



Lieutenant General Robert W. Cone

Lieutenant General Robert W. Cone is the Commanding General of III Corps and Fort Hood at the massive Central Texas Army post located about 40 miles southwest of Waco.

III Corps is an Expeditionary Corps Headquarters. It's prepared to lead protracted, full-spectrum operations as a joint, combined or interagency headquarters. III Corps is the Army's proponent for Heavy Forces – an advocate of and synchronizer for ARGORGEN for Heavy Forces across the Army to enable unity of effort. It continually leverages the experience and expertise of Corps HQ to develop leaders and staffs at all echelons. III Corps is headquarters on Fort Hood – the Army's Premier Military Installation and Community. It's a community partnership unlike any other where care for Soldiers and Families is fully integrated in to regional community, enabling Soldiers to focus on the enduring mission.

Lieutenant General Cone hails from Manchester, NH and was commissioned as an Armor Officer in June 1979. His first duty assignment was in the 2d Armored Division, Fort Hood, Texas from January 1980 until December 1984. During his first tour at Fort Hood, he served as a Cavalry Platoon Leader and Troop Executive Officer in 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, Aide de Camp to the Assistant Division Commander, Battalion Motor Officer, followed by Command of Combat Support Company and then Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 67th Armor.

In January 1985, LTG Cone attended the Infantry Officer Advanced Course at Fort Benning, Georgia. He then returned to Texas to attend graduate school at the University of Texas in Austin. In July 1987, LTG Cone was assigned to the Department of Behavioral Science and Leadership at West Point where he performed duties as an instructor, and later assistant professor until summer 1990, when he attended the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

In May 1991, LTG Cone deployed to Kuwait as Operations Officer, 2d Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in support of Operation Desert Storm. Upon redeployment to Germany in September 1991, LTG Cone served as Regimental Operations Officer and then Regimental Executive Officer until the Regiment's inactivation in March 1994. LTG Cone was then reassigned to Fort Bliss, Texas to serve as Regimental Executive Officer, 3d Armored

Cavalry Regiment. He then commanded 1st Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment from October 1994 until December 1996.

Following graduation from the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island in summer 1998, LTG Cone returned to Fort Hood and assumed duties as the Division G3, 4th Infantry Division followed by command of 2d Brigade, 4th Infantry Division from June 1999 through June 2001. LTG Cone led his brigade in the Division Capstone Exercise in April 2001 which served as the culminating exercise for the development of the heavy digital force. Following brigade command, he was reassigned to serve as Director, Joint Advanced Warfighting Program (Joint Staff) where he worked in joint concept development and experimentation.

In February 2003, LTG Cone deployed to Qatar with CENTCOM Headquarters in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. LTG Cone was tasked to capture, document, and report real time lessons learned from combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. LTG Cone's work led to the establishment of the Joint Center for Operational Analysis at JFCOM. In September 2004, LTG Cone assumed duties as the Commanding General, National Training Center, Fort Irwin, California. During his 33 month command tenure, LTG Cone implemented a broad array of changes reorienting training toward counterinsurgency operations. In conjunction with the Joint IED Defeat Organization, LTG Cone established the Joint Center of Operational Excellence in training for defeat of improvised explosive devices at the NTC.

LTG Cone deployed to Afghanistan in June 2007 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and assumed command of the Combined Security Transition Command – Afghanistan for 18 months where he was responsible for the development of the Afghan National Army and Police. Upon redeployment in December 2008, LTG Cone assumed duties as Special Assistant to the TRADOC Commander responsible for officer and enlisted initial military training.

LTG Cone holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from the United States Military Academy, a Master of Arts Degree from the University of Texas at Austin, and a Master of Arts Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College. He is an inductee in the National Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, "Graduate of Highest Distinction" from the Naval War College, and served as a Fellow in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Seminar XXI Program.

His awards and decorations include: Defense Superior Service Medal (1 OLC), Legion of Merit (2OLC), Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (2 OLC), Army Commendation Medal (2 OLC), Army Achievement Medal, Parachutist Badge, Ranger Tab, Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge. LTG Cone is also the recipient of the Ghazi Wazir Mohammad Akbar Kahn State Medal from the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.