

WANG TAKES COMMAND

STORY BY JOAN MIER
PHOTOS BY FRANK MARTIN

The District welcomed its 29th Commander, Lt. Col. Todd Wang, at a Change of Command Ceremony held at the District's headquarters June 29. Wang replaced Lt. Col. Dana Hurst, who left for an assignment at the Pentagon. Although heavy rain threatened to derail plans for an outdoor ceremony, the clouds broke up and the rain ceased as if on command just a couple of hours before the start of the 10 a.m. ceremony.

South Pacific Division Commander Brig. Gen. Joseph Schroedel told the attendees that it's important to remember that a change of command is not just about change, but is about continuity as well, continuing the ongoing missions of the District and the Corps as a whole. He asked the audience to take a moment to remember our soldiers, civilian contractors and civilian employees who are currently serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"It's a great cause that we need to win," he said. "We need to remember them in our prayers and keep our focus on taking care of each other and the Iraqi people."

Schroedel also praised Hurst for doing a great job in his two years here and praised the District as a whole for leading the way in the division in its sense of family and camaraderie. He also gave a warm welcome to Wang.

"Todd comes to us with a tremendous amount of experience. I wish you luck and success. I know you'll do well."

In his farewell



The official party marches to position.



Lt. Col. Wang's wife, Nancy, and son, Thorin, are escorted to their seats by Abiquiu Ranger Phil Martinez, who was a member of the Color Guard.

remarks, Hurst said it was an honor to have the opportunity to command one of the greatest organizations in the world.

"We build military facilities, schools for Navajo children and are stewards of our environment," he said. "It's all about people. My wife, Ingrid, and I want to thank you for being our family away from home." He also welcomed Wang, saying, "This is a great place to work. I know you'll cherish your command time as much as I did."

"I am extremely honored to be given the opportunity to command this great District," Wang told the audience. "I've been to John Martin and Conchas Reservoirs for recreation and I can attest to the quality and service you have provided and continue to provide at these facilities."

Wang thanked several people for the support and mentoring they have given