

Lieutenant General John 'Jack' Costello



Lieutenant General John 'Jack' Costello of Pottsville, Pennsylvania, was a 1969 graduate of The Citadel, with a bachelor's degree in political science and a commission as a U. S. Army Air Defense Artillery officer. Soon afterward, the young lieutenant was deployed to Vietnam, where he was assigned as a battalion adviser to the 4th ADA Battalion in Qui Nhon, Republic of Viet Nam. As a young company grade officer, Captain Costello was given the unique opportunity of commanding twice at the battery level. General Costello's other commands include 2nd Battalion, 59th ADA Regiment, 1st Armored Division, in Schwabach, Germany; 35th ADA Brigade, I Corps at Fort Lewis, Washington; Commanding General, 32nd Army Air Defense Command in Darmstadt, Germany; Assistant Division Commander- Maneuver, 1st Armored

Division, Baumholder, Germany; Commanding General of the U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery School, Center & Fort Bliss at Fort Bliss, Texas; and finally as the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command in Arlington, Virginia. It was LTG Costello who led the Air Defense Artillery branch into the 21st century, through his service as the Air Defense Center's Commanding General and as the Commanding General for the U. S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command. He believed that the only way to accomplish this was by "recruiting and retaining top-quality Soldiers." General Costello felt this was the paramount challenge the branch faced as it prepared to enter the 21st Century." His signature closing was always "First to Fire! ADA is leading the charge into the 21st Century."

Air Defense Artillery
Legends

