



BRIGADIER GENERAL (Ret) JAMES P. COMBS

Commander, Joint Forces Training Base, Los Alamitos, CA

Brigadier General (Ret) James P. Combs was appointed as the Commander, Joint Forces Training Base on 1 November 2005.

General Combs entered active military service in July 1967, as an enlisted engineer in the United States Army. After completing a three year tour as a Staff Sergeant, including one tour in Vietnam, General Combs joined the California Army National Guard in October 1970. In 1973, he attended the Army's Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia. He has served in a variety of command and key staff positions, including Company, Battalion, Brigade, and Division level commands. He is branch qualified in Military Police, Engineer, and Military Intelligence. General Combs was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General in August 1999 and retired from federal service on 1 October 2007. He continues service as the Commander, Joint Forces Training Base, as a State Active Duty appointee. General Combs has over forty years of military service.



General Combs' additional General Officer assignments included: Commander of the 49th Combat Support Command, California National Guard. While commanding the 49th Combat Support Command, he was tasked with the readiness of the majority of California's high priority combat support units. These units consisted of over 6,000 soldiers, the majority of which were deployed for the GWOT. He was also concurrently assigned as Assistant Division Commander, 91st Division (Training Support), United States Army Reserve from 15 May 2001 to 5 April 2004. While serving in this capacity, he was mobilized twice to support the 5th Army mobilization requirements. From 5 April 2004 to 31 Oct 2005, General Combs served as Commander, California Army National Guard which deployed over 12,000 California National Guard Soldiers in support of GWOT. General Combs was appointed Commanding General, 40th Infantry Division and Post Commander, Joint Forces Training Base, on 1 November 2005 and retired federally from this position as Commanding General, 40ID (Mech) on 1 October 2007. As the Commanding General of the 40th Infantry Division, he was responsible for the training readiness oversight of nine Brigades. Collectively, these commands consisted of over 20,000 soldiers. BG Combs continued his service as Commander of the Joint Forces Training Base, which has the mission to provide an environment to organize, resource, train and mobilize joint and combined forces for state and federal missions. The Base facilitates the deployment of military forces as the primary military back up to county and state first responders in Mutual Aid Region I (Orange County & Los Angeles County), which includes law enforcement, fire and medical first responders.

Joint Forces Training Base is a disaster support center with an Airfield and two runways supporting over 1,100 flights and 400 radar ground control approaches each month.

General Combs graduated from the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Among his awards are the Legion of Merit with two Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, the Bronze Star medal with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Meritorious Service Medal with one silver Oak Leaf Cluster. General Combs holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Humboldt State University, with a double major in Business and Art, and a Masters of Public Administration degree from Shippensburg University, Pennsylvania.

BG Combs resides with his wife Janet, a retired "Director of Sales Operations" in Seal Beach, CA and they have one son Vincent, who is currently serving in the military.