

Major General Vernon B. Lewis, Jr (OCS Class 27-51 Fort Riley)

Colonel Lewis was born in Marshall, Texas on 18 Aug 1930. After a brief stint at East Texas Baptist College, he enlisted in the US Army in 1948; serving with the 14th Armored Field Artillery Battalion, Fort Hood, Texas until he entered OCS, Ground General School, Fort Riley, Kansas in 1950.

Shortly after completing OCS and the Associate Field Artillery Battery Officers Course at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, he served a year in combat as a forward observer with the 75th Field Artillery Battalion in Korea. From December 1954 until January 1959, he served with the 11th Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Ky and in Germany; principally as Battery Commander, Battery B, 457th Airborne Field Artillery Battalion and Battery Commander, Mortar Battery, 1st Airborne Battalion Battle Group, 503rd Infantry.

Returning to the States he attended the Advance Course followed by a command and staff assignment with the 3rd Battalion, 6th Field Artillery at Fort Sill until 1951 when he attended the C&GSC at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas and the University of Omaha where he obtained his Baccalaureate degree.

In 1963 he activated and commanded the 320th Airborne Field Artillery Battalion at Ft. Bragg, N.C. until he was assigned to the Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk Va in 1964. Upon completion of the course, he served his first tour in Vietnam as a Sector Advisor, Binh Thuan Province. In 1965 he returned to the States where he served 3 years in the office of DCSOPS, Washington, D.C.. Returning to Vietnam in 1968 he commanded the 2nd Battalion, 77th Field Artillery 25th Infantry Division for most of his tour.

Upon his return he was assigned to the Infantry School Staff at Fort Benning Ga. for a year after his attendance at the National War College and George Washington University in 1970, where he obtained his Master's Degree in International Affairs. He assumed the position as Commander, 82nd Airborne Division Artillery, Ft. Bragg, North Carolina on 22 July 1971. A position he held for almost 2 years before becoming the Division's Chief of Staff. While there, he was selected for promotion to Brigadier General.

He transferred to Fort Monroe, Virginia, to the United States Army Training and Doctrine Command as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Training. In 1974 he was sent to Fort Sill to be the Assistant Commandant, where he was promoted to Major General in June of 1975 and reassigned to the Pentagon as the Director of Requirements, in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans.

In May of 1977, Major General Lewis retired after 29 years of service. He was the primary founder and Chief Executive Officer of Cypress International and MPRI- two successful and internationally known military-based businesses.

His awards and decorations include the Silver Star (W/ OLC), Legion of Merit (W/ OLC), Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal (W/10 OLCs), Army Commendation Medal (W/V Device *and* OLC), Vietnamese Gallantry Cross (W/Palm, Gold & Silver Stars), Combat Infantryman Badge and Master Parachutist Badge