

Colonel Herbert D. Ruhlin (Class 46-43)

Colonel Ruhlin enlisted in the New Jersey National Guard on May 10, 1933 with Service Battery, 258th Field Artillery and served for six years. He went on active duty on October 19, 1940 and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant upon graduation from the Field Artillery Officer Candidate School, Fort Sill, Oklahoma on January 7, 1943. His first assignment after OCS was to the Field Artillery Replacement Training Center, Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

After World War II he served with the 165th Armored Field Artillery Battalion as a Battery Commander, Adjutant and Executive Officer. He was promoted to Captain on February 21, 1946 and to Major on July 9, 1957. He continued his career in the National Guard and was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel on November 13, 1961 and graduated from the Command and General Staff College in 1963. He was promoted to Colonel on September 14, 1968. For most of his career he served as a full-time employee of the New Jersey State Department of Defense.

As a Colonel he was appointed by the Governor as the coordinator and project officer for high profile projects. One project for youth that was initiated in 1971 was held yearly at Sea Girt National Guard Training Center for 800 disadvantaged boys (200 during each of the four weeks). The participants were chosen by the Department of Education to participate and there was one counselor for every four participants. The staff included doctors, dentists, psychologists, teachers, former professional athletes, musicians and martial arts experts all provided from the ranks of the National Guard. The National Guard participants served at the camp instead of the two-week annual field training. All the National Guard Armories in the state were also used year around for weekly youth programs and athletic events. The programs helped boost the image of the National Guard and aided in recruiting new soldiers.

Colonel Ruhlin was also the project officer for "Operation Clean Stream" during, a joint effort of the Federal and State Environmental Agencies and the New Jersey National Guard. It included extensive surveys to determine the pollution threat to selected lakes and reservoirs in the state and volunteer activities by National Guard soldiers aimed at cleaning up the lakes and streams.