

Colonel James F. Reidy (Class 101-44)

Colonel Reidy enlisted in the Army on June 24, 1942 and graduated from Harvard University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1943. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant upon graduation from the Field Artillery Officer Candidate School, Fort Sill, Oklahoma on April 1, 1944.

His initial assignment after graduation from OCS was to the Field Artillery Officer Replacement Pool, Field Artillery Replacement Training Center Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He was then sent to the Infantry Officer Basic Course at Fort Benning, Georgia. He served during World War II as a paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division and left the Army in 1946. He rejoined the Army in 1948 with the 82nd Airborne at Fort Bragg, North Carolina and made it a career.

He was promoted to Captain on May 19, 1953 and attended the Infantry Officer Advanced Course in 1955. He transferred to the Artillery branch on December 7, 1956 and served the rest of his career as an Artillery Officer.

Colonel Reidy was sent to Vietnam in February 1959 as one of five members of the U.S. Military Assistance Advisory Group (MAAG) stationed at the Bien Hoa Army Training Center 20 miles north of Saigon. Their mission was to train the Vietnamese forces in the use of American arms. On July 8, 1959 a Communist terrorist raid on the American compound killed two of the American Advisors and wounded a third. Reidy, then a Captain, and another American advisor escaped injury. The terrorist and three south Vietnamese were killed. Major Dale R. Buis and Master Sergeant Chester M. Ovand were killed in the attack. They were the first Americans killed by hostile action in the Vietnam War.

He was promoted to Major on February 1, 1961 and graduated from the Command and General Staff College in 1961. He was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel on November 16, 1964 and to Colonel on July 31, 1969.