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DEFENSE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE



NEWS RELEASE

‘My only pledge is to do my best!’

Army Col. Mary Martin assumes command of DEOMI

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PATRICK AFB, Fla. -- Army Colonel Mary L. Martin, a Georgia native with three-plus decades of military service to her country, assumed command of the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI) during an Assumption of Command ceremony held at DEOMI June 17, 2016.

Mr. Clarence A. Johnson, Senior Executive Service, Director, Office of Diversity Management and Equal Opportunity, served as the presiding officer for the event.

Col. Martin becomes the 16th military – and first female Army Commandant -- in the Institute’s 45 year history.

Col. Martin first entered active duty in the enlisted ranks from October 1985 to October 1988 as an administrative specialist. She later received a regular Army commission from Georgia Military College on March 15, 1991 as part of the Army’s Early Commissioning Program. After completing her degree requirements from Georgia College, she then entered active duty as an Adjutant General Corps officer on January 1, 1993.

Following a long and varied career, with duty positions both State-side and abroad (to include assignments in Egypt and Iraq), Col. Martin was selected for battalion command, and was assigned to the 30th AG Battalion (Reception), Fort Benning, Ga. from June 2009 to July 2011.

She was next assigned to U.S. Army Human Resources Command, Fort Knox, Ky., as the Awards & Decorations Branch chief. She attended Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., from July 2012 to June 2013 and was then assigned to the Army G1 in Washington, D.C. as the deputy director of Technology and Business Architecture Integration.



In her previous assignment, Col. Martin served as the Commander, U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden, Germany, in which she assumed command on July 10, 2014.

Upon taking the podium, Mr. Johnson lauded the work of Dr. Jose Bolton Sr., DEOMI's Acting Director, and Navy Commander Yolanda Mason, the Institute's Chief of Staff, and presented both with Certificates of Appreciation signed by Dr. Margaret Harrell, Under Secretary Defense for Readiness and Personnel.

Mr. Johnson then turned his attention to Col. Martin, discussing her past military duties – and how those previous assignments helped make her uniquely capable to assume this leadership role.

Lauding her military experience and expertise within the “AG Community” (personnel) and her various leadership positions at the company, battalion, and garrison (brigade equivalents) levels, Johnson said she was “the right person at the right time,” he said with emphasis.



Immediately following the formal part of the ceremony, where the DEOMI Guidon was passed from Chief Master Sgt. Boston Alexander, DEOMI's senior enlisted advisor, to Mr. Johnson – and then to Col. Martin – and back to Chief Alexander -- signifying the honorable beginning of Col. Martin's command responsibility as the DEOMI Commandant, Col. Martin took to the stage.

After thanking Mr. Johnson, and a packed house of family, friends, joint-service military personnel, and guests in attendance, Col. Martin said she “was excited and blessed for the opportunity to lead this DEOMI team of professionals.”

“I want to personally thank Dr. Bolton, Commander Mason, Chief Alexander and the entire DEOMI Team for getting me prepared and ready to serve our Department of Defense. I'm excited to get started and the only pledge I can make to you today is to always do my best,” she said.

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