

COLONEL WILTON G. SWENSON, JR

Colonel Wilton G. Swenson, Jr. graduated from Saint Cloud State University at Saint Cloud, Minnesota, and enlisted in the Army on 23 April 1968. He attended the Officer Candidate Course at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and was commissioned on 11 March 1969 as an Artillery officer. After attending the Air Defense Nike Hercules Officers course at Fort Bliss, Texas, he was given a brief assignment on a nuclear missile base in Bethel, Minnesota, where he served as an Integrated Fire Control and Launcher Control Officer with Battery D, 3rd Battalion, 68th Artillery. He deployed to Vietnam in 1970, serving with the 4th Battalion, 60th Artillery as a DUSTER Platoon Leader.

Following his return from Vietnam he was released from Active Duty in 1972. Colonel Swenson was employed as a Classroom Teacher and Administrator in Owatonna, Minnesota. He continued his civilian education and currently holds Undergraduate and Graduate Degrees from the University of Minnesota, Mankato State University, and Saint Cloud State University. In 1979 he took a position as a School Administrator with the Thief River Falls Minnesota School District and served with them until his return to active duty in 1981.

During his civilian employment, Colonel Swenson continued his military affiliation serving in the Army Reserves as Commander of the 417th Light Equipment Maintenance Company in Fairbault, Minnesota, and Maintenance Operations Officer in the 302nd Maintenance Battalion at Fort Snelling, Minnesota.

Returning to active duty in AGR status, Colonel Swenson served as a Command Coordinator at the Reserve Components Personnel Administration Center in Saint Louis, Missouri from 1981 to 1983. He has also held assignments in the DCSPER office at Headquarters Fifth United States Army in San Antonio, Texas, the 99th Army Reserve Command in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and the 78th Training Division in Edison, New Jersey. While serving with the 78th Division Colonel Swenson was responsible for coordinating the final mission of Basic Training at Fort Dix. Additionally, he served as the USAR Training Operations Officer in the J3 at FORSCOM, Fort McPherson, Georgia, and served as Operations Officer in the Total Army School System Directorate at TRADOC Headquarters, Fort Monroe, Virginia. His last assignment was as the Commandant of the Army Reserve Readiness training Center Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.

Colonel Swenson is a graduate of the resident Command and General Staff College, the Air Defense Officer Advance Course, Ordnance Officer Advance Course, Adjutant Generals Officer Advance Course, and Artillery Officer Candidate School.

Colonel Swenson's decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star and Meritorious Service Medal (with four Oak Leaf Clusters).