

Lt. General Ed Soyster, Class of 1953

Distinguished Alumni

General Soyster was born in Altoona and raised in Hollidaysburg, PA. In 1957, he graduated from the United States Military Academy with a Bachelor of Science degree and was commissioned in the field artillery. He also holds Masters of Science from Penn State University in Chemistry and the University of Southern California in Systems Management. Additionally, General Soyster attended special courses at Harvard University.

His military schooling includes the Field Artillery School, the United States Army Command and Staff College and the National War College.

As a field artillery officer, he commanded all levels from platoon to division artillery with staff assignments at The Department of the Army and The Joint Chiefs of Staff. He served as assistant professor at the U.S. Military Academy and as Chief of Staff, 24th Infantry Division. In Vietnam, he served as a field artillery battalion operations officer and battalion executive director. He was wounded in action and twice decorated in valor. General Soyster also received a Defense Medal and two Army Distinguished Service Medals, National Intelligence Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit Medal and numerous service and campaign decorations.

After promotion to general officer, he completed his military career in a series of intelligence assignments. These included Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Department of Army and Commanding General, U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command. He was then given his third star and appointed as the Director of Defense with the Intelligence Agency. He was the senior military intelligence support during Operation JUST CAUSE in Panama and DESERT SHIELD/STORM in the Gulf War.

In 1992, after retirement Lt. General Soyster joined Military Professional Resources, Inc. where he pioneered in providing democracy transition assistance to countries in eastern Europe and Africa as Vice President for International Operations. In 2004 he was appointed for 2 years as Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Army for the WWII 60th Anniversary Commemorations worldwide. He served on the board of directors of several companies and as advisor to others. He participated in studies by the Center for Strategic and International Studies and is currently on the board of directors for the Center for Immigration Studies and a trustee for Dwight D. Eisenhower Society of Gettysburg.

Lt. General Soyster is married and lives with his wife, Joyce, in Alexandria, VA.