

# COLONEL FRANK ATHANASON

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### Background

Born in Georgia; raised in Florida, South Carolina and Georgia.  
Educated at Georgia Tech, The Citadel and the University of Washington  
US Army, WWII  
Commissioned, Field Artillery, December 7, 1945

### Early Army Career

1945-

Erlanger, Germany  
Fort Benning, Georgia  
Fort Jackson, South Carolina  
Fort Dix, New Jersey  
Racial discrimination  
Promotions

Fort Bliss, Texas: Air Defense Training; Instructor, Electronics

Korean War; Officer, Second (Indian Head) Division

Communications Officer/Battery Commander/Operations Officer  
Retreat to Seoul area  
Troop morale  
General Ridgeway  
Racial integration in US Army  
Jim Brown  
Awards: Silver Star and Purple Heart

Fort Sill, Oklahoma: Instructor, Leadership  
Marriage

University of Washington; ROTC Instructor and Student

Student body  
Attitude re military  
Managing teaching and studying  
Degree in Political Science

Fort Knox, Kentucky; Captain

Germany: Battalion Operations Officer, Third Armored Division 1956-1959

Gelnhausen  
Russian threat  
Nuclear capabilities  
Frankfurt

Grafenwoehr; unit testing	
Captivity in East Germany	1958
Helicopter lost in East Germany	
Capture by East German soldiers	
Interrogations	
Captivity	
Diet	
Journalist interrogations	
Seymour Topping	
Observation of captors' troop political training	
Status of Forces agreement	
Demand to see East German President Ulbricht	
Refusal to sign document absolving Russians	
Release and return	
Russian propaganda re US	
Planning for escape	
Further military postings	
Command and General Staff College	
The Pentagon; Research and Development	
Fort Benning, Georgia; Commander, Artillery battalion	
First Cavalry Division	
Fort Carson, Colorado; Battalion Commander; Artillery in Counter-Insurgency	1965
Comments on Viet Nam War tactics	
Army War College	
The Pentagon; Office of the Secretary of Defense; Reserve Forces	
Germany; Commanded Third Infantry Division Artillery	c1970-1971
Kitzigen, Germany	
Artillery	
Conventional and Nuclear weapons	
Division composition	
Quality of troops	
Use of tactical nuclear weapons	
Promotion to Division Chief of Staff	
Viet Nam: Senior Advisor, Second Armored Division	c1971-1972
Athens, Greece: Chief, Army, Section Military Assistance Group (MAG)	1972-1974
NATO	

Military equipment for Greek Armed Forces  
Transition from aid to military sales  
Operations  
Quality of Greek Forces

Cyprus coup 1974

Visit with General Bonanos  
Athens/Izmir Open cities effort  
US diplomatic efforts  
Makarios  
Coups origins  
Greek leaders  
Joseph Sisco  
Ionnidis  
Greek junta reorganization  
Karamanlis  
Relations with Greek Junta

Athens, Greece: Liaison Officer, NATO headquarters 1974-1976

Turk and Greek forces in NATO  
Greek-Turk animosity

Washington, D.C.: Hoffman building: Efficiency Reports Review 1976-  
Comments of 17 November Group