

MAJOR GENERAL (Retired) KENNETH W. SIMPSON CLASS 8-66

MG Simpson retired from active duty in October 1998 after 38 years of service. He began his active duty career as an enlisted artilleryman with the 82nd Airborne Division. He later attended Artillery OCS, Class 8-66, at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and was commissioned in the Field Artillery in April 1966.

After commissioning, General Simpson's assignments included command and staff positions in the United States and overseas. His last assignments on active duty included Commanding General, U.S. Army Alaska; Commanding General, U.S. Army Recruiting Command; Assistant Division Commander, 7th Infantry Division; Commander, Joint Task Force, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; Vice Director for Operational Plans, The Joint Staff; and Commandant, U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy, Fort Bliss, Texas.

His Field Artillery assignments have included Battery XO and Battery Commander in Vietnam with the 2-77 FA, 25th Infantry Division, from 1967 to 1968; Commander, 1-37 FA, 172nd Light Infantry Brigade, Ft. Richardson, Alaska from 1980 to 1982; and Commander, 7th Infantry Division Artillery, Fort Ord, California from 1986 to 1988. He also served as the Chief of Field Artillery Officer Assignments Branch from 1982 to 1984.

After retiring from active duty, General Simpson joined USAA, a financial services company in San Antonio, where he held positions as Vice President, Military Affairs, and Regional Senior Vice President for insurance operations for the central region of the United States. He retired from USAA in 2004 and now works with volunteer and non-profit organizations in Alaska and Virginia. He has served on the boards of the United Services Organization (USO), the Tragedy and Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS), and the US Army Cadet Corps.

General Simpson's decorations include two awards of the Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star, two awards of the Defense Superior Service Medal, three awards of the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

He currently resides in Alaska with his wife Susan. Their son, Michael, is an Army colonel who has served in Afghanistan and the first Gulf War, and their daughter, Kathy, is a career Department of the Army civilian working in environmental law in Washington, DC.



Colonel Paul S. Cullen and Susan Simpson pin on gold bars April 15, 1966



General James F. Brittingham presents AUSA Award to 2LT Simpson