



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Savannah District

Biography

COLONEL EDWARD J. KERTIS, JR. District Commander

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District

Colonel Edward J. Kertis, Jr., assumed command of the Savannah District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, on June 29, 2007. As the Commander, Colonel Kertis is responsible for a \$4 billion military design and construction program; water resources planning, design and construction; hazardous, toxic and radiological waste cleanup; and real estate activities. The district supports 15 Army and Air Force installations in Georgia and North and South Carolina, and water resources activities in Georgia and portions of South Carolina. The Savannah District supports worldwide missions in support of real estate, master planning, family housing, barracks and other facilities in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

Colonel Kertis came to the Savannah District following completion of the one-year United States Air Force Air War College at Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, Alabama. Before entering the Air War College, he commanded the Walla Walla District, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, in Washington State from 2002-2004.

His troop assignments include service as a platoon leader, staff officer, and later as battalion executive officer in the 27th Engineer Battalion (Combat) (Airborne), Ft. Bragg, North Carolina; company commander in the 41st Engineer Battalion (Light), Ft. Drum, New York; and engineer company commander in the 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment - Delta.

Colonel Kertis' Corps of Engineers' assignments include service as an environmental staff officer in the Corps' Portland District, and area commander of the Honduras/El Salvador Project Offices in the Mobile District. Colonel Kertis was the inaugural commander of the Northern District, Gulf Region Division, Iraq, during Operation Iraqi Freedom, where he managed construction projects in support of Coalition forces and the Iraqi government.

His joint assignments include serving as the branch chief of the Special Operations Forces Program Branch at the Defense Threat Reduction Agency in Alexandria, Virginia; serving as Combat Engineer Section Chief at the Supreme



Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) in Belgium; and serving as the military advisor and chief of staff to the NATO Senior Civilian Representative for Afghanistan in Kabul, the former foreign minister of Turkey, Minister Hikmet Çetin.

Colonel Kertis was born and raised in Daytona Beach, Florida. He graduated from Stetson University in DeLand, Florida, in 1984 with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology, and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. He also earned a Master's degree in environmental engineering sciences from the University of Florida in 1993, majoring in wetlands ecology.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal (one oak leaf cluster), Meritorious Service Medal (four oak leaf clusters), Master Parachutist Badge, Pathfinder Badge, and Ranger Tab.

Colonel Kertis is an avid snowboarder and sailor.