

BIOGRAPHY

COLONEL NEIL E. NELSON
Commander, Fort Monroe

Colonel Neil E. Nelson was born in Seattle, Washington, on 20 February 1945. He received his commission from the U.S. Army Field Artillery Officer Candidate School in 1966. Colonel Nelson's military education includes the Artillery Advanced Course, Army Command and General Staff College, and Army War College.

He has held a variety of command and staff positions both overseas and in the United States. In the Republic of Vietnam with XXIV Corps, he commanded Battery F, 26th Field Artillery, and served as a Battalion Intelligence Officer. In Europe, he served with the 3d Infantry Division as Reconnaissance and Surveillance Staff Officer and commanded the Division Headquarters and Headquarters Company. In the United States, he served with XVIII Airborne Corps as an Intelligence Officer, Middle East Desk, during the 1973 October War. Later he served as Fire Direction Officer and Battery Commander with 2d Battalion (ABN), 321st Field Artillery, in the 82d Airborne Division Artillery. Colonel Nelson also served as Battalion Executive Officer, Training Command Battalion; Commander, 1st Battalion, 78th Field Artillery; and Chief of Staff, III Corps Artillery, while at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

Other assignments prior to his selection as Commander, Fort Monroe, include duty as Target Acquisition and Survey Instructor, Field Artillery School; Professor of Military Science, Lincoln University, Missouri; and Deputy Director, Target Acquisition Department, Field Artillery School. Following the Army War College, in the summer of 1990, Colonel Nelson was assigned to Joint Task Force Six as Chief, Joint Counterdrug Operations Element, Headquarters, Fifth U.S. Army. During Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, he also served as the Fifth U.S. Army Crisis Action Team Chief.

Colonel Nelson has a Bachelor of Arts in History. He graduated cum laude from Fayetteville State University in Fayetteville, North Carolina. His graduate studies were also in History at Lincoln University, Jefferson City, Missouri, where he received a Master of Arts' degree.

He is a senior parachutist, and his military awards include the Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (with two Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Commendation Medal, and the Army Achievement Medal.

(Current as of 19 February 1992)