

DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE CIVIL AFFAIRS REGIMENT



Colonel Harold W. Youmans
U.S. Army, Retired

Inducted November 2, 2018



Colonel (Retired) Harold W. Youmans was born in Trenton, New Jersey, on June 2, 1944. Col. Youmans began his military career as an enlisted Soldier and later commissioned as an Infantry Second Lieutenant in 1967. Col. Youmans served with distinction as a CA Platoon Leader in Vietnam and later as the Chief of Policy and Concepts at U.S. Special Operations Command. He is a leading authority in Civil Affairs history, the Goldwater-Nichols Act and is recognized nationally for his knowledge on issues relating to Military Operational Law.

In early 1968, Youmans completed the Civil Affairs Officer Course at Fort Gordon, Georgia. In 1968, while serving in the Republic of Vietnam, then-Lt. Youmans, trained in unconventional warfare, and was posted with the III Marine Amphibious Forces. He served in both the 29th and 415th Civil Affairs Companies, earning the Bronze Star Medal, several awards for Valor and the Combat Infantryman Badge. As a Captain in Europe, he commanded combat Infantry and training units before leaving active duty in 1973. As an Army Reservist, he earned a Bachelor of Science at the University of Tampa, a Master's in Urban Management at the University of South Florida, and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Florida.

Then-Maj. Youmans returned to active duty and served as the Assistant Professor of Military Science at Florida State University. Later he was assigned to the Operations Directorate on the Army Staff at the Pentagon, serving as the Director for Psychological Operations. He participated in the selection, mobilization and deployment of personnel and material assets to support classified worldwide joint, conventional and special operations. He was responsible for the coordinating of all active component CA and Reserve Component assets across the unified commands. From 1987 to 1988, he served as the Reserve Forces Advisor to the Joint Staff. He was instrumental in coordinating the integration of PSYOP and CA forces under USSOCOM, developing CA annexes and integrated CA concepts into the joint planning process.

He concluded his active duty assignment following his promotion to Colonel in 1989, while serving at USSOCOM. As the Chief of Policy and Concepts, his portfolio included both Civil Affairs and PSYOP responsibilities. He deployed with U.S. forces to Panama in 1989, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba in 1990 and Somalia in 1992. In these deployments, he provided both current site surveys, and after-action analysis of CA actions. Upon completion of his 28-year military career in 1994, he was awarded the Defense Superior Service Medal.

Col. Youmans continues to serve our military and veteran community. He is a member of the Bar at the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Armed Forces for Veteran Claims and for the Federal Circuit, where he represents veterans in records correction and disability claim cases. He is an active lecturer and mentor, particularly regarding Civil Affairs history. He is also active in the Vietnam Civil Affairs Veterans Association, leading the effort to emplace a stone in the USASOC Memorial Plaza dedicated to the three Civil Affairs Companies that served in Vietnam. His professional writings have been archived at the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania.

Col. Youmans is married to Darlene Youmans, and they have two children. They reside in Riverview, Florida.