



**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville  
P.O. 1600  
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# News Release



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## **Macon Native Receives Army's Highest Peacetime Award**

HUNTSVILLE, Ala.— A Macon, Ga., native has received the Distinguished Service Medal, the Army's highest peacetime medal.

Col. Harry L. Spear received the medal from Lt. Gen. Robert B. Flowers, the Corps of Engineers chief of engineers after a change of command ceremony.

Spear, who will retire from the U.S. Army on Sept. 1 after a 30-year career, relinquished command of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Engineering and Support Center in Huntsville to Col. John D. Rivenburgh in a ceremony Aug. 1.

Spear was commissioned in 1973 and has commanded the center for the last four years. Prior to serving at Huntsville Center, Spear commanded the Corps' Louisville District where he oversaw both civil and military construction covering a five-state area. He previously has been assigned to the Mobile District at Fort Rucker (Ala.) Area Office as a Project Engineer.

Spear, a graduate of Lanier High School, holds a bachelor of science degree in building construction from Auburn University and a master of science in engineering from the University of Washington. He is also a graduate of the Command and General Staff College and the U.S. Army War College. Spear's parents live in Macon.

The Huntsville Center, a major subordinate command of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, operates under a charter that is based on programs rather than geography. The Center's mission involves programs and projects that require functions not normally accomplished by a Corps of Engineers division or district; are national or broad in scope; require a centralized management structure for the effective control of program development, coordination, and execution; require the integration of facilities that cross geographical boundaries; or require commonality, standardization, multiple-site adaptation, or technology transfer.

The U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville was established in 1967 as the Huntsville Division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. At that time, it had one mission – the ballistic missile defense program called SENTINEL. Since then, the scope of the Center's mission has evolved and diversified significantly to include a wide range of programs found nowhere else in the Corps.

For more information call the Huntsville Center Public Affairs Office at (256) 895-1692.

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