



Mechanical Engineering
Academy of Distinguished Alumni

Nathaniel H. Sledge, Jr., Ph.D.

Distinguished Mechanical Engineer, 2005

BSE, United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, 1979

MSME, The University of Texas at Austin, 1986

Ph.D., ME, The University of Texas at Austin, 1997

MS Strategic Studies, United States Army War College, 2001

*Colonel, U.S. Army, Retired
Consultant*

Nate Sledge served as a U.S. Army officer for over 28 years, achieving the rank of colonel. He commanded successfully from platoon through brigade-equivalent levels. In 2007, Nate retired from the Army and established his own management consulting and analysis firm, Trophy Management Solutions.

From 1977-1984, Nate served in armor and armored cavalry command and staff assignments in Germany, Korea, and the continental United States. In the mid-1980s, he also served as a mechanical engineering project manager for the M1A1/A2 Abrams Tanks in the Project Management Office for the Abrams Tank, Warren, Michigan. In 1991, the Army assigned Nate to the Operational Test and Evaluation Command, Alexandria, Virginia, where he served as the operational evaluator for all variants of the Abrams Tank.

From 1997-2000, Nate served as product manager, Bradley Carrier Systems in the Project Management Office for Bradley Fighting Vehicle Systems, Warren, Michigan. There he managed the development, testing, and production of the Command and Control Vehicle (C2V) and the M993 Multiple-Launched Rocket System (MLRS) Carrier. From 2001-2005, Nate served as the first project manager for Combat Ammunition Systems, Picatinny Arsenal, NJ. During

this tour, he led the successful development and demonstration of the Excalibur precision-guided extended-range artillery projectile and the Precision Guidance Kit.

In November of 2003, the Army selected Nate as one of 21 Army officers to make up the initial cadre of U.S. Army Scientist and Engineer Corps. From 2005 to 2007, Nate served as the deputy director of investment in the Army Budget Office, Pentagon, Washington, DC, helping to manage the Army's research, development and acquisition budget appropriations in support of overseas contingency operations.

From 2002-2004, Nate served on the advisory board for the UT Austin Department of Mechanical Engineering. Nate has presented at numerous conferences and published numerous papers in refereed journals and proceedings on diverse subjects. He is an award-winning essayist in public policy and strategic studies.

During his long and distinguished military service, Nate was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit Medal, and 20 other military decorations, including the Army Staff Badge, Ranger Tab, and Parachutist Badge.