

BIOGRAPHY

BRIGADIER GENERAL STEPHEN M. BLISS, USA (Ret)

Brigadier General Stephen M. Bliss, United States Army (Retired), is President of the Army and Navy Academy, Carlsbad, California. The Academy's mission is to educate and develop young men of good character to lead a life of service and excellence.

General Bliss was born January 28, 1944, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. As a youth, he attended the William Penn Charter School in Philadelphia and later The Hill School, in Pottstown, PA where he graduated in 1961. Upon graduation, he entered the United States Military Academy where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree as a member of the Class of 1965. He subsequently earned a Master's Degree in Petroleum Engineering from the University of Missouri-Rolla in 1971 and an MBA in 1998 from the University of Texas at Dallas. His military schooling included attendance at the U.S. Army Quartermaster School Advanced Course (1969), the U.S. Army Command and Staff College (1977-1978) and the U.S. Army War College (1984-1985).

Upon graduating from West Point, the General became a student at the Airborne and Ranger Courses, U.S. Army Infantry School, Fort Benning, GA., from August 1965 to February 1966. Then an artillery officer, he was assigned as a Forward Observer and later Executive Officer, Battery B, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 319th Field Artillery, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, KY.

In April, 1967, the General was transferred to the Quartermaster Corps. He was assigned to the Republic of Vietnam where he served as Commander, 74th Supply Company, Commander, 221st Supply and Service Company and Commander, A Company, 23rd Supply & Transport Battalion, Americal Division, in Chu Lai. In June 1968 he attended the Quartermaster Officer Advanced Course at Fort Lee, Virginia and, upon graduation, became training officer, and, later a senior training officer, Leadership Training Branch, U.S. Army Quartermaster School, Fort Lee, VA.

After obtaining his Master's Degree at the University of Missouri-Rolla, General Bliss returned to the Republic of Vietnam and became Chief, Petroleum Division, U.S. Army Support Command (Saigon). He subsequently became Petroleum Operations Officer, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, U.S. Army, Vietnam. In September of that year he was reassigned and became Petroleum Project Officer for the Directorate of Combat Developments at the U.S. Army Quartermaster School.

In 1975, the General was reassigned to Bahrain as Chief, Defense Fuel Quality Assurance Office Middle East, located in Awali. He then attended the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, KS. Upon graduation, he became G-4 Plans Officer, Deputy G4 and later G-4, 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized), Fort Carson, CO. In September 1980, while still at Fort Carson, he was assigned as Battalion Executive Officer, 4th Supply & Transport Battalion, Division Support Command, 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized).

In 1981 the General took the Short Basic Turkish Language Course at the Presidio of Monterey, California. He then deployed to become Chief, Supply and Services Branch, Allied Land Forces Southeastern Europe, Izmir, Turkey. In July of 1982 he returned to Fort Lee Virginia as Commander, 240th Quartermaster Battalion (Petroleum Pipeline and Terminal Operating).

After completing his battalion command, the General became a student at the U.S. Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania. Upon graduation, he served on the Army Staff as Chief of the Army Energy Office, Directorate of Transportation, Energy and Troop Support, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics in the Pentagon.

General Bliss assumed command of the Division Support Command, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), Fort Drum, NY. in June 1988. At the completion of his command assignment, he became the 10th Mountain Division's Assistant Division Commander for Support.

At the onset of the Gulf War, the General was reassigned to the Pentagon and the Army Staff where he became Director for Transportation, Energy and Troop Support, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics.

In May 1991, General Bliss assumed command of the Defense Fuel Supply Center at Cameron Station, VA, where he served for more than two years, procuring all the oil, natural gas and coal for the Department of Defense and many other government agencies. He subsequently became the Vice-Commander, Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES), Dallas, Texas in July 1993. AAFES is a resale activity providing goods and services to service members and their families on a global basis. At the time of the General's service, it was among the 10 largest retail sales organizations in the United States.

Upon his retirement on September 30th 1995, the General worked as a management consultant, principally supporting clients in the oil and gas, regulated utility, retail and defense sectors. Additionally, he participated in an Executive MBA program from the University of Texas at Dallas where he earned an MBA in August, 1998.

On February 8th, 2002 the General became the President of the Army and Navy Academy, succeeding the late LTC (Ret) Steve Miller, who accepted reassignment as Superintendent prior to his untimely death in August 2002.

General Bliss' military awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, Bronze Star with oak leaf cluster, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Army Achievement Medal, Parachute badge, Ranger tab, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal and Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm.

General Bliss lives at the President's residence on the Army and Navy Academy campus with his sons Gregory, 17 and David, 14.