
**HOWARD F. HUFF, JR. (AKA FRANK HUFF), 1968-1969, Captain
Motor Officer and C Troop Commander, 3rd Squadron, 5th Cavalry**

After a distinguished Army career, Frank's been like the Energizer Bunny - going and going, and giving and giving to help others

Frank Huff was born in rural Virginia in 1939. His parents were people of meager economic means. As the second of seven children, Frank's formative years were spent on his family farm. Frank completed high school in 1958, and married his sweetheart, Justine Nunn, in June 1959. Their three children are Brian, Lillie and Jeffrey.

As a high school senior, Frank joined his local Virginia Army National Guard unit in late 1957. After high school, he went on active duty for Basic Training at Fort Knox KY and Advanced Individual Training in infantry/armor at Fort Jackson SC.

After his initial training, Frank returned home to toil at several jobs over the succeeding years until early 1964 when he was selected by his National Guard unit to attend the Officer Candidate School (OCS) at Fort Benning GA. He completed OCS as a second lieutenant, and proceeded to Fort Knox to attend the Armor Officer Basic Course.

After qualifying as a company grade Armor officer, Frank performed several jobs for his National Guard unit before he volunteered for active duty in 1967.



Frank's first active duty assignment as an Armor officer was to the 1/63rd Armor at Fort Riley KS for nine months until he received orders for South Vietnam. He arrived in RVN in October 1968, and was assigned to the 3rd Squadron, 5th Cavalry. Initially, he served as the squadron motor officer, followed by his assignment as the commander of C Troop. He took command of C Troop shortly after a horrific episode that caused the troop to have a fragile psyche. With the addition of some new officers and enlisted personnel, the troop embarked on an intensive training program that brought about renewed confidence and a new culture focused on individual job performance and caring for one another. The entire troop leadership was involved in the effort of re-building the troop. For Frank, it was an inspiring experience to be a part of and to witness the transformation of the troop into an effective unit based on the newly-gained qualities of individual responsibility, bonding and team spirit.

Upon the completion of his RVN tour in 1969, Frank was reassigned to Fort Knox to attend the Armor Officer Advanced Course. For his first year at Fort Knox, he commanded a company of NCOs who were enrolled at the Noncommissioned Officers Education School. Frank's completion of the advanced course in 1971 qualified him as a field grade Armor officer. His next assignment was to pursue civilian education at the University of Tampa. In short order, he earned a bachelor's degree in business with a minor in economics.

During the years 1973-1976, Frank was stationed in Kitzengen, Germany with the 3rd Infantry Division. His first assignment was as the assistant S-3 (Operations) of the 2nd Brigade, followed by several assignments with the 1/64th Armor; namely, as a company commander, and as the S-3 and the executive officer (XO) of his battalion.

Frank's next assignment from 1976 to 1980 was to the Forces Command in Atlanta GA where he served as a staff officer for DCSOPS (Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations). During the same period, Frank earned a master's degree in management with a concentration in business and economics from the Central Michigan University.

Between 1980 and 1982, Frank accomplished three varied assignments in the following order: he completed the professional military graduate-level course of study for field grade officers at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth KS, he was a member of the select group of officers and enlisted personnel who established the Caribbean Contingency Joint Task Force (later re-designated as the U.S. Forces, Caribbean) in Key West FL, and he served as the advisor and assister to the National Guard tank and cavalry units in the three states of Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee.

From 1982 to 1990, Frank's next assignments were in Europe. His initial years were with Allied Forces Southern Europe in Naples, Italy as the executive assistant to a general officer and a battalion commander. Frank's final assignments in the U.S. Army were as the deputy G-3 and the G-3 of V Corps, based in Frankfurt, Germany. V Corps was one of the two corps-level combat components of the U.S. Seventh Army in Europe at the time of Frank's assignments. As the G-3, Frank was responsible for the overall planning, and the coordination and implementation of both the routine operational requirements and the special deployments of V Corps. As a combat ready command, V Corps consisted of one-half of the U.S. Army's European-based tactical combat forces.

Frank retired from the U.S. Army as a lieutenant colonel in October 1990. His Army career was typified by his postings to diverse and increasingly responsible troop and staff assignments, and his quests for professional and personal education. His niche was as a staff officer for unit operations from the battalion through the corps levels.

Frank fulfilled his Army career as a highly decorated soldier. The extent of his individual decorations was both a reflection on his personal character and the symbolization of his meritorious and valorous service to the U.S. Army. Frank's many individual and service awards included the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal for Merit with oak leaf cluster, the Bronze Star Medal for Valor with four oak leaf clusters, the Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Air Medal with five oak leaf clusters, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Meritorious Unit Commendation, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Humanitarian Services Medal, the Army Forces Reserve Medal, the Army Service Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Medal, the Presidential Unit Citation Medal, and the Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Following his Army service, Frank became a financial planner. He focused his practice on active and retired members of the military to ensure their needs for financial planning and management were met. He retired from his financial planning service at the end of 2000. Frank continues his efforts on behalf of others as a volunteer worker on the U.S. Air Force base near his home. Also, he serves as a volunteer for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) during the hurricane seasons.

Frank Huff's early rearing and Army service taught him how hard work is essential to goal achievement and success.