

DAVID WEBSTER ROSE



US ARMY 1969-2011

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David Webster Rose was born 26-JUN 1951 in Brookfield Missouri. He attended Brookfield High School, graduating in 1969. He entered the Army on 1-JUL 1969.

West Point

David began his Army career at West Point, training to be an officer in the United States Corps of Cadets. To secure an offer of an appointment to West Point, one must first be nominated. Typically, a request is sent to both U.S. Senators from your state and your Congressional representative in the House of Representatives. While they may choose to nominate or endorse a candidate, not all nominees receive offers.

David was nominated by William Raleigh Hull, a Congressman from Missouri. Hull was the representative for Missouri's 6th congressional district, a Democrat serving from 1955 to 1972. West Point admissions is extremely selective, with an acceptance rate of only 9%. Students that are admitted into West Point have an average SAT score (Scholastic Aptitude Test) between 1210-1440 or an average ACT score (American College Testing) of 28-33. For a school as selective as West Point, you'll also need to impress them with the rest of your application. West Point's Military Program provides an outstanding professional foundation focused on education in the American military ethic, and the Army's core values, along with training in individual and small-unit leadership skills.



In 1969, America was going through very turbulent times. War protests were common and David recalls, the Woodstock Music Festival was going on during his time at West Point. The Woodstock Music and Art Fair, commonly referred to simply as Woodstock, was held August 15–18, 1969, on a dairy farm in Bethel, New York, 40 miles southwest of the town of Woodstock. One of his classmates went AWOL (Away without official leave) to attend the concert. The Vietnam-era antiwar movement may count as the largest sustained protest movement in the history of the United States. David recalls one autumn when 20,000 protesters of the war gathered at West Point.

David referred to his rank at West Point as a "Snuffy Sergeant, a rank with no responsibilities." Upon graduation, David was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in

the Army. He was required to serve a minimum of six years after graduation in a combination of Active Duty and Reserve Component Service. David was assigned to the 3/8th Cavalry (3rd Squadron 8th Regiment) in Germany.

Crossing the Rhine

David attended basic training at Fort Knox and then was stationed in Germany. David loved Germany. In all he spent about five years in in country. During his first deployment, David had a division commander who was a bit eccentric. To assure our troops' readiness, commanders often called for alerts or drills. David recalled, "He didn't just call alerts, when he called alerts, he'd move a battalion to the Rhine River and ferry them across the river at Oppenheim where Patton crossed. Even though we were stationed on the east side of the Rhine, we'd have to drive across to the west side, drive up the Rhine to the crossing site, load on barges and go back across."

The "Cold War" Up Close

While he was able to see much of the region's historic sites and attend many events, there were times the U.S. troops were dodging the East Germans and the Russians. While David was stationed in the American zone, there were two instances where shots were fired. David remarked, "Fortunately our main aggressions were 'searchlight wars.' We turned the searchlights on their towers. It was okay to use infrared, but you weren't supposed to use white light. But occasionally, somebody flipped the wrong switch."

During the Cold War, Berlin was divided into four sectors, with each superpower; the United States, Great Britain, France, and the Soviet Union, responsible for the administration of their respective zone. The wall between East and West Berlin was nearly 12 feet high and approximately 27 miles long, with 302 guard towers or outposts (OP) and 55,000 anti-personnel explosive devices (landmines).

There was an officer at each OP. There were three OPs in David's sector. While serving on this deployment and in his sector, David was a First Lieutenant. He made Captain in 1977, right before he left Germany for home. When asked what he had to do if there was an "incident," David replied, "The paperwork was the worst. If there was a shooting, there was quite a bit of paperwork." It was rumored that U.S troops were instructed to interpose themselves between the East German soldiers and those trying to escape.

Checkpoint Charlie was the best-known Berlin Wall crossing point between East Berlin and West Berlin during the Cold War (1947–1991), as named by the Western Allies. Checkpoint Charlie became a symbol of the Cold War, representing the separation of East and West. Soviet and American tanks briefly faced each other at the location during the

Berlin Crisis of 1961. On 26-JUNE 1963, U.S. President John F. Kennedy visited Checkpoint Charlie and looked from a platform onto the Berlin Wall and into East Berlin.

Well over 100,000 citizens of the German Democratic Republic (GDR) tried to escape across the inner-German border or the Berlin Wall between 1961 and 1988. More than 600 of them were shot and killed by GDR border guards or died in other ways during their escape attempt. They drowned, suffered fatal accidents, or killed themselves when they were caught. On 9-NOV 1989, the Berlin Wall was torn down.

Fort Hood

When David was deployed for the Gulf War, he went to Fort Hood and shared, "I hoped to never go back there. I'd rather go anywhere else in the world." David was then sent to Fort Lee Virginia. It was there that he got the call to return to Baton Rouge Louisiana to prepare for deployment overseas. "We were to go to the hospital and get all of our overseas shots." While he couldn't be told where he was going, David made a phone call to ask, "Do I need a liner for my field jacket?" He was told yes. David immediately figured out they would only get flu shots and were headed to Germany (1190th Deployment Control Unit). David said, "That was like going home for me." We spent the next two months shipping out the Army 7th Corps to Southwest Asia. During that deployment in 1991, the commander stopped all activities for the Army-Navy game. The game was played on 7-DEC 1991. Unfortunately, for Army, Navy won 24-3.

St. Louis Bound

When the Gulf War was over in February 1991, they demobilized him. His work took him to St. Louis. In Baton Rouge, David had commanded a training battalion. As luck would have it, one of his friends just took command of the 6025th Garrison Command Unit in St. Louis on Goodfellow Avenue and he was looking for an executive officer, which is typically a Lieutenant Colonel. David took the spot and then they were mobilized to Fort Riley Kansas. David was left behind in St. Louis. David said, "I was left behind because they basically needed someone in a dual role of a senior civilian to run the civilian side of the organization." So, David stayed in St. Louis as a GS-12, Lieutenant Colonel running the place.

Third Deployment, Sightseeing in Germany

"Then I was looking in my email one day and I saw this notice they (the Army) were looking for a Major or Lieutenant Colonel to be V Corps IG (Inspector General) in Heidelberg Germany because V Corps was deployed downrange. They needed someone to handle things back in Heidelberg. I thought, two hundred people would apply for this. I threw my name in and sure enough, I was selected. So, they sent me to Inspector General School

and I was back to Germany one more time. I was inspector General (V Corps) in Heidelberg Germany.”

Editor’s note: An Inspector General’s core functions consist of inspections, assistance, investigations, and teaching and training. IG performs these functions to improve the readiness and war-fighting capability of the unit. With inspections, IG assesses and enhances the ability of the command to effectively perform its mission

Returning to Germany for the third time, David decided to create a punch list of things he wanted to do while stationed there. And he did them. He went to Normandy, Remagen, and Bastogne. All three of those trips were USO (United Services Organization) trips. The tour guide was a historian that happened to be a 1978 West Point graduate. David explained, “The two of us took some enhanced tours.” While stationed in Heidelberg, David was able to see all the places Easy Company, 506th Regiment of the 101st Airborne



Division, U.S. Army (Band of Brothers mini-series) traveled. David continued, “We arranged the trip to see Omaha Beach at low tide. We took a bus through the Argonne Forest and the woods at Foy.” Among other things in Europe, David was able to attend the race at Le Mans and the Grand Prix of Monaco.

O’Fallon Missouri

David had first noticed the community of O’Fallon MO 1974. At the time he was going to the armor school at Fort Knox Kentucky. His girlfriend, now wife, was going to Truman University (formerly Northeast Missouri State). To see his girlfriend, Dave would drive from Fort Knox to Kirksville on a weekend. David said, “At the time, O’Fallon was just a little town on the north side of the interstate. When I first moved back to St. Louis, I said let’s go look at O’Fallon.”

David retired on 26-JUN 2011 at age 60 as a Lieutenant Colonel. Sixty is mandatory retirement age. He retired at the same time from his consulting business. He lives nearby in O’Fallon and never misses an Army-Navy game.