

Exit Stein, Enter Terry as Commander at TACOM

Story and photo by Gerald Scott

There's a new TACOM sheriff in town at the Detroit Arsenal in Warren these days and his name is Maj. Gen. Michael J. Terry.

In so many words, exit Maj. Gen. Stein and welcome to Maj. Gen. Terry.

The Arsenal hosted one of those change-of-command ceremonies that it typically does every two or three years and Stein was given a warm pat on the back for his service just as Terry was welcomed into the local military and automotive fold.

It was a big event, with tents, chairs, displays, Army vehicles, food and good cheer, and more.

Stein, it might be noted, is taking on his next assignment in Iraq – by way of Fort Bragg, N.C. And Terry came to Warren from Fort Shafter, Hawaii.

Stein was forthright in his exiting remarks.

"To the members of industry and the community leaders that are here today, I can't thank you enough for the support of TACOM and our soldiers at the tip of the spear," Stein said.

"My special thanks to the outstanding Depot and Arsenal commanders that are here today, and their sergeant-ma-

jors. They make the impossible look routine.

"To all of you, thank you for who you are and what you have done in support of me, our soldiers and our Army."

The change-of-command ceremony was officiated by Lt. Gen. Dennis L. Via, deputy commanding general, U.S. Army Materiel Command.

On the Army organizational chart, TACOM operates under the Army Materiel Command and is a larger organization than perhaps the public thinks, what with TACOM running a series of arsenals, vehicle repair stations and related bases around the country.

A recent consolidation, in fact, moved hundreds of Rock Island, Ill., employees from Illinois to Warren.

Building 270, now the signature facility on the base, was built in part to host the overflow of employees being transferred from Rock Island to Detroit Arsenal over the past two years.

The change-of-command ceremony was held in the parking lot immediately east of Building 270, which itself anchors the western border of the base and can be seen from 11 Mile Road and Mound from outside the base.

For his part, Terry was warm in his first public greetings as the new base com-



TACOM's Maj. Gen. Kurt Stein, left, receives a greeting from the Army Materiel Command's Lt. Gen. Dennis Via, as Stein moves on to his next Army assignment in Iraq.

mander, as well.

"In Hawaii, after three years, we start every speech with the great (phrase) aloha, but I've been warned not to do that. But I do want to know what this 'Michigan Left' (hand turn on the road) is all about," Terry said.

"Ladies and gentlemen, it is indeed a tremendous honor to take the reins of such a unique and vital organization.

"There's probably no unit in the Army that affects personnel and equipment in a more vital and fundamental manner than this command.

"Last week, I lived happily in the operational and tactical world . . . today, I know, in this command, every decision we make and every action we ex-

ecute, has an immense impact on our Army and our efforts in supporting allied and partner nations.

"As I prepare to join the team . . . I'm confident that we'll continue to succeed. I give you my word that I'll do my very best to match your commitment to excellence."

Faurecia Fraser Plant Supplying the Big 3

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plant that went out of business.

"It had been vacant probably two-three years," said Lupinski. "We obtained that facility and refurbished it – we just invested about \$6 million, a new roof, repainted it, and we're in the process now of putting equipment in that facility.

"Our facility here is about 750 employees, we're filled. Fraser Two is at 50 employees, we hope to have 100 by year-end and then within the next three years, 400 to 500 employees.

"This building, in the 1930s, used to be an elementary

school. So when Cross-Mueller obtained this property, they bought an elementary school. They added on the front . . . a boardroom, the owner's original office, this is all from the 1940s and 1950s.

"What he did was heavy stamping equipment, transfer equipment for the OEMs, he had a railroad spur, so he'd actually bring railroad cars in, put the equipment on and take it to the assembly plants.

"Fraser Two is an extension of this. I have a plant manager that reports to me over there. We currently have nine salaried people over there now and that'll grow as we get more business." So, business is good at Faurecia Fraser.

insured motorists and 535 for suspended licenses. In Detroit, a seat belt stop resulted in the arrest of a federal fugitive.

While in Allegan County, a driver with unbelted young children in the car fled from police on foot and was arrested under the state's high blood alcohol content law.

Ten people died in traffic crashes over the Memorial Day holiday period. Of those, two were not wearing a seat belt, three were motorcyclists and two were riding off-road vehicles along the roadway. This is an increase from the 2011 Memorial Day holiday period when nine people were killed in traffic crashes.

'Click It' Campaign Cites 8,000 Drivers

During a statewide effort to get motorists to buckle up, law enforcement agencies in 26 counties issued 8,050 seat belt and child seat violation tickets, nearly 1,000 fewer citations than during last year's enforcement effort.

Preliminary reports from police agencies indicate 14,761 vehicles were stopped during the May 21-June 3 Click It or Ticket campaign. The enforcement is part of a national effort to save lives and reduce injuries by increasing seat belt use.

Following the state's record-high rate of 97.9 percent in 2009, seat belt use has declined to 94.5 percent in 2011. Every 1 percent in-

crease in belt use means 10 fewer traffic deaths and 130 fewer injuries. In 2011, nearly 200 people who died in Michigan traffic crashes were not buckled up.

"When properly used, seat belts can reduce the risk of being killed in a crash by almost 50 percent," said Office of Highway Safety Planning Director Michael L. Prince. "Efforts like Click It or Ticket are an opportunity to remind motorists about the importance of buckling up."

In addition to seat belt violations, 95 drunk drivers were arrested during the enforcement period and 53 drug arrests were made. More than 1,000 tickets were written for



Entrepreneur Chad Roy has opened a new U-Haul Rental store on Old 13 Mile, in the Bavarian Plaza. It replaces the former vitamin store. Roy is hopeful that his location just east of Van Dyke will help his new business grow.

Tech Ctr. Area U-Haul Opens

by Gerald Scott

Going into this month, there were about 13,000 U-Haul Rental stores across the country. You can now make that 13,001, counting the new store in Warren.

Entrepreneur Chad Roy has opened a new U-Haul store in the Bavarian Plaza on Old 13 Mile Road, just east of the Royalty House, in Warren.

"Business is pretty good so far," Roy said. "Our early customers have been GM employees (from the nearby GM Tech Center) because their e-mail addresses are all dot-GM," he further observed.

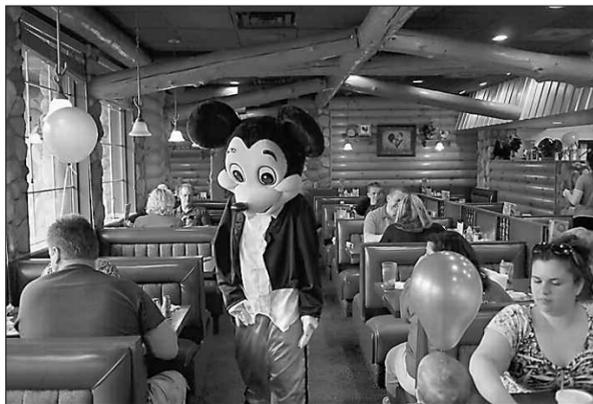
Located in a former vitamin store, the new U-Haul location is being used by owner Roy to sell mattresses and other consumer and moving industry products.

Roy is one of those busy entrepreneurs managing a whole series of businesses and doing well at it. Besides the U-Haul store, Roy runs a moving company and lawn service firm from St. Clair Shores, along with other related businesses.

It seems that Roy was doing some work at the salon/haircut shop in the Bavarian Plaza, he met the landlord, one thing led to another and now he has recently established his U-Haul store in the busy center just east of Van Dyke.

A wide variety of trailers are parked on site and he also has 26-foot U-Haul box trucks he can rent for moving. In other words, you can't miss the new U-Haul presence along Old 13 Mile Road.

Customers who rent trailers or trucks can also do one-way business by renting from Roy in Warren and then delivering and dropping most anywhere else in the state or country.



Mondays are the slowest nights of the week for the Country Inn in Warren, so they bring in cartoon characters, such as Mickey Mouse, every Monday night. The manager says it drives in more restaurant traffic from young families.

Mickey Visits Warren's Country Inn

Story and photo by Gerald Scott

At the Country Inn restaurant at 13 Mile and Hayes in Warren, how do they spell Monday nights as their family nights?

Inevitably, M-I-C-K-E-Y M-O-U-S-E, Mickey Mouse, everybody's favorite cartoon character, who could be found entertaining kids at the Inn recently.

That's all because for the Country Inn, Monday nights are the slowest of the week, so they bring in cartoon characters, like Mickey Mouse,

like Woody from "Toy Story," like the Pink Panther, to stoke the family market so to speak.

Other familiar characters that charm the kids include Elmo from the Muppets.

Sue Levoie, evening manager at the Country Inn, said, "We do it for family night, kids' night, especially for young families – it's hard for them to get out. We rent costumes for each Monday night (as their costumed employee entertains the kids).

"We have balloons, toys, kids' meals – we have kids' meals for \$2 on Family Night.

"Monday is a slow night, so

families can get a good deal here and the kids all have fun meeting their favorite cartoon characters."

Mickey, of course, doesn't speak but his smile – and the smile he puts on the faces of the children visiting the Country Inn recently – says it all, really.

So there you have an inexpensive but functional marketing tool used by a popular local restaurant to increase the family business on Mondays. Some restaurants want to ban kids because of the noise and fuss, but the Country Inn just loves 'em.

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