

Colonel Richard "Dick" W. Crampton was commissioned a second lieutenant in Field Artillery through the Reserve Officer Training Corps upon graduating from Arkansas State University. He served 26 years in the Army and retired in 1996.

Colonel Crampton had a variety of assignments while on active duty. His first was in the Republic of Vietnam where he flew CH-47s with the 213th and 180th Assault Support Helicopter Companies. He also served six months as a forward observer with the last U.S. infantry unit in Vietnam, the 196th Light Infantry Brigade. He was an instructor pilot at the Army Aviation Center, held senior level staff positions, and was a company commander in the 2nd Battalion, 67th Armor, 2nd Armored Division, a troop commander in the 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry, 25th Infantry Division, an Assault Helicopter Battalion commander, and brigade commander of the Army's only fixed wing brigade, the Operational Support Airlift Command, The United States Army Military District of Washington. He was also assigned twice to the Army Personnel Command (HRC); Chief, Aviation Branch, and Chief, Warrant Officer Division, Officer Personnel Management Directorate.

His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal (with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters), Air Medal (with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Commendation Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Master Aviator Badge, and Air Assault Badge. He was rated in the UH-1, AH-1, CH-47, UH-60, U-21, and C-12.

Colonel Crampton joined MOAA in 1996 and served as Deputy Director, MOAA's Officer Placement Service until November, 2004, when he became the Director of the department.