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## SARATOGA SPRINGS

### Local man to head National Guard unit

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**SARATOGA SPRINGS** » A Saratoga Springs dentist and Iraq war veteran has taken command of a National Guard unit charged with monitoring the health and ability of soldiers to deploy on state and federal missions.

Col. Richard Green is the new head of New York Army National Guard's Medical Command, known as MEDCOM, based at Watervliet Arsenal.

Although comprised of fewer than 100 members, MEDCOM is responsible for

10,000 soldiers throughout the state.

Green joined the National Guard in 1996 as the dental officer for Company C, the medical support company of the 427th Forward Support Battalion. In March 2003, he took command of Company C, which was located in Saratoga Springs.

Following a reorganization of National Guard units the company became the 466th Area Support Medical Company headquartered in Queensbury, and deployed to Iraq in 2006 to 2007 with Green as the commander. The unit operated an army field hospital and three troop

medical facilities in south and central Iraq and received a Meritorious Unit Citation for its service.

Green has been deputy MEDCOM commander since October 2013.

He replaces Col. James Coleman, also an Iraq war veteran, who has been named New York Army National Guard State Surgeon, the highest ranking army medical officer in the state.

The formal change of command ceremony took place Sunday, Aug. 3, at the Camp Smith Training Site near Peekskill, where Green is currently in training.

Green's awards include the Bronze Star, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Medal and the Army Achievement Medal.

He and his wife, Elizabeth, have two adult children, John and Caroline, and live in Saratoga Springs.