

ROBERT CHARLES HIXON
MAJOR GENERAL U.S. ARMY

Robert Charles Hixon was born at Camp Bragg, North Carolina, February 12, 1922, the son of Charles E. Hixon, a Regular Army officer of Field Artillery. He attended schools in many different localities in the United States and the Territory of Hawaii, graduating from East Lansing High School in 1940. During the summer of 1939 he attended the "Red" Course of the Citizens Military Training Corps (CMTC) at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, as a Field Artilleryman with horse-drawn 75mm guns. He attended Michigan State College for two-and-a-half years, enlisting in the Enlisted Reserve Corps (Field Artillery) as a Sergeant in June 1942. In January 1943, he requested active duty, reporting to Fort Meade, Maryland, February 3, 1943.

In February 1943, he was assigned to the Field Artillery Replacement Training Center at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. After completing basic training he was retained on the cadre as a training NCO. In July 1943, he reported to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, as a member of Class 84 of the Field Artillery Officer Candidate School, graduating October 28, 1943, as a member of the first seventeen weeks' course. In November 1943, he was assigned to the 309th FA Bn of the 78th Infantry Division at Camp Butner, North Carolina. In April 1944, he became Battery Executive Officer of "A" Battery, 309th Field Artillery Battalion, moving to England, France, Belgium, and Germany in the same Battery. After the war, the 309th Field Artillery occupied Kassel, Germany, and then the small farming communities west of Kassel, where he became Battery Commander of Headquarters Battery, 309th Field Artillery Battalion during the summer of 1945. He returned to the United States in November 1945 and was assigned to the Field Artillery Replacement Training Center at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

In May 1946, he was selected to join Task Force Frigid as the Task Force Ballistic Meteorologist. After a special training course at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, he joined the Task Force and participated in cold weather tests in the vicinity of Fairbanks, Alaska, during the winter of 1946-47. In July 1947, he was assigned as a Ballistic Meteorology Instructor in the Observation Department of the Field Artillery School at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, where he taught for two years.

In August 1949, he was assigned to the Office of Operations, Plans, Organization and Training, Headquarters, United States

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Forces, Austria, in Salzburg, Austria. In February 1950, the Tactical Command, Austria Staff, was created within the staff sections of HQUSFA. General Hixon was assigned the additional duty of serving in the ACoS G-3 section when Tactical Command was ordered to the field for training or to be activated in the time of emergency. In February 1951, Tactical Command Austria was formally activated as a full-time independent headquarters, with General Hixon assigned to the G-3 section.

In August 1952, General Hixon attended the Regular Artillery Officers Advanced Course at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, graduating in June 1953.

In July 1953, while a transient in a Replacement Center in Japan, he was selected to join the 555 FA Bn of 5 RCT which had just been over-run in Korea. He assumed the duties of Battalion S-3. After the armistice, he remained with the Battalion, later becoming Executive Officer and returning to the United States with the 5 RCT when it was redeployed from Korea in October 1954.

General Hixon was assigned to the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, with duty station Kingston, Ontario, and attended the regular Canadian Army Staff College course of 1955 (January-November).

In January 1956, General Hixon was assigned to the Artillery Branch, Career Management Division of the Adjutant General's Office. He served as a Personnel Management and Assignment Officer until March 1957, when he was assigned to the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel. There he served in the Enlisted Distribution Branch of the Procurement and Distribution Division. In July 1958, General Hixon became Special Assistant to Lieutenant General James F. Collins, the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel.

In February 1960, he attended Class 28 of the Armed Forces Staff College at Norfolk, Virginia.

He joined the 4th Armored Division in Europe in August 1960, becoming Division Artillery S-3. The following summer in July 1961, General Hixon assumed command of the 2d Battalion, 16th Artillery, in Schwaebisch Gmuend, Germany. This was the medium battalion of the 4th Armored Artillery Division Artillery, and contained a Headquarters Battery, two (2) 155 mm Howitzer Self-Propelled Batteries, and Eight-in Howitzer Self-Propelled Battery, an Honest John Rocket Battery and a Service Battery.

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In August 1963, General Hixon attended the National War College at Fort McNair, Washington, D.C. After graduation, General Hixon was assigned to the Office of the Secretary of Defense. He served as Technical Liaison Officer and Legislative Assistant to General Robert J. Wood, USA, Director of Military Assistance, from June 1964 to June 1965. From June 1965 to March 1966, he served as Assistant Executive Officer and Legislative Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Defense, International Security Affairs, the Honorable John T. McNaughton. From April 1966 until June 1967, General Hixon served as Executive Officer to the Honorable John T. McNaughton, ASD/ISA.

In August 1967, General Hixon assumed command of the 46th Field Artillery Group at Fort Carson, Colorado. The Group consisted of one (1) 105mm Howitzer Battalion being trained for Vietnam, four (4) 8-inch Howitzer Battalions Self-Propelled, one (1) 175mm Gun Battalion and a Searchlight Battery.

In June 1968, General Hixon was selected to become one of the two military assistants to the Secretary of Defense, the Honorable Clark M. Clifford. In January 1969, General Hixon became Military Assistant to the Honorable Melvin R. Laird, when he assumed office as Secretary of Defense.

On 6 November 1969, General Hixon left the Secretary of Defense's office to command the XXIV Corps Artillery in the Republic of Vietnam. General Hixon assumed command of the XXIV Corps Artillery on 19 November 1969 and served in that capacity until 1 September 1970 when he was reassigned as Chief of Staff, XXIV Corps, in Military Region 1, Republic of Vietnam.

On 25 May 1971, General Hixon returned to the United States from Vietnam and was assigned to the Joint Staff as Deputy Director for Operations, National Military Command Center, J-3, OJCS, Washington, D.C. On 31 July 1972, General Hixon became Commanding General, U.S. Army Training Center, Infantry, Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

LIST OF DECORATIONS AND AWARDS

Distinguished Service Medal
Silver Star
Legion of Merit w/20LC
Distinguished Flying Cross
Bronze Star Medal w/OLC
Air Medal w/"V" device (seventeen awards)
Joint Services Commendation Medal
Army Commendation Medal
American Campaign Medal
Europe Africa Middle East Campaign Medal w/3 Campaign stars
World War II Victory Medal
Army of Occupation Medal (Germany)
National Defense Service Medal w/OLC
Korean Service Medal w/1 campaign star
Vietnam Service Medal w/3 campaign stars
National Order of Vietnam (5th Class)
Cross of Gallantry with Palm, RVN
Cross of Gallantry with Gold Star, RVN
Civil Actions Medal (1st Class), RVN
Police Honor Medal (2d Class), RVN
Order of Military Merit (HWA Rang), ROK
United Nations Service Medal
Vietnam Campaign Medal
Meritorious Unit Citation
Korean Presidential Unit Citation