

DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE CIVIL AFFAIRS REGIMENT



**MAJOR GENERAL
WILLIAM R. BERKMAN**

Inducted September 2012



Maj. Gen. William R. Berkman was born in Chisholm, Minnesota. He was commissioned in the Army Quartermaster Corps after attending the University of California at Berkeley. His initial active service was with an Engineer Amphibious Regiment, and then in the Republic of Korea in the Korean Military Advisory Group.

In 1954, while attending law school, he joined the 445th Civil Affairs Battalion, an Army Reserve unit in the San Francisco Bay area. In the 445th, he served as the unit's legal officer and civilian supply officer. In 1965 he joined the 351st Civil Affairs Command in Mountain View Calif; his assignments included: public law officer, operations officer, chief of staff, deputy commander, and commander.

In 1979, Berkman was appointed Chief, Army Reserve (CAR), serving two terms in this role. In 1986, he was appointed Military Executive of the Reserve Forces Policy Board. He served in this position until 1992 when he retired after 42 years of military service.

Berkman's military education includes the Quartermaster Officer Basic Course, Civil Affairs Officer Career Course, Judge Advocate General Officer Career Course, Psychological Officer Career Course, Army Command and General Staff College, the Army War College, and Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

His military awards include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Army Distinguished Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit with Gold Star, United Nations Service, Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation, and the U. S. Special Operations Command Medallion.

For many years Maj. Gen. Berkman was active in the Civil Affairs Association. He served several terms as president of the association, and is a recipient of the association's Annual Award and John H. Hildring Award.

In 1989 Maj. Gen Berkman led in establishing the U. S. Army Reserve Civil Affairs Corps as a member of the U. S. Army Regimental System. For many years he served as the Honorary Chief of the U. S. Army Reserve Civil Affairs Corps.

Berkman holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from University of California at Berkeley, and a J.D. from the University of California Boalt Hall School of Law. He is a member of the California and Washington, D.C. bars. In his civilian career, Berkman was a partner at Morrison Foerster, a San Francisco law firm.