



**US Army Corps  
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## Biography

### Colonel Richard J. Polo, Jr. Commander and District Engineer

#### U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New York District



Colonel Richard J. Polo, Jr. assumed command of the New York District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in June 2004. The New York District is responsible for the Corps' water resource development, navigation, and regulatory activities in northeastern New Jersey, eastern and south-central New York State, including New York Harbor and Long Island, and parts of Vermont, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. The District is also responsible for design and construction at Army and Air Force installations in New Jersey, New York, and overseas in Greenland.

Colonel Polo also holds the title of Supervisor of New York Harbor.

Colonel Polo was born in Fort Hood, Texas and was commissioned into the Army after graduating from the United States Military Academy in 1980 with a Bachelor of Science degree. He later earned two Master's Degrees; one in civil engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and one in national security strategy from the National Defense University. His professional military education includes the Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the Command and General Staff College, and the National War College.

Colonel Polo has been a platoon leader, battalion adjutant, brigade engineer company commander, and battalion executive officer. He has also served as a project engineer in the Kuwait Emergency Recovery Office (KERO) during Operation Desert Storm, and as the engineer brigade operations officer in Bosnia as part of Task Force Eagle during Operation Joint Endeavor.

Early assignments include serving in the Directorate of Engineering and Housing in Bad Kreuznach, Germany; as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Mathematical Sciences at West Point, New York; and as Chief of the Commander's Planning Group and Special Assistant to the Chief of Engineers in Washington, DC. Prior to attending the National War College, Colonel Polo commanded the Detroit District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and later served as the Executive Officer to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works.

Colonel Polo's military awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal (seven awards), the Army Commendation Medal (four awards), the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the NATO and Humanitarian Service Medals, the Parachutist Badge, and the Ranger Tab.

Colonel Polo and his wife have two daughters.