



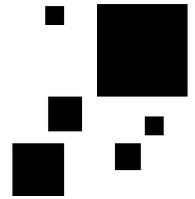
THE MOMENT

BY MICHAEL L. HOWARD

Photographs taken during LTC Scott Chappell's retirement ceremony in Colorado Springs in September. Chappell was a member of the U.S. Army Reserves serving with U.S. Northern Command. He is also a longtime DA Civilian employee working in the U.S. Army space community in USASMDC/ARSTRAT.



It rarely comes during a military retirement ceremony. The moment. It usually comes in the quiet afterwards when realization sets in with the retiree and family on what had just occurred. It's a moment on top of a series of moments – marking presentations of the final award, flag, Presidential citation, kind words from friends and mementos of many years of serving – when it all comes together. Reality sets in that the book has closed on the way it had been. That moment came in the middle of U.S. Army Reserves LTC Scott Chappell's ceremony as he spoke. His wife U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Carrie Chappell and daughter Jessie Chappell react as he explains the dangerous details of a helicopter incident during a field training exercise in South Korea when he was a young lieutenant. The explanation seems to make the flowers mean a little more.



Photos by Michael L. Howard