



**COLONEL
WILLIAM B. NOLDE**

CLASS 18-52

Colonel Nolde served as an enlisted man during the Korean War prior to attending Officer Candidate School. He later served as the Assistant Professor of Military Science at Central Michigan University from 1962-1964, before his first tour of duty in Vietnam. He then returned to CMU as APMS for a second time, leaving that position in the fall of 1966. During his career Colonel Nolde served in a wide variety of Artillery assignments in Korea, Germany and the Far East. Prior to his third tour in Vietnam, he commanded a missile battalion in Italy that was twice awarded the Sperry Trophy. No other unit had ever accomplished that feat and the trophy was retired in his name at Fort Sill.

Colonel Nolde was the Senior Military Advisor at An Loc, Binh Long Province when he was killed by a direct hit on his bunker during an enemy artillery barrage. His death came just eleven hours before the cease-fire went into effect in Vietnam on 27 January 1973, making him the last American Soldier to die in combat before the cease-fire.

He was on the promotion list for full colonel at the time of his death and was posthumously promoted. Colonel Nolde is buried at Arlington National Cemetery. At 43 years of age, he was the oldest graduate of Field Artillery OCS to die in the Vietnam War.

Colonel Nolde's decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star medal with V-device (two Oak Leaf Clusters), the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal, and the Army Commendation Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster).