

Retired Lt. Gen. Richard Chilcoat

Texas A&M University announcement

Retired Lt. Gen. Richard Chilcoat, former USAWC Commandant

March 18, 2010 -- Former Army War College Commandant retired Lt. Gen. Richard A. (Dick) Chilcoat, died Tuesday, March 16, in College Station, Texas A&M University announced.

He also served as the dean of the Bush School of Government and Public Service and holder of the Edward and Howard Kruse Endowed Chair. Chilcoat was appointed the school's first permanent dean in July 2001. After stepping down as dean in 2008, Chilcoat held the position of executive professor.

A graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Chilcoat later earned an MBA from Harvard University. During his 42 years of military service, he served in combat in Vietnam; had staff and command tours of duty in the infantry, aviation, operations, and policy and strategy; and served as executive assistant to Gen. Colin Powell during the First Gulf War. Chilcoat also directed and facilitated the Army Strategic Leadership Course for army general officers, served as the 43rd commandant of the United States Army War College and was appointed as the ninth president of the National Defense University by the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

"Dean Chilcoat's service at the Bush School mirrored his distinguished military career," said current Dean Ryan Crocker. "The Bush School made remarkable advances during his tenure. It was a time of great expansion and growth, and Dean Chilcoat played a significant role in advancing our academic programs, including dual-degree programs in political science and economics; launching innovative certificate programs in international affairs and public service and administration; and strongly supporting the expansion of our research capabilities."

Executive Associate Dean Sam Kirkpatrick cited Chilcoat's leadership and outstanding interpersonal skills as enabling the school's success. "It was largely due to Dick's leadership that the Bush School was able to quickly become highly regarded and nationally ranked in a relatively short period. His commitment to academic excellence strengthened our ability to develop and sustain high quality programs, recruit distinguished faculty and excellent students, and attract the private and public resources needed to sustain our dynamic growth."