

Head Prosecutor

MAJOR WILLIAM G. ECKHARDT
Military Trial Counsel in the case of Captain Ernest L. Medina

Major William G. Eckhardt was born in Ames, Iowa on January 7, 1941. He was graduated from the Starkville, Mississippi High School in 1959. He received a B.A. degree in History from the University of Mississippi in 1963, and an L.L.B. degree from the University of Virginia in 1966.

He received his commission through the Reserve Officers Training Corps program and entered military service at Charlottesville, Virginia in June 1963. He was assigned to the Judge Advocate General's School where he participated in the Judge Advocate General's Excess Leave Program while attending the University of Virginia. During the summers of 1963-66, he was a defense and trial counsel at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

Major Eckhardt served in Vietnam as Assistant Staff Judge Advocate in 1966-1967. From 1967 to 1969 he was Assistant Staff Judge Advocate with the Seventh Army Support Command in Germany. He returned to the Judge Advocate General's School in 1969 where he attended the career course. In May 1970 he was assigned to the office of the Third U. S. Army Staff Judge Advocate at Fort McPherson, Georgia. Since that time he has served as Chief, Trial Section as chief government counsel in the Fort McPherson My Lai cases.

His decorations include the Bronze Star and the Army Commendation Medal.

Major Eckhardt is a member of Phi Eta Sigma, Phi Kappa Phi, Omicron Delta Kappa, and Sigma Chi fraternities, and the East Point Presbyterian Church.

He was selected as an Outstanding Young Man of America in 1970.

He has participated in hundreds of courts-martial as trial and defense counsel. He defended "Gervase" in Casualties of War by Daniel Lang.

Major and Mrs. Eckhardt, the former Margaret Estella Garrison of San Diego, California, reside in East Point, Georgia. He is the son of Mrs. Ruth H. Eckhardt of State College, Mississippi and the late Dr. Robert C. Eckhardt.