

Brigadier General Leigh Roy Wilson (Class 24-42)

Brigadier General Wilson enlisted in the Missouri National Guard in 1935. He entered Federal service when the 128th Field Artillery Regiment was called to active duty in 1940, attaining the grade of sergeant. He attended the Field Artillery Officer Candidate Course and was commissioned a second lieutenant on 4 August 1942. He was promoted to first lieutenant on 26 March 1943 and received a battlefield promotion to captain on 19 September 1944. He served as Battery Executive Officer, Battery Commander, and Assistant Battalion S3 in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater during World War II with the 249th Field Artillery Battalion of the 27th Infantry Division. He was released from active duty as a captain on 16 January 1946.

After World War II, General Wilson was a member of the Officer Reserve Corps until 17 March 1948. He rejoined the Missouri National Guard on 18 March 1948 and was promoted to major on 13 June 1950. He has held assignments as Battalion S-3, Executive Officer, Acting Battalion Commander and Battalion Commander, 129th Field Artillery Battalion, 35th Infantry Division (later redesignated 1st Howitzer Battalion, 129th Artillery, 35th Infantry Division). He was a graduate of the Command and General Staff College in 1952.

He was promoted to lieutenant colonel on 13 September 1954 and served continuously as a Battalion Commander for over 9 years. He was assigned to command the 35th Infantry Division Trains and promoted to colonel on 27 July 1962. From 1 April 1963 to 30 March 1971, he commanded the 135th Artillery Group. He was assigned as Assistant Adjutant General of Missouri on 31 March 1971. He was promoted and federally recognized as brigadier general 16 July 1971.

Decorations and Awards: Legion of Merit, American Defense Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with three Stars and Arrowhead, World War II Victory Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with two Hourglasses and State of Missouri Long Service Medal.