

LTC James E. Elkins grew up in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. He was commissioned as a field artillery officer from the University of Richmond in May 1989. Elkins graduated from Randolph Macon College with a B.A. in History.

Elkins was initially assigned as a fire support team chief with 1-246th Field Artillery, 29th Infantry Division (Light), Danville, Va. He was later assigned as the Executive Officer for Alpha Battery, 1-246th Field Artillery. After moving to Kentucky and completing the Command and Staff Service School in 1998, Elkins took command of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery 138th Field Artillery Brigade, Lexington, Ky. Elkins was then assigned as a fire control officer for the 138th Field Artillery Brigade Mobilizing at Fort Campbell, Ky. for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Upon moving to Ind. in 2004, Elkins was assigned as a Reserve Component unit trainer team chief with 2-338th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 85th Division Training Support. After graduating Intermediate Level Education (ILE) in 2008, Elkins became the Executive Officer for 2-338th Infantry Regiment, 205th Infantry Brigade, First Army Division East. Previous to this assignment Elkins served as the Executive Officer for the 205th Brigade, First Army Division East.

Elkins' operational deployments include Operation Enduring Freedom 2003-2004, Operation Iraqi Freedom 2007, and Operation Enduring Freedom 2010. Elkins has been mobilized with the 205th Infantry Brigade since 2005.

Elkins' awards and decorations include: Defense Meritorious Service Medal; Joint Commendation Medal; Army Commendation Medal with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters; Army Achievement Medal with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster and Air Assault Badge.