

SIDNEY SHACHNOW
MAJOR GENERAL, UNITED STATES ARMY
(RETIRED)



Major General (Retired) Sidney Shachnow was born in Kaunas, Lithuania. He was imprisoned for three years during World War II in a German concentration camp before being liberated as a Holocaust survivor by the Soviet Army. He lived in Europe until he immigrated to the United States in 1950.

General Shachnow enlisted in the Army as a Private in the Infantry and later attended Officer's Candidate School as a Sergeant First Class. He was commissioned as Lieutenant in Infantry in 1960. In 1962 he volunteered for Special Forces (Green Berets).

His assignments during more than 34 years of commissioned service have been as a commander or staff officer with Infantry, Mechanized Infantry, Airmobile, Airborne, and Special Forces units. He served as a Green Beret for 32 years.

His most recent assignments include:

1. Commanding General, John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School, Airborne, Fort Bragg;
2. Commanding General, United States Army Special Forces Command, Airborne, Fort Bragg;
3. Commanding General, U.S. Army-Berlin;
4. Director, Washington Office, United States Special Operations Command, Airborne;
5. Deputy Commanding General, 1st Special Operations Command, Airborne, Fort Bragg;
6. Chief of Staff 1st Special Operations Command, Airborne, Fort Bragg.

General Shachnow attended Franklin Technical Institute in Boston, Massachusetts, and graduated from the University of Nebraska, where he majored in business administration. He also has earned a Master of Science degree in public administration from Shippensburg State College, Shippensburg, Pennsylvania. He has received an honorary doctorates degree and is a graduate of the Harvard Senior Executive Management Program.

His military education includes the Infantry Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the Special Forces Qualification Course, the Army Command and General Staff College and the Army War College.

General Shachnow's decorations and awards include:

- 1. Two Distinguished Service Medals**
- 2. Two Silver Stars for gallantry in ground combat**
- 3. The Defense Superior Service Medal**
- 4. The Legion of Merit**
- 5. Three Bronze Stars for heroism in ground combat**
- 6. Two Purple Hearts for wounds received in two separate ground combat actions**
- 7. Three Meritorious Service Medals**
- 8. Twelve Air Medals for meritorious achievement while in flight**
- 9. Three Army Commendation Medals with "V" device for valor while in ground combat**
- 10. The Combat Infantryman's Badge**
- 11. The Expert Infantry Badge**
- 12. The Master Parachutist Badge**
- 13. The Ranger Tab**
- 14. The Special Forces Tab**
- 15. The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross for gallantry in combat**
- 16. The United States Special Operations Medal for outstanding contribution to Special Operations**
- 17. Placed on the Honor Roll in the Infantry Officers Hall of Fame at Fort Benning Georgia**
- 18. He is a Distinguished Member of the 1st Special Forces Regiment.**
- 19. Recipient of the prestigious "Colonel Aaron Bank Award" for dedication, excellence and heroism.**
- 20. Appointed as the "Honorary Colonel Of The Special Forces Regiment". Only two others held that position in the history of the Special Forces Regiment.**
- 21. The National Defense Industrial Association Life Time Achievement Award.**
- 22. The Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute Of Religion, President's Medallion**

General Shachnow is the author of the best seller "Hope and Honor". The book has been awarded the prestigious 2005 Colby Award.

General Shachnow is married to the former Arlene Armstrong of Salem, Massachusetts; they have four married daughters , 14 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

General Shachnow retired after forty years of active service as a Paratrooper on 1 October 1994. He is the only Holocaust survivor to have achieved the rank of General in the history of the military. He currently works as a consultant and senior mentor, is a member of the Editorial Board of the “Journal of International Security Affairs” publication, and serves on several boards.

He resides with his wife on a horse farm in Southern Pines, North Carolina.

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