

## **Biography of Major General Leo R Abair, of the Vermont State Guard**

MG Leo R. Abair is the Commanding General of the Vermont State Guard.

Gen. Abair started his Military Career as graduate of the U.S. Army Air Corps sponsored CPT (Civilian Pilot Training) Program in 1941. He was awarded a Private Pilot License.

He enlisted in U.S. Army Air corps 25 June 1942, and completed a Glider Pilot Course in Spencer, IA. He was then transferred to the Fort Sill OK where he graduated from the DA TF AS (Dept of Air Training, Field Artillery School), and was sent to Camp Roberts CA as a Liaison pilot assigned to the 983rd FA Bn. A unit from the CO NG.

He was awarded a direct commission in the grade of 2nd LT during the New Guinea campaign. The Unit took part in the invasions of Leyte, Luzon, and Mindinao in the Phillipines where he was awarded the *Silver Star* and *Air Medal*.

He was released from the U.S. Army at Ft Devens on 24 Feb 46 in the grade of Captain.

The General joined the VT National Guard 15 OCT 1946 and was assigned as Liaison Pilot in the HQ 172REGT 43rd Division.

He later commanded the 294th ORD CO, the VT NG Provisional BN, and held various HQ State Staff positions including Chief of Staff and ASST AG Army.

He was separated 14 April 1977 in the grade of COL.

As a VT NG Technician he held the following positions.

- CFMS Supervisor 1947-1951
- State Maint Officer 1951-1966
- Chief of Staff ARNG 1966-1977

He entered the VT State Guard 7 Aug 1983 as DCG in the rank of BG (VT).

He was designated CG of the VT State Guard in the rank of MG 30 June 2000.