



U.S. Army Colonel Bob Norton (Ret.) Served in Vietnam, 1968 to 1969

After graduating college in 1966, Bob Norton enlisted in the U.S. Army. While in basic training he applied and was accepted to attend infantry OCS at Fort Benning, Georgia. Norton was commissioned a 2Lt in August 1967 and was deployed to Vietnam in August 1968 after completing a civil affairs assignment in Fort Lee, Virginia. Norton was promoted to 1LT in country and was assigned as a civil affairs platoon leader attached to the S-5 of the 196th Infantry Brigade in I Corps. After completing his tour of duty in 1969, Norton transferred to the U.S. Army Reserves and began a career as a high school English teacher on Long Island, New York.

In 1978, Norton volunteered for active duty on the Army Staff in the recruiting and reenlistment division in the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel office. Norton was the lead staff officer overseeing the integration of the Army Reserve recruiting office into the Army Recruiting Command at the dawn of the All-Volunteer Force era. Norton served as a full-time active duty reserve officer in various assignments in the Pentagon including the Army Staff, Army Secretariat, Chief of the Army Reserve office, and two tours in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. Norton was the senior military assistant (executive officer) for two Assistant Secretaries of Defense for Reserve Affairs. In between Pentagon assignments, Norton was selected for and attended the Army War College in Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania graduating in 1987. Norton completed his career and retired at the rank of colonel in 1995 with 28 years total service.

Norton joined the government relations division of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) in 1997 as lead advocate for military reserve, veterans' benefits and health care issues. He testified over 30 times before U.S. Senate and House Committees on veterans education and benefits programs, National Guard and Reserve compensation and benefits, and veterans' health care matters. Norton is proudest of his efforts helping lead a broad-based coalition of veteran and military groups in support of historic Post 9/11 GI Bill legislation; military health care (TRICARE) for the National Guard and Reserve; and as lead lobbyist on legislation to authorize New GI Bill benefits for Surviving Spouses of fallen military members.

Upon retirement from MOAA in 2016, Norton helped organize the Maryland Military Coalition (MMC) comprised of 17 diverse military and veterans groups who work together in support of Maryland's military-connected community. Norton serves as the MMC's first president. Norton is also first vice president of the Maryland Council of MOAA.

Norton holds a B.A. in philosophy from Niagara University and MEd from Canisius College, Buffalo. He attended the Army Command & General Staff College and the senior officials in national security program at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard. His military awards include the Legion of Merit, Defense Superior Service Medal, Bronze Star, Vietnam Service Medal and Campaign ribbon (4 oak leaf clusters), and the Armed Forces Reserve Medal.

Norton and his wife Colleen have been married 50 years and have two children and three grandchildren, all girls. The couple resides in Derwood, Maryland.