

DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE CIVIL AFFAIRS REGIMENT



COLONEL
THOMAS BALTAZAR
Inducted March 2012



Col. Thomas Baltazar was commissioned into the U.S. Army following graduation from Virginia Military Institute.

Baltazar held a number of positions, including serving as the commander, 86th Dive Detachment I, Army Liaison, U. S. Navy Dive School, with a follow-on assignment as a combat engineer analyst at the Center for Army Lessons Learned. In 1993, he was assigned to the 96th Civil Affairs Battalion as a company commander and battalion operations officer. His follow-on assignment was as the civil-military operations officer for I Corps.

From 1996 to 1998, Baltazar was the commander of the 96th Civil Affairs Battalion, where he was responsible for worldwide deployment and readiness of an active special-operations unit, and managed team concurrently deployed to more than 15 countries on a consistent basis.

In 1998, Baltazar moved to the U.S. John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School, where he served as the chief, Civil-Military Operations Division, where he was responsible for oversight of all civil-military doctrine development.

His next assignment was as the deputy director for humanitarian assistance in the office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict.

From 2002 to 2004, he served as the chief of staff/director of operations for the Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance for the Coalitional Provisional Authority. His final military assignment was at the Joint PSYOP Support Element-National Capitol Region, where he served as the director. While at the JPSE, he led the stand up of the NCR office responsible for coordinating and synchronizing global information campaigns throughout the interagency to include the National Security Council, State Department, CIA, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Defense Intelligence Agency and Joint Staff.

Baltazar retired from the military in 2005 after 26 years of service, and was appointed in November 2005 as the Director of the Office of Military Affairs, Bureau of Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance, U.S. Agency for International Development. He manages the office that is charged with formalizing the agency's relationship with the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the military, both U.S. and foreign.

Col. Baltazar received his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Virginia Military Institute in 1979. He was awarded a master's of science in International Relations from the Army Command and Staff College in 1990, and another master's degree from Troy State University in 1993. In 2000, he earned a master's in National Security and Strategic Studies from the U.S. Naval War College.

His awards and decorations include: the Master Parachutist Badge, the Combat Diver Badge and the Ranger Tab.