



**COLONEL  
EFF WEEKS BIRDSONG  
CLASS 58-43**

Colonel Birdsong served as an Armored Forces enlisted man prior to attending Officer Candidate School. His initial assignment was to Pack Artillery Course #10 at Fort Sill. He then served with the 609th Field Artillery Battalion, 71st Division from activation to deactivation. The battalion trained at Fort Carson, Colorado and Fort Hunter Liggett, California prior to service in the European Theatre of Operations. The battalion was attached to 7th Army and entered into combat in March 1945. The 609th Field Artillery was trained as a 75mm pack howitzer battalion and ended the war as a 105mm battalion.

He was recalled to active duty during the Korean War where he served in combat as an Infantry Branch Officer. Upon return to the States he branched back to the Field Artillery.

Upon retirement from military service he received a gubernatorial appointment to the Tennessee Regional Library and, as a volunteer, traveled that state establishing community libraries. He re-located to San Antonio, Texas in 1991, where he established and served as longtime Chairman of the United Services Automobile Association (USAA) Towers Library.

Colonel Birdsong's decorations include the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, The Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Combat Infantryman Badge and Parachutist Badge.