

DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE SPECIAL FORCES REGIMENT



**BRIGADIER GENERAL
RICHARD W. POTTER, JR.**
U.S. Army, Retired

Inducted April 26, 2024



Brigadier General Richard W. Potter, Jr., began his service in the United States Army after being drafted in Detroit, Michigan. After achieving the rank of corporal, Potter attended Officer Candidate School and graduated as an infantry officer in 1961.

His initial assignments took him to Germany and several deployments to Vietnam. While in Vietnam, he commanded a Special Forces team and advised Vietnamese rangers. Later in his career, Potter was the deputy commander providing critical guidance in the establishment of special operations units.

Potter served a storied legacy throughout his military career. He served multiple tours in several countries such as Vietnam, Iran, Iraq, Zaire, Sierra Leone, and Haiti. This includes military operations such as the Vietnam War, Eagle Claw, Desert Shield/Storm, Provide Comfort, Wealthy Ghost, Silver Anvil, and Uphold Democracy.

Potter continued his leadership across the special operations enterprise. He commanded the 10th Special Forces Group, Special Operations Command Europe at the culmination of the Cold War, during the fall of the Berlin Wall, and the humanitarian and security operations in Haiti. He also served as deputy commanding general of the United States Army Special Operations Command.

He is the recipient of the R. Lynn Rylander Award, the Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star (with oak leaf cluster), Legion of Merit (with oak leaf cluster), Bronze Star (with valor), Bronze Star (with three oak leaf clusters), the Purple Heart (with oak leaf cluster) and the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross (with palm device). He is a member of the Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame.

Potter retired after 34 years of service in December 1994.

He continues to dedicate his life to the Special Forces community. Potter served many years on the board of directors for the Special Operations Warrior Foundation and continues to serve as an advisor to promote critical equipment, budget, and staffing issues within U.S. defense.

He lives in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, with his wife, Annie.