

# DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE SPECIAL FORCES REGIMENT



**COLONEL  
LEE A. VAN ARSDALE**  
*U.S. Army, Retired*

Inducted April 26, 2024



A graduate of the University of Colorado, the United States Armed Forces Staff College, the United States Army War College, and the United States Military Academy at West Point, Col. Lee A. Van Arsdale dedicated his life to the service of his nation.

Upon commissioning into military service, Van Arsdale received assignments to the 101st Airborne Division as a rifle platoon leader, antitank platoon leader, and company executive officer.

After completing Special Forces Assessment and Selection, Van Arsdale served in various special operations and joint special operations units.

Van Arsdale defined himself as a capable leader on various levels for several years within the special operations forces. He led combat operations in Panama and personally placed Manuel Noriega in restraints during Operation Just Cause. Van Arsdale received the Silver Star for Valor and the Purple Heart for combat wounds sustained during Operation Gothic Serpent in Somalia.

In addition to these awards, Van Arsdale is also the recipient of the Defense Superior Service Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal (with two oak leaf clusters), and the Meritorious Service Medal (with oak leaf cluster). He is also an awardee of the Valorous Unit Award, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (with two oak leaf clusters), the Southwest Asia Service Medal (with bronze star), and the Kuwait Liberation Medal.

His final active-duty assignment was in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict in the Pentagon, where he was responsible for counterterrorism and special projects. Upon retirement, Van Arsdale continued working on military matters in several executive roles in companies providing software solutions, project management, and engineering expertise to the Department of Defense and the special operations community.

Van Arsdale still supports several Special Forces organizations and is a life member of the Special Forces Association. He, his wife, Marilee, and their three sons reside in Colorado.