



**® U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

**Lieutenant Colonel Stephen H. Bales  
Deputy Commander  
Afghanistan Engineer District - South**



Lieutenant Colonel Stephen Bales became Deputy Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Afghanistan Engineer District-South (TAS), based on Kandahar Airfield, Aug. 3, 2012.

TAS provides quality and timely construction and engineering operations in the South, Southwest and West Regions of Afghanistan in support of the U.S. Forces-Afghanistan (USFOR-A) mission and the integrated Afghan National Security/Coalition Forces' counterinsurgency (COIN) operations aimed at protecting the population and defeating the insurgency forces.

Lt. Col. Bales was born in London, Ky., and entered active service in June 1991. His last assignment was as commander of the USACE Buffalo District. Prior to assuming command in Buffalo, Lt. Col. Bales was the deputy district commander of the Louisville District.

His first duty station was Camp Mercer, South Korea where he was a platoon leader for Company C, 44th Engineer Battalion and Company B, Camp Howze, South Korea. He returned to Fort Hood, Texas in 1993. There he served as platoon leader and company operations officer for Company B and transitioned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 8th Engineer Battalion as the battalion tactics officer.

From 1996 to 2000, Lt. Col. Bales was stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C., where he served in the 20th Engineer Brigade as construction officer. He commanded Company A, 37th Engineer Battalion. He served for two years as an exchange officer in Townsville, Australia while assigned to headquarters, 25th Infantry Division.

From 2002 to 2004, he was assigned to the U.S. Army Engineer School as a small group instructor and concepts officer, Combat Developments Directorate. After Command and General Staff College, Lt. Col. Bales relocated to Fort Bliss, where he deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom 06-08 and served as the Special Troops Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division executive officer for two years and one year as the brigade's engineer.

Lt. Col. Bales' military education includes Airborne School, the Engineer Officer Basic Course, the Scout Platoon Leaders Course, the Strategic Deployment School, the Engineer Officer Advanced Course, Battalion Motor Officer Course, Combined Arms and Services Staff School, Jumpmaster School, Command and General Staff College and the Joint Planning Course.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal (sixth award); the Army Commendation Medal (fourth award); the Army Achievement Medal (third award), the Joint Meritorious Unit Citation, the National Defense Service Medal (with bronze star device), the Iraqi Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Korean Defense Service Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon; the Overseas Service Ribbon (with numeral 3), the Parachutist Badge and the Bronze Order of the de Fleury Medal.

Lt. Col. Bales is a 1991 graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., where he received a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering. He is married and has a son.

August 1, 2012

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