



® U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

**Colonel Robert J. Ruch
Commander, U.S. Army Engineering
and Support Center, Huntsville**



Col. Robert J. Ruch assumed command of the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center July 26, 2012. The Huntsville Center executes more than 6,000 contracts valued at \$1.6 billion annually in engineering, construction and technical services in support of strategic national programs such as the design and construction of worldwide chemical weapons demilitarization facilities, Army and Air Force installation facility repair and renewal construction, national energy savings programs, nationwide environmental and ordnance remediation programs, Army medical facilities design oversight, and overseas contingency operations.

Col. Ruch previously served as the commander and district engineer of the Omaha District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, headquartered in Omaha, Neb. At the Omaha District, he oversaw an annual workload exceeding \$1 billion spread over 1,200 military construction projects in eight states, civil works projects in nine states, and environmental restoration projects in 41 states. Nearly 1,300 civilian men and women operate six major dams on the Missouri River as well as 21 tributary dams for congressionally-authorized purposes as well as regulatory and real estate programs that benefit the nation. He also oversaw the design and construction of facilities for the Army and Air Force in his 700,000- square-mile area of operations, and the cleanup of hazardous, toxic and radioactive waste sites for the Department of Defense and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Col. Ruch went to Omaha from the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, Pa. Prior to that, he served as the division engineer for the 1st Cavalry Division, at Fort Hood, Texas. As the division engineer, he deployed to Iraq and served as the deputy of the Baghdad Provincial Reconstruction Team under the State Department.

Commissioned from the Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania ROTC program as a distinguished military graduate in 1986, Ruch began his military career with the 7th Engineer Battalion, 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized), at Fort Polk, La., as a platoon leader and company executive officer. Follow-on assignments included liaison officer and company commander with the 2nd Engineer Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division at Camp Castle, Republic of Korea, and the live fire engineer trainer for the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif. He then served as an operations officer in the Pittsburgh District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, before moving to Fort Riley, Kan., as the S3 of the 1st Engineer Battalion, and then of the 937th Engineer Group (Combat).

Following that he served at the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, Belgium, where he was the senior staff officer for NATO Infrastructure in Crisis Response Operations dealing with construction in Afghanistan and in the Balkans. He then served as the 53rd commander of the Philadelphia District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Col. Ruch holds a bachelor's degree in geo-environmental science from Shippensburg University, a master's degree in engineering management from St. Martin's College and a master's degree in strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College. He is a graduate of the Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and the Sapper Leader Course.

His military decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Meritorious Service Medal (five oak leaf clusters), Army Commendation Medal (two oak leaf clusters), Coast Guard Commendation Medal, Department of State Meritorious Honor Award, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal (two awards), Iraqi Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon (three tours), the Army Superior Unit Award, and the Combat Action Badge.

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