

WILLIAM R. RICHARDSON

General, U. S. Army (Ret.)



General Richardson was born in Taichow, Kiangsu, China, on March 25, 1929. He graduated from the U. S. Military Academy in 1951 and was commissioned in the Infantry. His early troop assignments included duty with the 24th Infantry Division in Japan and as a platoon leader and battalion staff officer with the 7th Infantry Division in Korea. He was again assigned to Korea in 1965 and served as the G-3 Plans Officer, Eighth U. S. Army. Returning to the United States in 1966, General Richardson activated the 3d Battalion, 39th Infantry of the 9th Infantry Division and deployed with that unit to Vietnam. Later he became the G-3 for the Division. He again saw combat duty in Vietnam in June 1971 as the Commander of the 198th Infantry Brigade of the Americal Division and later as the Division Chief of Staff. In 1974-1977 he was the Commander of the 193d

Infantry Brigade in the Canal Zone and the Commander of U. S. Army South.

From 1977 to 1979, General Richardson served as the Director of Requirements on the Army Staff, where he oversaw the Army's requirements for weapons systems and played a key role in prioritizing those systems for Army programs and budgets.

From 1979 to 1981, he was the Commander of the Combined Arms Center and Commandant of the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. While there, he was responsible for restructuring the Command and General Staff College to meet the demands of a modernized Army, establishing the Center for Army Leadership, developing the AirLand Battle Doctrine, reorganizing the Army's heavy divisions in the Army 86 Studies, and proposing to the Department of the Army the School for Advanced Military Studies (SAMS).

From 1981 to 1983, General Richardson was the Army's Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans, where he played a role in Joint matters, and was involved in operational planning, training, force developments, security assistance, and arms control.

General Richardson became the Commander of the Army's Training and Doctrine Command in February 1983. His first priority was preparing the Army for war by insuring that the TRADOC branch schools and training centers focused on demanding and realistic training. He restructured the TRADOC School Model; instituted small group instruction in all the branch schools and the Command and General Staff College; founded the Joint Readiness Training Center, now at Fort Polk, Louisiana; and formed an Installations of Excellence Program for TRADOC. Under his aegis, AirLand Battle Doctrine was revised to more fully cover the operational level of war, and TRADOC designed the light division within an Army reorganization known as the Army of Excellence. He was instrumental in increasing Army-Air Force cooperation and coordination, leading to Joint concepts, doctrine, tactics, techniques, and procedures. General Richardson formed in 1986 at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, the Soviet Army Studies Office (SAS), the forerunner of today's Foreign Military Studies Office.

In 1986, after 35 years of distinguished service in the Army, General Richardson retired and became a defense consultant for Burdeshaw Associates, Ltd. (BAL) in Bethesda, Maryland, where he was appointed Executive Vice President for Army Programs. In 1995, he resigned from BAL as a full time employee but remains a Senior Associate.

General Richardson's military education has included attendance at the Canadian Army Staff College, the Armed Forces Staff College, and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. He has also earned an MS degree in Business Administration from the George Washington University in Washington, DC.