

GENERAL ORDERS

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The death of General Ferdinand J. Chesarek, on 20 November 1993, in Nashville, Tennessee is announced with deep regret. His last duty assignment was as Commanding General, United States Army Materiel Command, Alexandria, Virginia.

General Chesarek was an officer of the highest ideals. His courage, sound judgment, and leadership produced military achievements of great value to his country. General Chesarek's military career spanned 32 years, and he served with distinction in a variety of command and staff positions. With his passing the nation has lost a faithful, valiant servant and the United States Army a great commander.

General Ferdinand J. Chesarek was born in Calumet, Michigan, on February 18, 1914. He graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point and was commissioned a second lieutenant of Field Artillery in the Regular Army in 1938.

His first assignment was at Fort Lewis, Washington, with the 9th Field Artillery Regiment. In June 1940 he was transferred to Fort Richardson, Alaska, for duty with the 81st Field Artillery Battalion and the Alaska Defense Command. He returned to the United States in June 1942 for an assignment to the 177th Field Artillery Regiment at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Following his attendance at the Field Artillery Officer Advanced Course, Fort Sill, Oklahoma, he was assigned as Executive Officer of the 177th Field Artillery Group at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin.

In November 1943, General Chesarek was ordered to the European Theater of Operations to become the Commanding Officer of the 28th Field Artillery Battalion, 8th Infantry Division. He participated in the Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, and Central Europe campaigns, and was awarded the Silver Star Medal, Bronze Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Medal, and Purple Heart. He also received the French Croix de Guerre with Palm and Star and the Luxembourg Croix de Guerre for his part in these World War II campaigns.

General Chesarek returned to the United States in July 1945 for detail to the War Department General Staff in Washington, D.C., where he served as a legislative officer in the G-4 (Logistics) Division. From June 1948 to

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April 1950, he attended Stanford University and received his master's degree in business administration. He then returned to the Pentagon to become the Assistant to the Chairman, Munitions Board, until February 1953 when he entered the Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Virginia.

General Chesarek went to Korea in 1953 to serve with Headquarters, Eighth Army. He later took command of the 5th Artillery Group which consisted of six United States and four Korean artillery battalions.

In February 1955, General Chesarek returned to Washington, D.C. for an assignment as the Chief of the Military Personnel and Manpower Division, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics. He entered the National War College after that assignment and upon graduation, served as Military Assistant and Executive Officer to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs. In addition, he acted as International Conference Coordinator for the Secretary of Defense and participated in twelve major international conferences as a Defense Member of the United States delegation. During this assignment, he also attended the Advanced Management Program at Harvard University.

In August 1959, General Chesarek was assigned to the U.S. Army Communications Zone, Europe, where he served as Chief of Staff. He went to Italy in July 1960 to be the Chief of Staff of the Southern European Task Force and was awarded the Order of the Republic medal by the Chief of Staff of the Italian Army. He returned to France in March 1961 for duty as Commanding General, 4th Logistical Command, and received the Legion of Honor from the French Government.

General Chesarek came back to Washington, D.C. in October 1962 for assignment to the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, first as Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics (Materiel Readiness) and then, from August 1964, as Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics (Programs).

After an appointment as Comptroller of the Army in August 1966, he was appointed as the first assistant Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, a position that was newly created as a result of the reorganization of the Office of the Chief of Staff in 1967.

One of the highlights of General Chesarek's career was his tour of the United Kingdom in May 1968 as the United States 1968 Kermit Roosevelt Lecturer, during which he addressed the students at the Imperial Defense College, the Joint Services Staff College, the Army Staff College, the Royal

Military College of Science, and the Royal Military Academy.

On July 8, 1968, General Chesarek was appointed as Senior U.S. Army Member of the Military Staff Committee of the United Nations, in addition to his primary duty as Assistant Vice Chief of Staff.

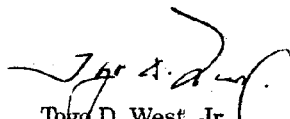
General Chesarek was promoted to the rank of Full General and was assigned as the Commanding General, U.S. Army Materiel Command in March 1969 where he served until his retirement in November 1970.

General Chesarek's awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Medal, the Purple Heart, and the Army Commendation Medal.

His foreign decorations include the French Croix de Guerre with Palm and Star, the Luxembourg Croix de Guerre, the Order of Ulchi from Korea, the Order of the Republic, Italy, and the Legion of Honor, France.

General Chesarek's life was characterized by dedication, vision, and everflowing passion for life. These qualities earned him the respect and admiration of all who knew him. The grief caused by the death of General Chesarek is shared by all members of the United States Army.

General Chesarek is survived by his wife, Joan Chesarek, and a son, John Laymon Chesarek.



Togo D. West, Jr.
Secretary of the Army

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