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Special Troops Battalion becomes part of USARPAC team

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USARPAC PAO

Lt. Gen. John M. Brown III, commander, United States Army, Pacific, activated the U.S. Army Pacific, Special Troops Battalion in a ceremony held at Palm Circle June 15.

With more than 200 onlookers, Brown passed the STB colors and command and control to Lt. Col. Erik Nordberg. According to Brown, the activation of the STB is an important step in USARPAC's transformation to a warfighting command.

"We begin the physical part of transformation of this great headquarters," Brown said. "Today (we activate) the Special Troops Battalion, shortly the operational command post, followed by the main command post, transforming this headquarters from a force providing headquarters to a warfighting headquarters for the (Pacific Command) commander."

"As Fort Shafter celebrates its Centennial this year, it is fitting that we open a new chapter in the history of the United States Army, Pacific," Nordberg added. "Activation of the Special Troops Battalion serves as USARPAC's first action as a Theater Army Mission Command to provide the commander of all U.S. forces in the Pacific an additional, fully-deployable combat command."

The Special Troops Battalion provides training, readiness, administrative, logistic, and command and control support to the USARPAC headquarters. The battalion has the capability to deploy, integrate and execute critical support, sustainment and command and control functions in order to enable U.S. Army Pacific, full-spectrum operations.

"You and the Special Troops Battalion will lead the way," Brown said to the Soldiers assembled on the historic Palm Circle parade ground. "You will go before the operational command post and you'll establish the site... you'll establish force protection, you'll establish the logistics required, you'll go in with the communication's teams. You will lead the way. You will be the spearhead of the operational command post and you'll be responsible for its readiness."

Nordberg takes over the new battalion after most recently serving as the director of the United States Army Special Operations Command's High Value Target cell in Washington D.C.

According to Nordberg, outstanding Soldiers are the reason the STB is ready to lead from the front.

“Last summer we had 20 Soldiers assigned to the STB, no motor pool, no permanent headquarters, and a pretty wide-open mission statement,” he said. “What we did have and what I’ve been blessed with are outstanding leaders. Without a lot of resources, these leaders and the Soldiers before you took some very basic guidance and vision and built what has become an outstanding unit, one that I’m extremely proud of.”

During his closing, Nordberg thanked his family and those who had supported him throughout his career. But he also wanted to introduce the newest unit to those in attendance.

“The work of freedom is hard and inevitably requires the service of tough, competent warriors. In the Pacific, they are hereby known as Pacific Warriors. I’m honored to lead them, and I’m honored to introduce them to you. The newest Army unit in the pacific, your Special Troops Battalion.”

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Lt. Gen. John M. Brown III, Commander, U.S. Army, Pacific, entrusts the colors of the USARPAC's Special Troops Battalion to its commander, Lt. Col. Erik A. Nordberg. At right is the battalion's Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth A. Moses.