

Richard W. Mills '74



Rich Mills was one of the first few cadets that were in both Lowman Rifles and Counterguerrillas. In the spring of his junior year he was selected to attend Airborne and Ranger schools in lieu of ROTC Advanced Camp. At Ranger School, he received the Leadership Award in his class. After returning to SHSU, he prepared the next class for ROTC Summer Camp, Airborne, and Rangers schools. Rich graduated and received a RA commission in Infantry in December 1974.

After IOBC, he served with the 1st/ 50th Infantry, 2AD, at Ft. Hood as Platoon Leader, Motor Officer, and Executive Officer. After Ft. Hood, he graduated from Special Forces School and IOAC, serving as Detachment Commander, Company Commander, and Civil Affairs / Asst S-3 with the 7th Special Forces GP (ABN), Ft. Bragg, NC., and as the Detachment Commander, Company Commander, and Executive Officer for the 1st Special Forces GP (ABN), Okinawa, Japan. Somewhere along the way he graduated from the Foreign Area Officer Course, and the Armed Forces Staff College. He also earned a MS degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the United States Naval War College in Newport, RI.

He served as J-3 Staff Officer at United States Special Operations Command, MacDill AFB, FL. After that he served as the S-3 and Executive Officer of the 1st Special Forces GP (ABN), Ft. Lewis, WA., followed by command of the 3rd BN 3rd Special Forces GP (ABN), Ft. Bragg, NC. In September 1994, Rich was assigned as Chief, Special Operations Training Detachment Ft. Polk, LA, and later as Director, Special Operations, United States Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, PA.

After commanding the 10th Special Forces GP (ABN) Ft. Carson, CO, he was assigned as Chief of Staff, Special Assistant to the Commanding General, and Director of Army Special Operations Forces Transformation, United States Army Special Operations Command, Ft. Bragg, NC and OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM, Afghanistan.

Rich retired in 2007, after serving as Commanding General, Special Operations Command, Korea.

During his career, he received the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit w/ 2 OLC, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal w/ 5 OLC, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal w/ 2 OLC, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army

Achievement Medal w/ OLC, Master Parachutist Badge, Free Fall Parachutist Badge, Ranger Tab, and Special Forces Tab.

BG (R) Mills is married to the former Charlotte Fink. They have 2 sons that are also graduates of the SHSU ROTC program and are currently on active duty. Rich and Charlotte reside in Damon, TX.

If you have further information or would like to share a memory, please send to shsumsac@gmail.com