

Colonel Wayne L. Cline (Class RSP-59)

Colonel Cline enlisted in the Kansas Army National Guard (KSARNG) as a private on December 10, 1953. He attended Artillery Officer Candidate School at Fort Sill, Oklahoma and graduated on March 27, 1959 with Class RSP-59. He was commissioned as a 2LT on 21 July 1959.

He holds branch qualification in Field Artillery, Engineer, Transportation, and Aviation with broad experience in combat service support, combat support and combat units. His assignments include Platoon Leader, Rotor Wing Aviator, Flight Commander, Operations Officer, Company Commander, Assistant Logistics Officer, Executive Officer, and Army Aviation Facility Commander.

He commanded one of the five Army National Guard Heavy Helicopter (sky crane) units in the nation. He then was tasked to start the first Army Aviation Support Facility (AASF) at Forbes Field in Kansas and commanded the AASF from 1972-1979.

He then served as State Aviation Officer from 1979 - 1990. He was the first full-time instructor pilot for the KSARNG, the first KSARNG aviator to fly helicopters in actual instrument weather conditions, the first rotary wing instrument examiner in the KSARNG, and fielded the first CH-54 Sky Crane company in the National Guard. He implemented a phase maintenance system for CH-54A helicopters, which was adopted world-wide, improving readiness 100%.

Colonel Cline had approximately 10,000 accident-free flying hours, while flying sixteen different types of aircraft. His awards include the Legion of Merit.

He died on July 14, 2020.