

## Ukrainian American Veterans' Contributions to America's Wars- MG Nicholas S. H. Krawciw

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Ukrainian American Veterans' contribution spans as many wars as the United States has been involved in from its inception during the American Revolution.

Many Ukrainian Americans have served in the United States' Armed Forces, but before the Global War on Terror, one outstanding example is Major General Nicholas S. H. Krawciw. MG Krawciw entered the United States Military Academy (USMA), West Point, New York, in 1955, and graduated in 1959 as the Cadet Regimental Commander. One of the first in his class to serve in Vietnam, in 1963 he was severely wounded during an ambush. After recuperating, Captain Krawciw served as a Cavalry Troop Commander at Fort Hood, Texas, where he also helped invent a composite system of armor that is similar the Chobham Armor used in the M1 Abrams Main Battle Tank.

After serving a tour in the Tactical Department at USMA, Major Krawciw returned to Vietnam in 1970 as the S3 (Operations and Planning) of 3<sup>rd</sup> Squadron, 5<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, where he developed new methods of fighting the enemy, that he tested and forged in the DMZ (De-Militarized Zone), during which time he earned three Silver Stars. Next, he was assigned as Chief Operations Officer for the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization in Israel in 1972 where he produced intelligence reports prior to the Yom Kippur War which earned him his promotion to lieutenant colonel, and a commendation from the Army Chief of Staff, General Abrams.

LTC Krawciw then commanded 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron 2<sup>nd</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment in 1974, followed by a tour at Headquarters, U.S. Army, Europe. Next, a year as a Fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford, Colonel Krawciw was assigned to the Training and Doctrine Command as Director of Concepts and Doctrine in combat development. His work on maneuver doctrine revolutionized the way the Army fought, and is credited with our subsequent victories in Operation Just Cause (Panama), Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom, among others.

In 1979 Colonel Krawciw commanded the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 3<sup>rd</sup> Armored Division for two years, and was selected by the Army Chief of Staff to attend the Senior Seminar of the Department of State, followed by assignment as Military Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Defense, Army Staff, in 1982. Promoted again in 1984, Brigadier General Krawciw was assigned as the Assistant Division Commander of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division in Germany, followed by Executive Officer to the Supreme Allied Commander, Europe.

In 1987, Major General Krawciw became the Commanding General of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division, and prepared it for the eventual deployment of its 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade with the 1st Armored Division during Operation Desert Storm. In 1989, MG Krawciw relinquished command of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division, served as Director of NATO Policy in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, retiring July 1, 1990, with thirty one years of commissioned service.

However, MG Krawciw was soon summoned to duty again by the Army Chief of Staff and the Undersecretary of Defense to serve in Ukraine in 1992 to reorganize, restructure, and reeducate the Ukrainian Army from a Soviet to a democratic model. In 1993, first as consultant to Secretary of Defense on Ukrainian matters, and later as Secretary of Defense Senior Military Representative to Ukraine, he was instrumental in converting the Ukrainian Army into the modern structure under which it serves today, as well as establishing educational exchange programs and escorting Ukrainian contingents to the United States. MG Krawciw ended his active career as President, and then Chairman of the Board of the Dupuy Institute, for ten years starting in 1995, studying military historical trends, serving the United States for forty six years.