

White House Communications Agency Change of Command Ceremony 8 January 2021 **New commander inherits DoD's elite presidential communications agency**

JOINT BASE ANACOSTIA-BOLLING, Washington, DC – U.S. Air Force Col. Joy Kaczor assumed command of the White House Communications Agency during a change of command ceremony at the Command Sergeant Major Rickey T. Witcher Auditorium here, Jan. 08, 2021.

U.S. Navy Vice Admiral Nancy Norton, Director of the Defense Information Systems Agency and Commander of Joint Force Headquarters, Defense Information Network, presided over the ceremony in which Kaczor, former WHCA vice commander, received the reins of the agency from outgoing commander, U.S. Army COL James Riley.

Kaczor now assumes the mantle of WHCA's 28th commander since U.S. Army COL George McNally first headed the agency's predecessor, the White House Signal Detachment, in March 1946. She also serves as WHCA's second female commander since U.S. Air Force Col. Peggy Baldwin led the agency nearly 20 years ago.

Kaczor, a native of Queens, N.Y., previously served as the deputy commander of the 67th Cyberspace Operations Group, the Air Force's only group tasked to execute worldwide offensive cyberspace operations.

COL James Riley, who was awarded the Defense Superior Service Medal during the ceremony, led WHCA since June 2018.

The White House Communications Agency was originally formed in 1942 as the White House Signal Detachment. The detachment was activated under the Military District of Washington during the Franklin D. Roosevelt administration to provide normal and emergency communications in support of the President of the United States. It provided mobile radio, teletype, telephone, and cryptographic services in the White House and at Shangri-la, now known as Camp David.

In 1954, during the Eisenhower administration, the detachment was reorganized under the office of the Chief Signal Officer, Army Signal Corps and renamed the White House Army Signal Agency. In 1962, the signal agency was transferred to the authority of the Defense Communications Agency. WHCA is under operational control of the White House Military Office, with administrative oversight provided by the Defense Information Systems Agency. WHCA's scope has expanded and evolved over the past 78 years from a small team of 32 personnel working out of the basement of the White House to a self-supporting joint service command of nearly 1,200 personnel while serving 15 Presidents of the United States.