

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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JAMES M. GAVIN IS SWORN IN AS UNITED STATES
AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE

James M. Gavin was sworn in today as United States Ambassador to France. Secretary of State Dean Rusk attended the ceremony and welcomed Ambassador Gavin. The Ambassador will depart for France later this month.

Ambassador Gavin was born at New York, New York on March 22, 1907. Enlisting in the United States Army in 1924, he received an appointment to the United States Military Academy in the following year. He received his commission and bachelor's degree in 1929. The Ambassador subsequently attended the Infantry School, Command and General Staff School and Parachute School.

After graduation Ambassador Gavin served in a number of posts in the United States and abroad. During World War II he participated in a series of airborne attacks in the European Theater. In 1943, as Commander of the 505th Regimental Combat Team, he dropped with his men into Sicily. In the following year, as Assistant Division Commander of the 82nd Airborne Division, he parachuted into Normandy with his command. Later in the same year, as Commander of the 82nd Airborne, he and his troops dropped near Nijmegen, Holland.

Ambassador Gavin returned to Europe in 1951 as Chief of Staff of the Allied Forces in Southern Europe. In the following year he assumed command of the United States VII Corps in Germany. He was appointed Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans and Research in 1955. Later that year he was named Chief of Research and Development.

In 1958, Ambassador Gavin retired from the Army with the rank of Lieutenant General. During the course of his career he received the Distinguished Service Cross with Oak Leaf Cluster, Purple Heart and Silver Star.

Following his retirement from the Army Ambassador Gavin joined Arthur D. Little, Incorporated, as a Vice President. In 1959, he was appointed a member of the Board of directors and named Executive Vice President. He became President of the firm in 1960.

In addition to his other activities Ambassador Gavin is also associated with a number of civic and educational institutions. He is a fellow of the Harvard Center of International Affairs and a Life Trustee of Tufts University. The Ambassador is also a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and is active in the Council on Foreign Relations. He is a delegate to the Atlantic Congress, a member of the National Council of the Atlantic Union Committee and serves on the New Frontiers of Technology Committee of the United States Chamber of Commerce.

Ambassador

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Ambassador Gavin is the author of two books; War and Peace in the Space Age and Airborne Warfare, as well as many articles.

Ambassador Gavin is married to the former Jean Emert Duncan. He has five children.

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State--RD, Wash., D. C.