



U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS TRANSATLANTIC DIVISION

GALLERY OF DISTINGUISHED CIVILIANS INDUCTION CEREMONY

Annie Cain John Adams
Ray Tatro William Fritz

JUNE 10, 2025

250TH ARMY BIRTHDAY WEEK



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Transatlantic Division Headquarters
201 Prince Frederick Drive
Winchester, Virginia



Annie Cain



Over the course of a distinguished 37-year career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Ms. Annie Cain shaped and strengthened USACE operations throughout the Middle East with an enduring commitment to mission excellence and regional stability. Rising from a clerk typist to Chief of the Programs and Project Management Division, her journey reflects remarkable leadership, technical mastery, and strategic vision that continue to benefit

U.S. and allied forces across 14 countries.

Ms. Cain led the execution of more than 1,500 projects valued at \$14 billion, delivering critical infrastructure that supports U.S. Central Command and partner nation capabilities. Her early leadership helped guide the transition from the Middle East Division to the formation of the Transatlantic Division, expanding USACE's ability to deliver in complex contingency environments during pivotal operations such as Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

A champion of innovation, she helped establish the structure and processes that still define program delivery in the region. Her leadership in Foreign Military Sales and Military Construction programs was instrumental in strengthening defense partnerships in Iraq, Kuwait, Afghanistan, Kenya, and Tanzania. As MILCON Program Manager, she oversaw more than 100 projects exceeding \$2 billion, directly improving the quality of life and security for U.S. and allied forces.

Ms. Cain was also a respected mentor who shaped the careers of countless engineers, civilians, and military leaders across USACE. Her legacy includes not only the infrastructure delivered under her watch, but also the teams she empowered and the trust she built with mission partners.

Recognized with multiple Commander's Awards and Special Act honors, Ms. Cain's impact is lasting. Her service leaves a foundation of excellence that continues to support USACE's global mission and inspire the next generation of civilian leaders.



John L. Adams



As the senior civilian advisor to the Commanding General, Mr. John Adams served as the Director of Programs and Regional Business for the Transatlantic Division from 2020 to 2024, overseeing one of the most complex engineering and construction missions in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. His leadership spanned more than \$4 billion in projects across 12 countries, directly supporting U.S. Central Command and U.S. Special Operations

Command strategic objectives in the Middle East and Central Asia.

Under his guidance, the division delivered hundreds of critical facilities including a \$4.5 billion Ministry of Defense city, missile defense infrastructure, and air platform support projects across Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia. He strengthened USACE's position as a global partner of choice by building trusted relationships with U.S. mission partners and foreign defense leaders across the region.

Mr. Adams led swift, science-based solutions to urgent battlefield threats, such as the development of bunker retrofits to reduce traumatic brain injury after missile attacks. He advanced readiness through partnerships with the Engineer Research and Development Center and drove innovation that elevated USACE's global capabilities.

In addition to programmatic achievements, Mr. Adams fostered a workforce culture centered on care, excellence, and strategic talent development. He expanded leadership opportunities, improved overseas support structures, and reshaped the organization to meet the evolving demands of expeditionary engineering.

Through multiple crises, including pandemic operations and Afghanistan retrograde, Mr. Adams remained a steady hand, delivering timely counsel and decisive action. His visionary leadership ensured the Division's resilience, expanded its reach, and preserved its status as a vital contributor to U.S. national security. His legacy is one of transformation, trust, and enduring impact across the USACE enterprise.



Ray Tatro



With more than three decades of service, Mr. Ray Tatro distinguished himself through steadfast leadership, innovation, and operational excellence across some of the most complex environments in which the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers operates. His tenure with the Transatlantic Division, particularly in Afghanistan, shaped the delivery of critical infrastructure and advanced the Corps' global mission in support of U.S. and allied operations.

As Program Manager for the Afghanistan National Security Forces program, Mr. Tatro oversaw more than \$2.7 billion in military construction, providing key facilities for Afghan Special Operations Forces. Forward-deployed during periods of heightened conflict, he synchronized efforts with NATO, Afghan ministries, and U.S. military officials, ensuring mission success despite significant challenges.

Mr. Tatro also served as the sole USACE Liaison Officer to U.S. Forces-Afghanistan, playing a vital role in aligning Corps capabilities with joint theater objectives. His guidance influenced high-level decisions across engineering operations. He later took on the role of Director of Public Works at Bagram Airfield, managing infrastructure for seven installations with unwavering precision and accountability.

Beyond execution, Mr. Tatro contributed significantly to organizational development. He introduced project management system reforms that streamlined more than 80 active projects and fostered a culture of mentorship as Deputy Chief of the Programs and Project Management Division. His guidance empowered mid-level leaders, ensuring continuity of excellence.

Recognized with multiple Superior Civilian Service Awards, the Bronze de Fleury Medal, and the NATO Non-Article 5 Medal, Mr. Tatro exemplified the values and resilience of Army engineering. His legacy lives on in the projects he delivered, the professionals he mentored, and the strength he brought to USACE missions in Afghanistan and throughout the region.



William Fritz



For more than two decades, Mr. William “Bill” Fritz shaped the foundation and growth of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ global contingency operations. From combat support planning to organizational stand-ups, his leadership and foresight advanced mission execution during pivotal periods of conflict and transition across the Middle East.

Beginning in 2001, Mr. Fritz served at HQUSACE in key contingency roles, crafting doctrine and plans in support of Operations IRAQI FREEDOM and ENDURING FREEDOM. He played a lead role in standing up the Gulf Region Division and its three districts in Iraq, and later helped establish both the Afghanistan Engineering District and the foundational Iraq power and oil restoration missions. His vision and action directly supported the reconstitution of infrastructure critical to security and stability.

Mr. Fritz was also instrumental in the creation of the USACE Deployment Center at the Transatlantic Division, evolving an ad hoc processing site into a fully operational platform supporting civilian and military deployers across the enterprise. From 2005 to 2010, he led emergency operations at HQUSACE, overseeing more than 100 disaster responses and coordinating post-Katrina recovery operations. He also facilitated the approval of the concept plan that formally established the Transatlantic Division as a Major Subordinate Command in 2009.

From 2013 to 2022, Mr. Fritz served as Chief and Deputy Chief of G3 for the Transatlantic Division, where he directed operational planning and execution across missions such as Transatlantic Division-Forward, Task Force Essayons, and the Mosul Dam Task Force. His 2017 manpower study resulted in the authorization of 27 new positions, strengthening the Transatlantic Division’s posture as a full-service division.

Mr. Fritz’s legacy is one of unyielding dedication, visionary leadership, and profound impact, earning him a lasting place in the history of the Transatlantic Division.



HONORING THOSE WHO BUILT THE LEGACY

The Transatlantic Division Gallery of Distinguished Civilians celebrates those whose exceptional service, leadership, and lasting contributions helped shape the mission and spirit of the Transatlantic Division. These individuals exemplify the highest standards of dedication and excellence. We honor their legacy and the foundation they built for generations to come.



DONN L. BOOKER, 2020 HONOREE

Served as Contingency Regional Business Director from 2009 to 2016, leading the Transatlantic Division's largest wartime programs and laying the foundation for enduring USACE mission success in CENTCOM. Oversaw multi-billion-dollar efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan, mentored future leaders, and built strategic processes still in use across the enterprise today.



JOANNE F. EVANS, 2020 HONOREE

Served as Chief of Resource Management from 2009 to 2015, directing financial strategy for USACE's largest reconstruction effort. Led funding for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, drove audit success, and secured resources that sustained global contingency missions and future force structure.



SCOTT LOWDERMILK, 2021 HONOREE

Served from 2009 to 2019 as a founding leader of the reestablished Division, shaping operational doctrine, deployment systems, and contingency frameworks across CENTCOM. Guided the stand-up of the Mosul Dam Task Force, led major theater engineer initiatives, and helped transform how USACE delivers in complex operational environments.



HOWARD P. STICKLEY, 2021 HONOREE

Served as Programs and Business Director from 2011 to 2019, leading \$8B in construction across the Middle East and Central Asia. Spearheaded the creation of the Mosul Dam Task Force, forged international agreements, and led engineering efforts that prevented catastrophic collapse and shaped regional stability for years to come.



JILL A. ALTEMOSE, 2022 HONOREE

Served from 2009 to 2021 as the Division's senior human capital strategist, leading workforce transformation across the U.S. Central Command region. Established the premier deployment center for civilians, shaped recruiting and talent initiatives, and built the foundation for the Transatlantic Division's People First strategy and Leadership Development Program.



STEPHEN R. ZELTNER, 2022 HONOREE

Served from 2009 to 2018 as Senior Program Manager and Chief of the Afghanistan Program Office, leading reconstruction efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan valued at over \$10B. Orchestrated the transition of three districts, established Transatlantic Division Forward, and drove mission success in the most complex combat environments of the post-9/11 era.



MICHAEL D. VALERIO, 2024 HONOREE

Served as Chief of the Regional Business Technical Division from 2010 to 2017, leading enterprise-wide engineering innovation and shaping USACE's technical legacy across CENTCOM. Built the division's reach-back network, advanced contingency design standards, and transformed global support to forward operations through virtual engineering solutions.



SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

WELCOME

OPENING REMARKS

INDUCTION OF HONOREES

CONCLUSION

ENGINEER BIRTHDAY WEEK MUSTER

ARMY BIRTHDAY CAKE CUTTING CEREMONY

USACE TAD VISION: TRUSTED TEAM, PROUDLY SERVING AS THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS' TIP OF THE SPEAR, PROVIDING INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR OUR NATION, ALLIES, AND PARTNERS.

USACE TAD MISSION STATEMENT: THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS TRANSATLANTIC DIVISION SAFELY DELIVERS AGILE, RESPONSIVE, AND INNOVATIVE, DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, ENGINEERING AND CONTINGENCY SOLUTIONS IN SUPPORT OF U.S. CENTRAL COMMAND, U.S. SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND AND OTHER GLOBAL PARTNERS TO ADVANCE NATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS.



US Army Corps
of Engineers®