

Lieutenant Colonel Vincent Edward Alonso



Vincent Edward Alonso was born in San Francisco, California on 5 September, 1961 and is a native of Colorado. He graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, in 1984 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering and a commission as a Second Lieutenant of Infantry.

For the last 28 years, Lieutenant Colonel Alonso has held command and staff assignments in the United States, in the Pacific, and in Europe. His first assignment was as a rifle platoon leader and later as a scout platoon leader in the 2nd Infantry Division, Republic of Korea. His next assignment brought him to Fort Benning, Georgia, in 1986, where he served in the 3rd Ranger Battalion as a rifle platoon leader and weapons platoon leader. He then became a liaison officer at the U.S. Army Infantry Center, and finally the headquarters detachment commander of the Ranger Training Brigade.

In 1990, Lieutenant Colonel Alonso returned to the Pacific as a G3 training officer in the headquarters of the 25th Infantry Division in Hawaii. He went on to command a light infantry company and subsequently an infantry brigade headquarters company. From 1993 to 1995, he worked at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, Louisiana as a scout platoon observer controller, as a maneuver controller, and finally as the chief personnel officer (S1) at the headquarters.

In 1996, Lieutenant Colonel Alonso began a number of European assignments, beginning with a post as a joint exercise planner on the headquarters staff of U.S. Army Europe (USAREUR), based in Heidelberg, Germany, and later as a special assistant to the Commander of the Stabilization Force (SFOR) in the Balkans in 1997. His next assignment was in Vicenza, Italy, as the chief of training of the Southern European Task Force (SETAF). He subsequently served as executive officer of the 1-508th Airborne Battalion Combat Team.

In the year 2000, Lieutenant Colonel Alonso returned to the United States as a special assistant to the Commanding General of the Army Training and Doctrine Command in Fort Monroe, Virginia before beginning training as a Foreign Area Officer and returning to Europe in 2004 to become the Assistant Army Attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Madrid, Spain, where he served until 2008.

Lieutenant Colonel Alonso completes his career in the U.S. Army as a military cooperation officer for Central and South Asia, the Caucasus, and Eastern Europe at the International Military Staff at NATO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium.

In addition to his academic degree from the U.S. Military Academy, Lieutenant Colonel Alonso has a Master of Arts degree in History from Old Dominion University at Norfolk, Virginia. His military education includes the Infantry Officer Basic and Career Course, and courses at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College.

Lieutenant Colonel Alonso has received numerous awards during his career, including the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation and Achievement Medals, and the NATO Medal for his service in Bosnia-Herzegovina. He is a qualified Senior Parachutist, Pathfinder, and a U.S. Army Ranger.