



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers ®
St. Louis District

BIOGRAPHY

Colonel Thomas E. O'Hara, Jr.

Commander, St. Louis District



Colonel Thomas E. O'Hara, Jr. is a native of Blair, Wisconsin. O'Hara was commissioned into the Corps of Engineers in June 1985 out of St. John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota, and graduated from the Engineer Basic Course in 1987.

He has served in a wide variety of field assignments. He served as platoon leader and company executive officer in the 11th Engineer Battalion (Combat) (Heavy). He then was selected to serve as a joint staff intern in the Capabilities Analysis Division (J-8) on the Joint Staff for one year. After the Engineer Officer Advanced Course, O'Hara served as the Assistant Brigade Engineer for 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, during Operations Desert Storm/Shield in Southwest Asia. He then was assigned to the 23rd Engineer Battalion, 1st Armored Division, in Friedberg, Germany, where he served as Company Commander, Battalion Adjutant, and Assistant Battalion Operations Officer. O'Hara then was assigned

to the United States Military Academy, where he taught systems engineering and engineering management and served in the Operations Research Center. Colonel O'Hara was assigned to XVIII Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, from June 1998 to July 2001. In addition to serving as the 27th Engineer Battalion executive officer, he served as the XVIII Airborne Corps Engineer Plans Officer, Engineer Operations Officer, and as the Deputy Joint Engineer, Joint Task Force Bravo, Honduras. From July 2001 through March 2005, Colonel O'Hara served as the Deputy District Engineer of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District. While stationed there, he served a tour of duty in Afghanistan from April to November 2002 as the Deputy Joint Engineer for Joint Task Force 180 supervising all engineer operations in theater. From May 25, 2005, to May 30, 2007, he also commanded the 27th Engineer Battalion. He deployed with his soldiers to Afghanistan from March 2006 to April 2007. He recently completed a year at the US Army War College.

The Colonel's military education includes the Engineer Officer Basic Course, Engineer Officer Advanced Course, Combined Arms Services Staff School, U.S. Army Command and General Staff School, the Army War College and Jumpmaster School. He has master's degrees in mathematics and operations research from Penn State University and currently holds the academic rank of Assistant Professor.

Colonel O'Hara's military awards include the Bronze Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters, the Army Commendation medal with Two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Joint Service Achievement Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medals, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Senior Parachutist Badge, the Joint Staff Identification Badge, and the Bronze de Fleury Medal.

Colonel O'Hara is married to the former Beth Otterson and they have two children. Sean will be a junior at the University of Pennsylvania and Matthew will be a sophomore at Penn State.