

Lieutenant General Kevin P. Byrnes (Class 7-69)

General Kevin P. Byrnes was born in New York City on March 12, 1950, one of 8 children of a New York City police officer. He worked for three years at a gas station while in high school and in 1968 took the advice of a fellow gas station attendant and joined the Army. He did well on aptitude tests and was commissioned through the Artillery Officer Candidate School at Fort Sill on April 15, 1969.

In June 1969 he deployed to Vietnam as a 19-year-old second lieutenant. He served there for a year as a forward observer, aerial observer and as a fire direction officer for an eight-inch cannon artillery unit. After returning from Vietnam in 1970, Byrnes used the GI Bill to attend college, earning his Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Park College in 1975. He earned a Master of Arts in Management from Webster University in 1985.

General Byrnes assumed the duties of Commander, United States Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) on November 7, 2002, after serving as the Director, Army Staff in the Pentagon. He served as the TRADOC commander until August 9, 2005.

Key assignments prior to that included:

- Deputy Chief of Staff for Programs and as the Assistant Vice Chief of Staff.
- Commanding General, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas; while deployed in that capacity, he simultaneously served as the Commanding General of the Multinational Division (North) in Tuzla, Bosnia, from October 1998 to August 1999.
- Director, Force Programs, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans, Washington, D.C.
- Assistant Division Commander (Maneuver), 1st Cavalry Division.
- Commanding General, Joint Task Force Six, Fort Bliss, Texas.
- Commander, 1st Cavalry Division Artillery, and later Chief of Staff, 1st Cavalry Division.
- Director of Political and Economic Studies and Director of the Strategic Outreach Initiative for the United States Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania
- Commander, 4th Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment in 2nd Armored Division (Forward) in Germany
- Commander, Battery C, 1st Battalion, 39th Field Artillery, Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

His awards and decorations include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Army Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star Medal.