



**Name in English:** Garrett S. Yee  
**Name in Chinese:** Simplified [Traditional]  
**Name in Pinyin:** Use Pinyin for the Chinese name  
**Gender:** Male  
**Birth Year:** Year  
**Birth Place:** San Jose, California  
**Current location:** Union City, California

**Profession (s):** Military Officer, Community College Trustee, State Insurance Manager and Director

**Education:** Bachelor of Science, Combined Science, Santa Clara University, 1987; Master of Business Administration, Marketing, Golden Gate University, 1995; Master of Strategic Studies, United States Army War College, 2009

**Awards:**

**Military:** Bronze Star Medal, United States Army; Meritorious Service Medal (with 5 Oak Leaf Clusters), United States Army; Army Commendation Medal (with 5 Oak Leaf Clusters), United States Army; Army Achievement Medal (with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters), United States Army; National Defense Service Medal (with 1 Bronze Star), Department of Defense; Iraq Campaign Medal, Department of Defense; Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Department of Defense; Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Department of Defense; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Department of Defense; NATO Medal, North Atlantic Treaty Organization; Army Overseas Service Ribbon; Parachutist Badge, United States Army; German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency, Bundeswehr

**Civilian:** 2010, Montessori Community Honoree, Alston Montessori Foundation of Fremont, California; 2010, Readers Choice BEST of Fremont Best Elected Official, Fremont Bulletin & The Argus; 2010, Award for Outstanding Public Service, Asian American Federation of California; 2007, Citizen of the Year, Indo American Community Federation; 2006, Scouter of the Year, Boy Scouts of America; 2005, Citizen of the Year, Citizens for Better Community;

**Contribution (s):** Garrett Yee learned the values of public service from his parents. His mother, a Japanese American, was interned with thousands of others during WWII. His grandmother, a Chinese American, had her citizenship revoked as part of the Chinese Exclusion Act. The hard lives and stories of his parents and grandparents educated Yee that the job of a leader was to ensure that such injustices didn't happen again.

Garrett Yee has worked for the Workers Compensation Insurance Rating Bureau of California from 1989 until today and is presently the Director of Outreach and

Education. His major impact though has been as a military officer in the United States Army Reserve and as an elected official in California.

Commissioned as a United States Army second lieutenant through the ROTC program at Santa Clara University in 1987, Yee was first called to active duty in 2003 to serve as a Division Plans Officer in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. In 2002, Yee was elected to the Ohlone College Board of Trustees and in 2006, he was re-elected to a second term.

In 2005, he was again called to active duty to serve as the Battalion Commander of a logistics support battalion. Colonel Yee then deployed to Iraq in 2006 as the lead Theater Observation Detachment Officer with the Center for Army Lessons Learned where he authored a CALL Handbook on Provincial Reconstruction Teams in Iraq. Colonel Yee then returned to Afghanistan from October 2011 to October 2012 where he served as the Deputy Commander for the 335th Signal Command (Theater) (Provisional). In Afghanistan he provided senior leadership for all 335th Signal Command operations, as well as provided oversight of commercialization projects throughout Southwest Asia. His other army assignments include Commander, 505th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade, from June 2010 to October 2011; Commander, 650th Regional Support Group in Las Vegas, Nevada, from August 2007 to June 2010; As a lieutenant colonel he was Commander of the Logistic Support Battalion at Fort Bliss, Texas, providing post-mobilization training and logistics support to deploying units of the Army National Guard and Reserve; Detachment Executive Officer; Aide-de-Camp; Company Commander; Observer/Controller and Team Chief; Battalion Operations Officer; Federal Emergency Management Agency, Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officer.

In December 2012, Colonel Yee became Deputy Commander for Mobilization for the Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command at Scott Air Force Base. On May 19, 2013, a ceremony was held where he was officially promoted to Brigadier General, one of the select few Chinese Americans to have achieved general rank in the United States Army. In tribute to the past and present soldiers who'd sacrificed so much he said upon his return from Afghanistan in 2012 that, "I would like to thank all those in uniform today and thank those that have served before us. With less than 1 percent of the population serving in uniform today, service to our nation in the armed forces is rare and is a high calling that few answer."

In 2010, Yee unsuccessfully ran for the Democratic nomination for the California 20<sup>th</sup> State Assembly District.

General Yee has served as President of Citizens for Better Community, a local service organization, District Chairman for the Boy Scouts of America, which represents over 1500 youth members, Chair of the Fremont Library Advisory Commission, and President of the South Bay Chinese Club of Southern Alameda County. He has also served on the Redevelopment Agency Appeals Board for the City of Fremont

## **Publications:**

Garrett Yee, **Greetings from Iraq!: Letters Home from a War Zone**, Xlibris, Corp., 2008, ISBN-13: 978-1436302876

## **External Links:**

<http://www.sddc.army.mil/Who/Biographies/COL%20%28P%29%20YEE%20-Bio-V2-DEC2012.pdf>

[http://www.smartvoter.org/2010/11/02/ca/alm/vote/yee\\_gt/bio.html](http://www.smartvoter.org/2010/11/02/ca/alm/vote/yee_gt/bio.html)

<http://ohlonemonitor.com/features/2013/03/14/trustee-garrett-yee-returns-home-from-afghanistan/>

<http://www.apaforprogress.org/garrett-yee-candidate-20th-assembly-district-ca>

[http://capitolwords.org/date/2013/05/15/E670-3\\_in-recognition-of-brigadier-general-garrett-s-yee/](http://capitolwords.org/date/2013/05/15/E670-3_in-recognition-of-brigadier-general-garrett-s-yee/)

<http://www.tricityvoice.com/articledisplay.php?a=3315>