



US Army Corps Of Engineers

Norfolk District

News Release

Contact: Gerald Rogers or Diana Bailey
Phone: (757) 441-7606/7673

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 8, 2003
[#03-10](#)

EMBARGO UNTIL AUG. 4, 2003

Colonel Prettyman-Beck assumes command of Norfolk District

NORFOLK, Va. – Colonel Yvonne J. Prettyman-Beck became the 54th Commander of the Norfolk District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, during a Change of Command ceremony, held Aug. 4 on the grounds of the Norfolk District headquarters.

Colonel Prettyman-Beck, whose most recent assignment was as Operations Officer in the Joint Operations Directorate, the Joint Staff, The Pentagon, Washington, D.C., succeeds Col. David L. Hansen, who commanded the District since July 2001.

As Norfolk District Engineer, Col. Prettyman-Beck oversees the Corps' water resources development and maintenance activities for four river basins in the Commonwealth of Virginia. She is also responsible for the Corps' military design and construction projects for Army, Army Reserve and Air Force installations throughout Virginia.

The custom of acknowledging a change in commanding officers of a military unit is a formal ceremony that dates back to Roman times, although its true origin is lost in pre-history.

The ceremony emphasizes the continuity of leadership and unit identity, despite changes in individual authority. It also symbolizes the transfer of command responsibility from one individual to another.

Colonel Prettyman-Beck, a 24-year Army veteran, is the first African American female to serve as a Corps district commander.

Colonel Prettyman-Beck was commissioned upon graduation from New Mexico Military Institute in 1979 and is a 1981 graduate of Angelo State University, San Angelo, Texas. She holds a Bachelors of Science degree in Biology, a Masters degree in Management Science and a Masters degree in National Security and Strategic Studies. Her military education includes the

Engineer Basic and Advanced Courses, the Combined Armed Services Staff School, the Command and General Staff College, and the National War College.

Colonel Prettyman-Beck's key command and staff assignments include Commander, 84th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy), Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; Headquarters, Department of the Army Secretary for Joint Affairs, The Pentagon, Washington, D.C.; Secretary of the General Staff and Facilities Engineer, 13th Corps Support Command, and Battalion Operations Officer, 62nd Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy), Fort Hood, Texas; Executive Officer, Officer Distribution Division, U.S. Army Personnel Command, Alexandria, Va.; Plans and Operations Officer, Defense Nuclear Agency, Alexandria, Va.; Company Commander and Battalion Adjutant, 249th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy), and Brigade Intelligence Officer, 18th Engineer Brigade, Karlsruhe, Germany; Executive Officer and Platoon Leader, HHC, 30th Engineer Topographic Battalion, Fort Belvoir, Va.; and Test Officer, Training and Doctrine Command Arms Test Activity, Fort Hood, Texas.

Among her military decorations are the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (four awards), the Army Commendation Medal (two awards), the Joint Service Achievement Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal with star, the Military Outstanding Service Volunteer Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the Parachutist Badge, and the Army and Joint Staff Identification Badges.

Colonel Prettyman-Beck is married to Lieutenant Colonel Marlon K. Beck, who commands the Baltimore Recruiting Battalion. They have two children, Melissa and Marlon II, who currently reside in Bowie, Md.

#