



## **CHANGE OF COMMAND MARKS NEW CHAPTER IN DRAGON BRIGADE HISTORY**

Article and photos by Spc. Shawn Denham  
35<sup>th</sup> ADA Brigade Public Affairs

*At left, Col. Eric L. Sanchez, outgoing commander of the 35<sup>th</sup> Air Defense Artillery (ADA) Brigade, receives the brigade colors from the Brigade Command Sergeant Major, Command Sgt. Maj. Finis Dodson, during his Change of Command Ceremony at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea (ROK) on 12 July 2013.*

**OSAN AIR BASE** – The 35<sup>th</sup> Air Defense Artillery (ADA) Brigade said ‘good-bye’ to one commander and welcomed another to the Dragon Brigade’s home on Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea (ROK).

Col. Eric Sanchez, the outgoing commander of the 35<sup>th</sup> ADA Brigade, relinquished command to Col. Thomas Nguyen, the incoming commander, during a change of command ceremony on 12 July 2013.

Sanchez thanked the Soldiers of the Dragon Brigade and the general officers who supported him and offered guidance and mentorship in his farewell speech following the ceremony.

“Having Soldiers spread throughout the peninsula is a challenge,” said Sanchez. “But I always knew they were receiving the best support possible from the leadership [of Area III and Area IV commanders].”

The support from the 51<sup>st</sup> Fighter Wing, ROK military and civilian allies, and family members added to the success of the brigade and its mission, said Sanchez.

Nguyen thanked Sanchez for everything the brigade had done for the Nguyen family during the relocation process and transition of command.

“To our friends assigned to various formations on the peninsula, thanks for being here today and sharing this moment with our family,” said Nguyen.

Nguyen thanked Command Sgt. Maj. Finis Dodson, 35<sup>th</sup> ADA Brigade command sergeant major, for his efforts in arranging the ceremony.

“To the officers, noncommissioned officers and Soldiers of the mighty Dragon Brigade, it’s great to be back [on the peninsula] and it’s great to be back on the team!”

The ROK-U.S. alliance was forged in the fires of war over six decades ago, said Brig. Gen. Chris Gentry, deputy commanding general of sustainment, Eighth Army, and guest speaker at the ceremony.

Nguyen, a naturalized U.S. citizen from Viet Nam, will add a new chapter to the Dragon Brigade's history as it continues to work with its ROK partners in providing peace to the local populace.



*At left, Col. Eric L. Sanchez is presented the Legion of Merit by the Deputy Commanding General of Sustainment for Eighth Army, Brig. Gen. Chris Gentry, during Sanchez' change-of-command ceremony on 12 July 2013 at Osan Air Base.*

For his work with the Dragon Brigade, Gentry presented Sanchez the Legion of Merit. Sanchez was also awarded the Order of National Merit Samil, presented by Col. Lee, Seok-Jae, the ROK Army Support Group commander on behalf of the President of the Republic of Korea, Park Geun-hye.

*At right, Col. Eric Sanchez, outgoing commander of the 35<sup>th</sup> ADA Brigade, receives the Order of National Merit Samil Medal, presented by the Republic of Korea Army Support Group Commander, Col. Lee Seok-Jae, ROK army support group commander on behalf of the President of the Republic of Korea, Park Geun-hye on 12 July 2013.*



Sanchez is relocating to Fort Bliss, Texas, and assuming the position of deputy commanding officer of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Army Air and Missile Defense Command (AAMDC).