



Lieutenant Colonel Nathan A. Branen

**Director
Center for Army Leadership
Mission Command Center of Excellence
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas**



Lieutenant Colonel Branen received his commission from the University of Minnesota ROTC program in 2005. After Officer Basic Course in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, he reported to the 4th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 1st Infantry Division, at Fort Riley, Kansas, in 2006. There he served as a platoon leader, company executive officer, assistant battalion operations officer, and battalion logistics officer. He served in these positions over two deployments to Iraq, the first in 2007-2008 and the second in 2009-2010.

Upon redeployment in 2010, LTC Branen attended the Engineer Captain's Career Course, completed his master's degree and attended Phase 0 of the Marine Engineer Dive Officer Course in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. He completed the Dive Officer's Course in Panama City Beach, Florida, in 2011 and took command of the 544th Engineer Dive Detachment, 30th Engineer Battalion, located in Fort Eustis, Virginia. He commanded the detachment through 2014, then joined the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Middle East District where he served as the Saudi Arabia Office's Officer in Charge through 2015.

Following Command and General Staff College (CGSC) in 2016, he joined the 1st Cavalry Division in Fort Hood, Texas, where he served as a military advisor in Afghanistan, a battalion executive officer in the Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, and as the executive officer in the 8th Brigade Engineer Battalion, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team. His final assignment at Fort Hood was as the Secretary of the General Staff for the 1st Cavalry Division Command Group. He then joined the USACE Nashville District in 2020 where he served as the deputy district commander through May 2022. He commanded the 40th Brigade Engineer Battalion in 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team of 1st Armored Division at Fort Bliss, Texas, from June 2022-June 2024, leading the battalion through a rotation to the National Training Center in 2022 and a rotation to Poland in 2023. In July 2024, he became the director of the Center for Army Leadership at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

LTC Branen's military awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal (three awards), Meritorious Service Medal (three awards), Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Valorous Unit Award, Meritorious Unit Citation, Iraq and Afghanistan Campaign Medals, NATO Medal, Combat Action Badge, Sapper Tab, and Engineer Dive Officer Badge.

LTC Branen hails from Burlington, Wisconsin. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of Minnesota, as well as a Master of Science degree in Geological Engineering from the University of Missouri at Rolla. LTC Branen is a graduate of the Engineer Officer Basic Course, the Engineer Captain's Career Course, and Army CGSC-Intermediate Level Education.