



US Army Corps  
of Engineers

Transatlantic Programs Center

# News Release

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## **Colonel Albert Bleakley named as the Corps' 2005 Military Engineer of the Year**

Col. Albert M. Bleakley has the honor of being the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' 2005 Military Engineer of the Year. He was recognized at the Federal Engineer of the Year awards ceremony sponsored by the National Society of Professional Engineers in February.

Bleakley received this award for his work as Gulf Regional Engineer for the Corps' Transatlantic Programs Center, a position he has held since August 2002. Based in Kuwait, he is responsible for management of U.S. military construction and coordination of host nation construction in five countries in the Arabian Gulf.

In addition to overseeing Corps projects in Kuwait, Bleakley also manages the work of Corps organizations in Qatar, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, and Oman.

Bleakley was one of 25 engineers recognized for engineering excellence in government. NSPE is the national society of engineering professionals from all disciplines that promotes the ethical and competent practice of engineering and advocates licensure.

During his tour as the Gulf Regional Engineer, Bleakley has been responsible for approximately \$500 million of construction, most of which supported U.S. forces operating in the region.

"As the United States began to prepare for Operation Iraqi Freedom, the Corps was asked to construct fast-paced projects to support the military build up," Bleakley said. "These projects included billeting, warehouses, distribution centers, airfields, parking aprons, headquarters and office space, and utilities.

"For a two-year period, the Corps accomplished nearly \$100 million per year in rapid contingency construction," he continued. "The projects generally had to be complete in three to six months.

"We met the mission requirements because of the dedicated Corps members who deployed to Kuwait and Qatar from all over the world, along with host nation and U.S. contractors who worked on the projects. In addition, I had the privilege of working with officials from Kuwait, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates, who are among the most professional engineers I've ever worked with. It has been rewarding to work with this caliber of people, and I'm honored to receive this award."

In addition to the fast-paced construction requirements, Bleakley was responsible for long-term military construction in these countries, including housing,

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headquarters, and living facilities for U.S. Navy operations in Bahrain, and base facilities at installations being used by the Army and Air Force in the other countries.

Bleakley will leave Kuwait this summer to become the deputy commander of the Corps' Mississippi Valley Division, headquartered in Vicksburg, Miss.

Bleakley is a native of Cocoa Beach, Florida. He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, in 1979 with a bachelor's degree with dual concentrations in engineering mechanics and literature. He has a master's degree in civil engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is a graduate of the Army Command and General Staff College, and is a registered professional engineer in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Bleakley has held responsible command and staff assignments throughout his career, both in the United States and overseas, including Germany, Bosnia, Saudi Arabia, and Somalia. He has numerous awards and decorations including the Legion of Merit, the Purple Heart, and eight awards of the Meritorious Service Medal.

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