



**COLONEL
BEN L. WALTON
CLASS 45-53**

Colonel Walton spent nearly six years as an enlisted man rising to the rank of Sergeant First Class and was a distinguished graduate of the Artillery Officer Candidate School. He was initially assigned to Fort Devens, Massachusetts where he served as a Leadership School Instructor and Assistant Battery Executive Officer in the 76th Field Artillery Battalion.

His career included service with both artillery and infantry units including command of Battery B, 7th Field Artillery at Fort Riley and Headquarters Battery 3rd Battalion, 80th Artillery at Fort Sill and in Germany and duty as V Corps Material Readiness Officer.

In Vietnam he commanded 1st Battalion, 321st Artillery, 101st Airborne Division and served as J44 MACV Plans Officer. While serving as Chief of the Army Drug Abuse and Prevention Branch, he was nominated for the position of Army Aide to the President.

He served as Commander 24th Infantry Division Artillery at Hunter Army Airfield, Georgia and later Combat Support Coordination Team #1 Commander, Wonju, South Korea. His career culminated as the Deputy Commander USA Readiness Region IX, Presidio of San Francisco.

Colonel Walton's decorations include the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Legion of Merit with four Oak Leaf Clusters, the Bronze Star Medal with V Device with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Purple Heart, the Air Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters and the Combat Infantryman Badge.