

GEORGE ALAN HIGGINS
Major General, United States Army (Retired)

After graduation from high school in June 1967, Major General (Retired) George A. Higgins enlisted in the United States Army and underwent basic combat training at Sand Hill, Fort Benning, Georgia. In August 1967, he was assigned to the United States Military Academy Preparatory School at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, where he competed for an appointment to the United States Military Academy. General Higgins entered West Point in July 1968 and graduated in June 1972, commissioned a second lieutenant of Infantry.

General Higgins has served in command and staff positions throughout the field Army in the United States and overseas. His command assignments include: Company A, 3rd Battalion, 19th Infantry Regiment at Fort Stewart, Georgia (1976-77); 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment at Böblingen, Germany (1990-91); 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment at Camp Hovey in the Republic of Korea (1991-92); and 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division at Fort Carson, Colorado (1994-95).

Between command assignments, General Higgins has served in several operations, plans, and training staff assignments. These assignments included: Chief, G3 Plans and Exercises, 5th Infantry Division (1985-87); Executive Officer, 4th Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment (1987-88); and Operations Officer, 2nd Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (1988-89)—all at Fort Polk, Louisiana. In addition, he has twice served as the G3 Operations Officer for Army units stationed overseas: from 1989-90 he served as the G3, 1st Infantry Division (Forward) at Göppingen, Germany; and from 1992-93 as the G3, 2nd Infantry Division in the Republic of Korea. Other staff assignments include: Action Officer on the Joint Staff in Conventional War Plans Division, J7 (1996); and Executive Officer to the Commander, United States Southern Command at Quarry Heights, Panama (1996-97).

General Higgins' General Officer assignments include: Executive Officer to the Supreme Allied Commander Europe and Commander, United States European Command at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) in Mons, Belgium (1997-99); Assistant Division Commander (Support), 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized), Fort Hood, Texas (1999-2000); and Deputy Commanding General, III Corps and Fort Hood, Fort Hood, Texas (2000-2002). In the Republic of Korea, General Higgins served as the J3, United States Forces Korea and Deputy Commanding General (Operations) Eighth Army (2002-2004). Following his assignment as the J3 in Korea, he served as the Commanding General, 2nd Infantry Division (2004-2006). General Higgins' last assignment in the Army was Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff, G3/5/7 at Headquarters Department of the Army. After 36+ years on active duty, General Higgins retired from the Army on 1 May 2008.

In addition to a Bachelor of Science degree from the United States Military Academy, General Higgins holds a Master of Arts in Philosophy from the University of Virginia and a Master of Military Art and Science from the United States Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He is a graduate of the Army War College (1993-94), School of Advanced Military Studies (1985), Command and General Staff College (1984), Infantry Officer Advanced and Basic Courses, and Airborne, Ranger, and Pathfinder schools. He has also served at West Point as an Assistant Professor of Philosophy and English (1980-83).

Among his military decorations are the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Army Distinguished Service Medal (OLC), Defense Superior Service Medal (OLC), Legion of Merit (2 OLC), and Bronze Star Medal.

Born in Frankfurt, Germany, General Higgins is married to the former Marilyn Ann Barrs of Branchville, South Carolina. General and Mrs. Higgins have two sons: Jeff, an Infantry Lieutenant Colonel who is currently serving as the Secretary General Staff, U.S. Army Pacific at Fort Shafter, Hawaii; and Steve, a Major in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General (JAG) Corps, currently enrolled in Intermediate Level Education at Fort Bliss, Texas. George and Marilyn Higgins are blessed with two wonderful daughters-in-law and six grandchildren, including two sets of fraternal twins!



Steve and Miranda on the left with Autumn and twins Colton and Trenton. Jeff and Holly on the right with twins Collin and Annalyn and McKinlee. Taken at Cove 1 at Ko Olina, Oahu, Hawaii, when Steve and Jeff were assigned to the 25th Infantry Division (2015-2017).