



Col. Brian Gibson (left) receives the Air Defense Artillery colors from Maj. Gen. Wilson A. Shoffner, Fires Center of Excellence and Fort Sill commanding general, to become the ADA School commandant, and chief of ADA July 26, 2018, at Fort Sill, Okla. Command Sgt. Maj. Finis Dodson (second from right), ADA School and branch command sergeant major, and outgoing commandant Brig. Gen. Randall McIntire (far right) participated in the exchange. (Maria Baugh/Fort Sill Visual Information)

Air Defense Artillery School House changes leadership, McIntire continues to serve ADA

By Stephen Robertson

Fort Sill welcomed a newcomer to a top post July 26 and wished another the best of luck in an on-post assignment. In a ceremony in front of post headquarters, Brig. Gen. Randall McIntire stepped down as the Air Defense Artillery commandant and Chief of Air Defense.

Now filling those roles is Col. (P) Brian Gibson, who is in his first assignment at Fort Sill, Okla. He comes to post following his assignment as the Joint Staff Operations Directorate, Regional Operations deputy director at the Pentagon. He is joined by his wife Cheryl and their two children Josiah and Simon.

Maj. Gen. Wilson Shoffner, Fires Center of Excellence and Fort Sill commanding general, said McIntire served at “a time of unprecedented change for the air defense artillery.”

After years of downsizing, Shoffner said the branch has begun to grow. It’s also modernizing to provide better protection against missiles and drones as one of the Army’s top priorities.

To that end, McIntire was named the Air and Missile Defense Cross Functional Team (AMD CFT) director, tasked with drawing plans to meet the priority.

“Our guidance was ‘Randy, make this thing work,’ and he did,” said Shoffner.

McIntire made critical decisions that will affect the Army for years to come. Although he’s transitioning from his job as commandant, McIntire will continue to lead the cross-functional team at Fort Sill.

“I think the fact that he’s staying here is an indication of how important air and missile defense is to the Army,” Shoffner said.

McIntire thanked all those who helped him during his tenure

and said the community support was “the best this Soldier has ever witnessed. It’s been great being here. We’re really happy to have an opportunity to stay here a little longer.”

McIntire said Gibson will “take us to new levels” as the next commandant.

“The Army couldn’t have picked a better officer to be the 42nd Air Defense Artillery commandant,” McIntire said.

Gibson said, “I have a wonderful opportunity in working with Brig. Gen. McIntire as he will continue to serve the branch as the Air and Missile Defense Cross-Functional Team director here at Fort Sill, Okla. The AMD CFT’s purpose is to drive the Army’s modernization priorities by rapidly integrating and synchronizing the requirements development process, acquisition process and resources to deliver air and missile defense capabilities to the warfighter faster.”

Gibson went on to say, “I look forward to this new endeavor in serving as the 42nd Commandant of the Air Defense Artillery and working with the many talented professionals within our branch. I am always amazed that our branch continues to be the most sought out and deployed force in our Army. I sincerely appreciate the hard work that you all have been doing to maintain the global presence of air and missile defense in the service of our nation and its allies. I look forward to continuing the transformation of the branch and facing the challenges before us. First to Fire!”

Stephen Robertson is a correspondent for the Lawton Constitution and is the former editor and full time staffer of the newspaper for more than 20 years.