

S-VE Graduate of Distinction

Colonel William A.J. Mackie

Class of 1955



Colonel William A.J. Mackie, USAF, Ret, graduated as valedictorian from SCS. After two years at Albany State he won an appointment to the USMA at West Point, graduating in June 1961 with a BS in Engineering. Col. Mackie graduated from Yale University's Institute of Far Eastern Languages in 1963, which led to unique assignments in Korea. In 1972, Col Mackie earned his MS in Civil Engineering from the University of Illinois.

From 1986 to 1992, Col. Mackie was the Defense and Air Attaché, American Embassy, Helsinki, Finland. As Chief of Military Assistance and Foreign Military Sales he successfully led the effort to sell \$3.2B worth of F-18C/D fighter aircraft, weapons, and training to the Finnish Air Force. In 1991 he became dually accredited as the first Defense and Air Attaché to the newly independent Republic of Estonia.

From 1992 to 1996, Col. Mackie worked as a civil and environmental engineer in the private industry. In 1995 he was employed by Ralph E. Parsons Engineering as a consultant to the New Seoul International Airport Construction Authority, constructing their new \$18 billion airport on land recovered from Inchon's tidal flood plain.

His military awards include The Legion of Merit, and five Air Medals. In 2006 he was the Joint Staff Civilian of the Year. In 2007 he was awarded the Department of Defense Distinguished Civilian Service award. His foreign decorations include Finland's *Valkoinen Ruusu*, Estonia's *Kotka Risti*, and Korea's *Mugungwha*.