

## BIOGRAPHY

### COLONEL ROBERT JOHN BURKE

Robert J. Burke was born in Jersey City, Hudson County, New Jersey, on 4 March 1929. He graduated from Henry Snyder High School, Jersey City, New Jersey, in 1947 and graduated from St. Peters College, also in his home city, in 1951. He entered the Army in July 1951 and completed Officer Candidate School at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, in July 1952. He received a Regular Army commission immediately thereafter as a result of graduating as a distinguished military graduate. His initial assignments were in Fort Bliss, Texas and in US Army Europe with a number of the first guided missile battalions in the US Army. Upon completion of the Field Artillery Surface-to-Surface Missile Battery Officers Course in 1956, he served with the Research Division in the Gunnery Department, Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

In 1960 he attended the Field Artillery Advanced Course at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, following which he spent a year in Korea with the 7th Infantry Division. Upon returning from Korea in 1961, he took a year's graduate work in mathematics at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York, in preparation for a three-year tour as Instructor and Assistant Professor of Mathematics at the US Military Academy at West Point, NY. After West Point, he attended the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, followed by a nine-month course in German at the Defense Language Institute, Washington, DC. In October 1966, he commenced a two-year course of instruction at the German Armed Forces Staff College in Hamburg, Germany, the only US Army Officer selected for that course.

From September 1968 to February 1970, he commanded the high priority 3d/79th Field Artillery Battalion (HONEST JOHN) in Giessen, Germany and, concomitantly, was responsible for all installation activities on a 3000-man post; that tour was followed by another command assignment-of the 2d/11th Field Artillery Battalion (155 mm) with the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam. He rounded out his tour in Vietnam as Chief of Manpower Utilization Branch, DSCOPS, Headquarters USARV. Upon returning to CONUS, he was assigned to War Plans Division, DSCOPS, Department of Army, where he was Army Action Officer for National Security Decision Memoranda pertaining to NATO, issued by the National Security Council and the White House.

Colonel Burke attended the Air War College from August 1972 to June 1973, was an honor graduate, and received the Air Force Historical Society Award for his thesis on defense philosophy. Upon completion of the Air War College, he was assigned as Chief of the Army Section, Military Assistance Advisory Group, American Embassy, Bonn, Germany -- a diplomatic post concerned with the sale of US military equipment to the German Armed Forces.

After three years in Bonn, he was assigned as Senior Army Advisor to the Colorado Army National Guard from August 1976 until January 1977. His present assignment is Chief, Readiness Division, US Army Readiness and Mobilization Region VIII, where he is responsible for providing training assistance to over 500 separate units and 52,000 personnel in the Reserve Components (both USAR and NG) in a ten-state area.

Colonel Burke's awards include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Air Medal, Vietnam Gallantry Cross, and the Colorado Meritorious Service Medal.

Medically retired 1 May, 1981

Died 24 October, 1982