

# 2023 Doughboy Awards



The Doughboy Award is presented annually to recognize an individual for outstanding contributions to the U.S. Army Infantry. It is the highest honor the Chief of Infantry can bestow on any Infantryman. This year's recipients, GEN (Retired) Daniel B. Allyn and CSM (Retired) Michael A. Kelso, will be recognized during the Doughboy Dinner on 12 September. The award, presented on behalf of all Infantrymen past and present, is a chrome replica of a helmet worn by American Expeditionary Soldiers during World War I and the early days of World War II. The term "Doughboy" originated in Texas where Soldiers trained along the Rio Grande in preparation for the Great War. The Soldiers became covered in the dusty, white adobe soil and were called "adobes" by mounted troops. Over time, this term transitioned to become doughboys.



**GEN Daniel B. Allyn**

**GEN (Retired) Daniel B. Allyn** was born in New Hampshire and raised in Berwick, ME. He graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point, NY. He served as the 35th Vice Chief of Staff of the United States Army and retired in 2017.

GEN Allyn's previous assignments include serving as a platoon leader and later executive officer in C Company, 2nd Battalion, 508th Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division and Operation Urgent Fury, Grenada; B Company commander, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, Republic of Korea; C Company commander, 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment and Operation Just Cause, Panama; assistant operations officer, 75th Ranger Regiment; operations officer, Joint Special Operations Task Force, Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm; operations officer, 1st Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division; commander, 1st Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne; commander, 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment; commander, 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Benning, GA, Operation Desert Spring, and Operation Iraqi Freedom; Assistant Deputy Director for Joint Operations, Joint Staff; Deputy Director for Operations, Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization; Chief of Staff, XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg and Chief of Staff, Multinational Corps-Iraq, Operation Iraqi Freedom; Deputy Commanding General XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg; Deputy Commanding General, Joint Task Force-Haiti, Operation Unified Response; Commanding General, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, TX, and Operation Enduring Freedom; commanding general, XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg; Commanding General, U.S. Forces Command; and Vice Chief of Staff of the Army.

His awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal with 1 bronze oak leaf cluster (OLC); Silver Star; Defense Superior Service Medal with 2 bronze OLCs; Legion of Merit with 2 bronze OLCs; Bronze Star Medal; Defense Meritorious Service Medal with 1 bronze OLC; Meritorious Service Medal with silver OLC; Joint service Commendation Medal; Army Commendation Medal with 3 bronze OLCs; Army Achievement Medal with 2 bronze OLCs; Combat Infantryman Badge with star; Expert Infantryman Badge; Master Parachutist Badge with bronze star; Ranger Tab; Pathfinder Badge; Joint Chief of Staff ID Badge; and the Army Staff ID Badge.



**CSM Michael A. Kelso**

**CSM (Retired) Michael A. Kelso** from Missouri is a 2010 inductee into the Ranger Hall of Fame. His career of 32 years includes service with Airborne, Commando, and Ranger units. CSM Kelso began his Army career in 1973, enlisting for the 82nd Airborne Division. He served with 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 4th Air Defense Artillery.

After reading about the communist-supported insurgency in the Republic of Rhodesia, CSM Kelso volunteered for service in the Rhodesian Army in 1977. Trooper Kelso served with 3 Commando, The Rhodesian Light Infantry. Assigned to 12 Troop, he served as a “stick” rifleman, troop medic, and machine gunner participating in reconnaissance and Fire Force missions, including air assault and six combat parachute assault missions including Operation Dingo-Zulu One. On 23 November 1977, Trooper Kelso was one of 48 3 Commando and 96 SAS troopers to conduct a combat parachute assault, from 400 feet, onto the Vanduzi communist terrorist base camp complex near Chimoio, Mozambique. The camp housing 5,000 terrorists was 70 kilometers inside Mozambique, providing training, logistics, and Marxist indoctrination. Remaining 30 hours on the ground, Rhodesia’s largest cross-border raid saw more than 1,200 communist terrorists killed, several hundred wounded, and the base destroyed.

CSM Kelso served more than 19 years in Ranger units including 1st Battalion (Ranger), 75th Infantry; Special Operations Forces-Europe (Bad Tolz); 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment; Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC), 75th Ranger Regiment; 4th Ranger Training Battalion; and HHC, Ranger Training Brigade. While assigned as 1SG/Commandant of the Ranger Indoctrination Program, he served as security team leader for the Regimental Commander’s Jump Tactical Operations Center (Team Black) during the combat parachute assault onto Rio Hato, Panama, during Operation Just Cause. Upon graduation from the Sergeants Major Academy in 1994, he was assigned to the Ranger Training Brigade as the operations sergeant major. In 1995, he was promoted to command sergeant major and assigned to the 4th Ranger Training Battalion. In 1999, after serving as CSM, 1st Battalion, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, he was selected as the Ranger Training Brigade CSM. In 2002 he was selected by the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Infantry Center to serve as the Fort Benning Command Sergeant Major. After retirement, in 2005, he worked 17 years in the Maneuver Battle Lab as chief of the McKenna Experimental Site.

CSM Kelso’s awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal with Arrowhead, the Rhodesian Operational Service Medal, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Expert Infantryman Badge, the Master Parachutist Badge with Bronze Star (Rio Hato) and the Ranger Tab. He was inducted into the Order of St. Maurice (Primacerius). He is honored as a Distinguished Member of the 75th Ranger Regiment and the Ranger Training Brigade. He holds a master’s degree (International Relations) from Troy State University. He serves on the board of the National Infantry Association, the National Ranger Memorial Foundation, the Ranger Scholarship Fund and is a mentor with Three Rangers Foundation.