

# DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS REGIMENT



**1ST LIEUTENANT  
DR. ROBERT JENKS**  
*U.S. Army, Veteran*

Inducted November 5, 2020



Dr. Robert Jenks enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1968 after earning his Bachelor of Arts in History from Yale University, and received his commission through Officer Candidate School. From August 1969 until June 1970, Dr. Jenks was an instructor in the PSYOP Psychological Operations Department of the United States Army Institute for Military Assistance and was awarded the additional MOS 9305 (Psychological Operations Officer). After deploying to the Republic of Vietnam, then 2nd Lieutenant Jenks was assigned to Advisory Team 64, United States Military Assistance Command Vietnam as the S5 POLWAR .

Working closely with his Vietnamese counterparts, Dr. Jenks provided advice and assistance for drafting leaflets, posters, and other media targeted on partner-nation soldiers, dependents, civilians and enemy forces as part of Psychological Warfare programs throughout Chau Doc Province. He conducted day and night psychological operations against the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) within the Seven Mountains area of Chau Doc Province, a major NVA infiltration route into the Mekong Delta. He also went on night ambush patrol with South Vietnamese Regional and Popular forces units.

After leaving active duty, Dr. Jenks earned his Master of Arts in History from the University of British Columbia, and his Doctorate in History and East Asian Languages from Harvard University. In 1982, he returned to government service as an analyst in the Pacific Command Strategic Studies Detachment of the 4th PSYOP Group where he served until 1990. Dr. Jenks was the lead analyst for numerous projects throughout the Pacific Command area of operations in support of 9th PSYOP Battalion, including Basic PSYOP Studies for multiple countries. He participated in a groundbreaking PSYOP effectiveness study on Exercise TEAM SPIRIT, which convinced Commander In Chief, Combined Forces Command to include PSYOP in all exercises and Operations. Dr. Jenks also worked on several sensitive national-level plans in support of 1st PSYOP Battalion, focused on Suriname, Nicaragua, the Contras, and later Haiti.

From 1990 until his retirement in 2006, Dr. Jenks served as the Deputy Commanding Officer for Research, Analysis, and Civilian Affairs within the 4th PSYOP Group. This was a new position created from lessons learned during the preparation for Operation JUST CAUSE. Throughout his tenure as the Deputy Commanding Officer, he edited and approved approximately 800 products. He also made numerous analytical contributions to contingency operations such as Desert Shield/Desert Storm, Restore Hope, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, including a deployment to Iraq in January 2004, to assist the 8th PSYOP Bn. in product and program development. Dr. Jenks provided subject-matter expertise to multiple and other government agencies on various sensitive and still compartmented programs.

After his retirement in 2006, Dr. Jenks continued serving his country and PSYOP Soldiers. He continued to be a guest lecturer at the Naval Postgraduate School; maintaining contact with the PSYOP community attending various events and offering his experience when it was needed. Additionally, Dr. Jenks taught adult literacy classes and has been involved in other volunteer activities. Throughout his retirement he has provided expert advice and assistance to PSYOP Group analysts. Dr. Jenks' awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal for his service in Vietnam, the Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service, the Superior Civilian Service Award and the Meritorious Civilian Service Award for his civilian service while in the 4th PSYOP Group.