



Patrick Mickael Trinkle Co M-1

A pocket-sized bomb with a long fuse can best describe Trink. He holds the distinction of being M-1's shortest component. Pat was a man well-liked by all who knew him. Quiet by nature, he was amiable to all. The future holds much in store for him if he can stay awake till it gets here.

Born – 30 Jan 1938, Jeffersonville, IN. Army Brat
To USMA – Came from Jeffersonville, IN. Appointed by California 11th. Nickname – “Trink”.

Died – 10 July 1986 (age 48) at Keller Army Hospital, West Point, NY. Buried at West Point.

Military Awards – Distinguished Service Cross, 6 Bronze Star Medals (with V device), 2 Purple Hearts, 2 Meritorious Service Medals, Air Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit.

Schooling – Master's Degree in Asian Studies, New York University, Command and General Staff College, Army War College.

Family - Wife – Mary Mink Trinkle (24 years) – 2 daughters (Paty and Katie) – 1 grandchild.

Contact – Paty Trinkle (daughter), Poughkeepsie, NY. Katie Legge (daughter), Nantucket, MA.

Mike served on active duty in the Army (Infantry) for 25 years until his death in 1986, with the rank of Colonel. Mike's first assignment was with the 187th Infantry, 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, KY. He then served in Vietnam (first tour – MACV), Ft. Benning, GA (Infantry Advance Course), Vietnam (Americal Division, 11th Infantry Brigade, B Company Commander of Task Force Barker operating in Mei Lei and Song Mei during the 1968 Tet Offensive. He was seriously wounded at Song Mei but, after recuperating in Japan, returned to action in Vietnam.), West Point (Tactical Officer), New York, NY (New York University), Ft. Leavenworth, KS (Command and General Staff College), Indonesia Staff College (Army Foreign Area Officer Course), Carlisle, PA (Army War College), Ft. Lewis, WA (Battalion XO and Commander, 1st Brigade, 9th Infantry Division), Pentagon (Office of the Army Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations), North Yemen (Military Advisor to the U.S. Ambassador), Stewart AFB, NY (Regional Advisor, Headquarters, NY National Guard), Ft. Meade, MD (Headquarters, 1st Army), Schofield Barracks, HI (Deputy Installation Commander).

In January 1986 he was diagnosed as terminally ill with a viral infection and transferred to the Walter Reed Army Hospital. He was moved to Keller Army Hospital at West Point to spend his final days. Mike passed away on 10 July 1986, from the viral infection.

Footnote – Mike was one of the most combat decorated members of the Class, having received the Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) for extraordinary heroism in Vietnam.