

**Colonel Robert E. Tripp**  
**U.S. Army (Retired)**  
**Senior Army Instructor**  
**Brockton High School Army JROTC**

Colonel Robert Tripp is a native of Poughkeepsie, New York. He enlisted in the Regular Army in June 1966, and served as an enlisted soldier (infantry indirect fire weapons specialist) until he was commissioned a second lieutenant in September 1967 from the Infantry Officer Candidate School, Fort Benning, Georgia. Between September 1967 and April 1972, he held assignments at Fort Benning; Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri; Fort Riley, Kansas; and completed two combat tours in Vietnam, one with Company A, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry, 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division; and one with the 22<sup>nd</sup> Division Combat Advisory Team, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV). His duties during that period included service as a training officer, platoon leader, company executive officer, battalion operations officer, company commander, anti-tank weapons instructor and military advisor.

In April 1972, holding the rank of captain, Colonel Tripp was released from active duty, and transferred to the United States Army Reserve. In that capacity, he was assigned as Headquarters Commandant, 97<sup>th</sup> U.S. Army Reserve Command at Fort Meade, Maryland.

In April 1974, Colonel Tripp entered the North Carolina Army National Guard (NCARNG) and transferred his branch to Signal Corps. He attended the Signal Officer Advanced Course at Fort Gordon, Georgia in 1974 and 75, then served in various positions, including headquarters detachment commander, with the 130<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion NCARNG in Durham, NC. In September 1977, Colonel Tripp was reassigned, in a full-time capacity, as a plans and operations officer in the Office of the State Adjutant General, Raleigh, NC. While serving in that position in 1979, he was promoted to major.

As an officer of the Army National Guard of the United States, COL Tripp returned to active federal service in June 1981. At that time, he was assigned to Headquarters, Fort Devens, Massachusetts as a training coordinator; then in 1983, to the National Guard Bureau (NGB) at the Pentagon in Washington, DC. During the five years he was assigned to NGB, he held positions first as a manpower staff officer, then as an action officer in NGB's Office of Policy and Liaison, where he interfaced with members of Congress and their staffs on National Guard issues. In 1985, he was promoted to lieutenant colonel, and in 1987, transferred his branch back to infantry.

During September 1988, Colonel Tripp was reassigned overseas to the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations and Plans, U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army in Heidelberg, Germany. As an overseas deployment training planner, he helped plan and coordinate the participation of stateside-based units in major European exercises.

In July 1990, Colonel Tripp was selected as an Army Senior Service College Fellow with assignment to the NATO Defense College, in Rome, Italy. While in Rome, he completed the NATO Senior Officers' Course and authored a paper for the U.S. Army War College entitled, *The Reserve Forces of the NATO Armies*.

Colonel Tripp returned to the Pentagon in July 1991, was assigned as an investigator in The Army Inspector General's Office and was promoted to colonel. There he served until his retirement from active service in August 1994.

Immediately upon retirement, Colonel Tripp was hired as the Senior Army Instructor at the newly-formed Army Junior ROTC program at Brockton High School, Brockton, Massachusetts.

Colonel Tripp holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Speech-Communications from North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina; and a Master of Arts degree in Diplomacy from Norwich University, Northfield, Vermont.

His military education includes Infantry Officer Candidate School, the Jungle Operations Training Course, Infantry Instructor Training Course, Signal Officer Advanced Course, Command and General Staff College (nonresident), NATO Staff Officer Course, NATO Senior Officers' Course, Army Senior Service College Fellowship, Army Inspector General Course and the Army Junior ROTC Instructors' Course.

Colonel Tripp's awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device and three Oak Leaf Clusters, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Good Conduct Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal with star, Vietnam Service Medal with six campaign stars, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "Hourglass" Device, Army Service Ribbon, Army Overseas Ribbon with "2" Device, North Carolina National Guard Service Ribbon with gold "Hornets' Nest" Device, the North Carolina National Guard State Active Duty Ribbon, Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with "Bronze Star" Device, the Republic of Vietnam Staff Service Medal 1<sup>st</sup> Class, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Combat Infantryman Badge and the Army Staff Badge.

He is a member of the Association of the United States Army, the National Guard Association of the United States and the international *Anciens* of the NATO Defense College.

Colonel Tripp is married to the former Mary Margaret Hamilton, a special needs teacher at the Howard School in Brockton. They have three children and three grandchildren.