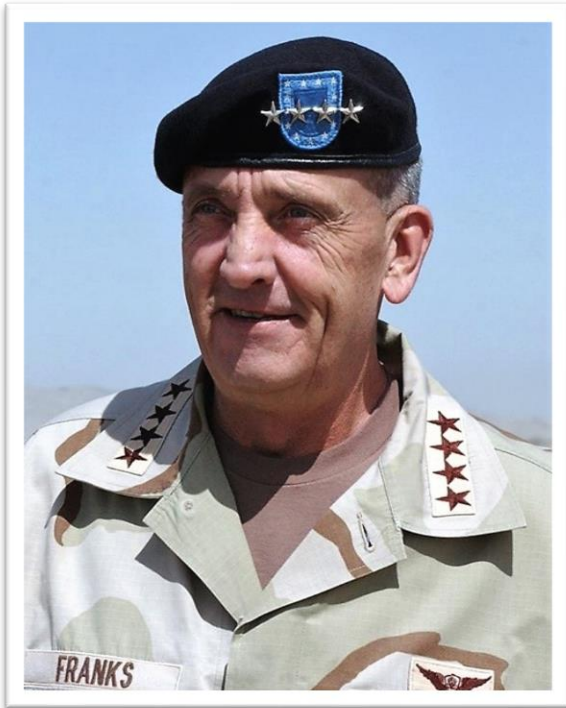


General Tommy R. Franks

Artillery OCS Class 5-67



General Franks was born in Wynnewood, Oklahoma, and grew up in Midland, Texas, where he graduated from Robert E. Lee High School. After two years at the University of Texas, he joined the United States Army. In 1967, as a distinguished graduate of the Artillery Officer Candidate School, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant and sent to Vietnam.

His service in Vietnam earned him six awards for Valor and three Purple Hearts. That assignment was the start of a long and distinguished career that would take him from one world hot spot to another - from West Germany at the height of the Cold War to the Demilitarized Zone in Korea, to

the deserts of Arabia - where he gained the knowledge and experience that would prepare him for the leadership role that would mark his place in the annals of American history.

General Franks attended the University of Texas, Arlington, where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Shippensburg University, where he graduated with a master's degree in Public Administration. He is also a graduate of the Armed Forces Staff College and the Army War College.

In June 2000, he was promoted to four-star General and assigned as Commander-in-Chief, United States Central Command. It is in this position that the world knows Tommy Franks best – the culmination of an almost four-decade military career that saw him lead American and Coalition troops in two strategically unprecedented campaigns in two years – Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq.

His decorations include five Distinguished Service Medals, four Legions of Merit, four Bronze Stars, and three Purple Hearts. President George W. Bush awarded him the Nation's highest civilian award, the Presidential Medal of Freedom.