

COLONEL WAYNE N. PHILLIPS

Colonel Phillips is a veteran of 33 years military service. He was born in Palmyra, Missouri and later moved to Monte Vista, Colorado where he attended Monte Vista High School. He began his Aviation career at the age of 17, flying light aircraft for the Colorado State Wildlife Agency. Colonel Phillips entered the Army in 1941 as an enlisted man with the Colorado National Guard and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in 1942 upon completion of Artillery Officer Candidate School (Class 30). He graduated from flight school and was rated a liaison pilot in 1943. In 1949 Colonel Phillips attended helicopter flight training and became one of the first ten Army helicopter pilots in the Army. Colonel Phillips is a graduate of the Associate Transportation Officers Advanced Course, and the Command and General Staff College.

During World War II, Colonel Phillips flew 70 combat missions over France, Belgium, Holland and Germany in light observation aircraft while serving as the Aviation Officer for the 9th Infantry Division. After the war, he was assigned as Battalion Commander, 60th Field Artillery Battalion. Upon concluding this assignment, he was again assigned to the 9th Infantry Division as Aviation Officer. Other assignments include: Aviation Officer, 13th Corps; Army Aviation Officer in Austria and Italy; Army Aviation Advisor to the Turkish Army Aviation School; Battalion Commander, 52d Aviation Battalion; and, Assistant Commandant of the Primary Helicopter School, Fort Wolters, Texas. Colonel Phillips served as Chief, National Guard Army Aviation, Washington, D. C. and while in this capacity became the 13th Army aviator to be rated as a master aviator. Colonel Phillips activated and commanded the original Delta Aviation Battalion in Vietnam 4 July 1963.

He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for Heroism in Vietnam while leading the first battalion size night heliborne operation on 29 October 1963. His other decorations include: The Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, the Air Medal with eleven Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Belgian Fourragere with Palm, the Vietnamese cross of Gallantry with Palm, and numerous other service medals. Colonel Phillips is presently serving as Aviation Officer, Headquarters, Sixth US Army, Presidio of San Francisco, California.