

Major General Thomas J. P. Jones - Artillery OCS Class 4-57

Major General Jones the 18th Commander of White Sands Missile Range was born in Marlow, Oklahoma, on 24 January 1933. He served honorably as an enlisted man for five years, and upon completion of Officer Candidate Course as a Distinguished Military Graduate, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Field Artillery. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business from Cameron University and a Master of Science degree in Communication Science from Shippensburg State College. His military education includes completion of the Field Artillery and Advanced Course, the US Army Command and General Staff College, and the US Army War College.

After serving in company grade Field Artillery positions, he was assigned as the S-3 (Operations) of the 7th Field Artillery Battalion in Vietnam. He next became the Operations Officer of Fifth US Army at Fort Sheridan, Illinois, following which he returned to Vietnam for his third combat tour, this time serving as S-3 (Operations) of Division Artillery, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), following which he commanded the 1st Battalion of the 77th Artillery, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile).

He held a wide variety of important command and staff positions prior to his assignment as Commanding General White Sands Missile Range. Key assignments included Director of Personnel, J-1, Forces Command, Fort McPherson, Georgia; Deputy Director for Operations (J-3, Current Operations), J-3, Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Deputy Director for Operations, National Military Command Center, J-3, Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Washington, DC. Assistant Commandant of the US Army Field Artillery School, Fort Sill, Oklahoma; Commander of the Southwest Region, U.S. Army Recruiting Command, Fort Sam Houston, Texas; and Commander of Division Artillery, 2nd Infantry Division, Korea.

Returning to the United States, General Jones next assignment was to Fort Sill, Oklahoma where he served as Executive Officer of the Personnel and Community Affairs Directorate, US Army Field Artillery Center, Fort Sill. He was next assigned to Washington, DC where he served as a Staff Officer in the Material Coordination Branch, Budget and Five Year Defense Plan Coordination Division, Manpower and Forces Directorate, Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, US Army. He subsequently became the Chief of the Assignment Section of the Field Artillery Branch, Officer Personnel Directorate, US Army Military Personnel Center. Returning to Fort Sill, General Jones served consecutively as the Deputy Director, Target Acquisition Department, Chief Division Restructure Task Force; Deputy Director and Director of Course Development and Training; US Army Field Artillery School.

Awards and decorations which General Jones received include the Defense Superior Service Medal; The Legion of Merit with three Oak Leaf Clusters; The Bronze Star Medal with five Oak Leaf Clusters; the Purple Heart with an Oak Leaf Cluster; several Air Medals; the Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters; the Combat Infantryman Badge; and the Aircraft Crewman Badge.