



## Northwestern Division Commanders and Senior Leaders



**Brigadier General John R. McMahon**  
**Commander and Division Engineer**  
**Northwestern Division**

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Brig. Gen. McMahon assumed command of the Northwestern Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, on November 20, 2009.

Brig. Gen. McMahon served as Director of Engineering, U.S. Forces-Afghanistan, from January to October, 2009. Earlier assignments include three years as Commander, South Pacific Division and two years as Chief of Staff, Corps Headquarters in Washington D.C. He earned a bachelor of science degree in Biomedical Engineering in 1977 from Syracuse University. He subsequently earned master's degrees in Applied Mathematics at the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, Calif., and in Natural Resource Strategy from the National Defense University.



**Colonel Robert A. Tipton**  
**Deputy Commander**  
**Northwestern Division**

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Col. Tipton assumed duties as the Deputy Commander of the Northwestern Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, on May 13, 2010.

Previously, Col. Tipton served as the Assistant Commandant of the Engineer School at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. His many assignments, stateside and abroad, include serving as Senior Engineer Trainer for Joint Forces Command, Norfolk, Va., where he deployed to Afghanistan to train the engineer staff at Combined Forces Command Afghanistan. Col. Tipton earned both his bachelor's and master's of science degrees in Civil Engineering from Montana State University, as well as a master's degree in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College.



**Witt Anderson**  
**SES, Director of Programs**  
**Northwestern Division**

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Mr. Witt Anderson entered the Senior Executive Service on January 20, 2008, as Director of Programs, Northwestern Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

A Corps veteran of more than 30 years, Mr. Anderson previously served as Chief of Planning, Environmental Resources and Fish Policy for Northwestern Division with a focus on regional salmon recovery programs. He also served on special assignment with the House Appropriations Energy and Water Development Subcommittee. He represents the Division in a number of regional forums on water resource planning and endangered species concerns.

Mr. Anderson earned a bachelor's degree in Biology from the University of Maine and a master's degree in Natural Resources Management from the University of Idaho.



**Dr. James Hearn**  
**SES, Director of Regional Business**  
**Northwestern Division**

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Dr. James J. Hearn entered the Senior Executive Service on July 19, 2009 as the Director of Regional Business, Northwestern Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Prior to his appointment, Dr. Hearn served as Director of Regional Programs for the Corps' South Pacific Division in San Francisco, Calif. Dr. Hearn holds masters' degrees in Strategic Studies from the Army War College, Education and Counseling from University of Southern California and Business Administration from Boston University. He earned his doctorate in Organizational Leadership from USC. Dr. Hearn deployed to Afghanistan as Director, Joint Programs Integration Office, U.S. Forces Afghanistan from July 2010 – Jan. 2011.



**Colonel John Eisenhauer**  
**Commander and District Engineer**  
**Portland District**

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Col. Eisenhauer assumed command of the Portland District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on June 30, 2011.

Previously, Col. Eisenhauer served as a U.S. Army War College fellow at Stanford University's Center for International Security and Cooperation from August 2010 to May 2011. Earlier assignments include serving as an Organizational Integrator at the Pentagon from May 2009 to June 2010; Commander of the 37th Engineer Bn., Ft. Bragg, N.C., from June 2007 to May 2009, among others. A graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, he holds a master's degree in civil and environmental engineering from Stanford University.



**Colonel Bruce A. Estok**  
**Commander and District Engineer**  
**Seattle District**

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Col. Estok assumed command of the Seattle District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, on July 29, 2011.

He joins the District after a year as a National Security Fellow at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. Col. Estok has also served in a variety of command and staff positions in the United States and overseas, including assignments as Engineer Plans and Operations Chief for the U.S. Army Pacific and Commander of the Corps' Albuquerque District, among others.

He received a bachelor's degree in Aeronautical Engineering from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and a master's degree in Civil Engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology.



**Colonel Robert J. Ruch**  
**Commander and District Engineer**  
**Omaha District**

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Col. Ruch assumed command of Omaha District on Sept. 3, 2009.

He came to Omaha District from the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, Pa. Prior to that, he served as the Division Engineer for the 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas. As the Division Engineer, he deployed to Iraq and served as Deputy of the Baghdad Provincial Reconstruction Team under the State Department.

Col. Ruch holds a bachelor of science degree in Geo-environmental Science from Shippensburg University, a master's degree in Engineering Management from St. Martin's College and a master's degree in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College.



**Colonel Tony J. Hofmann**  
**Commander and District Engineer**  
**Kansas City District**

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Col. Hofmann became the Commander of the Kansas City District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on July 23, 2010.

Col. Hofmann has held a variety stateside and overseas assignments, including deployment to the Middle East. A former District Engineer with Walla Walla District, this is his third tour with the Corps.

He earned a bachelor of science degree from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, a master of science degree in Construction Management from Colorado State University and a master of science in National Resource Strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.



**Lieutenant Colonel David A. Caldwell**  
**Commander and District Engineer**  
**Walla Walla District**

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Lt. Col. Caldwell assumed command of the Walla Walla District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, on July 9, 2010. In his most recent assignment, he served as Future Operations Chief for the U.S. Army Asymmetric Warfare Group at Fort Meade, Md. Other assignments included managing engineering and construction units at home and abroad, including serving as Battalion Executive Office, 1st Cavalry Division, with a deployment to Baghdad, Iraq.

Lt. Col. Caldwell was commissioned into the Corps upon graduation from Wheaton College where he earned a bachelor's degree in Geology. He holds a master of science degree in Management from Thomas Edison State College.