



**Colonel  
Robert C. Davenport  
Class 115-44**

Colonel Davenport was a member of the ROTC program at Harvard and graduated in 1944. The Army had eliminated the last summer camps where cadets received their commissions and he was sent to Field Artillery OCS at Fort Sill. His initial assignment was to the 402nd Field Artillery Battalion, 42nd Infantry Division and later the Field Artillery School, where he assisted in the development of Rocket Artillery.

With the change in emphasis to the war in the Pacific, he was assigned to the 27th Infantry Division and sent to Leyte in the Philippines for the invasion of Japan. There, he headed a team to establish a laboratory for testing stores of petroleum products left by the Japanese and to devise ways for them to be used by American Forces. After the surrender of Japan, he was transferred to The U.S. Army Forces Pacific and became Commander of the Clark Field Fuel Depot.

After his release from active duty in 1946, he joined the 27th Infantry Division in the active Army Reserve. He attended the Command and General Staff College and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. He retired from the Reserve in 1978 as a Colonel and joined the Massachusetts State Guard as Commander of the 3rd Brigade Military Police unit where he served for 5-1/2 years, retiring as a Major General.

He served on the Alumni Advisory Committee of the Advocates for Harvard ROTC, where he was the driving force in bringing the program back to Harvard. He was inducted into the U.S. Army ROTC Cadet Hall of Fame in 2016.

Colonel Davenport's decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster.