



Major General Kent Hillhouse, U.S. Army (Ret.)

Vietnam War Veteran
Purple Heart Recipient with Oak Leaf Cluster

Board President

Major General Kent Hillhouse U.S. Army (Ret.) is a Vietnam War Veteran and President of the Veterans Memorial & Support Foundation. He served with the 11th Armor Cavalry Regiment in Vietnam from '67-'68.

Kent's first real introduction to discipline and leadership was through high school football. He credits his coaches as his leadership role models. They understood the power of motivation to inspire their team. Kent's coaches wanted their players to be disciplined, to understand the meaning of "team" and to realize that it took hard work and perseverance to succeed.

This early exposure became for Kent, his recipe for survival while serving in Vietnam. "Discipline got you through the day which usually started at 0500 hours with a search and destroy mission lasting until we moved into a new Night Defensive Position at sunset. Discipline got you through every night of sleep deprivation while monitoring on the radio, the ambush patrols, and listening posts unless it was my turn for ambush patrol. Discipline got you through the small skirmishes involving RPG teams and snipers that occurred almost daily. But when the rubber really met the road as in bayonet fixing time, it was discipline that forced you to stay calm, think about your training and focus on the mission - engaging and killing the enemy and, of course, surviving. For me the fear came after the firefight when I had time to think about what happened."

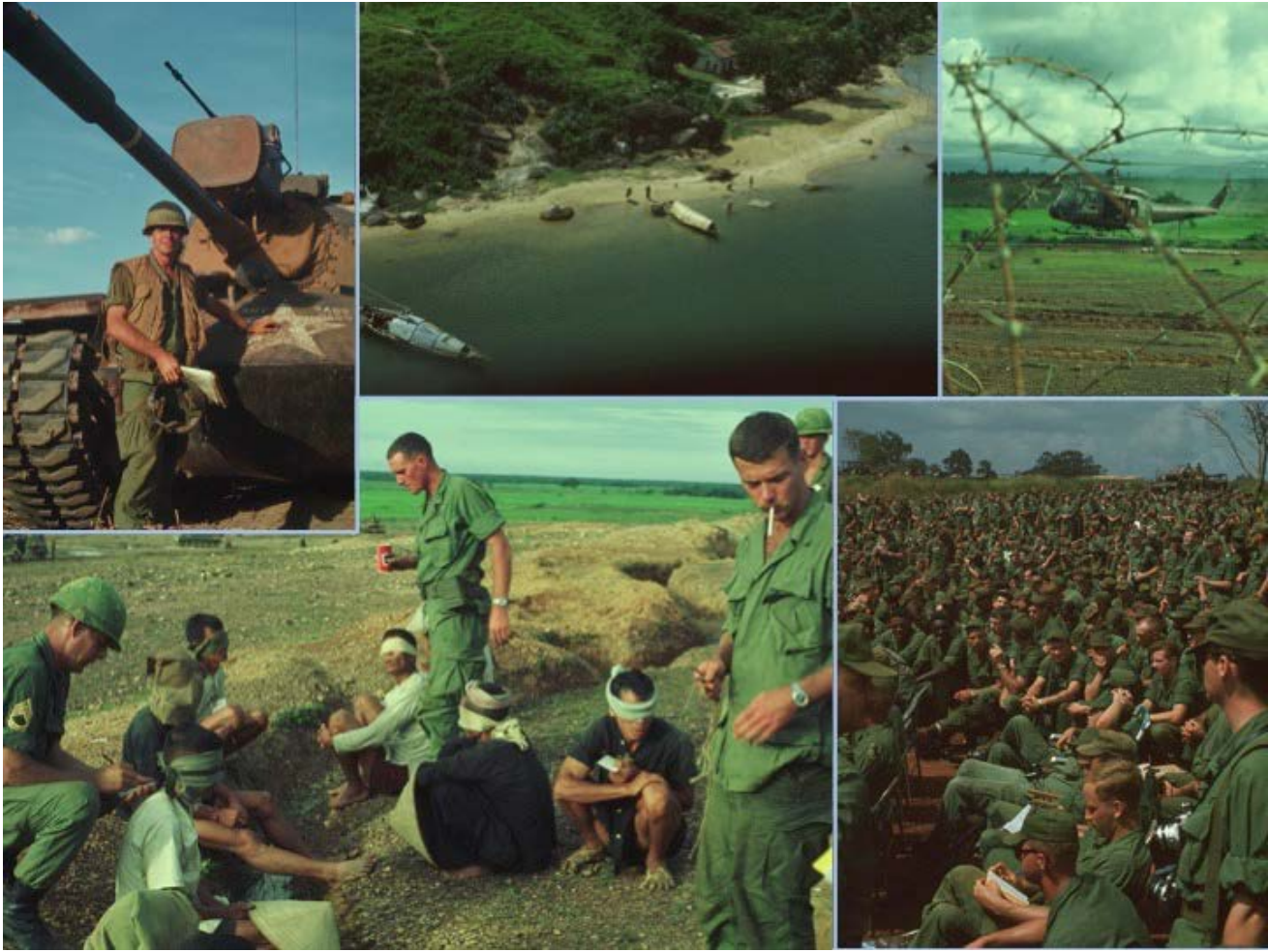




In Vietnam as a Platoon Leader, Kent experienced different challenges, "In Vietnam we had a saying amongst the officers – 'You can't manage someone up a hill to die; you have to lead them up.' I could not be close to my men – no buddy-buddy stuff, could not talk about my girlfriend, etc. We all got to drink one canteen an hour of hot muddy water to stay hydrated. Two field issued C-rations ("C-rats") a day kept us nourished. Sucking on one half of the undissolved coffee tablet (from the C-rats) kept us awake while on ambush patrol. ... I made sure my guys knew that my goal was to ensure their safe return home. Obviously, that did not always happen. But at least they knew I was not making irrational decisions, and I was trying to keep them alive."

Upon returning to the US following the war, Kent was assigned to a U.S. Army Reserve Division, the 91st Infantry Division (training) where he served in numerous command and staff positions culminating in the command of the Division. For his terminal assignment, Kent served as the Deputy G-1 on the Army staff in the Pentagon from 1996 – 2001.





Kent Hillhouse is the recipient of numerous military commendations, each a testament to his extraordinary courage and unwavering dedication to our nation.

- DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL;
- LEGION OF MERIT;
- SILVER STAR with 1 bronze oak leaf clusters;
- BRONZE STAR MEDAL;
- **PURPLE HEART;**
- MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL with 4 bronze oak leaf clusters;
- ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL;
- ARMY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL with 1 bronze oak leaf clusters;
- NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL with 1 bronze service stars;
- VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL with 4 bronze service stars;
- ARMED FORCES RESERVE MEDAL with gold hourglass device with numeral 2;
- ARMY RESERVE COMPONENTS ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL with 4 bronze oak leaf clusters;
- ARMY SERVICE RIBBON;
- REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN RIBBON W/DEVICE (1960);
- EXPERT BADGE with Auto Rifle Bar with Pistol Bar;
- PARACHUTIST BADGE – BASIC

It's a rare privilege to stand in the presence of a leader who so fully embodies the values of service, honor, and sacrifice. We are proud—and deeply grateful—to have him serve as Board President for the Veterans Memorial & Support Foundation.

America: Land of the Free, because of the Brave.

**U.S. ARMY 11TH ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT
WITH RETIRED MAJOR GENERAL KENT HILLHOUSE
IN THE IRON TRIANGLE, VIETNAM, 1967 - 1968**



**VIET CONG
BEWARE**



**US ARMY 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION
WELCOME TO THE IRON TRIANGLE**



**A YOUNG LT. HILLHOUSE, RECIPIENT OF TWO SILVER STARS,
BRONZE STAR AND PURPLE HEART, ON HIS M48 PATTON TANK IN
THE IRON TRIANGLE WITH THE 11TH ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT**



155MM ARTILLERY FIRE ALONG A WOOD LINE



**A YOUNG LT. HILLHOUSE WITH A CAPTURED
NORTH VIETNAMESE RPD 7.62 MACHINE GUN**



**CHILLING AT THE BIEN HOA AIRFIELD JUST AFTER
THE 1968 TET OFFENSIVE**