



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

COL John S. Kem **District Commander**

John S. Kem was born in Chicago, Illinois and commissioned in the Corps of Engineers after graduating as a distinguished cadet from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point with a bachelor of science in civil engineering in 1985.

As a Lieutenant, he served in the 16th Engineer Battalion, 1st Armored Division and also served in the 1st Squadron, 1st United States Cavalry as the Patrol Leader for the VII Corps team that won the 1988 Boeselager NATO Cavalry Cup. From 1989 to 1993 he served in the 307th Engineer Battalion, 82nd Airborne Division including service during Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, command of Alpha Company, 307th Engineer Battalion (ABN) from 1991-1993 and later service in the G3-Training, 82nd Airborne Division.

From 1993 to 1995 COL Kem attended the Kellogg Business School, Northwestern University with a follow-on assignment as an assistant professor of economics and Executive Officer in the Department of Social Sciences at the United States Military Academy, West Point. After graduating from Command and General Staff College in 1998 he served as the S3, 10th Engineer Battalion and later as the Engineer Brigade S3, 3rd Infantry Division (Mech).

In 2001, COL Kem was selected for a Congressional Fellowship and served for one year as a staff fellow on the United States Senate Appropriations Committee, Subcommittees on Defense and Military Construction. He later served as a Congressional Budget Liaison in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Financial Management and Comptroller.

COL Kem commanded the 16th Armored Engineer Battalion, 1st Armored Division from June 2003 to June 2005. He led the battalion for 13 months during combat operations in Baghdad and Karbala. After Battalion Command, COL Kem served as a military assistant for the Secretary of the Army. Just prior to assuming command of the Europe District of the Army Corps of Engineers, he served as the Executive Officer to the Director of the Joint IED Defeat Organization.

COL Kem holds a Master's degree in Business Administration and a Master's degree in Environmental Engineering from Northwestern University and is a graduate of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal (1 oak leaf cluster), Meritorious Service Medal (6 oak leaf clusters), Senior Parachutist Wings, Pathfinder Badge, Air Assault Badge and Ranger Tab. COL Kem is a registered Professional Engineer (VA) and a Chartered Financial Analyst.

