

## **COLONEL JOHN G. LACKEY III**

### **US Army, Retired**



John G. Lackey graduated from The Citadel in South Carolina in June 1961 with a Bachelors degree in Political Science and was commissioned through Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) as a Second Lieutenant in Military Intelligence. Fifteen years later, he also earned a Masters Degree in History from The Citadel.

Following completion of the Basic Infantry and Imagery Interpreter Officer schools, 1LT Lackey's first assignment in 1962 was Platoon Leader of an Aerial Surveillance Platoon in the XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. During the height of the Cuban Missile Crisis, 1LT Lackey served as the Senior Air Reconnaissance Liaison Officer to US Strategic Command. In 1963, 1LT Lackey studied Vietnamese at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California, with a follow-on assignment to the 441<sup>st</sup> Intelligence Corps Detachment, 1<sup>st</sup>

Special Forces in Okinawa. While in Special Forces, Lackey served two temporary duty tours in Vietnam and one in Taiwan with the Special Action Forces.

Upon completion of the Okinawa tour, CPT Lackey moved to the US Army Intelligence School in January 1967, where he attended the MI Officers Advanced Course and taught tactical intelligence. His next assignment was in Vietnam with the 5<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group. He served as the Intelligence Operations Officer, the Assistant S2, and the S2.

In April 1969, MAJ Lackey assumed command of the 218<sup>th</sup> Military Intelligence (MI) Detachment, XVIII Airborne Corps. After attending Command and Staff College, he returned to Vietnam where he was the Senior Operations Advisor, Pleiku Province. In 1972, he was an ROTC Instructor and Tactical Officer at The Citadel.

In 1976, LTC Lackey served as the Executive to the Director of Foreign Intelligence, Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence (ACSI). The next year, he became an Assistant to the Director of the Army Staff. After two years on the Army staff, in December 1978, COL Lackey returned to his Army roots to command the 1<sup>st</sup> MI Battalion (Aerial Reconnaissance Support) at Fort Bragg. He attended the Naval War College, at Newport, Rhode Island in 1981, and was then slated to be the Assistant Chief of Staff, G2, 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division, Fort Bragg.

COL Lackey moved to US Army Europe where he served as the Chief of Plans, Training and Force Management Division, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence, until he assumed command of the 66<sup>th</sup> MI Brigade in 1984. He then commanded a special mission unit from 1986 to 1989, followed by an assignment as the Director of Intelligence, J2 of the Joint Special Operations Command, Fort Bragg. During the 1990-1991 Gulf War, he served as the Chief of Staff of the Joint Special Operations Task Force conducting the coalition Scud Missile hunts.

COL Lackey retired from the US Army on 1 August 1991 with 30 years of active duty service. His awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal; Legion of Merit (3 Oak Leaf Clusters); Bronze Star Medals (1 Oak Leaf Cluster); the Purple Heart; Meritorious Service Medal (2 Oak Leaf Clusters); four Air Medals; Army Commendation Medal (4 Oak Leaf Clusters); the Cross of Gallantry; the Combat Infantry Badge; the Master Parachutist Badge; the Vietnam Service Medal with nine stars; and the Southwest Asia Service Medal.

COL Lackey was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2012.



**COL Lackey receiving his Hall of Fame Certificate from COL Roger Sangvic, with CSM Holiday, in 2012**