

Asian American Engineer of the Year Award Commander George C. S. Chan



Infrastructure Program Manager Combined Security Transition Command - Afghanistan



George C.S. Chan was born in Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and grew up in Honolulu, Hawaii. He graduated from the University of Hawaii at Manoa with a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering in December 1987. After graduation, he ventured to San Diego, CA where he started his engineering career with Nolte and Associates as a junior engineer. In 1993, he moved back to Hawaii and began his federal civilian service with Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) working as a design engineer. Over time, he acquired experience in environmental engineering and was in charge of several remediation projects in Guam and the safe drinking water program for naval installations throughout the Pacific. Later, he became a Regional Operations Officer overseeing all design and construction projects for Marine Corps bases in Hawaii. In 2003, he and his family relocated to Japan where he continued his federal service but with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) working in areas of project management, Architect-Engineer contracts management, and technical services support. After 6 years in Japan, he and family relocated back to Hawaii and he returned to NAVFAC to serve as a Business Analysis Officer. In 2010, he accepted a promotion to be a program manager with the USACE's Pacific Ocean Division where he supports a \$10.7 billion US Army program that consolidates and re-stations troops in Korea.

Commander Chan has been a reserved Naval Officer for more than 20 years. His significant accomplishments include: In 2000, LT Chan led a team of military and civilian engineers to restore drinking water treatment facilities in East Timor after post-election violence. In 2004, LCDR Chan deployed to Iraq where he served as the Operations Officer of a 22-person expeditionary team responsible for civil-military reconstruction and for training and advising local ministers. He established processes for contract awards and payments and led his team to award 120 projects worth more than \$100 million in a 4-month period. In 2013, Commander Chan was deployed to Afghanistan where he served as a Program Manager responsible for supervising a joint staff of Air Force, Navy, Army and civilian personnel, training and advising Afghan senior military and ministerial officials, and managing a \$5.5 billion infrastructure construction program aimed at enabling the 195,000-person strong Afghanistan National Army (ANA). He completed a \$9 million Presidential Information Center and managed a 3-phased, \$200 million development of the ANA's National Defense University which will train over 10,000 officers and enlisted on a 100+ acre site.

Commander Chan was awarded the Defense Meritorious Service Medal for his service Afghanistan, the Meritorious Service Medal for his service in Iraq, the Army Commendation Medal for valor in combat, and Navy Commendation Medals for his work in East Timor and in Korea. He also received the Superior Civilian Service Award for accomplishments achieved in Japan. He is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Society of American Military Engineers. He is a registered professional engineer in the states of California and Hawaii and he is certified Project Management Professional.

He is married to the former Lisa Aizawa and has two children, Kelsey (21) and Bryson (18).