Biography







Major General Ernest C. Park is assigned as the Adjutant General for the State of Maine. His responsibilities include the Command and Control, supervision of training, and the administration of all assigned Army and Air National Guard units.

General Park was born on January 8, 1933, in Dexter, Maine. He graduated from Old Orchard Beach (Maine) High School in 1951 and received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Maine, 1961. His military education includes U.S. Air Command and Staff College (correspondence), 1974, and Industrial College of the Armed Forces National Security Management Course, 1979.

General Park enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps Infantry in August 1951 and served in Korea from February 1952 to March 1953. He transferred to the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve in August 1954 and then joined the Maine Air National Guard's 132nd Fighter Interceptor Squadron, Dow Air Force Base, Maine, as a second lieutenant navigator trainee, in June 1958. In January 1959 he was ordered to active duty for training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, to attend Navigator training and was assigned to the 3565th Navigator Training Wing, James Connally Air Force Base, Texas, for Primary Navigator Training, then to the Navigator Radar Intercept Officer Course. He returned to Dow Air Force Base in August 1960, and was assigned as a radar interceptor officer for the 132nd Fighter Interceptor Squadron. He was assigned to the 101st Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Bangor ANG Base in July 1970, as a production control officer and later assumed command of the 101st Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron while continuing to fly as a weapon systems officer. In July 1979, he was selected as Deputy Commander for Maintenance for the 101st Air Refueling Wing. General Park was assigned Chief of Staff for Air, Headquarters, Maine Air National Guard, 14 August 1984. He was appointed to his current position on January 9, 1987.

The general is a master navigator with more than 2700 flying hours in the T-29C, F-89J, C-47D, T-33A, F101B/F, T37, T38, C141, and KC-135A/E aircraft. His military awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Air Force Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with two oak leaf clusters, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, Combat Readiness Medal

with two oak leaf clusters, National Defense Service Medal, Korean Service Medal with three service stars, Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon with seven oak leaf clusters, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with two hourglass devices, Organized Marine Corps Reserve Medal, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, Air Force Training Ribbon, Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation, and the United Nations Service Medal. His Maine awards include the Distinguished Service Award, Emergency Service Award, and the Honorable Service Award with two service stars. Maj Gen Park has also been awarded the Air Force Master Maintenance Badge.

He is employed as the Commissioner of the Department of Defense and Veterans Services, State of Maine, Augusta, Maine.

His civic affiliations include the National Guard Association of the United States and Maine, Air Force Association, National Guard Masonic Degree Team, Bangor Lions International, American Hospital Engineers Society, Maine Hospital Engineers Society, American Society of Mechanical Engineers, American Legion, and Veterans of Foreign Wars (Life member).

General Park was promoted to Major General and federally recognized on September 29, 1987.

He is married to the former Elizabeth Denham of Houston, Texas. They have two children: Joseph and Deborah. The Parks reside in Brewer, Maine.

Current as of February 1990