Army Aviation Hall of Fame 2007 Induction - Atlanta, GA

Retired BG Robert L. Stewart blazed trails through his 28-year career where others feared to tread.

In May 1964, he received his ROTC commission as an Air Defense Artillery officer with his bachelor of science degree in Mathematics from the Univ. of Southern Mississippi.

After completing helicopter training at Fort Wolters, Texas and Fort Rucker, Ala., he was designated an Army aviator in July 1966.

From August 1966 to August 1967, Stewart flew 1,035 combat hours in Vietnam as an armed helicopter fire team leader with Co. A, 101st Avn. Bn.

After combat, Stewart served in a variety of assignments including as a helicopter instructor pilot and pursued his master of science in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Texas at Arlington.

In 1974 he graduated from the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School's Rotary Wing Test Pilot Course

and was assigned as an experimental test pilot with the Army's Aviation Engineering Flight Activity in California.

As chief of the Integrated Systems Test Division, Stewart participated in engineering flight tests of UH-1 and AH-1 helicopters and U-21 and OV-1 aircraft; serving as a project officer and senior test pilot on the Hughes YAH-64 advanced attack helicopter during government competitive testing; and participated with Sikorsky's test pilots in developing an electronic automatic flight control system for the new Army UH-60A helicopter.

Stewart became the Army's first astronaut in August 1979, serving as a mission specialist on space shuttle flights STS-41B in 1984 and STS-51J in 1985; logging 289 hours in space.

He is the first Army astronaut to walk untethered in space in 1984 using a man-maneuvering unit.