

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH FOR THE FIELD ARTILLERY OCS HALL OF FAME

Name : (Last, First, M.I.) Woodard, Larry D.	OCS Class - Year / Location: 1-67 / Fort Sill	Rank: CPT (Ret)	Retirement Date: 5-Feb-70	DOB: 2-Jan-43	Date: 28-Mar-05
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Date of Rank by Grade				Awards and Decorations		
Grade	DOR	Grade	DOR	Silver Star	Republic of Vietnam Campaign	
2LT	17-Dec-66	COL		Bronze Star w/V Device	Medal w/1960 Device	
1LT	17-Dec-67	BG		Purple Heart w/2 OLC	Combat Infantryman Badge	
CPT	17-Dec-68	MG		Good Conduct Medal	Expert Marksmanship Badge	
MAJ		LTG		National Defense Service Medal		
LTC		GEN		Vietnam Service Medal		

Assignment History				
From	To	Organization	Station	Duty Title
Jul-66	Dec-66	Artillery OCS	Fort Sill, OK	Student
Jan-67	Feb-67	Searchlight Course	Fort Sill, OK	Student
Mar-67	May-67	Battery G, 26th Artillery	Fort Carson, CO	Platoon Leader
Jun-67	Sep-67	Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 84th Artillery	Fort Carson, CO	Executive Officer
Sep-67	Feb-68	Battery B, 7th Battalion, 13th Artillery	RVN	Forward Observer
Mar-68	Mar-68	Battery B, 7th Battalion, 13th Artillery	RVN	Assistant Executive Officer
Mar-68	Feb-69	Mobile Advisory Team, MACV	RVN	Infantry Advisor
Feb-69	Feb-70	Military Hospitals	RVN; Camp Zama, Japan; Scott AFB,	Patient
			IL; Fort Riley, KS; Fort Sill, OK	

General Remarks
<p>CPT (Ret) Woodard is being nominated for induction into the Field Artillery OCS Hall of Fame because of his exceptional accomplishments during his long career with the Department of Veterans Affairs. CPT Woodard culminated his career with the VA as the Director of the Vocational Rehabilitation and Counseling Service for the Department of Veterans Affairs. While working in that assignment out of the VA's Central Office in Washington, DC, CPT Woodard had nationwide responsibility for administering vocational rehabilitation and counseling services through the 58 regional offices, and held the grade of ES-5, as a member of the Senior Executive Service.</p>

United States Field Artillery School
Thru: Commander, 30th FA Regiment
For: Commandant, USAFACS
Fort Sill, OK 73503

Subject: Field Artillery OCS Hall of Fame Nomination

In accordance with the provisions established for OCS Hall of Fame consideration, I nominate CPT (Ret) Larry D. Woodard to the Field Artillery OCS Hall of Fame. I feel that CPT Woodard may meet the criteria for induction under the "national prominence" clause or the "outstanding service to his nation" clause.

CPT Woodard was retired medically due to extensive wounds received in ground combat while serving in the Republic of Vietnam. As a Field Artillery officer, he served as a Forward Observer and Battery FDO; and was then assigned as an Infantry Advisor to a South Vietnamese Regional Force Battalion.

However, it is for CPT Woodard's exceptional civilian career, following his military service, for which I feel that he deserves this recognition. He rose through the ranks of the Department of Veterans Affairs to achieve a level of responsibility that warranted an appointment to the Senior Executive Service. He served at several levels of increasing responsibility within the SES, culminating in the grade of ES-5 with overall nationwide responsibility for administering vocational rehabilitation and counseling services. That level of responsibility in civilian government service is commensurate with that of a general officer in the military.

CPT Woodard is a classmate of mine, and it has taken me quite a while to glean this information from him. It has taken even longer for me to understand the level of his achievements. When he finally shared some of the details of his professional career with me, I made some inquiries into the makeup of the SES. After gaining an appreciation of both his level of responsibility and the scope of his accomplishments, I decided to pursue this nomination. I've also attached a brief resume of his, which contains a more detailed description of his career achievements, to supplement the enclosed biographical sketch and my comments.

Enclosures: as

Sincerely,



George A. Bannon
COL (Ret)

CAREER SUMMARY - DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

After spending almost one year in Army hospitals in Japan, Kansas, and Oklahoma, I was retired because of wounds received in combat with 50% disability on February 5, 1970. I went back to school at Southwestern State University at Weatherford, OK, to complete my degree in Accounting. I entered the Veterans Benefits Administration(VBA) Vocational Rehabilitation and Counseling (VR&C) Program for disabled veterans and graduated in May 1971.

Brief Resume of VA Duty Assignments and education:

June 1971	Trainee Accountant (GS-5), Muskogee, OK
Sept 1974	Trainee Finance Officer, Houston, TX
June 1975	Asst. Finance Officer, Waco, TX
Jan 1978	Financial Manager (GM-13), Waco, TX
Sept 1987	Asst. Director (GM-14), Jackson, MS
Apr 1989	Director (GM-15), Jackson, MS
July 1991	Director (ES-1), Jackson, MS
Oct 1994	Program Director, Vocational Rehabilitation and Counseling Service (VR&C), (ES-5), Washington, DC
Jan 1997	Retired

Although working with veterans, especially those with disabilities, was rewarding throughout my career, I was able to have a greater influence at the Senior Executive level. The highlight of my career, both personally and professionally, was the time that I spent as the Program Director in Washington, DC. I was a product of the program and understood the importance of getting that helping hand after being retired for wounds received in combat. At that level of responsibility, I was able to influence the VR&C program by testifying before House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees about the importance of providing a new beginning for disabled veterans. From the staff level of VA Central Office, I could ensure that VR&C Divisions at the Regional Office level received their share of resources to provide support to veterans seeking that new beginning. Some of my most meaningful accomplishments were:

I was the first non-psychologist or psychiatrist to be the VR&C Program Director.

As a product of the program, I was able to provide first hand testimony to Congress on the impact the program can have on veterans.

I visited 26 of the 58 VR&C Divisions. Most employees in those divisions had never seen a Program Director.

Initiated a Business Process Reengineering (BPR) Team to evaluate the program. Over 100 people applied for this team and 20 were selected to travel throughout the country interviewing veterans, all Veterans Organizations, VA employees from the Central Office level to the Regional Offices in each state. They interviewed members of

Congress, employees of the Labor Department that dealt with employing disabled veterans, State Vocational Rehabilitation Departments, and academics from the Vocational Rehabilitation field. After 18 months, the team produced a comprehensive report recommending significant changes that resulted in:

Providing computers for all VR&C employees, nationwide. When I became Director, there were less than 300 computers for 750 employees nationwide.

The development of a prototype computer program that was tested in five Regional Offices, and implemented nationwide.

The name of the program was changed to Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment to increase the emphasis on getting disabled veterans jobs rather than just counseling and training.

I credit much of my success with the VA to both the leadership training in OCS, the values acquired in the OCS environment, and experiences in subsequent assignments, however brief, in the U.S. Army. Applying both those learned skills and the values instilled in me, coupled with the fact that I was a product of the Vocational Rehabilitation and Counseling Program, allowed me to better support our veterans throughout my career. I consider it a privilege to have done so.