



The Express

Change of Command

1st Lt. Meadow Reeder takes command of Company E, 228th, BSB in Lock Haven

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LOCKPORT - "Fortune cookies do come true." - In a time-honored rite almost as traditional as the army structure itself, 1st Lt. Meadow Reeder became the new commander of Company E (FSC) 228th BSB at the Lock Haven National Guard Armory. She succeeded Capt. David Catherman of Howard at the change of command ceremony Saturday. Reeder and Catherman were both honored for their respective milestones by distinguished guest Lt. Col. Jeff Butler who presided over the function. Lt. Reeder, who returned two months ago from a deployment in Egypt, told her unit she had the occasion to go out for a Chinese dinner where she received a fortune cookie stating, "Long-term goals will be achieved." "Fortune cookies do come true sometimes," she commented. Her husband's cookie fortune had an adage focusing on "patience" she said, noting she'll have to wait for the future to determine if that particular prediction comes true. Reeder enlisted in the Army Reserves in 2000 and was assigned to the 828th Quartermaster Company in Wilkes-Barre. After several assignments, she began college at New Mexico Military Institute in Roswell, N.M., and enrolled in the ROTC. At the same time, she enrolled in a "simultaneous membership program" that allows cadets to still attend monthly drills with a National Guard Reserve unit. She eventually decided to focus on her Guard responsibilities. In 2006, she graduated from Lock Haven University with a bachelor's degree in Natural Science and went on to attend the Quartermaster Officer Basic Course at the Quartermaster Center and School in Fort Lee, Va. As Butler looked out over a small formation of uniform-clad soldiers, he noted the change of command ceremony is rooted in military history dating back to the 18th century during the reign of Frederick the Great of Prussia. At that time, he said, organizational flags were developed with color arrangements and symbols unique to each unit. When a change of command took place, the flag was passed to the individual assuming the command. This

gesture was accomplished in front of the unit so that all could see and witness their new leader accepting the responsibility. In this case, Reeder said, the responsibility is unusual and unique - Her unit offers support to two specific units, including the First Battalion of the 109th Infantry and Company E (Forward Support Company), 228th Brigade Support Battalion. Reeder mobilized with the 1st Squadron 104th Cavalry out of Philadelphia for its deployment to Sinai, Egypt and learned of her candidacy for the local position while stationed there. "I gladly accepted," she said. Reeder's current awards include the Army Service Ribbon, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, The National Defense Service Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, The Army Commendation Medal (two) and the German Proficiency Badge. The company is stationed in Lockport at the Hilltop Armory along Route 664 and shares the building with two other companies. The unit was originally Headquarters and Company A (Maintenance), 728th MSB; it was then restructured to Company C (Maintenance), 728th MSB. It was redesigned to become Company A (Service and Support), 728th MSB, and in September 2006 became Company E (Forward Support Company), 228th BSB. Company E's primary responsibility is to logistically support the companies that comprise the 1st Battalion, 109th Infantry. "Because of this, many of our soldiers drill with the companies of the 1st Btn., 109th Infantry in order to maintain the equipment at those armories," Reeder said. Reeder is a daughter of farmers Cheryl and Gary Matulevich of Hop Bottom, and is the second oldest of six children. Three of her siblings are also in the Pennsylvania National Guard - Josh is a sergeant with Company B, 1-109th and attends school at East Stroudsburg University; sister Raven is also a sergeant and is currently deployed with the 56th Stryker Brigade as a member of the Military Intelligence Company; and Zack is a private and will be graduating from advanced individual training at Fort Gordon, Ga. in February. Levi is a student at Lock Haven University, and Daisy is a senior at Mountain View High School. The new commander met her husband, Trevor Reeder, in January of 2005 at a training night at Woolrich Volunteer Fire Co. Hall. They were married in October 2006. "I have no kids," Reeder said, "but I do have a 4-year-old yellow Labrador Retriever named Chief. I joined a large, proud Lock Haven family." Trevor's parents are Kevin and Alice Reeder of Lock Haven, and Larry and Cheryl Moran of Alexandria, Va. Grandparents include John and Christine Darko of Clarks Summit, Jack and Arlene Gardner of Waymart, Fran and Sandra Reno of Lock Haven and Ethere Reeder of Lock Haven.



1st Lt. Meadow Reeder, left, salutes the American flag with Lt. Col. Jeffrey Butler and outgoing commander Capt. David Catherman, right. Reeder's husband, Trevor Reeder stands in the back left during the change of command ceremony that made his wife commander of Company E, 228th, BSB of the National Guard.

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