

JOHN McPARTLAND, COLONEL, USA (RET)



Col. McPartland is a retired US Army veteran with over 30 years of active and reserve duty, having served in the Airborne, Infantry, Artillery and Transportation, both as an enlisted member and officer (Mustang), receiving his commission through Officers Candidate School (OCS). His duty assignments have included Europe, Vietnam, Korea and several postings throughout the United States. His duties have included: combat and combat support operations, command, staff and instructor; He has over 50 awards/decorations that include (in part): Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star, 2 Meritorious Service Medals, 9 Air Medals and Air Crew-member, Airborne and Air Assault Wings. While a reservist, he was mobilized several times for the First Gulf War, Earthquake Disaster Support and deployment to Korea. He was inducted into the Artillery Hall of Fame in 2008 and was recognized as Veteran of the Year at the California State Capital in 2015. He still supports several military fraternal organizations and serves on Congressman Swalwell's Military Academy Selection Panel.

John left active duty after 7+ years and his second Viet Nam tour. He then remained in the Reserves and rose to the rank of Colonel. In civilian life he entered the fire service, advanced through the ranks of the Oakland Fire Department and retired after 25 years as a Chief Officer with specialized experience in Emergency Medical Services, Hazardous Materials, Emergency Management and Urban Search and Rescue. He still teaches in local community colleges and serves on their advisory boards; he trains at the federal, state and local levels on Leadership, Emergency Management, Disaster Preparedness and Terrorism, and has consulted and trained internationally on Multinational Civil/Military Disaster Operations.

John is currently serving his second elected term on the BART Board of Directors and, in addition to his duties there, has become an expert on Earthquake Early Warning which has resulted in him testifying to congressional and state committees in 2014 and presenting on this subject to the White House in 2015.

John has a BA from St Mary's College in Moraga, CA (his Thesis was on Earthquake Disaster Planning), a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Cal State East Bay in Hayward, CA and is a graduate of the prestigious US Army's 'Command and General Staff College'