

**COL ROBERT L. MENIST**  
**Defense Coordinating Officer**  
**FEMA Region IX,**  
**United States Army North (Fifth Army)**



Colonel Robert Menist graduated from the University of California, Berkeley in 1990 as a Distinguished Military Graduate with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant of Infantry. He then completed his Masters of Public Administration from Clemson University and a Masters in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College.

After completion of the Infantry Officer Basic Course and Ranger School, COL Menist's first assignment was in the Republic of Korea on the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) in 1st BN, 503rd Infantry as both a Rifle and Scout Platoon Leader. While in Korea, he later served as the Aide-de-Camp for the Assistant Division Commander for Maneuver of the 2nd Infantry Division. He returned to Fort Carson, Colorado to complete his Aide-de-Camp tour until 1993.

COL Menist then graduated from the Infantry Officer Advanced Course at Fort Benning, Georgia and was assigned to the 2nd BN, 502nd Infantry (Air Assault) at Fort Campbell, Kentucky where he commanded Alpha Company from 1994-1996 and deployed with the battalion to Panama for four months. His next assignment was as a Regular Army Advisor to the South Carolina Army National Guard in Union, South Carolina. His following assignment took him to the Pacific Command Headquarters at Camp Smith, Hawaii as an Emergency Action Officer in their command center and then the command center training officer for Emergency Actions.

After graduation from the Command and General Staff College, COL Menist was assigned to 1st BN, 41st Infantry as the Battalion S3 (Operations Officer) at Fort Riley, Kansas for a year and then deployed to Iraq in 2004 as the Battalion Executive Officer. After a year of combat in Baghdad and his battalion's redeployment to Fort Riley, COL Menist extended in theater for a second year long tour as the Brigade S3 (Operations Officer) for the 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division located in Camp Taji, Iraq. After completing his tour he was reassigned to the Pentagon in the J3 Operations, Deputy Directorate for Global Operations – Information Operations Division in 2006. He served as the Joint Staff Coordinator for Countering Threat Finance, spending the majority of his time working with Treasury, FBI and State Department personnel.

COL Menist took command of 4th Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade, 1st Armored Division at Fort Bliss, Texas in 2008. He deployed his battalion for a full year to Maysan Province, Iraq then returned to Fort Bliss and changed command to be assigned to the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, LA where he served for two years as the senior Observer, Coach, Trainer (OCT) of the Reconnaissance Squadron Task Force and the Brigade Mission Command Task Force. In 2013 he commanded US Army Garrison, Vicenza in Italy until 2015. From 2015-16 he was assigned to the Chief of Staff of the Army Senior Fellow at the Stimson Center in Washington, DC with a follow on assignment in the Pentagon as Deputy Director Installation Services, Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management, Department of the Army from 2016-18.



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