



Colonel Ronald N. Light Assumes Command

WINCHESTER, Va. – During a traditional military ceremony July 31, Colonel Ronald N. Light assumed command of the Transatlantic Programs Center from Colonel Lawrence Sansone, Acting Commander since May 18.

Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Commanding General and Chief of Engineers, presided over the ceremony.

During his remarks, Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp highlighted the accomplishments of both Col. Sansone and Col. Light throughout their careers, and thanked their families for their support of these leaders in uniform. In addition, he talked about the talent of people within the Transatlantic Programs Center, who are willing to support the nation's missions overseas by carrying out engineering missions, deploying overseas, and supporting personnel deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Before coming to the Transatlantic Programs Center, Col. Light was Commander of the Corps of Engineers' Sacramento District, in Sacramento, Calif., from July 2004 to July 2007. He was responsible for the District's average annual budget of \$400 million and 800 employees who perform civil, military, and hazardous, toxic and radioactive waste work throughout eight western states.

He graduated from the Pennsylvania State University in May 1981 as a Distinguished Military Graduate with a degree in environmental sciences and technical writing. He received a master's degree in environmental engineering in 1992 from the University of Virginia and a master's degree in National Security and Strategic Studies at the U.S. Naval War College, in Newport, R. I.

His previous assignments included command and staff positions in the Concepts, Analysis, and Initiatives Group for the Commander of the U.S. Army, Pacific; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Honolulu District; the Base Realignment and Closure Division, U.S. Army Environmental Center, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.; the Army's Battle Command Training Program at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.; the 168th Engineer Battalion (Divisional) (Mechanized) at Fort Lewis, Wash.; the 43rd Engineer Battalion (Combat) (Heavy) and 72nd Engineer Company (Mechanized) (Separate) at Fort Benning, Ga.; and the 82nd Engineer Battalion (Corps) (Wheeled), in Bamberg, Germany.

Among his military awards and decorations are the Legion of Merit, five awards of the Meritorious Service Medal, two awards of the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, two awards of the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the Parachutist Badge.

During remarks after officially assuming command, Col. Light shared his thoughts about how the next chapter of the Transatlantic Programs Center's story will unfold.

"The reason that our nation maintains the Corps of Engineers and the Transatlantic Programs Center is to serve," he said. "Let me pledge to you right now that every day hence, when I walk into this building, or when I am visiting a construction site, meeting with a customer, contractor, or employee, my focus will be on serving.

"I plan to invest in those people who call (the Transatlantic Programs Center) home," Col. Light said. Quoting author and management specialist Dale Dauten, "Managers and leaders should be about making their workplace 'the best place for the best people to work.' This is a powerful notion and one that I will work to realize here.

"It is a tremendous honor and privilege to stand before you today," he said. "I am anxious to begin serving my country here, in Winchester, Virginia, at the great Transatlantic Programs Center."

The Transatlantic Programs Center is responsible for providing engineering, construction, and related services in the Middle East, Africa, and other areas as required. Its work includes designing and constructing facilities for use by



Col. Ronald N. Light accepts command of the Transatlantic Programs Center during a flag passing ceremony 31 July at Transatlantic Programs Center headquarters. The Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers presided over the ceremony. (Photo by Andrew Stamer)

U.S. forces, performing engineering activities for other U.S. government and foreign agencies, and providing operations and maintenance services for various customers. In addition, the Center provides stateside engineering and support services to Corps of Engineers organizations in Iraq and Afghanistan.