

FULFORD

GENERAL CARLTON W. FULFORD JR. '66, USMC (RET.)

Carlton Fulford came to the Naval Academy from Millen, GA, taking on extra elective courses, earning a varsity letter in 150-pound football and helping establish rugby as a permanent sport. He served as 20th Company Winter Set Commander his first class year. The *Lucky Bag* predicted he was “bound for a successful career.”

He later received a Master of Science from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and graduated from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

After he completed The Basic School in Quantico and Vietnamese Language School, he was assigned as a platoon commander with Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines in the Republic of Vietnam. He later commanded Company F, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines during the Tet Offensive in 1968. He returned to the States in July of 1968 to be 1st Company Commander, Naval Academy Preparatory School at Bainbridge, MD.

Significant command assignments have included: Deputy Commander in Chief, United States European Command (2000-02); director, the Joint Staff (1999-2000); commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces and Bases, Pacific headquartered at Camp H.M. Smith, Hawaii (1998-99); Commanding General, I Marine Expeditionary Force (96-98); Commanding General, III Marine Expeditionary Force and Marine Corps Bases, Japan (94-95); Commanding General, 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (91-92); and commanding officer, Task Force “Ripper” during Operation Desert Storm (90-91). He retired in 2003.

General Fulford has been awarded the Defense Distinguished Service Medal with two bronze oak leaf clusters, Silver Star, Legion of Merit with Combat V and gold star, Bronze Star with Combat V, Purple Heart with gold star, Defense Meritorious Service

Medal, Joint Service Commendation medal, and Combat Action Ribbon with gold star—amongst many others.

After his retirement, he was a National Security Council envoy to East Africa's Great Lakes Region in 2003, became the director of the Africa Center for Strategic Studies from 2003–06 and was a negotiator in the Sudanese peace process resulting in the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Accord. He currently consults regarding security issues with particular focus on African security matters. He has visited 46 of the 53 African nations and has been awarded the Secretary of Defense Medal for Outstanding Public Service and French Legion of Merit.



“Designation as a Distinguished Graduate is an honor that recognizes professional achievements and contributions to the Academy’s mission.”