



PACIFIC OCEAN DIVISION

# CHANGE OF *Command*

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS



1000 Hours, Thursday June 13, 2024  
Palm Circle Fort Shafter, Hawaii



U.S. ARMY



US Army Corps  
of Engineers



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## Sequence of Events

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<b>Welcome</b>	<b>Ms. Regina Jugueta-Vetter</b> Chief of Staff
<b>Arrival of the Official Party</b>	
<b>National Anthem</b>	<b>25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Band</b>
<b>Invocation</b>	<b>Mr. Joshua Biggers</b> Senior Program Manager
<b>Passing of the Colors</b>	<b>LTG Scott A. Spellmon</b> 55 <sup>th</sup> Chief of Engineers and Commanding General U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  <b>BG Kirk E. Gibbs</b> Outgoing Commanding General  <b>BG Joseph C. “Clete” Goetz II</b> Incoming Commanding General  <b>CSM Jaime Lopez</b> Command Sergeant Major
<b>Remarks</b>	<b>LTG Scott A. Spellmon</b>
<b>Remarks</b>	<b>BG Kirk E. Gibbs</b>
<b>Remarks</b>	<b>BG Joseph C. “Clete” Goetz II</b>
<b>Closing Songs</b>	<b>Engineer Song</b> <b>Army Song</b>



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## Lieutenant General Scott A. Spellmon

55<sup>th</sup> Chief of Engineers & Commanding General

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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Lieutenant General Scott A. Spellmon assumed duties as the 55<sup>th</sup> Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on September 10, 2020 after most recently serving as the USACE Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations.

LTG Spellmon, a native of Bloomingdale, New Jersey, is a 1986 graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. He holds a Master of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Illinois at Champaign/Urbana and a Master of Science Degree in National Security Strategy from the U.S. Army War College.

LTG Spellmon's command assignments include Commanding General of the Northwestern Division, USACE, where he oversaw an annual program of more than \$3 billion in civil works, environmental restoration and military construction in 14 states, primarily within the Columbia and Missouri River basins; Commanding General of the U.S. Army Operational Test Command, Fort Hood, Texas; Commander, 1st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, Fort Polk, Louisiana; Commander, 317th Engineer Battalion and 3-3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, both as part of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Benning, Georgia.

LTG Spellmon's key staff assignments include Executive Director, Office of the Chief of Engineers, Headquarters, Department of the Army; Chief of Staff, U.S. Army Maneuver Support Center of Excellence, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri; Engineer Intelligence Officer, Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps, Rheindahlen, Germany; and Observer-Controller, Combat Maneuver Training Center, Hohenfels, Germany.

LTG Spellmon's operational deployments include Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm; Operation Iraqi Freedom; and Operation Enduring Freedom, Afghanistan. His military awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, two Bronze Stars, the Purple Heart, and the Combat Action Badge.



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## Brigadier General Kirk E. Gibbs

Outgoing Commanding General and Division Engineer



On July 8, 2020, Brigadier General Kirk E. Gibbs became the 34th Commander and Division Engineer of the Pacific Ocean Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. His previous assignment was as the Chief of Staff, Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. BG Gibbs is a native of Davisville, Missouri, graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, and was commissioned as an Engineer officer.

As the Division Engineer, he is responsible for a mission that includes engineering design, construction and real estate management for the Army in Hawaii, Army and Air Force in Alaska, and for all Department of Defense Services and Agencies in Japan, the Republic of Korea, and Kwajalein Atoll, Marshall Islands. Pacific Ocean Division administers the Corps' federal water resource development program and waters and wetlands regulatory programs in Alaska, Hawaii,

American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Division program includes the multi-year \$10.7 billion Korea Transformation Program and the \$15.8 billion U.S.-Japan Defense Policy Review Initiative. Pacific Ocean Division also supports U.S. Pacific Command's and U.S. Army Pacific's Theater Security Cooperation strategies, Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Response Program, and Civil-Military Emergency Preparedness with projects throughout the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.

His previous assignments include: platoon leader and executive officer in the 91st Engineer Battalion, Fort Hood, Texas; assistant operations officer, adjutant, and company commander in the 1st Engineer Battalion, Fort Riley, Kansas (including deployments to Bosnia-Herzegovina for SFOR-6 and to Kuwait for Intrinsic Action 01-03); staff and company trainer for the Sidewinder Team at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, California; C7 senior engineer operations officer as part of the 3rd Army CFLCC Staff, Camp Arifjan, Kuwait; operations officer and executive officer in the 70th Engineer Battalion, Fort Riley, Kansas (including a deployment to Operation Enduring Freedom 06-08 in Afghanistan); the secretary of the general staff, Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Washington, D.C.; Commander of the 1st Engineer Battalion, Fort Riley, Kansas; C7 engineer for CJTF-1, 1st Infantry Division, Regional Command-East, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom; assistant deputy director for operations on Operations Team 2, National Military Command Center in the Pentagon, and, the 61st Commander of the Los Angeles District of the South Pacific Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

BG Gibbs earned a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering from the U.S. Military Academy in 1994, a Master of Science in Engineering Management in 1998 from the Missouri Institute of Science and Technology in Rolla, Missouri, and a master's in National Security Strategy from the National War College in 2013. He is also a graduate of Air Assault School in 1992, Airborne School in 1994, the Engineer Officer Basic Course in 1995, the Engineer Officer Advanced Course in 1998, and the Command and General Staff College in 2005.

BG Gibbs' military awards include the Legion of Merit; the Bronze Star Medal; the Defense Meritorious Service Medal; the Army Meritorious Service Medal; the Army Commendation Medal; the Army Achievement Medal; the National Defense Service Medal; the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; the Global War on Terror Expeditionary Medal; and the NATO Medal.



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## Brigadier General Joseph C. “Clete” Goetz II

Incoming Commanding General and Division Engineer



Brigadier General Joseph C. “Clete” Goetz II becomes the 35th Commander and Division Engineer for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Pacific Ocean Division on June 13, 2024, where he will be responsible for a mission operating in a complex and diverse region spanning 16 time zones and covering 52% of the Earth’s surface for four engineer districts – Alaska, Far East, Honolulu, and Japan.

BG Goetz previously served as the 100th Commandant of the U.S. Army Engineer School at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, where he oversaw the professional military education and functional training courses for U.S. Army combat engineers and oversaw the development of doctrine for combat engineer operations.

As a company grade officer, he served with the 27th Engineer Battalion (Combat) (Airborne) at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and the 41st Engineer Battalion, 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, New York. He deployed to Afghanistan in 2002 and Iraq in 2003-2004.

After serving at the company command level, BG Goetz attended the University of Texas at Austin and subsequently served as a Project Manager and Deputy District Commander at the USACE Buffalo District. While assigned to the Buffalo District he served with Task Force Hope in New Orleans, Louisiana, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Upon completion of Command and General Staff College, BG Goetz served as the Brigade Operations Officer for the 20th Engineer Brigade, Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

He commanded the 15th Engineer Battalion at Grafenwoehr, Germany, from 2014 to 2016. While there, he deployed to multiple Allied and partner nations, including Norway, Serbia, and Ukraine in support of U.S. and NATO security cooperation activities.

Following graduation from the U.S. Army War College in 2017, BG Goetz served as the military assistant to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works. Prior to brigade command, he deployed to Camp Taji, Iraq, to command the USACE Contingency Engineer Task Force in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. He then commanded the 36th Engineer Brigade at Fort Hood, Texas, from 2019-2021. Following brigade command, he served as the Director of the Office of the Chief of Engineers in the Pentagon from 2021 to 2022.

BG Goetz is a graduate of the Army War College and has earned degrees in Civil Engineering from the United States Military Academy, University of Missouri at Rolla, and the University of Texas at Austin. He is a registered Professional Engineer.

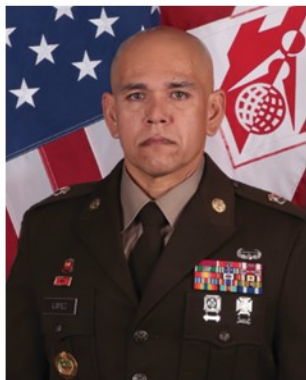
His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, and Meritorious Service Medal. He has earned the Ranger tab, Sapper tab, and Senior Parachutist wings.



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# Command Sergeant Major Jamie Lopez

## Command Sergeant Major



Command Sergeant Major Jaime Lopez is a native of Las Vegas, Nevada joined by his wife, Korin, and his children, Lilianna, Donte, Rose, Sakoya, and Lorenzo.

CSM Lopez assumed duties as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Pacific Ocean Division Command Senior Enlisted Leader in February 2023. In his appointed role, he supports four districts across the Pacific, in Honolulu, Japan, Korea, and Alaska. He provides advice and counsel to the Commanding General and senior staff on all matters affecting the operation of the organization. He represents the command to customers and stakeholders supported by the Division. Additionally, CSM Lopez is responsible for the professional development, discipline, morale, and quality of life of all Soldiers and Civilians assigned to the Division.

CSM Lopez entered the military in February 1999. He completed Basic and Advance Individual Training at Fort Leonard Wood, MO as an Engineer Soldier.

Upon completion, CSM Lopez was assigned to the 84th Engineer Battalion, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, where he served as a Team and Squad Leader. While assigned, he participated in multiple Pacific Pathway exercises. After his tour in Hawaii, CSM Lopez was assigned to Ops Group National Training Center (NTC), Fort Irwin, California. At NTC, he supported multiple unit rotations serving with Lima, Phoenix, and Sidewinder teams. Following his time at the NTC, CSM Lopez served as a Drill Sergeant at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, where he trained more than 7,000 Soldiers in a span of 2 years. After completing his time as a Drill Sergeant, CSM Lopez was assigned to 610th Engineer Support Company, 14th Engineer Battalion, Fort Lewis, Washington. As a Platoon Sergeant, he deployed for 15 months in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom VII. In March 2010, CSM Lopez was reassigned back to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, as a First Sergeant with 232nd Engineer Company, 94th Engineer Battalion. In support of Operation Enduring Freedom 2013, he deployed to Northern Afghanistan. Upon his return, he was reassigned back to Hawaii, where he served as a First Sergeant for 31 months with 561st Engineer Company and HHC 130th Engineer Brigade.

In his most recent assignment, CSM Lopez served as the Brigade Command Sgt. Major for the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield, GA.

He graduated from all levels of the Noncommissioned Officer Education System. His military and civilian education include Master Resilience Trainer, Joint Engineer Operations, Drill Sergeant School, Battle Staff Course, Air Assault Course, Tactical Combat Casualty Care Course, and Security Force Assistance Advisor Course. CSM Lopez holds a Master of Science in Management with a concentration in Organizational Leadership through Excelsior College.

CSM Lopez's awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Meritorious Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Commendation Medal with the V device, Silver Oak Leaf Cluster, Driver's Badge, Air Assault, Drill Sergeant Identification Badge, and many other awards. He's also a recipient of the Silver Medallion of the Order of Saint George, Army Engineer Association's Bronze De Fleury Medal, and Honorable Order of Saint Barbara.



## Songs

### **The Engineer Song**

Pin the castle on my collar.  
I've done my training for the team.  
You can call me an engineer soldier.  
The warrior spirit has been my dream.

Essayons, whether in war or peace  
We will bear our red and our white.  
Essayons. We serve America  
And the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Essayons!  
Essayons!

### **The Army Song**

First to fight for the right,  
And to build the Nation's might,  
And the Army goes rolling along.  
Proud of all we have done,  
Fighting till the battle's won,  
And the Army goes rolling along.

Then it's Hi! Hi! Hey!  
The Army's on it's way.  
Count off the cadence loud and strong,  
For where e'er we go,  
You will always know,  
That the Army goes rolling along.



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## Command History

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The origins of the Pacific Ocean Division, established in 1957, go back to 1905 when Lieutenant John R. Slattery became the first Honolulu District Engineer. In the early years, the District constructed lighthouses and improved harbors in the Territory of Hawaii and erected seacoast fortifications for the defense of Honolulu and Pearl harbors on the island of Oahu. Following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the Army Engineers strengthened the defenses of Hawaii against an anticipated but unrealized enemy landing. Later, Engineer dredges followed American assault forces across the central Pacific carving out harbors at newly gained islands, and reaching Okinawa even before that island's surrender in 1945.

With the return of peace, the Okinawa Engineer District was established in 1946 and began the immense task of building the war-and-typhoon-devastated island into a modern bastion of defense. Following the Korean War and the United States' decision to maintain armed forces in the Republic of Korea, increasing demands for military construction there, as well as in Japan and Okinawa, led to the establishment of the Pacific Ocean Division in Hawaii on June 3, 1957, with three subordinate district engineer offices in Honolulu, Korea and Okinawa.

The Division Engineer became responsible for a military construction program that stretched across the Pacific to include Hawaii, Okinawa, Taiwan, Korea, Japan, and, eventually, Pakistan. In 1959, the Division undertook the construction of antiballistic missile defense test facilities at Kwajalein Missile Range in the Marshall Islands.

The Division's civil works program experienced similar growth and geographical expansion. By 1980, its boundaries included Hawaii, Territory of Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Territory of American Samoa. Projects included deep-draft and small boat harbors, flood control, and beach erosion control, along with regulatory functions concerning the waters of the United States. Also by 1980, the Division had started navigation studies of the South Han River in the Republic of Korea. It was also responsible for a capital improvement program, as well as regulatory functions, in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

In 1970, the Division became fully operational in nature, as well as administrative with its absorption of the personnel and programs of the Honolulu District. The Japan Engineer District replaced the Okinawa District in 1972, and the Alaska District joined the Division in 1997.

The Pacific Ocean Division transitioned from an operational division in 2000 to its present configuration, which includes four districts: Honolulu, Far East, Japan and Alaska districts. Today, this westernmost and southernmost of the Corps of Engineers' nine divisions has an area of responsibility that covers close to nine million square miles of the earth's surface. Its mission includes engineering design, construction and real estate management for the Army in Hawaii, Army and Air Force in Alaska, and for all Department of Defense agencies in Japan, the Republic of Korea, and Kwajalein Atoll, Marshall Islands.

The Division administers the Corps' federal water resource development program and waters and wetlands regulatory programs in Alaska, Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Pacific Ocean Division also supports U.S. Pacific Command and U.S. Army Pacific's Theater Security Cooperation strategies, Humanitarian Assistance Program, and Civil Military Emergency Preparedness with projects throughout the Asia Pacific region.