



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Transatlantic Programs Center

## News Release

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**CONTACT:** **Joan Kibler** 540-665-4085, [Joan.F.Kibler@tac01.usace.army.mil](mailto:Joan.F.Kibler@tac01.usace.army.mil)  
**Julie Shoemaker**, 540-665-4092, [Julie.K.Shoemaker@tac01.usace.army.mil](mailto:Julie.K.Shoemaker@tac01.usace.army.mil)  
**Andrew Stamer**, 540-665-3763, [Andrew.R.Stamer@tac01.usace.army.mil](mailto:Andrew.R.Stamer@tac01.usace.army.mil)

### Colonel Suthard retires, relinquishes command

WINCHESTER, Va. -- In a traditional military ceremony held May 18, Colonel Robert L. Suthard, Jr., Transatlantic Programs Center Commander since June 2006, relinquished command to Colonel Lawrence Sansone, Acting Commander.

Brig. Gen. Merdith W.B. Temple, Director of Military Programs for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, presided over the ceremony. Temple had previously served in Winchester as the Center's Commander.

The ceremony also commemorated Suthard's 28 years of military service following graduation from the Virginia Military Institute and being commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1979. The Nassawadox, Virginia, native also earned a master's degree in engineering administration from George Washington University and a second master's in national resource strategy from the National Defense University.

"Col. Bob Suthard has commanded the Transatlantic Programs Center for just under a year, but his contributions will be long lasting and positively impact Corps of Engineers operations for many years to come," Temple said. "His first concern has always been delivering quality facilities for our deployed forces while taking care of people."

Temple said that Suthard has commanded units at all levels for more than a third of his military career. "His record of service is matched by few and exceeded by none," Temple said.

Before coming to the Transatlantic Programs Center, Suthard served as Professor of Military Science at the Virginia Military Institute, in Lexington, Virginia, from June 2004 to June 2006, where he was responsible for developing, managing, and administering cadet programs and supervising officers, noncommissioned officers, civilian employees, and more than 800 cadets.

Suthard has held responsible command and staff assignments in the United States and overseas throughout his career, including Commander, Corps of Engineers' Tulsa District; Deputy Commander and Chief of Staff, Corps of Engineers' Omaha District; and Chief of Inaugural Support at the Pentagon.

Among his military awards and decorations are two awards of the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, six awards of the Army Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Commendation Medal, two awards of the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, and Air Assault Badge.

Sansone becomes the Acting Commander after having served with the Transatlantic Programs Center for the last two years as the Gulf Regional Engineer in Kuwait. In that position, he was the senior Corps of Engineers representative deployed in the Arabian Gulf region for the Transatlantic Programs Center, and he was responsible for management of U.S. military construction and coordination of host nation construction.

Temple complimented Sansone for his record of service in the Arabian Gulf region. "Everyone knows how critical this position is, not only in getting the daily missions done, but in maintaining the

relationships with national and international customers, partners, and stakeholders so critical to the success of the Transatlantic Programs Center,” Temple said. He then charged Sansone with command of the Center until the designated Commander reports later this summer.

The Elmwood Park, New Jersey, native entered the Army in 1981 as a second lieutenant through the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps. Sansone holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the State University of New York at Albany, and a master’s degree in business administration from the University of Phoenix, Arizona.

Before his assignment with the Transatlantic Programs Center, he was Director of Public Works and Logistics at the U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss, in Texas, where he managed an extensive construction program supporting power projection and Army transformation to modular forces. He has held a wide variety of responsible command and staff positions throughout his career with positions in the United States and overseas.

His military decorations include the Legion of Merit, two awards of the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, three awards of the Army Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, two awards of the Army Commendation Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal, three awards of Army Achievement Medal, the Air Force Achievement Medal, and the Parachutist Badge.

Sansone will serve as Acting Commander until later this summer when he will become the Deputy Commander of the Corps of Engineers Pacific Ocean Division, Fort Shafter, Hawaii.

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 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.

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**(Note: Photo Available Upon Request).**

For additional information about the Transatlantic Programs Center, please visit our web site, [www.tac.usace.army.mil](http://www.tac.usace.army.mil).