

Colonel John "Pat" Mitchell began his military career 22 May 1964. He was commissioned as 2LT in the field artillery upon completion of Officer Candidate School at Fort Sill, Oklahoma in February 1966. Subsequently, he was assigned to the 4th Infantry Division at Ft Lewis, Washington, and deployed with the Division to Vietnam. He served as a Forward Observer and Fire Direction Officer during this period.

From 1967 until 1976, Colonel Mitchell served in various positions on active duty to include Recruiting Officer, Advisor to the Royal Thai Artillery Division, 1st Infantry Division Assistant Operations Officer and Commander, Battery B, 3-6th Field Artillery at Fort Riley. Also, during this period, he served a second tour in Vietnam with the 1st Infantry Division as Battalion and Brigade Liaison Officer and, finally as Battery Commander of Battery C, 2-33d Field Artillery.

Colonel Mitchell requested to leave the Active Army in February 1976 to complete his civilian education degree and immediately joined the Kansas Army National Guard as Commander, Battery B, 2-130th Field Artillery in Horton, Kansas. From 1976 to present, Colonel Mitchell has served as S-3/XO and Battalion Commander of the 2-130th Field Artillery. Subsequently, he was assigned as an ROTC instructor at Kansas State University; XO of Troop Command; Plans, Operations and Training Officer, HHD STARC; Military Personnel Officer, HHD STARC; and, finally as the Command Administrative Officer, HHD STARC.

His military education includes: Field Artillery Officer Basic and Advanced Course, Honor Graduate of the Resident Command and General Staff College and the Defense Language Institute West Coast.

Colonel Mitchell received his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Park College in Kansas City, Missouri in May 1977.

Among his awards and decorations are the Bronze Star for valor with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Medal for valor with Numeral 4, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Good Conduct Medal, and Vietnam Service Medal.