

DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS REGIMENT



**COLONEL
LOUIS A. WAPLE**

Inducted May 2016



Col. Louis A. Waple was born on Sept. 14, 1917, and graduated from Roosevelt High School, Washington, D.C., in 1935, and earned a bachelor's in biology from Wilson College, Washington, D.C., in June 1940. Briefly serving in the U.S. Army Reserves, Waple entered active duty on Jan. 15, 1941, as a Field Artillery officer.

Throughout his 29-year military career, Col. Waple's military education included the Coast Artillery School, Anti-aircraft Artillery School, Command and General Staff College, Army Language School for Russian, Strategic Intelligence School, Basic Airborne and Jumpmaster Courses, the Special Forces Officer Course, the Counterinsurgency and Special Warfare Officer Course and the PSYWAR Officer Course.

During and after World War II, Col. Waple served as a Coastal Artillery Battery Commander and in Military Police positions in the Aleutian Island Campaigns and in Europe. After World War II, Waple attended the Army Language School at Monterey, California, to study Russian, followed by the Strategic Intelligence School, with subsequent assignment to the Office of Military Assistance-Iran as Assistant Military Attaché. In 1955, he completed the Special Forces Officer Course and returned to Iran as an advisor to the Imperial Iranian Guard. While there, he was assigned to the Military Assistance Advisory Group-Iran, for a time under the command of Brig. Gen. Robert A. McClure. After Iran, Waple served as a professor of Military Science and Tactics at Colorado State University, G2 of the Berlin Brigade and as an Artillery Battalion Commander until Aug. 11, 1960.

Waple's long standing association with PSYOP and Special Warfare began on Aug. 6, 1963, when he became Deputy Director, then Director, PSYOP Department (COIN), U.S. Army Special Warfare School. Between 1963 and 1964, he completed the COIN and Special Warfare Staff Officer Course; the Senior COIN Officer and Special Warfare Orientation Course; and the PSYOP Officer Course. From June 4, 1965 until May 27, 1966, Waple served in Vietnam as the Chief of the Planning Office, Joint U.S. Public Affairs Office, developing all U.S. PSYOP in the Republic of Vietnam, and advising and assisting the Republic of Vietnam Ministry of Information and Chieu Hoi. As the Chief of Planning, Waple formulated and disseminated approved PSYOP policy; prepared PSYOP programs; evaluated program effectiveness; analyzed target audiences and developed measures of effectiveness; and liaised with Vietnamese information service counterparts, where he earned his first Legion of Merit.

He then assumed command of the 2nd Psychological Operations Group at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, one of only three PSYOP Groups active during Vietnam. He was responsible for the organization, training and readiness of all U.S.-based active Army PSYOP units. In September 1967, Waple became the Assistant Commandant, U.S. Army Institute for Military Assistance. On Oct. 9, 1969, he became the Special Assistant (Counterinsurgency) to the Commanding General, followed three weeks later by assignment as Deputy Commanding Officer (COIN). He retired from service on June 30, 1970.

After retirement, Waple earned a master's in education from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill in 1972, then immediately began work on a Ph.D. in Education. On April 22, 1975, he was appointed as a Department of the Army Civilian, Intelligence Research Specialist, with assignment to the 6th Psychological Operations Battalion, 4th POG, at the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Center for Military Assistance. He resigned Aug. 31, 1979 to complete his doctorate degree. Col. Louis A. Waple passed away in 2003.