, is retiring after 28 years of dedicated service to the Nation.

Ground Combat Systems Program Executive Officer BG R. David Ogg Jr. presided over the ceremony. Also present was Marine Corps Systems Command Executive Director Dr. John D. Burrow.

“Colonel Braden has ensured we keep in mind the sole reason we are in business, and that’s for the warfighter,” conveyed Ogg. “In Jim’s case, it is absolutely about the warfighter, because as a Joint project manager he’s concerned about Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines. He has done that well and will carry that with him. He has fielded more than 6,500 robots in his time, an amazing feat.”

Ogg then challenged Thompson to improve upon the things he sees may need it and continue to excel serving our warfighters. Thompson accepted that challenge.

“Our job, my job, will be to maintain the RS JPO’s focus on those Soldiers, those Sailors, those Airmen and those Marines who are in combat and doing their daily tasks,” agreed Thompson. “They rely on our systems to keep them safe and to bring them home alive. I want to make sure that we do the best so the American people are proud of what we do.”

Prior to the change of management, Ogg presented Braden a Meritorious Service Medal during a brief awards ceremony.

Thompson is a native of Nashua, NH, and comes to the Detroit Arsenal after being deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan as the Naval Air Systems Command Liaison Officer with Marine Aircraft Group Two Six. He brings a wealth of knowledge, combat experience and expertise to the organization.



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U.S. Army Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center Joint Center for Robotics Director Dr. Jim Overholt emceed the ceremony and sang the National Anthem.

The U.S. military is expanding the role of robots in operations. The Senate's *National Defense Authorization Act of 2001* requires that one-third of the operational aircraft in the armed forces be unmanned by 2010, including one-third of the ground combat vehicles by 2015. With those goals in mind, TARDEC and III Corps hosted the first-ever Robotics Rodeo Sept. 1-3 at Ft. Hood, TX. The event was designed to inform key decision makers and the robotics industry, and to encourage the development of robotic systems supporting warfighter operational needs with technology that is urgently needed.

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Note: Four photos are available for use with this release. Caption information follows. To download the photos, go to <http://www.tardec.info/pressreleases/>.

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USMC LTC David C. Thompson (right) accepts the colors representing RS JPO from PEO GCS BG R. David Ogg, Jr. (center) during a Change of Management Ceremony at the Detroit Arsenal Sept. 28. Thompson took the reins from USMC COL James R. Braden (left) who had served as RS JPO program manager since August 2007. Braden is retiring after 28 years of service. Marine Corps Systems Command Executive Director Dr. John D. Burrow also participated in the event. (U.S. Army photo by Elizabeth Carnegie.)

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USMC LTC David C. Thompson accepts the new charter for the RS JPO from PEO GCS BG Ogg at the Detroit Arsenal Sept. 28. (U.S. Army photo by Elizabeth Carnegie.)

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USMC LTC David C. Thompson talks about the focus of his new assignment as RS JPO PM. Seated to Thompson's right are PEO GCS BG R. David Ogg, Jr., previous RS JPO PM USMC COL James R. Braden and Marine Corps Systems Command Executive Director Dr. John D. Burrow. (U.S. Army photo by Elizabeth Carnegie.)

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An iRobot xBot delivers the new charter for RS JPO during a Change of Management Ceremony at the Detroit Arsenal Sept. 28. (U.S. Army photo by Elizabeth Carnegie.)

ABOUT TARDEC

Headquartered at the Detroit Arsenal in Warren, MI, TARDEC is the Nation's laboratory for advanced military automotive technology and serves as the Ground Systems Integrator for all Department of Defense (DOD) manned and unmanned ground vehicle systems. With roots



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dating back to the World War II era, TARDEC is a full life-cycle systems engineering support provider-of-first-choice for all DOD ground combat and combat support weapons, equipment and vehicle systems. TARDEC develops and integrates the right technology solutions to improve Current Force effectiveness and provide superior capabilities for Future Force integration. TARDEC's technical, scientific and engineering staff lead cutting-edge research and development in Ground Systems Survivability; Power and Mobility; Intelligent Ground Systems; Force Projection; and Vehicle Electronics and Architecture.

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