

Colonel Ralph Vincent Gardner (Class 26-42)

Colonel Gardner enlisted in the Utah National Guard on June 1, 1940. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant upon graduation from the Field Artillery Officer Candidate School, Fort Sill, Oklahoma on August 18, 1942.

He landed on Omaha Beach during June 1944 and later participated in the Battle of the Bulge. He ended his World War II service near the Czech border in 1945.

He became a Regular Army Officer in 1946. He attended the Anti-Aircraft Artillery Advanced Course in 1951 and was promoted to Major on March 26, 1954. He graduated from the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas in 1959 and was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel on August 15, 1961. He was promoted to Colonel on December 12, 1968 and retired in 1972.

Colonel Gardner served for 32 years in the US Army. His career assignments took him to Germany, Korea, Japan, the Pentagon, Washington State University, Mississippi, Texas, and Salt Lake City.

His decorations include the Bronze Star Medal for Heroism during World War II.