

## BIOGRAPHY

Colonel Gerald W. "Jerry" Sharpe is a Soldier's Soldier. He enlisted in the Army in August 1961; went through basic training at Fort Ord, California; and Advanced Individual Training (AIT) at Fort Carson, Colorado. He was selected as the Outstanding Trainee of the Cycle in AIT. He spent the majority of his first two years in Germany in a self-propelled artillery battalion in the 3d Armored Division Artillery. He served as a PFC, SP4, and SGT working first in the battalion fire direction center, then the battalion S3, and later as chief of section of a battery fire direction center. He was a good soldier, being selected as Battalion and Brigade Soldier of the Month and Battalion and Brigade Soldier of the Quarter. He also won Third Armored Division Soldier of the Month and the Semi-Annual Division Best Soldier of the Year for the first half of 1963. During this same period he attended the 7th Army NCO Academy and was the Distinguished Graduate and the General George Patton Distinguished Leadership Award winner. Prior to departing the division for the Artillery Officers' Candidate School (OCS) in August, he was selected as the Battalion NCO of the Quarter.

COL Sharpe graduated from Artillery OCS in April 1964 as a Distinguished Graduate and served tours as a platoon leader in a Target Acquisition Battalion, an assistant S3 in a Field Artillery Brigade, and a battery commander back at OCS. An overseas tour in Turkey in 1968 as a group intelligence officer and detachment commander, was followed by the Advanced Course at Fort Sill and a tour in Vietnam, where he was an assistant S3 and S2 of the 1st Cavalry Division Artillery.

He was selected for Civil Schooling and attended Oklahoma University, where he received his bachelor's degree in business management in December of 1971. This was followed by nearly four years of teaching field artillery subjects to infantrymen at Fort Benning, Georgia. While there he was active in the Downtown Columbus Kiwanis Club and was the first military person to be selected as the Junior Chamber of Commerce "Young Man of the Year".

One year at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College was followed by three years in the Pershing Missile Brigade in Europe. He served as the brigade S2, Commander of the Service Battery (a unit with 318 people, 92 vehicles, and 84 million dollars worth of equipment) as well as Deputy Battalion Commander of a Pershing Battalion.

In 1979 COL Sharpe attended airborne training at Fort Benning, graduating at age 38. He served in three airborne positions at Fort Bragg, North Carolina; first as G2 Training Officer in the 18th Airborne Corps Headquarters, then XO and S3 of the 18th Field Artillery Brigade, the first unit in the army to be equipped with the M198 Howitzer.

From February 1983 to January 1984 COL Sharpe commanded the 8th Battalion, 8th Field Artillery, a direct support M198 battalion in the 2d Infantry Division in Korea. From March of 1984 to June of 1985 he commanded the Milwaukee Recruiting Battalion. COL Sharpe graduated from the U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania this past June. While at the War College he obtained a Master's Degree in Organizational Communications from Shippensburg University. COL Sharpe assumed his present duties as Deputy Commander/-DFSCoord, XVIII Airborne Corps Artillery on 1 August 1986.

COL Sharpe is married and has four children. He and his wife Katharine reside in their 97 year old Victorian home in Red Springs, located 30 miles SE of Fort Bragg. One daughter is in the US Army and one lives at home. Both sons attend preparatory school in Spring Grove, Pennsylvania.

COL Sharpe has been awarded two Bronze Stars, five Meritorious Service Medals, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Air Medal. He has also been awarded the Good Conduct Medal and NCO Development Ribbon as an enlisted man. COL Sharpe was promoted to his present grade on 1 November 1986.