

## **RONALD L. LOWE**

### **Major General, USAR (Retired)**

inducted into the SARCA Hall of Fame  
on February 4, 2007

From 1966 until 1970 General Lowe served on active duty as a mechanized infantry platoon leader and company commander in Europe and as a Deputy District Senior Adviser in Vietnam. From 1972 until 1992 he served in various Army Reserve units, including command of the 14<sup>th</sup> Psychological Operations (PSYOP) Battalion, the 7<sup>th</sup> PSYOP Group and the 351<sup>st</sup> Civil Affairs Command where he was promoted to Brigadier General in 1988.



From 1992-1996 General Lowe served as the Vice Director of the organization now known as the Army G-6 and from 1997-2000 he was the first RC GO to serve as the Wartime Deputy Commander of Eighth Army. In May 2000, he was recalled to active duty to serve as the Chief of Staff of the United States Pacific Command in Hawaii, a position he held until his retirement on July 31, 2004, concluding a 38 year army career.

General Lowe has been awarded the Combat and Expert Infantryman's Badges, the Parachutist Badge, the Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit (2 awards), the Bronze Star Medal and various other decorations.

In 1997 General Lowe retired from SBC Communications (now AT&T) where he served as the Executive Director of General Contracting. Prior to his recall to active duty in 2000 he worked in Europe as a Senior Consultant for KPMG (now Bearing Point).

General Lowe, a SARCA life member, joined the Association in 1982 and served as the SARCA President in 1995-96. He also served SARCA as Executive Vice President, Regional Vice President, Executive Committee Member and Chairman of the By-Laws and Nominating Committees. He currently serves as a volunteer director and officer of the Sentinels of Freedom, an organization that provides housing, employment, transportation and community support to service members who have been severely injured in Iraq or Afghanistan.

### **MG Lowe's Remarks**

- SARCA and Mentoring

I've had a lot of great mentors over my career – officer and enlisted, AC and RC. I first became acquainted with many of my mentors through my involvement in SARCA. It was in SARCA that I was able to meet and develop professional

relationships with those who were leading the USAR while I was serving as a Colonel. I learned many lessons through observing their leadership styles and assimilating their values. I am extremely thankful to have had this opportunity, and only hope that I have been a good mentor and role model for the next generation of leaders. I hope that each of you is making that extra effort to identify and mentor those who will follow you in leading the USAR.

So SARCA gave me mentors, and it also broadened my horizons beyond my own unit and functional area. I learned how the USAR works, how the various organizations fit together to compliment the Active Component – I got the “big picture” through SARCA.

SARCA was a very important part of my professional development.

- The USAR – In the 70's vs. Today

There are those who make the point that the USAR is no longer a “two day a month and two months in the summer” commitment. It never was in my experience. That said, it's sure different today. In the 70's we were wrapping up the Vietnam War – a war in which the RC was hardly touched. The USAR clearly had a “relevance” problem.

In the 70's we worked and trained hard, but the difference in today's USAR is enormous. The level of commitment required today is huge. The disruption for lives, families, and careers today is huge. The hardships and risks faced by your soldiers today are huge. The recruiting, retention, training, leadership and readiness demands today are huge.

The relevance of the USAR is no longer an issue – the Army could not begin to meet its worldwide commitments without the USAR. So my hat is off to all of you in uniform here today - for all you do in training and leading your soldiers - for the commitment and dedication that you demonstrate every day, - and for all you have done to transform the USAR through difficult times into such a capable military force.

- My Thanks

I've been very fortunate in my life and my military career. I've often been known to tell people “I'm the luckiest guy I know”, and I like to quote Vince Lombardi who said, “The harder we work, the luckier we get.” I was fortunate to have been able to serve our country for 38 years. I was fortunate to have great assignments commanding at company, battalion, brigade and general officer levels and serving in the Pentagon, in Europe and Asia and at USPACOM. I was fortunate to begin and end my military career on Active Duty and to serve for sixteen years as a General Officer. I was fortunate to have a civilian employer who valued and supported my military service and I was very fortunate to have a spouse (my wife Lindsay – with me here today)

who also valued and supported my military service, and made many a sacrifice so I could serve. I've been truly fortunate.

Finally, I want you to know how deeply honored I am that you have chosen to add my name to the SARCA Hall of Fame roster. It has been my good fortune to know the majority of the 30 other Hall of Fame members, and I have enormous respect for every one of them.

But truly, you are my heroes. My generation and my predecessors kept the USAR afloat – you have fought the really tough battles to transform it into an essential component of our nation's fighting forces and to keep the wheels from falling off despite overwhelming obstacles. Thank you for all that you do, and for all that your soldiers do, and god bless you all.