

## **MAJOR GENERAL GEORGE A. GODDING** **US Army, Retired (Deceased)**



MG Godding was born in Lawrence, Kansas, on 12 July 1920. After graduating from East High School, Wichita, Kansas, in 1937, he attended the University of Kansas for two years, majoring in Mechanical Engineering. In 1939 he enlisted in the Kansas National Guard and served with the 137<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 35<sup>th</sup> Division, until he entered Officer Candidate School in 1941.

Godding was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in 1942 and was assigned to Fort McClellan, Alabama, as an Infantry Instructor. Upon completing the Infantry Advanced Course in 1943, he was assigned to Company I, 345<sup>th</sup> Regiment, 87<sup>th</sup> Division. He was then assigned to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 359<sup>th</sup> Regiment, 90<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division and participated in campaigns in Normandy, North France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace and Central

Europe as the Battalion Executive Officer and Battalion Commander.

MG Godding returned to Fort McClellan in 1945 to serve as Training Inspector and Executive Officer, S3. He remained there until his release from active duty in October 1946. He returned to study at the University of Kansas but was recalled to active duty in April 1947 as a Lieutenant Colonel. At that time he was commissioned in the Regular Army and subsequently served in various command and staff assignments in Guam. In August 1949, MG Godding was assigned to Headquarters, US Army Security Agency (USASA) as Plans and Policies Officer. He then attended the Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and remained there as an instructor until July 1956 when he returned to USASA to attend the Officers Course at the National Security Agency (NSA). He was subsequently assigned as the S3, Headquarters, USASA, Europe, and in July 1956 assumed command of the 507<sup>th</sup> ASA Group. He became the USASA Chief of Staff in July 1959. After attending the Army War College 1961, he was assigned as Chief, USASA, Pacific (USASAPAC).

MG Godding served with the Joint Chiefs of Staff as Chief, Alternate National Military Command Center in 1964 and was reassigned to the Joint Chiefs of Staff European/Middle East Division, J3, in 1965. He remained there until 1967, when he was assigned as Deputy J2, MACV. In November 1967 he was reassigned to Hawaii as Chief USASAPAC. In 1969 he was named Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence and Deputy Chief of Staff, US Army Pacific until May 1972. During 1972 and 1973 MG Godding served as Director of Intelligence, J2, US Military Assistance Command,

Vietnam. He assumed command of USASA, Arlington Hall Station, Arlington, Virginia, in March 1973 and retired from the Army on 31 August 1975.

MG Godding's awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal (2 Oak Leaf Clusters), the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit (2 Oak Leaf Clusters), the Bronze Star with "V" device (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), the Air Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Purple Heart, the Combat Infantryman Badge and Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge. Foreign awards include the Republic of China Order of Cloud and Banner, Republic of Thailand Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant (Second Class – Knight Commander), the Republic of Vietnam National Order of Vietnam, Fifth Class, and numerous campaign and service medals.

MG Godding was invited to serve as one of the first Distinguished Members of the MI Corps in 1987 and inducted as a member of the Hall of Fame the following year. He is also a member of the Officer Candidate School. He passed away in December 2008.



**MG (Ret) Godding receiving his Knowlton Award at the MI Hall of Fame ceremonies in 1995.**