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PAUL DONAL HARKINS

United States commander, Vietnam, 1962-64; now adviser to American Security Council, private "research" group, Boston. Born Boston, May 15, 1904 . . . graduated U.S. Military Academy, 1929 . . . deputy chief of staff, Western Task Force, North African invasion, 1942 . . . deputy chief of staff, Third Army then 15th Army . . . a protégé of Gen. George S. Patton Jr. . . . commandant of cadets, West Point, 1948-51 . . . chief of staff, Eighth Army, Korea, 1951-53 . . . commander, 45th and 24th Infantry Divisions, Korea, December, 1953-54 . . . Pentagon service, 1954-57 . . . deputy commander, chief of staff U.S. Army Forces, Pacific, 1960-62 . . . first commander, Military Assistance Command, Saigon, 1962-64 . . . consistently optimistic in his assessment of war . . . strong support of Ngo Dinh Diem . . . has said "biggest" U.S. mistake in Vietnam "was when we stopped backing Diem" . . . during his tenure, had sharp differences with Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge . . . retired 1964 . . . moved to Dallas, 1965.