

## **Major General George W. Putnam, Jr. (Class 14-42)**

Major General Putnam was born in Fort Fairfield, Maine and was commissioned from Artillery Officer Candidate School at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, in May 1942. Following his commissioning, he served as a gunnery instructor at the Field Artillery School and as battery commander and battalion S-3 in the 718th Field Artillery Battalion.

Early In 1945, General Putnam arrived in the European theater of operations and served there as a battalion S-3 and later as an artillery battalion commander. In January 1947 he was assigned to the occupation forces in Japan where he served in both the 25th Division and HQ 8th Army until June 1949.

After a tour with the civilian components, he attended the Command and General Staff College in 1953 and 1954. His next assignment was with the 28th Field Artillery Battalion at Fort Carson, Colorado, where he served as the commanding officer.

In 1956, General Putnam earned his Army Aviator Badge at Fort Rucker, Alabama. His next assignment was in the Career Management Division, Washington, D.C. After completing his tour in Washington, he was selected to attend the Army War College at Carlisle Barracks in 1959 and 1960.

His first assignment after graduation was in Korea with HQ I Corps (Group). Upon return from Korea, General Putnam went to the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Department of the Army, and later the Office of Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development where he served in various positions including that of Deputy Director of Army Aviation until 1965. During this period, he served as a member of the U.S. Army Tactical Mobility Requirement Board, popularly known as the Howze Board.

In May of 1965, General Putnam was named the Assistant Commandant of the Army Aviation School at Fort Rucker, Alabama.

His next assignment took him to Vietnam where he served successively as Division Artillery Commander, Acting Assistant Division Commander and Chief of Staff of the 1st Cavalry Division.

General Putnam returned to Vietnam for his second tour from the Office of Personnel Operations, Washington, D.C. where he was the Director of Officer Personnel. During this second tour in Vietnam, he commanded the 1st Aviation Brigade and then returned to the 1st Cavalry Division as Commanding General.

He then served on the Army Staff as Director of Military Personnel Policies in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel. He continued with high level assignments at the Pentagon until retiring in 1987.

His decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Legion of Merit with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Distinguished Flying Cross with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Bronze star with Oak Leaf Cluster and 36 awards of the Air Medal.