



Biography

April, 1997

Colonel Peter A. Topp
Commander and District Engineer
U.S. Army Engineer District Alaska

Colonel Peter A. Topp took command of the U.S. Army Engineer District Alaska on July 12, 1994.

The Alaska District is part of the Pacific Ocean Division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The District is responsible for military construction for both the Army and Air Force in Alaska, environmental restoration for active and formerly used Department of Defense sites in Alaska, and has responsibility for development and management of Alaska's water resources programs which include navigation, flood control, and regulatory permitting. The District headquarters are in Anchorage. In 1997 the District design and construction program is worth over \$250 million.

Col. Topp was commissioned an officer in the Corps of Engineers in 1972 following his graduation from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. He earned a Master of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1982. He is also a graduate of the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas and the Army War College at Carlisle, Pennsylvania. He is a registered professional Engineer in the State of New Mexico.

Prior to his assignment to Alaska he served as the U.S. Central Command Engineer stationed at McDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida. Col. Topp's military assignments have included command of the 536th Engineer Battalion (Combat Heavy) during Operation Just Cause in Panama, executive officer of the 237th Engineer Battalion (Corps, Combat) in Heilbronn, Germany, Field Station Staff Engineer at Augsburg, Germany, Project Engineer in Saudi Arabia, commander of the 586th Engineer Company (Float Bridge) at Fort Benning, Georgia, and executive officer and platoon leader, 518th Engineer Company (Combat) at Fort Kobbe, Panama.

Colonel Peter A. Topp (continued)

While in Saudi Arabia, Col. Topp served as project engineer, King Khalid Military City, for a \$225 million construction contract which included apartments, schools, industrial facilities, neighborhood centers and deep water wells.

His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service medal (three awards), Army Commendation Medal (two awards), and the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal. He is Airborne qualified, with Ranger tab.

In 1984 Col. Topp was selected by the Society of American Military Engineers as winner of the prestigious Sverdrup Award as their outstanding young engineer. He was named the Alaska Military Engineer of the Year in 1996. He and his wife, Gina, have two children - Erik and Kristina.

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