

William H. Tucker, Jr. (Class 131-45)

Colonel Tucker was an ROTC cadet at Virginia Tech where he studied Civil Engineering. The Army drafted him, and he entered active duty on June 3, 1944. He attended the Field Artillery Officer Candidate School, at Fort Sill, Oklahoma and was commissioned as a 2nd LT on April 14, 1945.

His service included: Army of Occupation in Japan, 97th Infantry Division; 11th Airborne Division including parachute and glider school; and 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, North Carolina from 1948-50. He later obtained a BS Degree from University of Maryland, an MS Degree from George Washington University and completed two years of graduate work in nuclear physics at the University of Virginia.

Other assignments included: Korean War, 2nd Infantry Division; Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; SETAF, Verona Italy; Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania; three tours in the Pentagon (R&D, General Staff, and Joint Chiefs of Staff); Vietnam War as Commanding Officer, Military Region II Artillery; Brussels, Belgium as Defense Advisor to the U.S. Ambassador to NATO; and Army Test and Evaluation Command, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland.

His awards and decorations include: Two Bronze Stars for valor and meritorious service in the Korean War; three Legions of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal; three Army Commendation Medals; the Joint Service Commendation Medal and the Air Medal.

Colonel Tucker retired from the Army in 1976 and began his second career at Merrill Lynch in St. Petersburg, Florida where he retired in 1997 as a Vice President. He was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.