

COL Kashi Yatto

Special Assistant to the Commanding General U.S. Army Soldier Support Institute, Fort Jackson, South Carolina

COL Kashi Yatto is the Special Assistant to the Commanding General for the U.S. Army Soldier Support Institute at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. She serves as a liaison and subject matter expert to the SSI and Ft. Jackson Commanding Generals, school commandants and staffs, and is the Senior National Guard Advisor on post, representing the National Guard. Fort Jackson is the largest basic combat training post in the United States.

She began her military career as a cadet in the Simultaneous Membership Program while participating in ROTC at Shippensburg State College, and enlisted in the 154th Transportation Battalion of the Pennsylvania National Guard. Upon commissioning and after the Adjutant Generals' Basic Officer Course, she completed her active duty obligation in Germany, primarily working on headquarters staff as an assistant adjutant and command information officer. Upon leaving Germany after five years, she joined the Army Reserve, then the Texas National Guard, serving in public affairs positions including Radio-TV officer, executive officer and Commander of a Public Affairs Detachment.

While in the Reserves and National Guard, she also worked full-time in the insurance and investments field as a stockbroker and financial planner, earning her Chartered Financial Consultant (ChFC) and Chartered Life Underwriter (CLU) designations from The American College in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania.

COL Yatto earned her Bachelors of Journalism at Shippensburg State College in Pennsylvania, an MBA from Southwest Texas State University in Texas, a Masters of Science in International Relations from Troy State University in Alabama while stationed in Germany and the Czech Republic, and a Masters of Science in Strategic Planning from the U.S. Army War College in Pennsylvania.

She sought out many opportunities to continue to enhance her public affairs, communications, and planning skills by succeeding in a number of special tours in Europe, to include working in Operations at Headquarters, USAREUR & 7th Army, EUCOM Reserve Affairs, EUCOM Public Affairs, and EUCOM J3 as a NATO/Partnership for Peace Exercise Planner. She was mobilized during the Bosnia campaign and served at EUCOM headquarters. Additionally, she served for a year in the Czech Republic with the U.S. Embassy as the Deputy Military Liaison Team Chief as part of the National Guard's State Partnership Program.

After another six years in Europe, she was selected for the National Guard Title 10 Active Guard and Reserve program (AGR), and returned to Washington to serve as the Chief of the EUCOM Branch at NGB International Affairs, prior to attending the U.S. Army War College. After attending the War College, she again returned to Washington and was the Manager for Employer Services for Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), an agency within the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

Her military education includes numerous courses throughout her career focused on public affairs, communications, NATO peace support and operational courses, military support to civilian authorities, transportation, Adjutant General qualifying courses, Command and General Staff College, and the U.S. Army War College.

COL Yatto is married to Brian Kew. Her hobbies include investments, reading, traveling, hiking and camping. Together they enjoy traveling, theater, history and the outdoors.