



COLONEL LAWRENCE MERCKER CLASS 3-72

Colonel Mercker was a distinguished graduate of Artillery Officer Candidate School and was commissioned in the Military Intelligence Branch. After branch training he was stationed at Indian Gap Military Reservation where he served as the Installation Intelligence Officer.

He left active duty to attend graduate School and eventually accepted a full time position with the Ohio Army National Guard prior to attending Air Force Pilot Training with the Air Force Reserve. He served as a C-123 pilot with the US Air Force Reserve 355th Tactical Airlift Squadron and a C-123 Aircraft Commander with the 731st Tactical Airlift Squadron and later as a C-5 Flight Examiner Pilot with the 512th Military Airlift Wing.

As Assistant Deputy Commander for Operations at Westover AFB, Colonel Mercker managed the first C-5 aircraft transition for the Reserve Command. He was activated in 1989 for the first Gulf War serving with the 337th Airlift Squadron as a Combat Support Examiner Pilot.

At 22nd Air Force Headquarters at Dobbins AFB he served as Chief of Strategic Airlift, Director of Safety and finally Deputy Inspector General. He was activated again in 2002 for the response to the 9-11 attack and was assigned Command Center Director for US Air Forces Europe (Activated Reserve) at Ramstein AB Germany.

Colonel Mercker's decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Air Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal and the Army Commendation Medal.