



**COLONEL
JOHN R. WILLIAMSON
CLASS 19-69**

Colonel Williamson served tours in Vietnam, Germany and Korea before becoming Commander of the 67th Signal Battalion at Fort Gordon, Georgia. He was then assigned to the Joint Staff in the Pentagon as a Military Satellite Communications Command (SATCOM) action officer. He later returned to Fort Gordon as the Army TRADOC System Manager for Satellite Communications where he actively managed every aspect of 33 Army SATCOM programs from technical manual development to the fielding and testing of hardware and software.

His efforts on restructuring the Milstar satellite program were instrumental in the successful deployment of five Milstar satellites, the last of which was launched in May 2003. These satellites are providing unparalleled, secure communications support to U.S. soldiers around the world today.

Colonel Williamson created and guided the development of an Army SATCOM Architecture Book as an educational tool for Army users. Now in its 9th version, the book continues to be updated, produced, and distributed to over 3,500 users worldwide. After retiring from the Army in July 1997, he continued to actively work with the Army SATCOM program as the lead contractor with Lockheed-Martin, Augusta Branch.

Colonel Williamson's decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, the Air Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with three Oak Leaf clusters and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal.