

Lt. Col. Aaron S. West

Commander, 1-290th Field Artillery Battalion, 205th Infantry Brigade

Lt. Col. Aaron S. West graduated from The Citadel at Charleston, S.C., in 1993 and received a commission in the Field Artillery. His initial assignment was Fire Direction Officer for C Battery, 5th Battalion, 29th Field Artillery, part of the 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division at Fort Carson, Colo . After the unit's inactivation he transferred to Howitzer Battery, 2nd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment where he served as a Troop Fire Support Officer, Firing Platoon Leader, and the Battery Executive Officer. He later transferred to 3rd Squadron, 3rd ACR where he was the Squadron Fire Support Officer. After graduating from the Field Artillery Officer Advanced Course in 1998, West moved to Heidelberg, Germany, where he worked at V Corps G3 Training and later in the Plans section during Operation Allied Force and the deployment of Task Force Hawk to Albania. He subsequently transferred to the 41st Field Artillery Brigade at Babenhausen, Germany, where he performed the duties of Brigade Fire Control officer and Brigade Assistant S3, and then later assumed command of C Battery, 1st Battalion, 27th Field Artillery. July 2002, West returned to the United States and the Field Artillery School serving as a Fire Support Instructor and then as the project lead to implement live munitions training for Joint Close Air Support at Fort Sill, Okla. He later worked concurrently as the Chief Instructor for the Officer Basic Course and the S3 for the 3rd Battalion, 30th Field Artillery. West attended the resident Command and General Staff Officer's Course in 2005 followed by the Advanced Military Studies Program in 2006. He was graduated early from the School of Advanced Military Studies in 2007 to join the 1st Armored Division in Germany where the unit prepared for deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom as Multinational Division - North. During OIF 07-09, West served as the maneuver planner in the Division G3 and later as the S3 for the 1st Armored Division Special Troops Battalion; his primary duty in this capacity was Base Defense Operations Chief for Contingency Operating Base Speicher in Tikrit, Iraq. After redeploying from Iraq, West moved to the Deputy G3 position for 1st Armored Division and then US Division – Center during OIF 10-11 in Baghdad, Iraq. He redeployed to Wiesbaden, Germany, in December 2010, and assisted in transferring the legacy of the Old Ironsides division from Germany to its new home at Fort Bliss, Texas.

West holds a master's degree from Webster University, Kansas State University, and the School of Advanced Military Studies at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

West's awards include the Bronze Star (w/ 1 oak leaf cluster), Meritorious Service Medal (w/ 2 oak leaf clusters), the Army Commendation Medal (w/ 3 oak leaf clusters), and the Iraqi Campaign Medal (w/ 2 stars).