



U.S. ARMY

HQDA | Office of the Chief of Engineers

Plans Branch Chief
LTC James Belinga



Lieutenant Colonel James H. Belinga became the Plans Branch Chief for the Office of the Chief of Engineers (OCE) in August 2023 following completion of his assignment as the Deputy Corps Engineer for Rapid Reaction Corps – France. Born in Paris, France and raised in Cameroon, he graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point, NY in 2006 with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Engineers.



Following the Engineer Basic Officer Leader Course, LTC Belinga was assigned to the 92nd Engineer Battalion (Black Diamonds) at Fort Stewart, Georgia and deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 06-08. LTC Belinga served as the Battalion Assistant Civil Engineer. He held Platoon Leader positions for Bravo Company and 554th Vertical Engineer Company and completed his assignment with the Black Diamonds as the BN Plans Officer.

LTC Belinga then attended the Engineer Captains Career Course upon completion of which he was assigned to 1st Brigade Combat Team (1BCT), 1st Cavalry Division (Ironhorse), at then Fort Hood, Texas. While in the Ironhorse Brigade, LTC Belinga served as the 1BCT Brigade Engineer and was later assigned as the Task Force Engineer and the Chief of Current Operations for 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment. LTC Belinga completed his assignment with the Ironhorse Brigade as battery commander for the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, TF 1-82 and subsequently the commander of Charlie Company of the Special Troops Battalion.

LTC Belinga later served as an Observer, Coach and Trainer at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California. While assigned to the Maneuver Support Team (Sidewinder), LTC Belinga served as the BN Staff Trainer, the Division Engineer OC/T and the Future Engineer Operations Planner for Operations Group.

For Command and General Staff College, LTC Belinga completed the War College curriculum at the École Royale Militaire in Brussels, Belgium as a foreign exchange student to the Kingdom of Belgium. He returned to Fort Stewart, GA and served as the 3rd Infantry Division Deputy Division Engineer. LTC Belinga then returned to the 92nd Engineer Battalion and served as the Battalion's Operations and Executive Officers. LTC Belinga was then embedded in a French Headquarter and served as the Deputy Corps Engineer for NATO Rapid Reaction Corps – France. LTC Belinga is a veteran of multiple combat, strategic deterrence and emergency response deployments.

LTC Belinga's military education includes the Basic Officer Leader Course II, the Engineer Basic Officer Leader Course, the Engineer Captain's Career Course, the Joint Engineer Operations Course, the Belgian War College and the Joint Combined Warfighting School. His civilian education includes a Master's of Science in Engineering Management from Missouri University of Science and Technology, a Master's of Engineering in Civil Engineering from Duke University, and a Master's of Arts in Political and Military Science from the Belgian Royal Military Academy.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Cluster, the Army Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Iraqi Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the French National Defense Medal (Bronze Order), the Meritorious Unit Citation, the German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency (Gold Order), the Air Assault Badge, the Parachutist Badge, and the Ranger Tab. He is also a recipient of the Honorable Order of Saint Barbara and the De Fleury Medal (Bronze Order) for his contributions to the Field Artillery and Engineer Regiments respectively.