

Lt. Col. Christopher O. Beal enlisted in the Texas Army National Guard, HHC 176th Engineer Battalion in 1997 and completed Basic and the Advanced Individual Training (AIT) at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, as a Combat Engineer. While serving a four-year enlistment, he was selected into the Simultaneous Membership Program and later commissioned as an Engineer Officer from Prairie View A&M University. His first active duty assignment was with the 887th Light Equipment (LE) Engineer Company, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

Throughout his career he has completed several Army schools to include: Engineer Officer Basic Course, Engineer Captain's Career Course, and the Sapper Leader Course at Ft. Leonard Wood, MO; U.S. Army Airborne Course, Ft. Benning, Georgia; U.S. Army Air Assault School, Ft. Campbell, KY; and the Army Command and General Staff College Resident's Course. In addition to his undergraduate degree, he has also completed a Master of Science in Business and Organizational Security Management from Webster University, and a master's degree in Emergency and Safety Management with a concentration in Homeland Security from Eastern Kentucky University.

Beal's previous assignments include: 887th LE Platoon Leader; 4th Brigade Combat Team (BCT) Support Platoon Leader; 4th BCT, 101st Airborne Division's, Sewer Water Electric Trash Medical Safety and Other (SWEAT-MSO) OIC for the Eastside of Baghdad, Iraq; Bravo 46th Engineer Company Commander; Sarasota, Florida Recruiting Company Commander; 1-395th Engineer Battalion Assistant Operations Officer; Eight Army's G5 Strategic Planner in Seoul, Korea; 3-315th Engineer Battalion Executive Officer; 177th Armored Brigade's Executive Officer; USACE Galveston District Deputy Commander, and the 19th Engineer Battalion Commander.

Beal's awards and decorations include the Army Meritorious Unit Citation, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medals with four Oak Leaf Clusters (OLC), Army Commendation Medal with six OLC, Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Army Achievement Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal (2nd Award), Global War on Terrorism Service Medal (2nd Award), Korea Defense Service Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Ribbon, Overseas Ribbon (2nd Award), Combat Action Badge, Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge-Silver, 2008's Itschner Award for most outstanding Engineer Company and the Army Engineer De Fleury Medal.

