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Chief Of U.S. Southern Command Retired & Replaced

by Deborah Tyroler
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On July 20, Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney announced that Gen. Frederick Woerner, chief of the US Southern Command in Panama, would be retired and replaced by by Gen. Maxwell R. Thurman, who heads the Army's training command and is a former Vice Chief of Staff of the Army. Unidentified Pentagon officials cited by the New York Times said Woerner had displeased Cheney and the National Security Council by criticizing the administration's Panama policy in public. In a speech in February, Woerner charged that the Bush administration is not prepared to deal with Panama's political crisis because of a "policy vacuum" caused by the transition between the Reagan and Bush administrations. Thurman is considered adept in political-military affairs. He had been scheduled to retire on Aug. 31 but was asked to remain on duty to take the position in Panama. (Basic data from New York Times, 07/21/89)

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