



General Paul J. Kern
30 October 2001 - 5 November 2004

Paul J. Kern was born on 16 June 1945. Kern is a native of West Orange, New Jersey. He was commissioned as an Armor lieutenant following graduation from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. His education includes master's degrees in both Mechanical and Civil Engineering from the University of Michigan, and a Senior Service College Fellowship at Harvard University.

As a junior officer, he began his career with two combat tours in Vietnam with the 11th Armored Cavalry as a platoon leader and troop commander. He taught weapon systems and automotive engineering at the U.S. Military Academy and was the department's research officer.

During Desert Storm, he served as Brigade Commander of the 2nd Brigade, 24th Infantry Division, playing a pivotal role in the historic attack on the Jalibah Airfield, Iraq. General Kern has been associated with all Army Transformation efforts since 1996.

As the Division Commander of the 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized), he led the way in developing network centric warfare ideas and capabilities. General Kern has served as the Senior Military Assistant to the Secretary of Defense, and as the Director of Requirements (Support Systems), Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations. Earlier in his career, he served as the Program Branch Chief, Bradley Fighting Vehicle Systems.

General Kern served as the Military Deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology and was the senior military advisor to the Army Acquisition Executive and the Chief of Staff, Army on all research, development, and acquisition programs. He supervised the Program Executive Officer system and served as the Director of the Army Acquisition Corps.

General Kern served as the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Materiel Command from 30 October 2001 to 5 November 2004.

His awards and decorations include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Army Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (with oak leaf cluster), Bronze Star (with Valor Device and Oak Leaf Cluster), Bronze Star Medal (with two Oak Leaf Clusters), Purple Heart (with two Oak Leaf Clusters), Meritorious Service Medal (with four Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Commendation Medal, Parachutist Badge, and Ranger Tab. General Kern received the Society of Automotive Engineers Teeter Award and the 2002 Alumni Society Medal from the University of Michigan for his contributions to the engineering field. He retired on 1 January 2005.