



U.S. ARMY ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL



COLONEL JAMES O. FLY JR. COMMANDER

Colonel James O. Fly Jr. serves as the 46th commander of the Rock Island Arsenal (RIA), a position he has held since September 2, 2010. As Commanding Officer, Colonel Fly oversees operations of the only multi-purpose and vertically integrated metal manufacturer in the Department of Defense, applying the unique technical expertise and equipment to manufacture products high in quality and sustainability.

Colonel Fly came to RIA from the U.S. Army Sustainment Command, where he served as the deputy commander of the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. Prior to that, he served as the deputy G3/5 Operations and Plans for the 8th Theater Sustainment Command at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii

Colonel Fly enlisted in the Army Reserve in 1982, where he served for four years. He was commissioned as an Army officer in 1986 following his graduation from the University of Washington in Seattle, Wash. After completing the Infantry Officer Basic Course, he was assigned as a platoon leader in the 1st Armored Division in Bamberg, Germany.

During his career, Colonel Fly has commanded an infantry and a maintenance company, as well as a combat sustainment support battalion. He served in the U.S. and overseas including at Germany, Iraq, Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Campbell, Ky.; and Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. His assignments include serving as observer/controller for the Seventh Army Combat Maneuver Training Center at Hohenfels, Germany; deputy group commander for the 101st Corps Support Group at Fort Campbell; battalion commander, 524th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion headquartered at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

His combat service includes assignments with the 1st Armored Division in Operation Desert Storm and the 1st and 3rd Corps Support Commands in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In addition to his bachelor's degree in fisheries biology from the University of Washington, he holds masters degrees in adult education from Kansas State University and strategy and planning from the U.S. Naval War College. He is a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Meritorious Service Medal with four Oak Leaf clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Achievement Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Combat Infantryman's Badge, Expert Infantryman's Badge, Combat Action Badge, Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, and Ranger Tab.

Colonel Fly is married and has two sons.

