



Artillery OCS Hall of Fame

Lieutenant Colonel Fred C. Dunaway Class 4-61

Lieutenant Colonel Dunaway served as Assistant Operations Officer with the 504th Aviation Battalion in Germany and a tour of duty with the 1st Cavalry Division in Vietnam. He was selected to command 135th Assault Helicopter Company (AHC) Experimental Military Unit (EMU), 214th Combat Aviation Battalion, 1st Aviation Brigade during his second tour in Vietnam.

His career included service as a staff officer at the U.S. Army Combined Arms Center and Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He later served as the Senior Representative of the Technical Assistance Field Team (TAFT) in Esfahan, Iran. He culminated his career as commander of a Basic Training Battalion at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

The 135th AHC EMU was a one-of-a-kind unit that combined the skills of the U.S. Army and the Australian Navy. It remained in existence for four years and he led the effort to have both governments authorize American Combat awards to the Australian Navy personnel of the 135th AHC. In 2002 a monument was dedicated in Australia to the 37 men KIA while serving with the unit and in 2005, a sister monument was dedicated at Veterans Memorial Park at Fort Rucker.

In 2017, Lieutenant Colonel Dunaway participated in a Military Tribunal of the Australian Government that ultimately led to the award of the Unit Citation for Gallantry for the 135th AHC EMU and the U.S. Army authorized it to be awarded to all U.S. members of the unit. On April 25, 2019, Commodore David Farthing, RAN (Retired) flew in from Australia to personally deliver the awards on ANZAC Day of Remembrance. Commodore Farthing and Major General William Gaylor, Fort Rucker's Commanding General, presented the Australian Unit Citation for Gallantry and accompanying ribbon to 35 former U.S. members of the unit in attendance.

Lieutenant Colonel Dunaway is recognized for his life-long service to our nation and for his extraordinary efforts to keep the story of the 135th AHC EMU alive and ensuring that the legacy of those comrades in arms are never forgotten. The individual and unit awards to the members of the 135th AHC EMU only happened because of his dedication to see it happen in both countries.

His decorations include the Distinguished Flying Cross for heroism, The Bronze Star with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster and the Air Medal with 18 Oak Leaf Clusters.