

COLONEL GARY R. RUSS
UNITED STATES ARMY

Col. Gary R. Russ is a native of Arizona. He enlisted in the Army as a combat engineer March 5, 1980. He was commissioned a second lieutenant through the Officer Candidate School on July 30, 1982. He holds a B.S. in mechanical engineering technology from Kansas State University and a M.S. in environmental engineering from University of Kansas. His military education includes: Engineer Basic and Advanced Individual Training; Officer Candidate School; Engineer Basic Officer Course; Atomic Demolition Munitions Course; Combined Arms and Services Staff Course; Nuclear Biological Chemical Course; Infantry Advance Course; Command and General Staff College and Air War College.

Col. Russ has served over 29 years of active and reserve duty to include service in the Arizona National Guard, the U.S. Army Reserve (USAR), and the active component. His active duty positions have included platoon leader, company executive officer, battalion maintenance officer, battalion intelligence officer, headquarters company commander and as an engineer analyst.

After transitioning to the USAR in 1992, Col. Russ has been employed as an engineering consultant and planner for various private firms, as a master planner for Homeland Security projects in Iraq, and as a U.S. Government employee. He was a project engineer for the Army Corps of Engineers in Kansas City, followed by his current assignment to Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Engineer (ODCSENG), U.S. Army Europe (USAREUR) in Heidelberg, Germany.

While in the USAR, Col Russ has served on six short active duty tours in various locations and two long deployments including Iraq and Afghanistan. His duty positions included: chief of the construction management section for Army Forces Turkey, as a civil-military operations officer in Afghanistan, a chief of construction for an Engineer Brigade in Iraq and, finally, as the Deputy Chief of Operations – Current Operations for USAREUR/7th Army. Col. Russ is currently the commander of Task Force-East with split locations in Bulgaria and Romania.

Colonel Russ's military awards include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with two oak-leaf clusters, Army Commendation Medal with two oak-leaf clusters, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, and Combat Action Badge among others.

Col. Russ is married and has three children.

