

## LIEUTENANT GENERAL HAROLD R. AARON US Army, Retired (Deceased)



Harold Robert Aaron was born in Kokomo, Indiana, on 21 June 1921. He graduated from Morton High School, Richmond, Indiana, in 1938 and attended Earlham College for two years until appointed to the US Military Academy. He graduated from West Point in June 1943 and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant of Infantry.

After completing the Officers Basic Course at Fort Benning, he was assigned to the 259<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, Camp Shelby, Mississippi. At that station, he served as Platoon Leader, Battalion Staff Officer, and Company Commander. In January 1945, as a Captain and Rifle Company Commander, he deployed to Europe with his division and participated in campaigns in France, Germany, and Austria.

In July 1945, he left Europe to join Company I, 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in the US enroute to the Pacific theater of operations. After the war ended, he was assigned to the Counter Intelligence Corps (CIC) School, Fort Holabird, Maryland, first as a student, and later as an instructor and the Adjutant.

From June 1947 to June 1950, Aaron served as Commander of the 470<sup>th</sup> CIC Detachment and Assistant G2, US Army, Caribbean.

After attendance at the Infantry Officers Advanced Course at Fort Benning, 1950-1951, Aaron served as an Infantry Instructor, Department of Combined Arms at the Artillery and Guided Missile School until the summer of 1952. Following graduation from the Command and General Staff College in 1953, he served as G3, Exercise RAIN DROP, Headquarters, First Army. From 1954-1956, he was assigned as Plans Officer, Army Section, Military Assistance Advisory Group (MAAG), Taiwan.

Upon his return to the United States, Aaron served as Battalion Executive Officer and as the Adjutant, 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Regiment until February 1958. After graduation from the Armed Forces Staff College, Aaron attended Georgetown University under the Army's Civil Schooling Program until January 1960. He served his civil schooling utilization tour with the Special Warfare Division, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Military Operations, Department of the Army (DA), and with the Directorate for Arms Control and United Nations (UN) Affairs, Office of the Secretary of Defense until August 1964.

After graduation from the National War College, he served as Aide-de-Camp to Commander-in-Chief, UN Command/Commanding General Eighth Army in Korea until June 1965. From 1965-1967, Aaron served with the Office of the Special Assistant for Counterinsurgency and Special Activities, Joint Chiefs of Staff. In June 1967, he assumed command of Special Action Force Asia and the 1<sup>st</sup> Special Forces Group (Airborne) on Okinawa. On 4 June 1968, he assumed command of the 5<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group (Airborne) and attached units in South Vietnam which was responsible for advising and assisting the 42,000-man Vietnamese Civilian Irregular Defense Group. Aaron relinquished command on 29 May 1969 after participating in three campaigns.

On 2 July 1969, Aaron was assigned as Chief, Force Analysis Group, Office of the Chief of Staff of the Army. On 1 December, he reported to the 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in Europe as the Assistant Division Commander for Maneuver. From April 1971-August 1972, he was assigned as Chief of Staff, V Corps. He then reported to Headquarters, US Army Europe and Seventh Army, for duty as the Deputy Chief of Staff, Intelligence. On 5 November 1973, then MG Aaron was sworn in as Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence (ACSI), DA. While in this position, Aaron provided the impetus for the establishment of the Opposing Forces Training Program within the US Army. His final position was as Deputy Director, Defense Intelligence Agency.

LTG Aaron retired in 1979 after more than 35 years of active commissioned service. His awards and decorations included the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit (with two Oak Leaf Clusters), Bronze Star Medal with V Device (with two Oak Leaf Clusters), Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal, the Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman Badge (2<sup>nd</sup> Award), and the Parachutist Badge.

LTG Aaron passed away in April 1980. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1988, and in 1992, Aaron Plaza, located outside Alvarado Hall at Fort Huachuca, was named in his honor.



***Aaron Plaza, Fort Huachuca***



***While the ACSI, MG Aaron visited Fort Huachuca and cut the ribbon on the new Intelligence Museum, 1974. BG Harry Hiestand (left), Commanding General of the Army Intelligence Center and School presented MG Aaron with a sphinx statue to commemorate the event.***