



Calhoun: The NPS Institutional Archive
DSpace Repository

History of Naval Postgraduate School

Alumni of NPS

2013

Sweet Home Alabama; Marion and Auburn
Alum General Officer concludes career with distinction

Akanewich, Scott

Monterey, California, Naval Postgraduate School

<http://hdl.handle.net/10945/36788>

Downloaded from NPS Archive: Calhoun



Calhoun is a project of the Dudley Knox Library at NPS, furthering the precepts and goals of open government and government transparency. All information contained herein has been approved for release by the NPS Public Affairs Officer.

Dudley Knox Library / Naval Postgraduate School
411 Dyer Road / 1 University Circle
Monterey, California USA 93943

<http://www.nps.edu/library>

Events & News

[NPS News](#)

[Quarterly Newsletters](#)

[Alumni in the News](#)

[Alumni News Articles](#)

- [Tweet](#)
- [Share](#)
- [Like](#) 10 [Send](#)

Sweet Home Alabama

Marion & Auburn Alum General Officer Concludes Career with Distinction

By Sgt. Scott Akanewich
201st Public Affairs Operations Center

LOS ALAMITOS, Calif. – A sun-splashed Southern California morning greeted visitors and distinguished guests as they arrived at Joint Forces Training Base Los Alamitos Feb. 9 for the 79th Sustainment Support Command Change of Command ceremony.

Maj. Gen. William D. Frink handed command over in the shadow of the 79th SSC's brand-new

headquarters building during traditional Army proceedings which combined the sight of unit guidons fluttering in the wind and the deafening boom and acrid smoke of a tribute gun battery firing volleys into the air.

On hand for the event was Commander of the Army Reserve Lt. Gen. Jeffrey W. Talley, as well as

general officers from the 79th SSC's subordinate commands and local dignitaries.

Frink was instrumental in building the 79th SSC from the ground up when the organization was established in 2009, reactivating the colors of the famed 79th Infantry Division from its legacy of service in World War I and World War II.



Maj. Gen. William D. Frink, Jr. speaks at his change of command ceremony for the 79th Sustainment Support Command, one of the two largest commands in the US Army Reserve.

“It’s been an honor to command troops during my time here,” said Frink, whose Army career spans 35

years. “This command was formed out of dust starting with a few eager souls who wanted to build something. What we lacked in capabilities at the time, we made up for with determination. Some who were offered the opportunity turned away, some took a chance. What you see today is the tangible result of their efforts.”

Frink quoted from the Bible to illustrate the trials and tribulations that came with starting up a two-star command from scratch.

“One of my favorite passages from Scripture is Isaiah 40:31,” he said. “It reads ‘But those who trust in the Lord for help will find their strength renewed. They will rise like wings on eagles; they will run and not get weary; they will walk and not grow weak.’ Each of you should be very proud of what you have accomplished.”

Talley added his comments regarding the outgoing commander.

“Our Army Reserve is one whose strength is not built on technology, but on people of character who blend civilian skills with military leadership – Maj. Gen. Frink has been a shining example of this,” said Talley.

Frink’s journey to this point in his life and career began at the Marion Military Institute in the state of Alabama, where he was valedictorian of the high school class of 1973 before earning his commission as an Army officer from the Institute’s Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) two years later, having served as the Commander of the Corps of Cadets.

Frink looked back with fondness on his time at Marion Military Institute. However, the end result wasn’t the reason he initially attended the school, he explained.

“I didn’t go to Marion to join the military,” said Frink. “I went there for a better education and chance to get into college. But, when I got there, I fell in love with the service.”

From there, he moved on to Auburn University, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in physics in 1977, continuing there to earn his Master of Business Administration from the university's business school.

After this, it was on to his military duty as a young paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division, and assignments as an Air Defense Artillery and Logistics Officer in both Active Duty and Reserve Assignments. He later went on to earn a Master of Science in Systems Engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School in 1990 and a Master of Strategic Studies from the Army War College in 2000.

Embodying the Warrior-Citizen ethos, Frink balanced his military career of staff, command and academic assignments with his civilian career as Vice-President of CAS, Inc., in Huntsville, Alabama, where he has been employed for over twenty years. Frink and his wife, Pranee Winkler are also the co-owners of the Double Spring Farm, a beef cattle and miniature horse farm in Tennessee.

Having begun his service as a young Marion Swamp Fox and paratrooper, he concludes this military chapter of his life having commanded one of the largest organizations in the United States Army Reserve, ready to return in his words to "spring on the farm," a proud son of the South, an officer and a gentleman.