



**Walter Erich Claassen, Jr. Co F-2**

*A persistent "draggoid" from way back, Walt was either dragging or studying for turnouts – his bathrobe consists of stars with a few splashes of gray showing through. Forever in the know, he was usually a step ahead of the Tactical Department; aft all, it is only 60 steps across Central (Area) Asia*

**Born** – 27 June 1936, New York.

**To USMA** – Came from Hollis, NY. Appointed by the Regular Army .

**Died** – 27 July 1999 (age 63) at Philadelphia, PA. Buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

**Military Awards** – 2 Bronze Star Medals, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Legion of Merit.

**Schooling** – Master's Degree in Electrical Engineer, Florida Institute of Technology. Two Master's Degrees in Theology.

**Family** - Wife – Betty Claassen – 4 children (Walter III, Gregory, Michael, Patricia) – 12 grandchildren.

**Contact** – Betty Claassen, Address 6636 Patent Parish Lane, Alexandria, VA 22315, Phone 703-339-0308, Email [bettyclaassen@yahoo.com](mailto:bettyclaassen@yahoo.com)

Walt served on active duty in the Army (Signal Corps) for 23 years, retiring in 1984, with the rank of Lt. Colonel. His first assignment was with the 124<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion. He then served at Mons, Belgium (NATO Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, SHAPE), Ft. Monmouth, NJ (Signal Corps Advanced Course), Vietnam (first tour - MACV), West Point, NY (Instructor), Vietnam (second tour – MACV), Melbourne, FL (Florida Institute of Technology), Ft. Bliss, TX (Instructor, Air Defense School, ADS), (Commander, CCA) , Mons, Belgium (NATO, SHAPE), Alexandria, VA (Defense Nuclear Agency, DNA).

After leaving active duty in the Army, he worked as a Senior Analyst with Titan Systems. Walt studied and obtained two Master's Degrees in Theology. He was a Deacon with St. Lawrence the Martyr Roman Catholic Church, Springfield, VA from 1989 to 1999. Walt passed away on 27 July 1999, from a heart attack.