

Port Washington Youth Activities
PYA HALL OF FAME

Colonel John A. Kelly
Commander, 8th ROTC Brigade
U.S. Army Cadet Command

Colonel Kelly played football and lacrosse for 8 years in PYA in the late 1970's through 1980, and both sports at Schreiber High School, graduating in 1984. He excelled as a goalie on the lacrosse team during his two varsity seasons, and was named All-Conference as a senior when he was also team captain and led the Vikings to a Division championship. He was appointed to the United States Military Academy at West Point that year, where he played varsity lacrosse in 1986.

Col. Kelly graduated from the USMA in 1989 with a Baccalaureate Degree in Leadership. He is a graduate of the Field Artillery Officer Basic and Field Artillery Officer Advance courses and earned an MS degree in Education (Counseling and Leader Development) from Long Island University in 1998. He is a graduate of the Army's Command and General Staff College (2001). Recently he graduated from the Advanced Operational Art Studies Fellowship, School of Advanced Military Studies, Command and General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth, KS with a Masters in Military Art and Science. He is also a graduate of the US Army Airborne School.



Col. Kelly has served in Fire Support positions from the company through division levels. He has commanded at the platoon, battery, battalion and brigade levels. During Operation Desert Shield/Storm, he served with the 3rd Armored Division as a Company Fire Support Officer, Battery Fire Direction Officer and Firing Battery Platoon Leader. He served two tours with the 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas serving in positions ranging from Battery Executive Officer through Division Fire Support Coordinator. He deployed with the 1st Cavalry Division to Baghdad, Iraq during operation Iraqi Freedom as the Multi National Division – Baghdad's Fire Support Coordinator in 2004-2005. His battery and battalion commands were both at Fort Sill, Oklahoma during 1995-1997 and 2006-2008 respectfully, and he commanded the 3rd Battalion, 13th Field Artillery Regiment where he prepared and deployed the battalion to conduct Detainee Operations, Camp Bucca, Iraq.

Additional assignments have included: Company Tactical Officer, United States Corps of Cadets, USMA; Professor of Military Science, ROTC, Loyola College in Baltimore, MD; and Instructor - Tactical Commanders Development Program, School of Command Preparation, Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, KS. Prior to assuming Command of 8th Brigade, United States Army Cadet Command, he served as a Seminar Leader for the Advanced Military Studies Program in the School of Advanced Military Studies, Command and General Staff College, also at Fort Leavenworth.

Col. Kelly has been married for over 24 years to the former Pamela Murray of Port Washington. They have three daughters: Alison, Megan and Kaitlin.