



Artillery OCS Hall of Fame

Major General Francis J. Higgins Camp Davis 1943

General Higgins enlisted as a private in the 212th Coast Artillery, New York National Guard in 1940. He was commissioned in Coast Artillery (AA) in 1943 and served in Alaska and the Aleutian Islands. In 1944, he was detailed to Infantry and served as a Platoon Leader and Company Commander until he was released from active duty in 1946.

From 1946 to 1948, General Higgins served with the 313th Coast Artillery, United States Army Reserve. He joined the 244th Coast Artillery, New York National Guard, as a Battery Commander in 1948. He was ordered to active duty during the Korean Conflict in 1951 and served with the 259th AAA Gun Battalion, New York Army National Guard as S-2 and S-3. He served in Korea with the 68th AAA Gun Battalion and was released from active duty in 1953.

General Higgins was promoted to major in the 244th AAA Group, New York Army National Guard, in 1953. He was transferred to the State Headquarters Detachment in February 1955 as Assistant G-3. He was employed as a technician and assigned as the first Air Defense Officer for New York. This position involved the establishment and operation of the New York National Guard's participation in the active air defense of the United States. In 1958, he became Assistant Operations Officer for the New York Army National Guard in the grade of lieutenant colonel and served in that assignment until 1961.

In April 1961, General Higgins was appointed State Judge Advocate and promoted to the grade of colonel and transferred to Judge Advocate General's Corps in 1962. In this assignment he served until September 1967, at which time he was appointed Counsel to the New York State Public Employment Relations Board. During the period of this appointment, he continued in his assignment to Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, New York Army National Guard.

On 26 September 1968, he was appointed the Adjutant General, State of New York in the grade of brigadier general. He was federally recognized as brigadier general 10 December 1968. His position was later redesignated as Vice Chief of Staff. On 1 July 1971, he was appointed Deputy Commanding General, New York Army National Guard. On 1 January 1973 he was appointed Vice Chief of Staff to the Governor. He was reassigned as Commander, Emergency Command Section; promoted and federally recognized as major general on 18 May 1978.

Major General Higgins' decorations include the Legion of Merit.