



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
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News Release



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Rivenburgh retires from 30-year military career

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. -- Col. John D. Rivenburgh retired from the U.S. Army and the Corps of Engineers July 21, following a 30-year career of distinguished military service. At the same ceremony, Rivenburgh passed the reigns of leadership to Col. Larry D. McCallister assumed command of the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, during a traditional military change of command ceremony.

Huntsville Center is a major subordinate command of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. As the Huntsville Center commander, Rivenburgh oversaw programs located worldwide that include installation support, medical, ordnance and explosives, chemical demilitarization and ballistic missile defense.

Maj. Gen. Ronald L. Johnson, deputy chief of engineers and deputy commanding general of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, passed the organizational colors to McCallister – symbolizing the transfer of leadership from Col. John D. Rivenburgh, who commanded Huntsville Center for the previous three years. Rivenburgh was also recognized at the ceremony for his 30 years of service to and retirement from the Army.

Johnson presented Rivenburgh with the Army's Legion of Merit medal and the Army Engineer Association's Silver deFleury medal and thanked Rivenburgh for his service. "Thank you for your outstanding leadership and contributions – not just in the past three years, but for the past 30 years," Johnson said.

During his career, Rivenburgh distinguished himself not only as a Soldier in the service of the U.S. Army, but specifically as the commander of the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center in Huntsville, Ala. During the period of August 2003 through June 2006, Rivenburgh's leadership was instrumental in the successful accomplishment of such missions as destroying nearly 500,000 tons of stockpiled ammunition in support of the Global War on Terror and deploying 100 employees to support hurricane recovery efforts following back-to-back natural disasters; and completion of seven chemical demilitarization facilities valued at \$2,220 million in the United States and one in the Russian Federation. During this same time frame, Huntsville Center also has been heavily engaged in supporting Army initiatives such as Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC), Integrated Global Presence and Basing Strategy (IGPBS), and Army



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Transformation by executing more than 90 Brigade-level requirement analyses and planning charrettes in support of military construction; 200 range modernization projects; and installation of more than \$160 million in security equipment at installations worldwide.

Rivenburgh's leadership and numerous significant accomplishments have brought great credit to himself, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Army, Johnson said.

Rivenburgh is a graduate of Clarkson College of Technology and has a master's degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Connecticut. He was commissioned through Clarkson College of Technology's Reserve Officers Training Corps in 1976. He is a graduate of the Army Command and General Staff College and the Naval War College. He is a Registered Professional Engineer in the State of Virginia.

Rivenburgh came to the Huntsville Center after commanding the Huntington District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in Huntington, West Virginia, for three years. Prior to commanding in Huntington he attended the Naval War College. Col. Rivenburgh served as chief, Engineer Infrastructure Branch, Logistics and Security Assistance Directorate (J4), U.S. European Command, Stuttgart, Germany. In June 1995, he assumed command of the 249th Engineer Battalion (Prime Power), Fort Belvoir, V. During his tenure as commander, the battalion deployed to Bosnia as part of Operation Joint Endeavor and participated in relief operations in the wake of hurricanes Marilyn, Fran and Hortense in the U.S. Virgin Islands, North Carolina and Puerto Rico.

Past troop assignments include service as platoon leader, 2nd Engineer Battalion, Republic of Korea; platoon leader and assistant operations officer, 39th Engineer Battalion, Fort Devens, Massachusetts; assistant division engineer and company commander, 2nd Engineer Battalion, Republic of Korea; and operations officer and executive officer, 536th Engineer Battalion (Combat)(Heavy), Fort Kobbe, Panama.

Other assignments include project engineer, Waste Isolation Project Plant, Carlsbad Area Office, Albuquerque District, Carlsbad, N.M.; senior team leader and chief, Roads and Airfield Branch, U.S. Army Engineer School; deputy engineer, U.S. Army South; and chief, Engineer Plans and Operations, Third U.S. Army, Fort McPherson, Ga.

His awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (two awards), Meritorious Service Medal (sixth award), Army Commendation Medal (second award), Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal with bronze star device, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal with bronze star device, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Korean Defense Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal (3 awards), Overseas Service Medal (4 awards) and the NATO Medal. He is a recipient of the Army Superior Unit Award (3 awards) and the Joint Meritorious Unit Award (2 awards). He is also a recipient of the Army Engineer Association's Silver deFleury Medal and the Bronze deFleury Medal.