

FACULTY

profile



Bernard "Burn" Loeffke, PhD

Silver Stars, five Bronze Stars, and a Purple Heart for wounds attest to his military skill and courage under fire. One of his awards was for his actions during an enemy ambush when then Major Loeffke ran through hostile fire to reach a wounded soldier. He then crawled, pulling the wounded soldier through the enemy fire and finally ran the last few yards with the badly wounded man on his back.

While serving in Vietnam, General Loeffke was changed by the battle death of Sgt. Larry Morford, a soldier in his battalion. Morford, though opposed to war, explained that he chose to be a soldier because "War is a beastly job and the least beastly of us should be doing it." General Loeffke honors the memory of Sgt. Morford to this day. In particular, he has dedicated the *Friendship Fund* at West Point in his honor. The Fund, established in 1995, looks to inspire cadets, our future American soldier-statesmen, to increase their understanding of their Russian and Chinese colleagues.

As a diplomat in uniform, General

Geneva, Switzerland. Other important assignments were his chairmanship of the Inter-American Defense Board, and as military advisor to the Secretary General of the Organization of American States. He retired as a Major General in 1992, but was recalled to serve as the Director of Task Force Russia to investigate and resolve questions regarding the US POWs and MIAs in the old Soviet Union. This assignment led him to many labor camps in Serbia. He later testified before Senate committees on his findings.

As a scholar, Bernard Loeffke earned a master's degree in Russian language and Soviet Area Studies and a doctorate in International Relations. He taught Russian at the United States Military Academy and US Foreign Policy at Georgetown University. He was the Army's visiting Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations. Most recently, in 1997, he earned a Physician Assistant Degree from Nova Southeastern University and later received the *President's Distinguished Alumni Award* for his medical service in Africa. He now teaches public health, emergency medicine, and mediation as a visiting professor at two medical universities. He is fluent in Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, and French and has a working knowledge of Mandarin Chinese. He has authored several inspirational books, and he and his son are currently co-authoring a book on their experiences in China.

As a humanitarian, he continues to employ the skills he acquired in his medical training on relief missions in many of the world's most daunting areas. On retiring from the Army, he embarked on this new calling – that of healer – to provide medical aid to people in impoverished circumstances, often at personal risk. His medical theater of operations spans the globe. He had his first taste of missionary medicine in a combat zone in Africa. His travels have taken him to such places as Bosnia, Haiti, Iraq, Kenya, Niger, Darfur, Sudan and the Amazon jungles. His book *Warrior to Healer* summarizes his life's transition. He and his children maintain a website; HOT (Helping Others Today) www.helpingothers.today.com to inspire support for worthwhile causes important to them.

General Bernard Loeffke has served his nation heroically in uniform during war and peace, exemplifying the principles of Duty, Honor, and Country. Now he exemplifies these same principals as a distinguished graduate of West Point.

PA Faculty Receives West Point Distinguished Graduate Award

The Barry University Physician Assistant Program is proud and pleased to announce that Major General Bernard Loeffke, adjunct clinical faculty member for the Program has been honored with the United States Military Academy's 2007 Distinguished Graduate Award. The following is excerpted from the award biographical sketch of General Loeffke.

As a soldier, as a scholar, as a statesman, and as a humanitarian, Major General Bernard "Burn" Loeffke has lived a life of truly selfless service. His contributions to the Academy, the United States Army, and the world community have been and continue to be extraordinary.

Three and half combat tours in Southeast Asia established the foundation of Bernard Loeffke's military career. In combat, he led from the front. He was repeatedly decorated for gallantry in action and became known for his commitment to the well-being of his soldiers. As a Special Forces officer, a paratroop advisor to Vietnamese units and later as an infantry battalion commander, he proved to be an effective and courageous leader. Rapid promotions in combat with four

Loeffke was the quintessential soldier-statesman. His foreign language skills and political savvy proved more than equal to the unusual challenges he faced while serving as the military attaché in Moscow during the iciest days of the Cold War and then as defense attaché to the Peoples Republic of China. It was in China where he became the first Westerner to jump with a Chinese parachute unit.

He commanded at every level, culminating his career as the Commanding General of the U.S. Army South. As a staff officer he helped to develop strategic plans for the Army staff and served in the National Security Council staff in the White House. His involvement with the Soviet Union included participation in the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks in