

PAUL C. BERGSON
Major General, USAR (Retired)
inducted into the SARCA Hall of Fame
on February 10, 2008



Paul Bergson was a 1966 Distinguished Military Graduate of the University of Notre Dame and received a Regular Army Commission. He served at Fort Riley with the 9th Infantry Division, Fort Bliss for the Air Defense Officer Basic Course and Fort Benning for Airborne School before going to a Nike site in Germany. He went to SHAPE Headquarters in Belgium as a Company Commander. After schooling at Fort Eustis, he was assigned to the 4th Transportation Command in Vietnam. He then served in the Passenger Directorate at the Military Traffic Management and Terminal Service. In 1972, he was assigned to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs). In 1975, he resigned his RA commission and with the advice and counsel of COL Wil Ebel immediately joined the Army Reserve in the 310th TAACOM. In the 310th he was a movements control officer, aide to the Commanding General, Secretary to the General Staff and Liaison Officer. He served with such SARCA luminaries at LTG Tom Plewes, BG Ray Jacobson, BG Richard Quick and COL Doug Lamude.

He left the 310th to attend the Army War College. After graduating, he became the commander of the 157th IMA Detachment on Capitol Hill. He was then selected for promotion to BG as the Deputy Chief Army Reserve (IMA) serving under Bill Ward, Roger Sandler and Max Baratz. He was then promoted to MG as the Military Assistant (IMA) to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower & Reserve Affairs. He moved to a new position as Military Deputy (RC) to the Deputy Under Secretary of the Army for International Affairs where he was tasked with representing the Army at various trade shows around the world and overseeing the foreign military attaches in the Washington area. His final assignment was as the Military Deputy (RC) for Security Cooperation for the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology. In his final three years, he served on the Reserve Forces Policy Board. He retired in March 2003 after 37 years of active and reserve service.

MG Bergson's decorations include the Army Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit (w OLC), Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (w OLC), Joint Service Commendation Medal (w OLC), Army Commendation Medal (W OLC), and the Army Achievement Medal. He has been awarded the parachutist badge by the US, Canada and Myanmar. He has the OSD and Army Staff Identification Badges.

A SARCA Life Member, MG Bergson received the President's Award in 2004 and has served as head of the Legislative and Issue Committees. He has accomplished much behind the scenes for the Army Reserve. He is most proud of sitting on a bench at the third tee at Burning Tree Club with Rep. Steve Buyer (SARCA Legislator of the Year in

1997) and drafting on the back of the scorecard the language to require the services to elevate the chiefs of the respective reserve components to 3 star status. In a different vein, he was tasked by the then Vice Chief of Staff, Jack Keane, to draft a model for the Army to overhaul its legislative liaison organization to make it more proactive and effective on Capitol Hill.

In addition to his undergraduate degree, he holds a Masters of Science Degree in Government from Southern Illinois University and both a Masters and Doctorate in Public Administration from Nova Southeastern University.

Paul's civilian career includes government relations work for the Energy Research and Development Administration, Babcock and Wilcox and RJ Reynolds where he served as Senior Vice President for Government Relations. In 1987, he started his own consulting firm where he continues to serve clients such as General Dynamics, IBM, the National Rehabilitation Hospital and Swisher International among others. He is a member of the Board of Directors of Nuclear Fuel Services in Erwin, TN. He serves on numerous philanthropic boards.

Paul has been married to the former Janet McDaniel of Riverside, California for almost 40 years and they have two sons, Mac who works in St. Louis for Anheuser Busch and Scott who works for Lincoln Financial Group in New Jersey. Paul and Jan live in Great Falls, VA.

MG Bergson's remarks at the induction ceremony:



Thank you very much for this high honor. I have been where you are sitting for the better part of 20 years and I always found myself a bit in awe of the folks SARCA honored by inducting them into the Hall of Fame. Now, I am humbled to be included in this same group as my Army Reserve heroes: Strom Thurmond, Wil Ebel, Felix Santoni, and my all time favorites, Bill Ward, Tom Plewes and Doug Lamude. I have always considered SARCA to be an outstanding organization and was never able to fathom why any eligible Army Reserve officer was not a member. ROA is a great professional group but it covers such a wide swath; SARCA zeroes in

on the top leaders of the Army Reserve and it consistently offers great insight into the way the Army works at the senior officer level.

I am grateful to the folks I named earlier; they were my role models, my inspiration as I climbed the USAR ladder, usually with these people strenuously pulling. Once you have made it this far, it is often easy to forget who helped you to get here. Don't make that mistake – no one makes it to this senior level without a lot of help. Wil Ebel was the first

to guide me in the right direction. When I decided to resign my RA commission, Wil steered me toward the USAR and the 310th TAACOM. One of the first people I met there was Tom Plewes, someone I am proud to consider my friend for over 30 years. And it was with Tom in mind that I cajoled Steve Buyer into pushing for the 3 star positions for the reserve components. It was also in the 310th that I first met Doug Lamude, a dear friend and advisor for years. The greatest influence on my career and the one most responsible for my attaining general officer rank is Bill Ward. I still think he is the most amazing person I have ever met. With General Ward pulling and Doug Lamude pushing, I couldn't fail!

I would like to think that I learned from these great people and I have tried to mentor those who came behind me: Gary Profit, Hawk, Bert Mizusawa and Tim Haake, for example. I urge you to do the same; pass on your accumulated wisdom to those who will be the future leaders of SARCA and the Army Reserve.

I would be remiss if I did not pay tribute to my family: Jan, my trophy wife of almost 40 years, and my sons Mac and Scott. They were deprived of family vacations because Dad was always off somewhere with the reserves. They never complained. I am indebted to you for your understanding.

I will leave you with the words on a sign that was on my father's desk for many years and has been on my desk since he died in 1977: There is no limit to what a man can do or where he can go if he doesn't mind who gets the credit.

There are many other people who deserve the honor you have bestowed on me today but I am delighted you chose me!