

Department of Military Affairs
WISCONSIN NATIONAL GUARD
2400 Wright Street • Madison • WI • 53704

Biography

BRIGADIER GENERAL KENNETH A. KOON

Wisconsin Army National Guard

Brigadier General Kenneth A. Koon is the Land Component Commander Wisconsin Army National Guard. He provides command and control and managerial oversight of units supporting the major commands in support of contingency operations. Brig. Gen. Koon acts as a Joint Task Force or Field Operating Headquarters commander, as appropriate, to provide support to civil authorities, as directed by Presidential call up, or the Governor for disaster relief, public safety, search and rescue, civil defense and Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and/or High Explosive response. He also serves a dual-hat assignment as Deputy Commanding General-Operations, 1st US Army Division West responsible for all training, certification and validation of Army National Guard and Reserve Forces as the personal representative of the Commanding General, 1st US Army Division West.



Brig. Gen. Koon holds a bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of Wisconsin–Oshkosh, a master's in management and organizational behavior from Silver Lake College and a master's in strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College. He is a graduate of the U.S. Army Airborne School, Infantry Officer Basic course, Armor Officer and Field Artillery Officer Advanced Courses, Combined Arms and Service Staff School, Command and General Staff College, and Advanced Joint Professional Military Education, and is a certified Organizational Development Consultant.

Brig. Gen. Koon enlisted in the Army in 1977 and served as a military policeman at Fort Sill, Okla., and in Germany. After separation from active duty, he joined the 84th Division, U.S. Army Reserve, and was commissioned a second lieutenant through the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) in May 1982. Transferring to the Wisconsin Army National Guard, he became support platoon leader with Headquarters, 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry, in September 1982. Since then, he has served in a series of command and staff assignments, including commander of Forward Operating Base Grizzly and Camp Ashraf, Iraq and the 16th Commandant of the 426th Regiment (Regional Training Institute) at Fort McCoy, Wis. In June 2013 he was promoted to Brig. Gen. as the Assistant Adjutant General for Readiness and Training, Wisconsin Army National Guard and in February 2014 was selected to serve as DCG-O, 1st US Army Division West.

Brig. Gen. Koon's awards include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with three bronze oak leaf clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with three bronze oak leaf clusters, the Army Achievement Medal with two bronze oak leaf clusters, the Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal with one silver and 3 bronze oak leaf clusters, the National Defense Service Medal with bronze star, the Korean Defense Service Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, The Armed Forces Reserve Medal with M device and gold Hour Glass, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the Wisconsin National Guard Commendation Medal, the Parachutist Badge and the Field Artillery Ancient Order of Saint Barbara.

Brig. Gen. Koon has retired from active Federal Military Technician status after 28 years of service. He is a life member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 11244, a member of American Legion Post 812, and a member of the Field Artillery Association and the 127th Infantry Association. He also holds life memberships in the National Guard Association of the United States, the Wisconsin National Guard Association, and the 32nd Division Association. He lives in Waunakee, Wis., with his wife Lt. Col. (Retired) Luanne J. Sleger Koon and twin boys Jacob and Jonah.