

General Jack N. Merritt

Artillery OCS Class 35-53



General Merritt was born in Lawton, Oklahoma and was the honor graduate of his Officer Candidate School class. He was also top graduate in the Artillery Advance Course, a distinguished graduate from the Air Command and Staff College, and a distinguished graduate from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

During his career, he commanded at every level in Field Artillery, beginning with a battery command in Korea. He served as a gunnery instructor, commanded at the battalion and division artillery levels, and had been the 1st Cavalry Division's chief of staff and later assistant division commander before becoming

the two-star commandant of the Field Artillery School at Fort Sill, in 1977. During the Vietnam War, Merritt commanded the 3rd Battalion, 34th Artillery, 9th Infantry Division, in a unique situation where conventional artillery was mounted on barges to support riverine forces in the Mekong Delta.

General Merritt was commandant of the Army War College in 1980, and commandant of the Command and General Staff College and commander of the Combined Arms Center at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, in 1982. Before retiring in 1987, he also served on the Joint Staff, on the National Security Council staff, and was the U.S. Military Representative to the NATO Military Committee.

General Merritt became AUSA president in 1988, heading the association for a decade. One of his major accomplishments was the 1989 creation of the Institute of Land Warfare, the association's education arm tasked with scholarly research and a book-publishing enterprise, functions that remain part of AUSA's mission.

His decorations include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal (two awards), Army Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Soldier's Medal, and Bronze Star for Valor.