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Kays, James L.

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Dr. James L. Kays
Dean
Graduate School of Engineering
and Applied Sciences
Naval Postgraduate School

BRIGADIER GENERAL, U.S. Army (Retired). Founding Professor and Head, Department of Systems Engineering, US Military Academy and former Head, Department of Mathematics, Auburn University Montgomery, Alabama.

Dr. Jim Kays was born in Arkansas in 1941. An Army brat, he graduated from high school in Fayetteville, North Carolina. He entered the United States Military Academy as a Presidential appointee and was a Distinguished Graduate of the Class of 1962.

Commissioned into the Field Artillery he served in light artillery units in the 82d Airborne Division and the 2d Infantry Division in Korea. He served as an advisor in the Republic of Vietnam and also served on the Army General Staff in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans. His military schooling includes the Field Artillery Basic and Advanced courses, the Command and General Staff College and the Army War College. He is Airborne and Ranger qualified, and his decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal for Valor and two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Combat Infantryman's Badge and General Staff Identification Badge. He holds Masters and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in Mathematics from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, where he received the Joaquin B. Diaz Award for Excellence in academic achievement and scholarly research. He has published in three internationally recognized journals, and his research has been cited in scientific works on both sides of the former iron curtain, to include the Soviet Union. He is listed in Who's Who in America in Science and Technology. An Army operations research analyst since 1973, he has twice served on the Board of Directors of the Military Operations Research Society, to include service as the Vice President of Professional Affairs. He led the effort to create the refereed journal, *Military Operations Research*, and continues to serve as one of its Associate Editors.

He joined the permanent faculty of the U.S. Military Academy in 1978. He was promoted to Professor of Mathematics in 1985, and in 1988 established the Academy's Operations Research Center of Excellence -- an activity that links the Academy to the Army while enriching cadet education and enhancing faculty development. On 1 July 1989 the Academy activated a new Department of Systems Engineering with then Colonel Kays as its first Professor and Head. This new engineering department focuses on large scale, multidisciplinary processes of the information age with emphases on systems analysis and design, computer technology, mathematical modeling and enhanced decision making. The Department now offers ABET accredited programs in systems engineering and engineering management, as well as operations research, and enjoys a national reputation for its innovative, high quality educational programs. He was heavily involved in Army athletics from his cadet days until his retirement from active duty. The most valuable player and quarterback of his championship high school team, he then played four years on Army's Lightweight Football team. A four-year letterman at Army, he was the quarterback on Army's 1960 Eastern Lightweight Football League championship team. He was the Officer Representative of Army Lightweight Football from 1981 to 1998, during which time the Army team won or shared twelve league championships and won twelve bowl games. The Eastern Lightweight Football League honored him in 1990 when their Most Valuable Player Award was established as the Jim Kays Award.

In October 1998 he retired from active duty at the rank of Brigadier General and was appointed Professor and Head, Department of Mathematics, Auburn University Montgomery (AUM). At AUM he was elected to the Faculty Senate, elected to be the President of the Faculty Senate and Council, and also chaired a university committee responsible for developing the university's information technology vision, goals and strategic plan. On July 1, 2002, he assumed his current position as Dean of the Graduate School of Engineering and Applied Sciences at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California.

He and his wife, Jeane, have been married since four days following his graduation in 1962. They have three children and three grandsons. Their oldest son is a graduate of the West Point Class of 1994, and their youngest son is a graduate of the West Point Class of 1997.