



News Release

Public Affairs Office, 100 E. Headquarters Road, Fort McCoy, WI 54656-5263

For additional information call (608) 388-3456 or (608) 388-4209

For immediate release

Date Released: January 16, 2003

Release Number: 051-03

New MATES supervisor assumes command

FORT McCOY, Wis. - The new Maneuver Area Training Equipment Site (MATES) supervisor at Fort McCoy is glad to be in the job he only dreamt about 17 years earlier.

Maj. Galen White said he began to develop the dream after serving as an enlisted soldier at MATES from 1985-86. After the Arkansas native left active-duty service, he decided to stay in Wisconsin and became a member of the Army National Guard.

White became a full-time military technician in 1991 and graduated from Officer Candidate School in 1996.

He served as the Combined Support Maintenance Shop supervisor at Camp Williams from 1994 until returning to Fort McCoy and beginning his new position at MATES.

White's Fort McCoy experience also included serving on a support team from the 1st Infantry Division that staffed the Fort McCoy Airport during the peak annual training season in 1984 and serving as a member of the Fort McCoy Ski Patrol from 1986-1994.

White said he plans to use his broad experience to help accomplish the MATES mission. "One of my goals at MATES is to continue to be involved in the National Maintenance program and support maintenance elements and keep business here and increase our capabilities."

-more-

Currently, MATES is pursuing International Standards Organization (ISO) 9001-2000 certification. White said this certification will help MATES be competitive to perform maintenance contracts with other similar Department of the Army organizations.

MATES also is undergoing a staffing transition while repairing and turning in excess equipment from the mission change of the 32nd Separate Infantry Brigade (Mechanized). The 32nd was reclassified as a light infantry unit and is turning in equipment.

MATES is responsible to support the equipment needs of various organizations he said.

MATES has a primary mission to receive, store, maintain and issue equipment for National Guard units at one location so all units will have the best equipment with which to train.

"I want us to continue to focus on customer service of receiving and issuing equipment," White said. "I'm a people-oriented person, and I'm learning about the MATES structure. Another goal I have is to make the mechanics' jobs easier and to improve efficiency. A good way to keep employees happy is to get them what they need to get the job done."

That will include helping personnel get necessary training for new and current equipment at the MATES, he said.

In addition to current missions, new missions also may entail working with outside agencies to rebuild bucket loaders for National Guard use, for example.

Currently, MATES is in its winter mission, which includes preparing equipment to be used during the peak annual training season.