

BIOGRAPHY
WILLIAM JOSEPH O'DONNELL
CAPTAIN, CIVIL ENGINEER CORPS
U S. NAVY (RET)

William J (Joe) O'Donnell was born and raised on a farm in Colorado. He attended McCook College in Nebraska and graduated from Colorado State University with a BS in Civil Engineering. He is a registered Professional Engineer and Land Surveyor.

From, 1950 to 1962, he was employed in various construction and design engineering positions by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. He took military leave to serve in the U.S. Army during the Korean War.

After completing Field Artillery Officer Candidate School Class 10, he served as a U.S. Army Field Artillery Officer with the 17th Field Artillery Battalion, and flew 140 combat missions in an L-19 Bird Dog aircraft during the Korean War (1952 and 1953).

He left the Army with the rank of First Lieutenant and went back to work for the Bureau of Reclamation. In 1962, he founded an engineering/construction business at Valentine, Nebraska, selling the firm in 1967. Concurrently, he served as the Commanding Officer, Company K, 3rd Battalion, 355th Infantry Regiment, 39th Infantry Division, U.S. Army Reserve.

In January 1968, he was commissioned a Lieutenant Commander in the Civil Engineer Corps, U.S. Navy. After indoctrination training, he was assigned to the Philadelphia Naval Hospital as the Public Works Officer and Resident Officer in Charge of Construction.

During 1970, he served as Deputy Chief of Staff for the Deputy Commander, Pacific Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Southeast Asia, and Resident Officer in Charge of Construction, Dong Tam, Vietnam.

In 1971, he reported to Southern Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, and was assigned as Resident Officer in Charge of Construction for the Pensacola area.

In April 1974, Commander O'Donnell reported to the Commander of Naval Facilities Engineering Command and served as Director of Interagency Construction and Director of Construction Engineering.

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From March 1975 to August 1978, he reported to the Officer In Charge Of Construction, Bethesda and was assigned as the Deputy Officer in Charge of Construction for field operations for the construction of the Uniform Services University of the Health Science and the modernization of the National Naval Medical Center.

Prior to reporting in January 1981 as the Commanding Officer/Officer in Charge of Construction, Marianas and Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands, Captain O'Donnell was at Kessler Air Force Base, Mississippi, where he was in charge of the military construction in the Keesler/Gulfport, Mississippi area and served as the Deputy Officer in Charge of Construction for Southern Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, for the construction of the Composite Medical Facility, Keesler Air Force Base.

O'Donnell reported in February 1982 as the Commanding Officer/Officer in Charge of Construction for the design and construction of the Navy Regional Medical Center at San Diego, California, In July 1987, he was appointed Commanding Officer/Officer in Charge of Construction, Southwest, San Diego.

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Captain O'Donnell's personal decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, The Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star with Combat "V", Meritorious Service Medal, four Air Medals, the Combat Action Ribbon, the Humanitarian Service Medal, United Nations Service Medal, Korean Service Medal with three campaign stars, Vietnam Service Medal with two campaign stars, Meritorious Unit Citation with one bronze star, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnamese Civic Action Ribbon, and the Vietnamese Technical Services Honor Medal. He was the recipient of the 1984 Moreell Medal for Construction and Engineering Excellence, and is a Fellow of the Society of American Military Engineers.