

General Carter Ham, USA (Ret.) *President & Chief Executive Officer, Association of the United States Army.*

General Carter Ham is the President and Chief Executive Officer for the Association of the United States Army, a Virginia-based, private non-profit organization with 119 chapters worldwide that acts primarily as an advocacy group for the Army and its soldiers.

General Ham retired from the United States Army in 2013 as the Commander, U.S. Africa Command where he traveled to 42 countries as part the Command's efforts to enhance America's security by establishing and developing partnerships and building the military capacity of African nations. He directed all U.S. military operations in Africa, including leading coalition forces during the Libyan conflict in 2011, hostage rescue operations in Somalia and counter-terrorism operations in several countries.

Prior to leading AFRICOM, General Ham was the commander of all U.S. Army forces in Europe, where he oversaw troops deployed to the Balkans, to Iraq and as part of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization mission in Afghanistan. He spent nearly four decades in the Army and is one of a very small number of military leaders who rose from the rank of Private to four-star General.

General Ham served in various capacities both in the field and in the Pentagon. In January 2004, he assumed command of Multinational Brigade (Task Force Olympia) – North in Mosul, Iraq serving there until February 2005. He commanded the First Infantry Division (the Big Red One) and, later, served as the Director of Operations, J3, at the Joint Staff. In retirement, he chaired the Congressionally-mandated National Commission on the Future of the Army.

He is a 1976 Distinguished Military Graduate of John Carroll University in Cleveland, Ohio. General Ham earned a Masters Degree from the Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island. He and his wife, Christi (also a John Carroll graduate and a lifelong educator), have two grown children and three fast-growing grandchildren.