

August 18, 2014

NTSSC **This Week**



U.S. Army Garrison Natick Public Affairs Office



The
Spirit
Lives
On ...



2013 Department of Defense Thomas Jefferson &
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Publisher's Note

John Harlow
USAG-Natick and NSSC Chief of Public Affairs



Losing a Mentor, Friend

This is a special edition of *NSSC This Week*. Our nation lost a hero, our Army lost a great leader, Dr. Sue Myers lost a loving husband, Matthew and Amelia lost a caring father, Harold Greene lost a devoted son, and so many people lost a friend on Aug. 5, when Maj. Gen. Harold Greene was killed in action at Camp Qargha, Afghanistan.



I want to thank everyone who shared memories of the general. Without you telling your stories, we would not be able to put this together.

He was only here a few days a month, but when the general was here, he was representing the Natick Soldier Systems Center to anyone who would listen.

Let me share a couple of my memories. At the Natick Schools Transfer of Flags ceremony, the general spoke for 45 minutes without using a card, written speech or anything, and it was a moving speech that hit home with the students and parents in attendance.

After his speech, in full Class A uniform, he was challenged by Nick Paganella, who does the "Veterans Corner" column and videos. Nick is not a young guy, by any means. The next thing you know, the general took off his jacket and he was on the floor of the Kennedy Middle School knocking out push-ups. So I put the picture on the general's Facebook page, announcing Nick was the winner, and, boy, did the general give me grief. That is how he was.

Not long after I got here, the general had a town hall scheduled. He called me up to the office and said, "Harlow, I need a Hooah Video." So off to StratComm I went, and Rob Hawley gets one done. At the town hall, he said that Harlow put this video together, and it's going to be great. While it is running, I told the general that I didn't do it; Rob Hawley and StratComm did it. After it finished, the general said, "I knew that was too good for Harlow to do. Great job, Rob and the StratComm team."

The general did business, but made doing business fun. That was the beauty of how Maj. Gen. Harry Greene operated.

His family is in my prayers. I am thankful that I had the general as a mentor and someone I considered a friend.

RIP, Maj. Gen. Harry Greene.

John Harlow
USAG-Natick and NSSC Chief of Public Affairs

NSSC This Week

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The Spirit Lives On ...



Many of us have met great Soldiers, brilliant scientists, and caring human beings, but seldom have we seen those traits merge in the same person – until we met then-Brig. Gen. Harold J. “Harry” Greene, that is. As those who worked at or visited the Natick Soldier Systems Center between August 2009 and May 2011 can attest, he was all of those things and more. He could move deftly from discussing complex scientific concepts to debating the most recent performances of his beloved Red Sox, and he could cover every bit of ground in between — without seeming even slightly out of his element. And that smile rarely left his face. That shining light was extinguished during the Aug. 5 attack in Afghanistan, but his spirit lives on in the hearts and minds of others at Natick and elsewhere across the Army and this nation.



Photo: John G. Marrin

ARMY GENERAL KILLED IN AFGHANISTAN

By Max Maxfield, Army.mil / WASHINGTON (Aug. 6, 2014)

An American general was killed Aug. 5, in Kabul, Afghanistan, by an individual wearing a uniform of the Afghan National Security Forces.

Maj. Gen. Harold J. Greene, who has been the deputy commander of the [Combined Security Transition Command](#) since January, was shot and killed when the individual fired into a group of coalition and Afghan service members on a routine site visit to the Marshal Fahim National Defense University, home of the Afghan army's commissioned and non-commissioned officer academies.

"There are a number of casualties as a result of the shooting, perhaps up to 15, to include some Americans," said Pentagon Press Secretary Navy Rear Adm. John Kirby. "Many were seriously wounded. Others received only minor injuries. The assailant was killed."

Greene is survived by his wife, Dr. Susan Myers, his son, 1st Lt. Matthew Greene, his daughter, Amelia Greene, and his daughter-in-law, Kasandra Greene.

Chief of Staff of the Army [Gen. Ray Odierno](#), said in a statement that the Army stands behind the families of the casualties.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with Maj. Gen. Harold J. Greene's family, and the families of our Soldiers who were injured today in the tragic events that took place in Afghani-

U.S. Army Soldiers carry a flag-draped case with the remains of Army Maj. Gen. Harold J. Greene, which arrived on a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft on Dover Air Force Base, Del., Aug. 7, 2014. Greene was killed on Aug. 5, 2014, west of Kabul, Afghanistan, while visiting the Marshal Fahim National Defense University, a training academy for Afghan officers. He is the first U.S. general officer to be killed in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Greene is the highest ranking U.S. military officer killed by foreign action since Lt. Gen. Timothy Joseph Maude was killed in the Sept. 11, 2001, attack on the Pentagon.

stan," Odierno's statement reads. "These Soldiers were professionals, committed to the mission. It is their service and sacrifice that define us as an Army.

"Our priority right now is to take care of the families, ensuring they have all the resources they need during this critical time.

"We remain committed to our mission in Afghanistan and will continue to work with our Afghan partners to ensure the safety and security of all coalition Soldiers and civilians," Odierno concluded.

According to Kirby, the investigation into the shooting is just beginning.

"The incident will be jointly investigated by Afghan and ISAF authorities," Kirby said. "That investigation is just now getting underway. We need to let it proceed before speculating about any specific circumstances."

Greene is the highest ranking U.S. military officer killed by foreign action since [Lt. Gen. Timothy Joseph Maude](#) was killed in the Sept. 11, 2001, attack on the Pentagon.

Greene is the highest ranking officer to be killed in combat since 1970.

Greene previously served as the deputy for Acquisition and Systems Management (Acquisition, Logistics and Technology), in Washington, D.C., from April 2012 to January 2014. He served with Program Executive Officer, Intelligence, Electronic Warfare and Sensors, at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, from May 2011 to April 2012.

Greene was the deputy commanding general, United States Army Research, Development and Engineering Command/senior commander, Natick Soldier System Center, at Aberdeen Proving Ground, from May 2009 to May 2011.

Greene was commissioned through the Reserve Officer Training Corps, May 25, 1980. He was promoted to major general Sept. 2, 2012.

Greene's civilian education included a bachelor of science in materials engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute; a master of science in industrial engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute; a master of science in materials engineering from the University of Southern California; a master of strategic studies from the United States Army War College, a master of science in mechanical engineering from the University of Southern California; and a Ph.D. in materials engineering from the University of Southern California.

His awards and decorations included the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Meritorious Service Medal with five Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Achievement Medal and the Army Staff Identification Badge.

‘A RARE COMBINATION’

Army memorial ceremony honors Maj. Gen. Greene

By J.D. Leipold, Army News Service / WASHINGTON (Aug. 14, 2014)

The Army paid tribute to Maj. Gen. Harold J. Greene in a memorial ceremony Aug. 13 in the Pentagon auditorium.

The 55-year-old deputy commanding general of the [Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan](#) was killed by an Afghan Soldier Aug. 5, while making a routine visit to Marshal Fahim National Defense University in Kabul, Afghanistan. Thirteen NATO and Afghan Soldiers were wounded in the green on blue attack. The assailant was killed.

Following the National Anthem, invocation and scripture reading, host Army Chief of Staff [Gen. Ray Odierno](#) told the standing-room-only audience that when a man or woman joins the Army, he or she really has two families, the biological and the Army family.

“Today, we bring those two families together to honor Harry,” he said.

“Harry was a Soldier, a husband, a father, a son, a friend, a leader and a great patriot,” Odierno said. “He left an indelible mark on everyone he came in contact with, and when I think about Harry, I think of a scholar, an inspirational leader, one who was humble and a passionate Soldier, always committed to whatever mission he was given.”

Odierno said that when he was looking for the right person to establish the multinational mechanisms to sustain the Afghan National Army and Security Force for the long term, he knew Greene was the right Soldier — “He had all the credentials, background, personality and the knowledge to prepare the Afghan Security Forces as U.S. and coalition troops depart.

“I believe he had a rare combination of intellect, compassion and warrior ethos. He was simply a great man,” added Odierno. “What I’ll always remember about Harry is that he was a true patriot and the epitome of what we hope and expect of our senior leaders — a leader who is competent, able to do whatever job is given to him and to do it to the best of his ability with commitment to Soldiers, the Army, the nation, the mission and able to balance that with commitment to his family.”

Following Odierno, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology [Heidi Shyu](#) recalled her relationship with Greene. He had served as her deputy for Acquisition and Systems Management until deploying to Afghanistan just eight months ago.

“My words can’t fully express the sense of loss, the sadness we share with the Greene family,” she said. “In his 34-year career, Harry was an

that affect our Soldiers. I sorely miss his intellect, his talent, his sense of humor and his mentorship.”

Shyu recalled a trip she had recently taken to Afghanistan. She asked the general how he was managing the challenging conditions and the hectic pace he was facing on a daily basis.

“He told me in no uncertain terms, ‘It got me out of the Pentagon,’ and ‘There’s no other place I’d rather be, because I’m surrounded by Soldiers,’” she recalled. “We say ‘goodbye’ to our fallen friend. Harry Greene truly lived a successful life as a defining example of generations to follow, and God bless Maj. Gen. Greene, his family he cherished, and the Army he so loved.”

Greene is survived by his wife, Dr. Susan Myers; daughter Amelia Greene; son, Army 1st Lt. Matthew Greene; and his daughter-



Photo: Staff Sgt. Bernardo Fuller



Photo: Staff Sgt. Bernardo Fuller



Photo: Staff Sgt. Mikki L. Sprenkle

engineer of technical expertise, business acumen and decisive leadership to the Army.

“He was passionate about his responsibilities to provide our Soldiers with the best equipment in this world,” she continued. “I could count on Harry to make decisions and tackle problems with sound logic and clear perspective on what’s needed, especially on matters

in-law, Kasandra Greene. He was interred at Arlington National Cemetery, Aug. 14.

In lieu of flowers, his family asks that donations be made to a favorite scouting, youth sports or education program. Donations also can be made to [Fisher House](#), [USO](#), [Wounded Warrior Project](#), or the [Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors](#), in memory of Major General Harold J. Greene.



Photo: Staff Sgt. Bernardo Fuller



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ABERDEEN MOURNS

Maj. Gen. Greene remembered as leader, hero

By Claire Heininger, PEO C3T / ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. (Aug. 11, 2014)

He was brilliant, “always two steps ahead of the rest of us.”

He was tenacious, “a warrior poet who never, ever gave up.”

He was beloved, “a husband, a father, a son and one of the greatest Soldiers this Army has ever produced.”

But most of all, Maj. Gen. Harold J. “Harry” Greene was “a true American hero” — not because of the way he died, but the way he lived.

“Life was his fuel, and he energized us all,” Col. (Ret.) David Moore said during a eulogy for his former colleague. “We all have our stories. Any one of us could be standing here, telling a unique story about how Harry helped us laugh, helped us grow, and made us better people.”

Those stories, punctuated by laughter and tears, were shared in honor of Greene’s memory during a ceremony at [Aberdeen Proving Ground](#) on Aug. 11, six days after Greene was mortally wounded in a shooting at Marshal Fahim National Defense University in Afghanistan. Greene, 55, was the first U.S. general officer killed in combat since the Vietnam War.

Greene’s wife, their two children and other family members were in attendance, joined by a capacity crowd of more than 1,000 mourners at the Post Theater. The speakers — senior officials from the Army Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (C4ISR) community in which Greene was a key leader — offered condolences and thanks to Greene’s family, while painting a vivid picture of his confidence, compassion and camaraderie.

“Harry was truly one of a kind,” said Gary Martin, deputy to the commanding general, Communications-Electronics Command, whose voice broke as he described first meeting Greene at Fort Monmouth, N.J.

“Harry was more than just a bright guy — he was also an extremely effective leader and officer,” Martin said. “He made it easy for people to like and want to work for him.”

A technical whiz with a gregarious personality, Greene was equally at home in a conference room full of engineers, at a system test site with Soldiers or on the sidelines of a kids’ baseball game. His enthusiasm for tackling complex problems on behalf of Soldiers, regardless of the technical or process challenges involved, spilled over to the C4ISR workforce, who reciprocated with fierce loyalty to him and their shared mission.

“He inspired so many to do so much — even those of us who at times were not the easiest to lead,” said John Willison, director of Command, Power & Integration, Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center. “He was brilliant, while not arrogant. He could digest the most complex problems while speaking the simple truths.”

With Greene’s sharp focus came a playful twinkle in his eye. When he was splitting his time between APG’s [Research, Development and Engineering Command](#) (RDECOM) and [Natick Soldier Systems Center](#) in Natick, Mass., from 2009-2011, the RDECOM staff poked fun at him by creating several full-size cardboard replicas of the officer, which would surface regularly at staff meetings, in hallways and behind desks. On a tour of a factory while serving as Program Executive Officer (PEO) for Intelligence, Electronic Warfare and Sensors, the Boston-born and Red Sox

diehard Greene stopped to tease a technician wearing a New York Yankees cap — “and even turned it inside out,” said Stephen Kreider, the current PEO.

More recently, during his final assignment as the deputy commanding general, Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan, Greene woke up at 3 a.m. to attend, via Skype, a ceremony recognizing the career contributions of a longtime colleague at APG.

“He wanted to do this so he could personally recognize the individual and to thank him for his years of service to the Army,” Martin said. “That’s how Harry was, and what he meant to people.”

The eulogies were followed by a scripture reading, firing of rounds and the playing of Taps in Greene’s honor. Mourners then solemnly filed past Greene’s Fallen Comrade Display, leaving mementos, touching the combat boots or simply saluting in silence.

Greene, who served in the Army for 34 years and held five advanced degrees, will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery on Thursday, Aug. 14, following a memorial service at the Fort Myer Memorial Chapel, Arlington, Va. In lieu of flowers, his family asks that donations be made to a favorite scouting, youth sports or education program. Donations also can be made to [Fisher House](#), [USO](#), [Wounded Warrior Project](#), or [TAPS](#) in memory of Major General Harold J. Greene.

“Major General Greene is a true American hero who was responsible for the safe return of many from war, due to his dedication to mission and his commitment to excellence,” Kreider said. “His legacy is the character, integrity and passion for life he displayed in everything he did.”



NATICK REMEMBERS

Caring, genuine human being recalled

By Bob Reinert, USAG-Natick Public Affairs / NATICK, Mass. (Aug. 6, 2014)

They knew him as an excellent Soldier, scientist and commander, but when most people at [Natick Soldier Systems Center](#) think of Maj. Gen. Harold J. “Harry” Greene, they remember the friend, the genuinely caring human being who laughed easily with them and flashed that infectious smile at every opportunity.

Those memories are all that remain now of Greene, who was killed Aug. 5, in Afghanistan, during a shooting incident that also left 14 other service members wounded. The 55-year-old Greene was the highest-ranking U.S. service member to die in the war, and he was the first general officer killed in combat since the Vietnam War.

At the time of his death, Greene was deputy commander of the [Combined Security Transition Command](#), and was on a routine site visit to the Marshal Fahim National Defense University.

Greene, a 34-year Army veteran, served as NSSC’s senior commander from August 2009 to May 2011. Before his departure from Natick, Greene was asked about his legacy.

“My replacement is going to live at Natick,” said Greene, who had split time between NSSC and Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., where he also served as deputy commanding general of the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command. “I think that is tremendously important, and it gives a presence in the community that wasn’t here before with a part-time senior commander.

“He’ll travel a lot, but we planted a general officer flag back in New England,” he said.

He may have lived here only part time, but Greene became a recognizable figure at such events as the Iwo Jima Day ceremony at the Massachusetts State House, and the transfer of flags ceremony at the Natick School District. He was equally comfortable at a lectern explaining the important work done at NSSC, or taking off his jacket and dropping for push-ups with youngsters at Beacon Hill Day.

“One of the things I knew from growing up here as a kid was how patriotic (Massachusetts) was,” Greene said. “I learned to have a deeper appreciation during my time here. I had many opportunities to get out in the community.”

Brig. Gen. William E. Cole, the current NSSC senior commander, worked for Greene in the past and remembered him fondly.

“He was extraordinarily smart, cared deeply about his people, and was completely dedicated to the Army’s mission in Afghanistan,” Cole said. “He was also great to work for and with, and he had a super sense of humor. He was a mentor to me, and I will miss him very much.”

Dr. Laurel Allender, acting director of the Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center, shared her thoughts about Greene.

“I am wrestling with the sadness I feel personally on the loss of Maj. Gen. Harry Greene, an amazing Soldier, leader and fellow scientist — and also with the enduring questions of the nature of war and peace and our commitment to defense,” Allender said. “I awoke this morning with a renewed dedication to our mission, and encourage you all to do the same.”

Its director, Dale Ormond, talked about Greene’s importance to RDECOM.

“Many of you who knew and served with him know the impact he had on this command and its people,” Ormond said. “The loss of Major General Greene is certainly felt across the Army, and this enterprise. He dutifully served the people of this great nation and dedicated his time at this command making sure Soldiers came first.

“Most of all, we will remember Major General Greene as a great Soldier, officer and member of our family,” Ormond said. “He was a man of uncommon and exemplary professionalism, competence and candor, in the most profound way.”

Army Reserve Lt. Col. Brian Wood served as Greene’s executive officer for two years at Natick. He called his former boss a consummate professional.

“He would always do what was right, whether popular or not — a man of rock-solid and unwavering character,” Wood said. “I thoroughly enjoyed working for him and now carry many (of his) lessons with me each day. He had a great sense of humor and sense of community and a great way with people at all levels. You could always hear him coming down the hall, cheerfully greeting everyone.

“Most of all, I appreciated his commitment to the Army, its mission and the Soldiers” he said. “He was proud to be a Soldier, and it showed every day.”

Wood recalled how much Greene loved Boston’s professional sports teams.

“I was able to attend several Red Sox games with him, and recall one time at 2 a.m., after a rain delay and extra innings, when he still did not want to leave the game before the last pitch,” Wood said. “He would acknowledge Fenway Park every time we drove by.”

Retired Sgt. Maj. John Poff, who served as Greene’s senior enlisted adviser at Natick, said he was “crushed” by word of Greene’s death.

“He and I had a very special bond,” Poff said. “It was a devastating blow to see that something like that could happen to such a great human being.”

Once he absorbed that blow, Poff was able to recall some of the better times with Greene.

“He was very light hearted,” Poff said. “He was always in on somebody doing a practical joke. He looked at everyone equally. He never looked down on anybody. He was genuine.”



“Most of all, I appreciated his commitment to the Army, its mission and the Soldiers. He was proud to be a Soldier, and it showed every day.”
-Lt. Col Brian Wood



MOMENT OF SILENCE



Heads bow at Natick to honor Maj. Gen. Greene

By Bob Reinert, USAG-Natick Public Affairs / NATICK, Mass. (Aug. 8, 2014)

On a beautiful August morning that matched their former commander's sunny disposition, the Natick Soldier Systems Center community gathered in front of the headquarters building Aug. 8 to remember Maj. Gen. Harold J. "Harry" Greene.

Greene, 55, the deputy commander of the Combined Security Transition Command, had been killed Aug. 5 in an attack at Marshal Fahim National Defense University in Afghanistan. He had commanded NSSC from August 2009 to May 2011.

Christine Marsh, deputy to NSSC's current commander, Brig. Gen. William E. Cole, who was away, addressed the workforce as the ceremony began.

"Our moment of silence is a way to honor him," Marsh said. "His family has been made aware of what we're doing this morning. They greatly appreciate the fact that you're taking time out of your busy day to honor him in this manner."

Marsh was followed by Chaplain (Maj.) Michael Griffith. Before observing the moment of silence, Griffith told those in attendance that he was available to them.

"I want to mention for those of you who have been affected by this, that I am at your service," Griffith said. "You don't need an appointment. Please just walk in, and know that you'll have a listening ear in this difficult time."

After the moment of silence, Griffith offered this prayer:

"Almighty God, we thank you for General Greene, for a life well lived, the dedication he showed to our country. We pray that you would be to us, his co-workers and friends, that peace that passes all understanding in this time of suffering and grief.

"We ask for his family — for his wife, for his children — that you would be the God of all comfort that would care for them in this dark hour.

"Lord, we ask that we would all know your love and that in the coming days you would replace the tears of sorrow with joyful memories, that we might celebrate his life as we mourn his passing."

Marsh then announced that a [memorial service](#) would be held for Greene Aug. 13 at the Pentagon. She added that a remembrance ceremony would take place Aug. 21 at NSSC.

After the ceremony, many paused in front of the screen in the headquarters lobby to view images of Greene during his time at NSSC.

"Lord, we ask that we would all know your love and that in the coming days you would replace the tears of sorrow with joyful memories, that we might celebrate his life as we mourn his passing."

Chaplain (Maj.) Michael Griffith



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LOOKING BACK ... AND FORWARD

Greene gave advice to successor at Natick

By John Harlow, USAG-Natick Public Affairs / NATICK, Mass. (May 5, 2011)

“We’ve accomplished a lot, but there is still a lot of work to do,” said Brig. Gen. Harold Greene, the senior commander of the [Natick Soldier Systems Center](#).

The general was reflecting on his time in command of the center. He will relinquish command to Brig. Gen. John McGuiness on May 10 after serving as the NSSC commanding general and deputy commanding general of the [U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command](#).

While reflecting on his time in command, the general was asked if there was one big thing he could hang his hat on as his legacy and if there was one thing that he didn’t get to that he wanted to accomplish.

“My replacement is going to live at Natick,” said Greene of the one thing he can hang his hat on. “One of my frustrations was that I wanted to do more, but a lot of the things you do to tell the story happen on weekends, and I wasn’t here routinely on weekends. It was tough for me to justify the travel to do things that look like social events, but were probably very important to networking and telling the Natick story. My replacement has moved his family here and is going to be in residence. He’ll travel a lot, but we planted a general officer flag back in New England. I think that is tremendously important and it gives a presence in the community that wasn’t here before with a part-time senior commander.

“The one thing I didn’t get to – quality of life and facilities,” said the general. “I wish I could have stayed longer to continue to do more. The workforce here deserves better. We

need to keep working to improve the quality of life for the workforce and the Soldiers that are stationed here. That is going to require resources over time. The infrastructure here is not what anyone would like it to be. It was a problem that took many years to get here.

“If you gave me one thing that I could fix tomorrow, it would be to rip out those god-awful windows and put in state of the art thermal pane windows and get some light in here.”

“If you focus on the bad news, you miss the point that the vast majority of what happens here is tremendously positive and tremendously important.”

Maj. Gen. Harold Greene

One of the processes put into place to work on improving the infrastructure and quality of life is the NSSC Master Plan.

“It’s a plan that we can use to incrementally improve the installation,” said Greene. “You’re never going to get enough money all at once to do everything you want. If you don’t have a plan to work against, you run the risk of putting money against something that doesn’t make sense in the long term. So now we have a plan that we can use to incrementally improve the installation so if somebody asks you what do you need, what is it for and how will it get you to the future, we can answer those questions.”

As the NSSC senior commander, Greene spent much of his time here out in the community speaking at many events from Iwo Jima Day at the Massachusetts State House to the transfer of flags ceremony at the Natick School District.

“When it comes to the community, there are two things that needed to be done,” said Greene. “One is specific to NSSC and that is to tell the story of the great work that is done here and how important it is to the U.S. Army. Secondly, we are in a unique situation that there is only one active-duty Army installation in the six New England states, and we need to remind them that everybody who serves in the Army, whether in uniform, or as a Department of the Army civilian, is a volunteer and the work that is done here is absolutely essential.”

Whether it was briefing Sen. Scott Brown, or giving a quick talk before the Organization Day fun run, the general was always looking to the future. He would speak of his niece, who is a student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and making Natick a place where she would want to come to work someday.

“I would like to think we have fixed a few things and a couple things will get fixed after I leave,” said the general. “We’re going to change the entry. We fixed a couple strategic infrastructure problems. We got a couple of the roofs fixed. We still have a lot of work to do. I think we have a plan that we can go to people and let them know that it is worth investing in NSSC.”



“We’re creating a more professional environment, and that is very important for the future of the NSSC,” Greene continued. “When you bring someone important here, a senior leader or visitor or even when I talk to students who come on the installation, the message I want them to take away is that we haven’t given these people a whole lot, but what we have given them, they are making great use of and doing some really important work for the Army. I think that is the message that General (Ann) Dunwoody (commanding general of U.S. Army Materiel Command) took away and Senator Brown and Representative (Edward) Markey took away and so many others. If what they see that is something that isn’t organized, regardless of how important the work is, that first impression sticks. I don’t think that first impression represents the workforce at Natick and the great work they do. I am pleased at how things have improved. I want people to see the great work done here at Natick for the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Coast Guardsmen and Homeland Defenders.”

When the presidency changes hands, the new president opens the center drawer in the Oval Office and usually finds a hand-written note from his predecessor. When asked if there would be a note for the incoming commander, Greene said he wasn’t sure, but he had plenty of advice.

“I hadn’t thought about writing a note to put in the desk, but I might now,” said Greene. “Here is what I tell Brigadier General McGuiness. The community here deserves the attention of a general officer both inside the fence and within the greater community, and there is an important job to be done here. I think we in many ways haven’t put in enough attention to the work that is done here at Natick and into the facilities here at Natick. I think the work has been recognized. The Soldier is a priority now ... it is on the radar of the Secretary of the Army, it is in the Chief’s Top-10, the assistant secretary of the Army for acquisition logistics and technology has the Soldier as a specific focus, and that fits right into the work that is done at Natick. I think you’re going to get some emphasis on the work that gets done here. I try to make sure that those folks understand that we need to put as much work into the enablers who do the great work here. We need to put some great effort into bringing the quality of the infrastructure up to the quality of the people who work here and the work that they do.

“Embrace the community,” Greene continued. “One of the things I knew from growing up here as a kid was how patriotic (Massachusetts) was. I knew from going to parades on Memorial Day to going to the green in Franklin and seeing the names of the WWII veterans where my Dad and grandfather

showed me their names on the monument. I learned to have a deeper appreciation during my time here. I had many opportunities to get out in the community. Speaking at Iwo Jima Day in the Massachusetts State Capitol. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Boston. After all these years, on the Sunday closest to the date the monument was dedicated, they ask people to come down and remember. Going to a church in Southie with a whole community of folks and then heading to the monument for the re-dedication, it brings it home to you that this is a very patriotic part of the country. It makes you proud; it makes you want to serve. I have told Brigadier General McGuiness, reach out and embrace the community because they want to embrace you.”

Greene, who is leaving to become the Program Executive Officer, Intelligence, Electronic Warfare and Sensors, said it is bittersweet to leave NSSC.

“It was always a pleasure to come to Natick,” said Greene. “My parents’ families are from this part of Massachusetts. I spent a lot of time here when I was growing up and have a lot of fond memories of eastern Massachusetts. For me to be able to come here and it be business, and enjoy the ambiance of New England was a great pleasure.

“It is bittersweet. It’s always bittersweet

when you give up command,” the general continued. “Command is the best job in the Army. It was always hard for me to be here only part-time. I always wished the Army would have said you are assigned there. That is why I campaigned hard and successfully that the two jobs that I had could be done just as easily from Natick and it was important to have a general officer flag here.”

During his time as the senior commander at NSSC, one place you could always find the general was on the Soldier Systems Center Facebook page. When asked if he will still be following the great work done at Natick, the general responded, “I will read but not comment.”

“I really appreciated the Natick Facebook page because there are official and unofficial ways the commanding general can send messages,” Greene said. “One of the things I wanted to tell the workforce here is that you do a lot of great things. People notice. I pushed very hard to get good news stories on Facebook. It gave us a chance to share with the people who cared to follow us that something good happened. One of the things that you have to look out for as a commander is everyone is going to bring you the bad news. Bad news travels fast. You can’t let the bad news be your focus.

“We have to tell the good news stories,” he continued. “If you focus on the bad news, you miss the point that the vast majority of what happens here is tremendously positive and tremendously important to the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Coast Guardsmen and Homeland Defenders, and I love the fact that I had an outlet to go tell that story. It was simple, easy and fast, but it allowed me to hopefully reach out to some folks here and say, ‘Thanks, you’re doing something important.’ And let them know that, in a small way, with a rapid turnaround, that we noticed and you did a heck of a job.”

The [change of command ceremony](#) is set to start at 10 a.m. on May 10 in Hunter Auditorium.



At Natick, Brig. Gen. Harry Greene was completely comfortable in any setting, whether it was speaking with robotics students (opposite page), taking a helicopter ride (above), or hosting the annual Christmas tree-lighting ceremony (right).



FAREWELL, SIR ...

Natick community members share memories

“I was his aide for about 15 months. He became a father figure to me. He was easily the best boss, mentor and role model I’ve ever had, and I would’ve loved to work for him again. He was just an incredible leader, and I just hope I can be even half as good as him.”

-Capt. Bradley Zielinski

“Major General Greene was a man who touched all of our lives in a way that I’m not sure anyone else could have. I am thankful for all the memories working alongside Major General Greene, including the never-ending Sox-Angels game that we all went to back in 2011.”

-Drew Filauro

“A great man has been taken from us. Major General Greene loved his families: his immediate family, his Natick family, and his Army family. He was a diehard Red Sox fan and loved to take in a game whenever he could. It was an honor to be his secretary for two years; he was a great boss and will truly be missed by all.”

-Jean Forgione

“From my perspective, he was as consistent as anyone could be with everything he did. He rolled up his sleeves daily to get things done and expected the same of others who gladly followed suit. He empowered and trusted. He mentored, coached and provided feedback. He was appropriately engaging at all levels.”

-Brian Wood





“General Greene was always walking around, without an entourage, doing yeoman’s work right along with people.”

-Terry Garrahan

“At one point during (Beacon Hill Day), after all the important players were done speaking, I challenged the kids at my booth to a push-up contest with (a Human Research Volunteer). Major General Greene saw what was happening in front of my booth and ran over and asked me what was happening. I told him I was showing the kids the proper Army push-up. Without hesitation, he took off his jacket, handed it to Josh (Bulotsky) and dropped with them. It was awesome.”

-Sarah Ross

“The tears for him are real — he was a good man and Soldier. To have known him was an honor and highlights my memories as the commander of USARIEM. His commander’s coin given to me is valued, as are the pictures with him and visiting dignitaries. With his beret a bit askew but with a genuine smile simply makes me smile. Fond memories, for sure.”

-Gaston Bathalon

“The first time that Major General Greene spoke at our town hall he made me feel he had known everyone in the audience personally. The way he spoke to all of us was like he was sitting in our living room just chatting. Major General Greene’s love for his family, Soldiers, civilians and Boston sports teams was so evident and refreshing. Once, when I was outside, he was walking down the sidewalk and didn’t just say ‘Hi.’ He stopped and asked me how I was doing and what I did here. He was genuinely interested! My heart goes out to everyone that was touched by this human being.”

-Sandy Schlosberg



“How could anyone forget Major General Greene’s voice and laugh? We always knew when he was arriving at the office. We could hear him from down the hall each morning greeting, talking and laughing with employees. I will mostly remember his infectious smile and laughter. He loved his family, his Soldiers, his country, God and life itself.”

-Deb (Mangano) Cornelius





“I truly hope he knows how much of an impact he made in his time on this Earth. I won’t be able to watch a Red Sox game without thinking of him. He will be missed deeply by those who worked for him and with him. My thoughts are with his wife and children and extended family.”

-Julia McAdams

“After shaking my hand, as he was walking away, I said, ‘It’s good to see another (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute) guy around.’ He immediately turned around, came back and starting telling me about the good ole days at RPI. We talked for a few minutes, much to the chagrin of his (aide). I’m sure I threw him off his busy schedule, but it just shows how personable he was and how he cared about the people who worked for him. It was very cool as a young engineer to shoot the breeze with a one-star about college days.”

-Andy Meloni

“Everyone has vivid memories of his energy, his enthusiasm, his honesty and everyone is eager to share their particular story or anecdote of the time when ... And by their sharing their stories, they become part of my history with Major General Greene, as well, making a rich, crazy quilt of remembrances.”

-Dr. Laurel Allender

“Brigadier General Greene was a pleasure to work for and genuinely cared about everyone and everything we do at NSRDEC. Major General Greene was a huge proponent for the Soldier.”

-Richard Benny

“He would never miss an opportunity to engage with students — he saw them as our future, and I know he left an impression with each of them. He was an authentic leader that will be missed by many.”

-Donna Bulger

“I remember when he would walk down the hall, he would look directly at you and say hello. And when my former co-worker was going through cancer treatment, he would occasionally stop into our office and quietly inquire how she was doing. He was the commanding general, and yet he took the time to take care of people. It’s those little things that truly made Brigadier General Greene so special.”

-Lynn Valcourt

“Every time I went to brief Brigadier General Greene, it always began with him asking how am I doing, and we would have such a great conversation. Then he would say, ‘What brings you here and what can I do to assist you today?’ He cared about each one of us and the mission. I will always remember how genuine he was and how great it was to work with him.”

-Karen Kowalewski



“One special memory of Brigadier General Greene was on Org Day. I brought my nine-year-old son with me and he listened with interest at what Brigadier General Greene had to say during opening ceremonies. What caught his attention was that Brigadier General Greene would be at the dunk tank. My son couldn’t image anything more fun than to dunk a general! It took several tries, but finally he dunked the general.”

-Carole Winterhalter

“I will always remember when Major General Greene took the time to recognize personnel from the Civilian Welfare Committee after the Christmas holiday events. He presented each of us with his personal coins and publicly recognized our efforts.”

-Marie Belmore

A MAN BY HIS DEEDS

Born in Boston on Feb. 11, 1959, Maj. Gen. Harold J. "Harry" Greene graduated from Guildlerland (N.Y.) High School before attending Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He completed the Reserve Officer Training

Corps program at RPI and went on to a distinguished 34-year Army career. At the time of his death on Aug. 5, 2014, Greene was 55 years old. Below is a timeline of his remarkable career.





A FINAL SALUTE

