

Brigadier General Paul J. Laughlin **Commandant, United States Army Armor School**

Brigadier General Paul J. Laughlin, a native of Pittsburgh, and raised in Kingston, N.Y., was commissioned in Armor following his graduation from Springfield College, Mass. His military education includes the Armor Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, and master's degrees from the National War College and Central Michigan University.

Laughlin's first assignment was at Fort Hood in 1986 where he served as a tank platoon leader, support platoon leader and battalion adjutant, 1st Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment. Next, he was assigned to the 3rd Bn., 35th Armor Regt., at Bamberg, Germany, as the S3 Air and deployed to Operation Desert Shield and Storm. He then commanded D Company, 1st Bn., 37th Armor Regt., 1st Armored Division, and then served with 3rd Bde., 3rd Infantry Division, as the brigade's chief of plans and commanded the HHC in Vilseck, Germany. Following this, he served as an Office of the Secretary of Defense intern and then as an Armor branch assignment officer in Washington, D.C. He then served as the I Corps field grade manager at Fort Lewis, Wash., before deploying to serve as the military advisor and liaison from 1st Cavalry Div. to the Office of High Representative in Brcko, Bosnia, during Operation Joint Endeavor. Later, he served as battalion executive officer for 1st Bn., 32nd Armor Regt. and then as the brigade S3 for the Army's initial Stryker Brigade with 3rd Bde., 2nd Inf. Div., at Fort Lewis. He was then assigned to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., and served as the Operations Group chief of plans. After that assignment, Laughlin commanded 1st Bn., 72nd Armor Regt., at Camp Casey, Korea, followed by duty as the 2nd ID G3 at Camp Red Cloud, Korea. Following this, he served as the Armor branch chief in Washington, D.C., prior to becoming the 63rd Regimental commander for 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment at Fort Irwin, Calif. Following regimental command, he deployed to Afghanistan and served as the senior military advisor for the Afghanistan minister of Defense during Operation Enduring Freedom. Before arriving to Fort Benning, he was serving as the executive officer for the commanding general of U.S. Army Europe in Heidelberg, Germany. Since 2012, he has served as the 47th chief of Armor, and as the commandant of the U.S. Army Armor School.

His awards and decorations include: the Legion of Merit (with two oak leaf clusters), Bronze Star Medal, the Joint Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with five OLC, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with four OLC, the Army Achievement Medal with four OLC, the Southwest Asia Service Medal with two campaign stars, the Afghan Campaign Medal with two campaign stars, the Global War on Terror Service Medal, the Overseas Ribbon with numeral 3, and the NATO Service Medal. Additionally, he has the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Valorous Unit Award, Army Superior Unit Award and the Office of the Secretary of Defense Identification Badge.