

General Fred Franks

General Fred Franks graduated 3 June 1959 from the United States Military Academy and retired from active Army service 1 December 1994. Since active Army retirement, General Franks collaborated with Tom Clancy on a book, *Into the Storm: A Study in Command*. He is the Class of 1966 Chair in the Simon Center for the Professional Military Ethic at the United States Military Academy at West Point, teaching an elective to seniors on Battle Command.. General Franks also serves on a corporate Board of Directors, is Chairman of the Board of VII Corps Desert Storm Veterans Association, and as President of the Defense Health Board's Amputee Board of Advisors serving today's Wounded Warriors. In September 2001 President George W. Bush appointed him to the American Battle Monuments Commission. He became the ninth Chairman of ABMC in January 2005.

During his active Army service, General Franks commanded Armored Cavalry units at the platoon, troop, squadron, and regimental levels in the 11th and 3d Armored Cavalry Regiments in periods from early 1960 to 1984. He served in combat in Vietnam as S-3, 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment from August 1969 until being medically evacuated to Valley Forge General Hospital in May 1970 after being wounded in action in Cambodia. After having his leg amputated below the knee and rehabilitation at Valley Forge General Hospital he was permitted to remain on active duty and returned to active service in early 1972. He also commanded Seventh Army Training Command (84-85), 1st Armored Division (88-89), and VII Corps in Germany (89-91). As VII Corps Commanding General, General Franks commanded the 146,000 US and British forces of VII Corps during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm that attacked over 250 kilometers in 89 hours and as part of the Coalition liberated Kuwait in February 1991. He concluded his active service as Commanding General Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) from 1991-1994, responsible for the U. S. Army's school system and for formulating concepts and requirements for future land warfare.

General Franks holds two Master Degrees from Columbia University in New York City, an honorary Master of Military Art and Science from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and an honorary Doctor of Humanities from Albright College in Reading, PA. He has received four awards for valor, two Purple Hearts, numerous military awards for service, as well as individual decorations and awards from foreign governments, his native Pennsylvania, and the Harry S. Truman Good Neighbor Award Foundation in Kansas City. He has been elected to the Athletic Hall of Fame and named a Distinguished Alumni by his hometown Wilson High School, and elected in 2004 to the Berks County Chapter of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame. In May 2000 the Association of Graduates named him a Distinguished Graduate of West Point.

He and his wife, Denise, are both natives of Pennsylvania. They have a daughter, Marjorie (Bozek), and three grandchildren, Jake, Mickey, and Denise.