



BIOGRAPHY



Lieutenant General Ricardo S. Sanchez - V Corps Commanding General

Lt. Gen. Ricardo S. Sanchez is a native of Rio Grande City, Texas. As a Distinguished Military Graduate of Texas A&I University, Kingsville, Texas, he was commissioned a second lieutenant of armor in the Regular Army in 1973. His initial assignment was to the 4th Battalion (Light Airborne), 68th Armor, 82nd Airborne Division, where he served as platoon leader, company executive officer, and assistant logistics officer and operations officer. He later served as aide-de-camp to the assistant division commander (support), 82nd Airborne Division. In June 1977, he returned to Company C, 4th Battalion, 68th Armor. He was then assigned as an action control officer in the office of the Secretary of the Joint Staff, U.S. Forces Korea/Eighth U.S. Army.

Lt. Gen. Sanchez attended the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California and was subsequently assigned to the U.S. Army Armor Center at Fort Knox, Kentucky, where he served as the chief of the analysis branch for the Future Armored Combat System Task Force, the Special Group Study, Armor, and the Armor Investment Strategy Study Group. He was also a special projects officer in the Directorate of Combat Developments at the Armor Center. At his next assignment, Lt. Gen. Sanchez served as operations officer and executive officer for the 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry, 3rd Armored Division, Gelnhausen, Germany and as deputy operations officer for the 3rd Armored Division, Frankfurt, Germany.

Upon returning to the U.S., Lt. Gen. Sanchez commanded the 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor, 197th (Separate) Infantry Brigade (later 3rd Brigade, 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized)), Fort Benning, Georgia. After relinquishing command, he served as an investigator in the office of the U.S. Army Inspector General Agency, Washington, D.C. and then as commander of the 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division (Mechanized), (later 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division), Fort Riley, Kansas. Following that tour, he served as deputy chief of staff of the U.S. Southern Command in Miami, Florida, and later as that command's director of operations. Lt. Gen. Sanchez later served as the assistant division commander for support for the 1st Infantry Division, followed by assignment as the deputy chief of staff, operations at Headquarters, United States Army Europe in Heidelberg, Germany.

On July 10, 2001, Lt. Gen. Sanchez became commanding general of V Corps' 1st Armored Division. He held that position for nearly two years before assuming command of the corps on June 14, 2003. Following his assumption of command of V Corps, Lt. Gen. Sanchez became Commander, Joint Task Force-7 in Iraq, responsible for one of the largest combat forces deployed in United States military history. During his command of CJTF-7, he led the restoration and reconstruction of the country's infrastructure and security forces, allowing the interim Iraqi government to re-establish sovereignty on June 28, 2004.

Lt. Gen. Sanchez's professional education includes the Armor Officer basic and advanced courses, the Command and General Staff College, and the U.S. Army War College. He holds a bachelor's Degree in mathematics and history from Texas A&I University and a master's degree in operations research and systems analysis engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School.

The general's awards and badges include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal with "V" device and oak leaf cluster, the Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Southwest Asia Campaign Medal, the Liberation of Kuwait Medals (Saudi Arabia and Kuwait) and the Master Parachutist Badge.