

COLONEL WESLEY N DURST

By Richard Long

Upon graduating high school, Wesley Durst took the military physical. His Mother, a Russian immigrant, was strong in her opinion that this was a wonderful country. All should serve it. But Wes had a bum knee and classified 4F. Enrolled at University of Nebraska, he tried ROTC. 4F two more times. Finally, his fourth attempt, he told the recruiter “I can’t run but I can think”. In 1958 he graduated college, finished ROTC and was commissioned. After basic training at Ft Eustis, VA, he was assigned to the 6th Army Transportation Corp. First duty station—Oakland Army Base.

Wes continued schooling in California. First at University of San Francisco, then at San Francisco State. When his two years duty were up, he returned to Lincoln NE, continued his education, and joined the Army Reserve. Wes was Company Commander for a unit whose mission was basic training. Promotions were achieved. Upon reaching Colonel, he went to standby reserve. Later, he returned to active duty with the Forces Command in Atlanta, Ga.

Ultimately, after being denied promotion to General, Wes retired. The denial process was curious. Reviews of his records showed no PT scores. At the time, anyone with high cholesterol (which Wes had) was denied recording those scores even tho he tested annually.

Also curious, only 6 CA college credits counted toward his Masters but all counted for his
Doctorate of Education.

Citizen Soldier Wes, we honor you and thank you for your service.



Wesley Durst