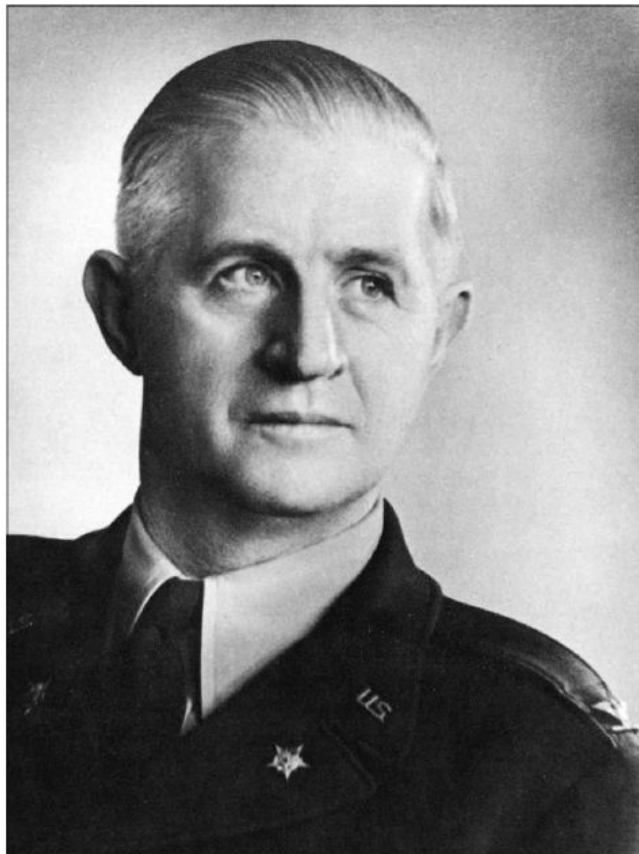


COLONEL KAI E. RASMUSSEN US Army, Retired (Deceased)



Kai Eduard Rasmussen was born in Copenhagen, Denmark. Growing up during World War I, he found it difficult to break into a desirable profession because many of the developed countries, with the exception of the United States, suffered from very high unemployment and opportunities were few. After reading that Henry Ford was paying the unheard of sum of five dollars a day in wages, he immigrated to the United States in 1922.

After rejection by the Navy and the Marine Corps, he joined the US Army for service in the Infantry; his first station was Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. He attended the US Military Academy (USMA) Preparatory School and graduated in June 1929.

From 1929 to 1930, he served with the 62nd Coast Artillery Antiaircraft Regiment, at Fort Totten, New York. He

served the next three years at Corregidor in the Philippine islands. He was at Fort Monroe, Virginia from 1933-1936, then was a Japanese language student and Assistant Military Attaché at the US Embassy in Tokyo, Japan, until 1940. For the next two years, he served at Fort Winfield Scott, with the Coast Artillery in California and at the Military Intelligence Service Language School (MISLS) at Crissy Field, Presidio of San Francisco.

COL Rasmussen received the task of establishing a Japanese-language MISLS because the United States did not have a pool of Japanese linguists when World War II began. The school was to provide training in written and spoken Japanese language before the outbreak of World War II hostilities. COL Rasmussen's efforts included recruiting an instructor staff of first-generation American-born Japanese and establishing a program of instruction. This provided the basis for



COL Rasmussen congratulates a new graduate of the MISLS. The student is Nisei, or second generation Japanese-American.

the eventual establishment of the Army Language School, subsequently the Defense Language Institute at the Presidio of Monterey, California. By 1946, more than 6,000 Japanese-speaking graduates had supported the war effort in the Pacific Theater.

After World War II, COL Rasmussen was the Military Attaché in the US Embassy in Norway. He directed Reserve training for the State of North Dakota. From 1953 through 1955, he served as the G2 and Chief of Order of Battle, Far East Command, in Tokyo. The last years of his active service he was Chief of the Collection and Dissemination Division in the Army G2 office. He retired from the Army in September 1955. Colonel Rasmussen passed away in 1988.

COL Rasmussen was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1988.



CPT Kai Rasmussen (above, standing, center), US Army, was attached to the US Embassy in Tokyo from 1936 until 1940, where he studied Japanese and routinely interacted with officers of the Imperial Japanese Army, as shown here. Rasmussen soon became one of a small group of US officers in the Army and Navy who advocated the creation of formal US military training programs.



In early 1988, COL Kai Rasmussen, the first MISLS commandant, passed away. In his honor, DLIFLC memorialized its headquarters after him. In this photo, members of the Rasmussen family pose at Rasmussen Hall in October 1988.