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Ceremony creates Army's first deployable medical support command

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30th Medical Command Public Affairs Office

HEIDELBERG, Germany -- One era in Army medical history came to an end and a new era began as the 30th Medical Brigade cased its colors and activated as the 30th Medical Command (Deployment Support) -- the Army's first deployable medical support command.



SGT DAVID CHAPMAN

Col. Bernard L. DeKoning, 30th Medical Command (Deployment Support) commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher A. Walls, 30th MEDCOM command sergeant major, unfurl the command's new colors during a ceremony redesignating the 30th Medical Brigade as the Army's first deployable medical support command, at Nachrichten Kaserne in Heidelberg, Germany, Oct. 17.

The change, which became official during an Oct. 17 ceremony here, maintains the unit's clear relationship with the U.S. Army Medical Command, but places the 30th under the operational control of U.S. Army Europe.

The 30th Medical Brigade's 75-year history began when the unit was organized in October 1933 as the 30th Medical Regiment. Soldiers of the brigade have been in action on Omaha Beach during World War II, as well as in the Korean conflict and Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Elements of the 30th have also deployed to Hungary, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Romania, Bulgaria, the Republic of Georgia and Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

During the redesignation ceremony, 30th Medical Brigade Commander Col. Bernard DeKoning and Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher A. Walls cased the 30th Medical Brigade colors and unfurled the

new 30th MEDCOM colors before Brig. Gen. Keith W. Gallagher, the U.S. Army Europe command surgeon and commander of the Europe Regional Medical Command.

In his remarks during the ceremony, Gallagher said the new medical command is a great asset for the U.S. Army Europe.

“The 30th MEDCOM represents an awesome enabling force for the commanding general of the U.S. Army Europe and 7th Army in combat health support, medical logistics, evacuation and humanitarian services,” said Gallagher. “The 30th MEDCOM will provide the requisite medical command and control to deliver timely and responsive health support services on the modern modular battlefield.”

Gallagher said a unique aspect of the 30th MEDCOM is its ability to deploy an operational command post along with other combat service support elements from Europe wherever needed.

The transition from a brigade to a medical command is important to the overall Army mission, DeKoning added.

“This transformation will synchronize the Army Medical Department with the Army’s current operational doctrine,” said DeKoning. “The 30th Medical Command will have the required agility and flexibility to command and control full-spectrum health system support in today’s complex ... environment.”



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