

## **Colonel Charles S. Simerly - Artillery OCS Class 3-61**

Colonel Simerly was commissioned a Second Lieutenant upon graduation from Fort Sill Artillery Officer Candidate School Class 3-61 on April 18, 1961.

COL Simerly was a visionary and innovator in the field of Electronic Warfare (EW) systems. As an aviator he played a critical role in both writing and testing new aviation doctrine in South Vietnam. In 1965, he helped establish the modern Army Aviation unit distance and flight endurance records. In 1968, during exercises in Europe, COL Simerly mounted radios and antennas on UH-1 helicopters for the purpose of jamming and intercepting opposing forces' equipment. This innovation was later developed into the QUICKFIX heliborne EW platform. During the 1972 North Vietnam Easter Invasion, he used airborne direction finding platforms to reduce the reporting time on enemy unit locations from 24 hours to 5 minutes.

While supporting Exercise REFORGER in 1974, COL Simerly commanded the first Army EW unit, CEFIRM LEADER, in conducting an operational transoceanic deployment. As an instructor and author at the Command and General Staff College, he wrote the first tactics, techniques, and procedures manual on how to integrate EW with combat maneuver and strike operations. While serving as the Intelligence Electronic Warfare (IEW) Battalion Commander for V Corps, he helped shape the National Security Agency's (NSA) concepts to support military operations. In 1981, he initiated the concept for combining three airborne systems (Guardrail, QUICKLOOK, and the Communications High Accuracy Airborne Location System [CHAALS]) onto one platform called the Guardrail Common Sensor.

In 1984, as a member of the Army Deep Attack Program Office, COL Simerly created the proactive deep strike targeting process of "Decide, Detect, Deliver." In 1986, he commanded Field Station Augsburg, Germany, which was the largest NSA/Army Signals Intelligence (SIGINT) unit. In this role he initiated exchange procedures to significantly enhance interoperabilities between Army strategic and tactical SIGINT units in Europe. As a Director of a Department of Army Special Task Force from 1987 to 1991, COL Simerly reflexed a program to degrade critical Soviet strategic command and control elements.

COL Simerly retired from active duty in 1991, leaving a legacy of innovations that helped make the Army's tactical IEW systems more accurate, timely, and flexible. COL Simerly was inducted into the Military Intelligence Hall of Fame in 1994. He passed away in April 1999.