

Colonel W. Robert Harrell, Jr. (Class 2-56)

Colonel Harrell enlisted in the Army on November 3, 1950 and was discharged on May 31, 1951. After a break in service he re-enlisted on June 3, 1953. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant on February 7, 1956 upon graduation from the Artillery Officer Candidate School, Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

During 1958 and 1959 he served as Aide de camp to both Brigadier General C.W. G. Rich and Brigadier General Rueben H. Tucker when they were Assistant Commanders of 101st Airborne Division. He made his 100th parachute jump at Fort Campbell in May 1959 and both generals pinned on his “century” wings after the jump.

He graduated from Louisiana State University and A & M College in 1962. During 1964 he commanded Battery B, 1st Battalion, 17th Artillery Regiment in Korea.

Colonel Harrell was promoted to Major and graduated from the Command and General Staff College in 1965. Later in his career he served a tour in Vietnam. He was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel on August 9, 1968 and promoted to Colonel on September 4, 1975. His last assignment was to the U.S. Army Element, Headquarters, Pacific Command (PACOM), Hawaii. He retired on December 31, 1978.