

Colonel Robert J. Tolly (Class 28-42)

Colonel Tolly enlisted on March 5, 1941. He entered the Field Artillery Officer Candidate School at Fort Sill, Oklahoma as a Corporal and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant upon graduation on September 3, 1942.

During World War II he was assigned to the Gunnery Department at Fort Sill and then served with XII Corps Artillery in the European Theater of Operations until the end of the War.

During 1948, he earned a BS degree from Hillsdale College, was promoted to Captain and sent to Korea and then given a one year assignment in Japan.

During September 1950, he participated in the Inchon Landings in Korea and was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel on November 2, 1950. On December 1, while in command of the 57th Field Artillery Battalion, 7th Infantry Division he was wounded, captured, and released (escaped) a few days later. He was then hospitalized in Japan.

Colonel Tolly completed the Guided Missiles Course 1952 at Fort Bliss and was stationed in Chicago and later served in the office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations at the Department of the Army. In 1959 he became the Deputy Chief of Staff G-4 in Verona Italy and later became G-1 of Northern Area Command in Germany.

He was promoted to Colonel on January 5, 1961 and in August 1963 he became the Director of the Guided Missile Department at Fort Sill. He culminated his career as the Idaho Sector Commander, U.S. Army Reserves as senior advisor to all Reserve units in Idaho. His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart and the POW Medal.