

**COMMANDER RICHARD E. JAFFE, USCGR, RETIRED**  
**SUMMARY OF CAREER HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE INDUCTION CEREMONY**

Richard E. Jaffe was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1928. He served in the USMCR for two years while attending college, and graduated from the University of Miami in 1950. In 1951 he was inducted into the Army, completed basic training and then the Leader's Course enroute to Fort Sill where he was assigned to OCS Class 19, "Fox Battery". He graduated in the upper portion of the class on 15 July, 1952, with orders to active duty with 18th Airborne Corps.

He joined Battery B of the 57th FA Battalion, 7th Infantry Division, in Korea during February of 1953. His combat indoctrination was as Forward Observer during the defense of "Old Baldy". This was followed by relocation to the defense of "Pork Chop Hill" where he and two other unit FO's demonstrated rare initiative, innovation and teamwork in overcoming major visual observation and communications problems. The result was the well reported and recorded continuation of the placement of accurate and deadly fires on an intent and overwhelming attacking enemy force. Their actions were paramount in preventing the total loss of "Pork Chop Hill". His personal account of the battle was published in the February 1989 edition of the "Forward Observer", and noted by S.L.A. Marshall. Commander Jaffe further demonstrated the rare personal determination and tenacity, which were to contribute to his success throughout three careers, just prior to release from active duty. His field Personnel File was evidently lost in Korea during transmittal to the hospital where he was sent for the treatment of hemorrhagic fever. It was common command practice to recognize acceptable combat and combat support service with promotion to First Lieutenant twelve months after commissioning and award the Bronze Star Medal for such service. Jaffe received neither despite his combat and battery officer contributions. Not content to accept this administrative misfortune he went to the Pentagon enroute home and did not leave until he had been promoted! A bit late, perhaps (October instead of July), but still better than eighteen months, or not at all! The Bronze Star must be considered a dead issue, as none of those involved have been located, to certify the recommendation as having been written or submitted.

In 1956 Jaffe passed the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Civil Service examination with the highest grade in the Region, and was immediately employed as a Special Agent with the IRS Intelligence Division, which has since been renamed the Criminal Investigation Division. In 1957 he graduated from the Treasury Law Enforcement Officer Training School with the standing of first in his class, which earned him the first of a long list of impressive commendations.

In 1959 he resigned his USAR Commission in favor of a commission in the USCGR, through which he managed to combine reserve unit operations with his IRS career responsibilities and cleverly make them mutually supporting. He actively participated in the air and sea operation entitled, "Green Patrol" which monitored Cuban actions. Richard Jaffe retired from the USCGR in the grade of Commander in 1979 with 29 years of combined active and reserve service.

Quickly rising through the IRS ranks, it was in 1961 that Agent Jaffe received the personal congratulations of then Attorney General Robert Kennedy for the outstanding investigation and prosecution of "Trigger Mike" Coppola for tax evasion which led to his conviction and imprisonment in only nineteen months. The Coppola case was followed by what nearly became a career in itself. In December of 1962, Agent Jaffe made his first trip to the Bahamas, during which he uncovered the activities of an underworld money operation. This launched his personally controlled "Operation Tradewinds" which lasted until 1973 and was recorded as a, "superb intelligence gathering project" which resulted in the IRS assessment of \$25 million in additional taxes for many U.S. citizens.

In 1969 he found the time to pursue a unique Miami case which involved a doctor who was keeping two sets of books. A search warrant enabled the collection of the needed evidence. Surprisingly, the evidence was suppressed, but Jaffe won the case anyway. The importance of this side story is that this case was the first test of the then new national "Omnibus Crime Bill and Safe Streets Act".

In mid-1973, Agent Jaffe was promoted to GS-14 and placed in charge of an expanded "Operation Tradewinds" follow-on called "Operation Raven". During the following two years he was so successful in searching out the names of persons and businesses involved with money laundering operations that the names of prominent national figures were uncovered in the records of a Mafia owned bank in the Bahamas, which had been established solely for laundering purposes. Bebe Rebozo's handling of a Howard Hughes \$100,000 Nixon contribution, Vice President Spiro Agnew's bribery charges and a series of Watergate related tax cases were among the data gathered. By 1975, Agent Jaffe's continuing revelation of off-shore tax fraud was seen as likely to disclose more corruption than the examples just mentioned. Instead of another commendation, Agent Jaffe created a political whiplash clearly intended to terminate his investigations as well as his career.

The newly appointed IRS Commissioner and several Justice Department officials moved quickly. The Commissioner ordered all Agents to reveal informants, but was thwarted by the Agents' court injunction against him. Agent Jaffe was removed from the operation and demoted, then placed under Inspection Service investigation and harassment, which lasted eighteen months with no findings. The IRS unsuccessfully tried to have the Justice Department prosecute Agent Jaffe, but was refused. A crooked Federal Judge in Cleveland, who was later proved to have strong ties with the mob, dismissed a strong case prepared by Agent Jaffe by ruling that the evidence was obtained illegally. This caused Agent Jaffe to be suspended by the IRS. (Agent Jaffe was vindicated in 1980 when the Supreme Court overturned the ruling of the crooked Cleveland judge.)

Agent Jaffe started his crusade against corruption in the IRS and Justice Department in 1975. Truly a "David and Goliath" drama, his testimony before the Congressional Subcommittee on Government Operations in late 1975 was considered crucial to the eventual overhaul of the IRS and Justice Departments. Agent Jaffe retired from the IRS in 1979 with plaudits for his outstanding contributions to the nation and IRS, with congratulations and thanks from his many colleagues and associates who benefited from his steadfast, forceful and determined fight for right, which was won by patience and perseverance. His exploits are recorded and praised in seven hardbound non-fiction books, the most inclusive of which is "Masters of Paradise", which could be entitled, "The Career of Richard Jaffe".

Richard Jaffe was retired for only two months when he again responded to the "call to duty" as Supervisory Investigative Accountant and Internal Auditor, Criminal Investigation Division, of the State Attorney's Office in Miami, where he remains employed to date. He immediately set to work providing the same outstanding results as had been achieved with the IRS. The number of highly favorable press articles and commendations received attest to his superior investigative skills, capabilities and effectiveness.

Through all of the aforementioned career commitments he allocated the time and effort to participate as an officer or active member of civic and quasi-military organizations. Added to his achievements is the 1989 establishment of contact with and between the locatable members of his OCS class, the results of which was record turnouts at the two Fort Sill OCS Reunions which were so targeted.

Richard Jaffe has served the USMCR, U.S. Army Field Artillery, USAR, USCGR, two important governmental careers, his community and nation with rare distinction, and is most worthy of OCS Hall of Fame Induction.