

PM CCS

PROJECT MANAGER CLOSE COMBAT SYSTEMS

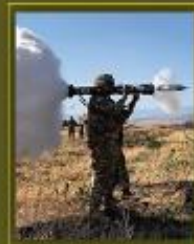


ON **EVERY**
MISSION

PM CCS Combat Armaments & Protection Systems Assumption of Management Ceremony

Thursday, 5 September 2024

Lindner Conference Center
Picatinny Arsenal, New Jersey



Sequence of Events

Arrival of Official Party

The National Anthem

Invocation

Assumption of Management Ceremony

Presentation of Awards

**Remarks by:
COL Vinson Morris**

**Remarks by:
Brian Gruchacz**

**Remarks by:
Stephen R. McFarlane**

Army Song





Colonel Vinson “Vince” Morris

Project Manager Close Combat Systems

Vinson “Vince” Morris is an Army Acquisition Professional with over 26 years of service, including 15 years in the Acquisition Corps. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of the Cumberland, KY, an MBA in Defense Contracting from the Naval Postgraduate School, CA, and a Master of Science in National Resource Strategy from the Eisenhower Senior Service College, Ft. McNair.

Commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in 2001 through the Army Officer Candidate School at Ft. Moore, Ga. Vince began his career in the Infantry before transitioning to the Acquisition field. Vince’s operational assignments include roles as Rifle Platoon Leader, Company Executive Officer with the 82nd Airborne Division, Ranger Platoon Leader and Executive Officer, and Company Commander in the 3rd Stryker Cavalry Regiment.

He is defense acquisition certified in Program Management (Level III) and is a Defense Acquisition Corps Member. As a Program Manager, Vince led the Army’s Ground Soldier Systems and Small Unit Tactical Power Programs, managing procurement, modernization, and sustainment efforts with an annual budget exceeding \$180 million. His strategic oversight ensured seamless integration, fielding, and tactical deployment, enhancing operational readiness and situational awareness.

Vince has held significant roles at the Pentagon, including Resource Analyst at HQDA G3-5-7, Special Assistant to the Director of the Army Staff, Budget and Resource Integrator, and Army System Coordinator for Special Programs and Counter-Fire Radars.

Vince’s awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, and numerous campaign and service medals. He also earned the Expert Infantryman Badge, Senior Parachutist Badge, and Ranger Tab.

Vince is married to the former Heather Waters, and they have two children, Haleigh, a recent graduate of the FSU nursing program, and Hunter, a first-year cadet at the United States Military Academy.



Stephen R. McFarlane

Product Director Combat Armaments & Protection Systems

Mr. Stephen McFarlane currently serves as the Product Director for Combat Armaments & Protection Systems within the Project Manager Close Combat Systems (PM CCS) of the Joint Program Executive Office Armaments & Ammunition (JPEO AA). He is responsible for supporting the Army and other service products related to grenades, shoulder-launched munitions, protection systems, hand-held detectors, and non-lethal deterrence systems. His role involves providing oversight, leadership, and supervision to an organization of 25 personnel engaged in the lifecycle management and sustainment of acquisition programs from research and development through test and evaluation, acquisition, logistics, fielding, and disposition.

Since 2006, Mr. McFarlane has held numerous leadership positions within the Combat Capabilities Development Center Armament Center (CCDC-AC) and the Joint Program Executive Office Armaments and Ammunition (JPEO A&A) at Picatinny Arsenal, NJ. From 2008 to 2016, he served in various roles within the CCDC-AC, including Mechanical Engineer for Small Caliber Ammo Commercial Items, Project Lead for SOCOM Training Ammo, Project Lead for .338 XM1154 Acquisition, Project Lead for Mk311 USMC Acquisition, Project Lead for Interagency Study, and Project Lead for M1037 FMR & Production.

In September 2016, Mr. McFarlane transitioned to the JPEO A&A's Program Manager Maneuver Ammunition System Office, leading the 7.62mm XM1158 Advanced Armor Piercing RDT&E efforts and the Next Generation Squad Weapon (NGSW) Automatic Rifle Ammunition RDT&E efforts. In 2018, he joined the Program Manager Close Combat Systems Office as the Project Management Officer for Close Terrain Shaping Obstacles Pre-ACAT I program. In 2019, he served as the Project Management Officer for the Wide Area Munition XM204 Top Attack. In 2021, he then undertook a yearlong assignment with the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (OUSD) Acquisition and Sustainment (A&S) in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (OASD) Acquisition, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Platforms and Weapons Portfolio Management as the assistant and later the Acting Munition Portfolio Manager. In 2022, he served as the Acting Chief of Staff for the JPEO A&A, assisting in executing all JPEO matters and directing, planning, managing, and evaluating the JPEO's staff activities. His subsequent roles in 2022 - 2023 included Acting Deputy Product Manager and Branch Chief.

Mr. McFarlane's personal awards include the Meritorious Civilian Service Medal, the DOD Award for Innovative Manufacturing, the NATO Non-Article 5 Medal for service with NATO in relation to ISAF OEF, the Department of the Army Commander's Award for Civilian Service, and the Secretary of Defense Medal for the Global War on Terrorism.

Mr. McFarlane graduated from Lafayette College in 2006 with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. He later obtained a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Stevens Institute of Technology in 2008. He recently earned an additional Master of Science in National Resource Strategy from the National Defense University Eisenhower School in 2024. A native of Florida, Mr. McFarlane is married to his wife of 16 years, Naa, and has two daughters, Kelly and Stacy. He currently resides in Pennsylvania.



Brian Gruchacz

Deputy Product Director Combat Armaments & Protection Systems

Mr. Brian J. Gruchacz currently serves as the Deputy Product Director for Combat Armaments & Protection Systems within the Project Manager Close Combat Systems (PM CCS) of the Joint Program Executive Office Armaments & Ammunition (JPEO AA). Prior to joining the PM CCS team, Mr. Gruchacz served as the Armament Center Project Officer leading a Long Range Precision Fires Cross Functional Team (CFT) modernization priority science and technology demonstration.

Brian J. Gruchacz concluded his 22 years of military service as the Product Manager for Large Caliber Ammunition at Picatinny Arsenal, NJ from July 2011 through June 2015.

Lieutenant Colonel (R) Gruchacz began his intelligence officer service as an assistant S2 for the 2nd Infantry Division Artillery at Camp Stanley, Korea. In June 1995, he was transferred to the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), where he served as a Surveillance Platoon Leader, Company Executive Officer, and Battalion Maintenance Officer in the 311th Military Intelligence Battalion. In September of 1997, he joined the 1st Armor Division to deploy to Bosnia to serve as the current operations officer of the Division Analysis and Control Element. After completing the Military Intelligence Officer Advance Course he was subsequently assigned to the 10th Mountain Division where he returned to Bosnia to serve as the Multi-National Division (North) Engineer Brigade S2 and Mine Action Center officer in charge. Upon returning to Fort Drum, he served as the Division Collection Manager until assuming company command in the 110th Military Intelligence Battalion.

Lieutenant Colonel (R) Gruchacz joined the Army Acquisition Corps in 2002. His previous assignments included: test officer and operations officer in the U.S. Army Information Systems Engineering Command; assistant Product Manager (APM) for the Distributed Common Ground System-Army and DCGS-A APM-Fielding Operation Iraqi Freedom PEO IEW&S; APM for Network Systems Integration Battle Command, PEO FCS; National Training Center (NTC) Science and Technology Officer, Fort Irwin CA; Training with Industry TWI with EADS-NA (Airbus) at Huntsville, AL.

Mr. Gruchacz's notable personal awards include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Civilian Service Medal, The Order of St. Maurice, the Knowlton Award, and the Noble Patron of Armor.

Brian graduated from Clarkson University in 1993 with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. He holds a Masters degree from Webster University in Acquisition and Procurement. A native of Bloomfield NJ, Brian is married to his wife Sue of 24 years. Their daughter Elizabeth is a junior at WVU and son Tyler a junior at Jefferson High School.

THE ARMY SONG

March along, sing our song
with the Army of the free
Count the brave,
count the true,
who have fought to victory.
We're the Army and proud of our name;
We're the Army and proudly proclaim:

First to fight for the right, and to
build the Nation's might,
And the Army Goes Rolling Along
Proud of all we have done,
Fighting till the battle's won,
And the Army Goes Rolling Along

REFRAIN:

Then it's hi, hi, hey! The Army's on its way
Count off the cadence loud and strong
For where e'er we go, You will always know
that the Army Goes Rolling Along.

