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## NEW COMMANDER TAKES HELM OF V CORPS' 130TH ENGINEER BRIGADE

By Dennis Johnson

130th Engineer Brigade Public Affairs Office

**HANAU, Germany** – Col. Thomas W. Kula took command of the 130th Engineer Brigade from Col. Gregg F. Martin in a July 9 ceremony here attended by hundreds of American Soldiers, family members and German guests.

"To the Soldiers, leaders and families of the 130th, thank you for who you are, for what you have done, are doing and will do," said Martin in his farewell remarks. "What you are doing is critical to the security and defense of our nation, our allies and our way of life. We need brave volunteers like you, who are willing and able to deploy to dangerous and faraway places, fight a deadly enemy and accomplish the mission — whether that mission is to conquer a brutal dictator and liberate a nation or to help an impoverished and oppressed people build their nation and forge a better future. When our nation needed volunteers and asked, 'Who shall we send and who will go for us?' each of you stood up and said, 'Here am I, send me.'"



DENNIS JOHNSON

Col. Thomas W. Kula (right), salutes during the ceremony in which he accepted command of V Corps' 130th Engineer Brigade from Col. Gregg F. Martin (left). The ceremony was conducted in Hanau, Germany July 9.

Martin became commander of the 130th on June 13, 2002 and will move to Heidelberg to join the U.S. Army Europe staff.

Kula followed Martin's farewell with a short speech to his new command.

"I look forward to tackling the challenges ahead with you," he said. "Our Army is still at war. It's not a matter of if we are called upon again, but when. And when called, I am confident we will be ready.

"Our goal remains unchanged — to provide V Corps with trained and disciplined Soldiers who live the warrior ethos and are capable of accomplishing all missions in support of maneuver commanders and V Corps. And as our Army and engineer regiment are transforming, we will continue to lead the way in providing a lethal, adaptable and combat ready force to V Corps," Kula said.

Kula was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers upon graduation from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., in 1982. Kula's previous assignment was as a U.S. Army War College fellow at the University of Texas at Austin.

The 130th Engineer Brigade was constituted May 5, 1943 as the 1303rd Engineer General Service Regiment and was activated on July 15, 1943, at Camp Ellis, III.

The regiment's heritage includes World War II campaign credits for Normandy, North France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, Central Europe and the Asian-Pacific theaters.

In January 2003 the brigade deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The brigade planned and coordinated the engineer fight for V Corps (in its role as Combined Joint Task Force-7) with a force of more than 20,000 Sappers. It received, organized and led most of the 13,000 echelon-above-division engineers in the theater.

In February the brigade redeployed to Germany with its organic units including the 54th Engineer Battalion (Combat) (Mechanized) in Bamberg, Germany; the 94th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy), headquartered in Vilseck, Germany, and Hanau's 565th Engineer Battalion and Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 130th Engineer Brigade.

