

Roscoe Robinson

A Register of His Papers in the Library of Congress

**Prepared by Joseph K. Brooks with the assistance of Brian
McGuire**



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

2000

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**Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress
Manuscript Division, 2003**

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Collection Summary

Title: Papers of Roscoe Robinson

Span Dates: 1945-1993

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1951-1993)

ID No.: MSS84715

Creator: Robinson, Roscoe, 1928-1993

Extent: 10,500 items; 31 containers plus 5 classified; 120.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English, French, German, Japanese, and Vietnamese

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: Army officer. Correspondence, speeches, interview transcripts, office files, thesis and term papers, photographs, scrapbooks, personnel records, awards and certificates, reports, and miscellaneous papers related to Robinson's military career.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Names:

Robinson, Roscoe, 1928-1993

Abshire, David M.--Correspondence

Becton, Julius W. (Julius Wesley), 1926- --Correspondence

Blanchard, George S. (George Samuel), 1920- --Correspondence

Bowers, Emmet W.--Correspondence

Cocklin, Robert F.--Correspondence

Corcoran, E. F.--Correspondence

Danforth, William H.--Correspondence

Denton, Jeremiah A.--Correspondence

Gavin, James M. (James Maurice), 1907- --Correspondence

Hamlet, James F.--Correspondence

Legere, Laurence J.--Correspondence

Nagy, Ernest A.--Correspondence

Ridgeway, Matthew B.--Correspondence

Thurman, J. R.--Correspondence

Vessey, John William, 1922- --Correspondence

Weyand, Alexander M. (Alexander Mulqueen), b. 1928--Correspondence

United States. Army --Foreign service--Europe

United States. Army --Foreign service--Japan

United States. Army. Airborne Division, 82nd

National War College (U.S.)

North Atlantic Treaty Organization

United States Military Academy

University of Pittsburgh. Graduate School of Public and International Affairs

Subjects:

African-American soldiers

Universities and colleges--New York--West Point

Universities and colleges--Pennsylvania--Pittsburgh

Universities and colleges--Washington (D.C.)

Vietnamese Conflict, 1961-1975

United States--Armed Forces--African Americans

Occupations:

Army officers

Paratroopers

Administrative Information

Provenance:

The papers of Roscoe Robinson, army officer, were given to the Library of Congress by Mildred Robinson in 2000.

Processing History:

Cyril Jones provided preliminary processing and assisted in organizing these papers prior to their delivery to the Library.

Transfers:

Video recordings have been transferred to the Library's Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division where they are identified as part of the papers.

Copyright Status:

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Roscoe Robinson is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Restrictions:

Restrictions apply concerning the use, photoduplication, or publication of items in the collection. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division for information concerning these restrictions.

Security Classified Material:

Government regulations control the use of security classified material in this collection. Manuscript Division staff can furnish information concerning access to and use of classified items.

Preferred Citation:

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Roscoe Robinson Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1928, Oct. 11	Born, St. Louis, Mo.
1951	B. S., United State Military Academy, West Point, N.Y. Commissioned second lieutenant, Infantry, United States Army
1952	Married Mildred Sims
1952-1953	Rifle company commander, 7th Infantry Division, Korean War
1954-1957	Instructor, United States Army Infantry School, Airborne Department, Fort Benning, Ga.
1957-1959	Training officer, United States Military Mission to Liberia
1962-1963	Attended United States Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kan.
1964	M. A., international affairs, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pa.
1965-1967	Personnel management officer, Infantry Branch, Office of Personnel Operations, Department of the Army
1967-1968	G-4 (Logistics), 1st Air Cavalry Division, Vietnam Commander, 2d Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Division, Vietnam

1968-1969	Attended National War College, Washington, D.C.
1969-1972	Plans officer and Southeast Asia special action officer, J-5, United States Pacific Command Executive to the chief of staff, United States Pacific Command, Hawaii
1973	Promoted brigadier general
1972-1973	Commander, 2nd Brigade, 82d Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.
1973-1975	Deputy commander, United States Army Garrison, Okinawa
1975-1976	Commander, United States Army Garrison, Okinawa
1976	Promoted major general
1976-1978	Commander, 82d Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N. C.
1978-1980	Deputy chief of staff for operations, United States Army, Europe and Seventh Army
1980	Promoted lieutenant general
1980-1982	Commander, United States Army, Japan, IX Corps
1982	Promoted full general
1982-1985	United States representative to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Military Committee
1993	Died, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Roscoe Robinson, Jr. (1928-1993), paratrooper and first African-American four star general in the United States Army, span the years 1945-1993, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1951-1993. The papers are organized in the following series: [North Atlantic Treaty Organization](#), [82d Airborne Division](#), [United States Army Japan](#), [Academic File](#), [Subject File](#), and [Classified](#). There are a few documents in French, German, Japanese, or Vietnamese. Correspondence throughout the collection is arranged in the order established and indexed by Robinson or his staff.

The [North Atlantic Treaty Organization](#) (NATO) series documents Robinson's tour in 1982-1985 as United States representative to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Military Committee. The correspondence file in the NATO series is the only instance of a reverse chronological arrangement. NATO series correspondents include David M. Abshire, E. F. Corcoran, William H. Danforth, Laurence J. Legere, Ernest A. Nagy, and John W. Vessey.

Between 1959 and 1979, Robinson was intermittently associated with the [82d Airborne Division](#) as a staff officer, company, battalion, and brigade commander, and finally as commanding general. The papers focus on his command of the division's 2d Brigade during 1972-1973 and on his stint during 1976-1978 as commanding general of the 82d Airborne. The Thomas L. Doran file in the series relates to an enlisted man who attempted to organize a trade union within the division. Correspondents include George S. Blanchard, Emmet W. Bowers, Jeremiah A. Denton, James M. Gavin, Matthew B. Ridgeway, J. R. Thurman, and Alexander M. Weyand.

The [United States Army, Japan](#), series comprises two subseries, [United States Army Garrison, Okinawa](#), and [IX Corps](#). The [United States Army Garrison, Okinawa](#) files document Robinson's assignment as deputy commander and then commander of army troops stationed in the Ryukyu Islands during 1973-1976. During 1980-1982, Robinson commanded [IX Corps](#), headquartered at Camp Zama on the island of Honshu, Japan, and this assignment is the focus of the IX Corps subseries. Correspondents in both subseries include Julius Becton, Robert F. Cocklin, and James F. Hamlet.

The [Academic File](#) relates to the United States Military Academy at West Point, from which Robinson graduated in 1951, and various graduate and advanced training schools. Featured are the Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia; the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; the National War College in Washington, D.C.; the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs; and Harris-Stowe College and Washington University, institutions in St. Louis, Missouri, Robinson's hometown, that awarded him honorary degrees.

The United States Military Academy file includes material on Robinson's investigation in 1988 of John P. Edwards, a second-classman (junior) expelled from West Point for refusing to participate in the "fourth-class system," which Edwards considered hazing of plebes (freshmen). Also in 1988, Robinson served on the Chief of Staff's Special Commission on the Honor Code and Honor System. Material on this activity is included in the "honor code" folder of the Military Academy file. Robinson's class of 1951 included five black graduates, up to that time the largest contingent of African American cadets to graduate from West Point. In the military academy file there is a folder specifically relating to the class of 1951 and another generally relating to African-American cadets.

Robinson attended the National War College in 1968-1969. The presence of material relating to the War College class visit to Liberia ten years earlier in 1958 probably results from his service with United State Military Mission to that West African country in 1957-1959. Robinson's major thesis was on the national security implications of black nationalist movements in the United States.

The [Subject File](#) relates to Robinson's other assignments and commands, including his Vietnam war service with the 1st Air Cavalry (Airmobile) Division and with the United States Army, Europe. His "201," or personnel, file is the official record of his military career from his matriculation at West Point in 1947 to his retirement from the army in 1985. Covering the same ground is a lengthy, in-depth interview of Robinson by the Senior Officer Oral History Program.

Also in the [Subject File](#) is a 1989 review by Robinson, with background material, of the combat performance in the Korean War of the 24th Infantry Regiment, the army's last segregated, all black infantry unit.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in seven series:

- [North Atlantic Treaty Organization, 1968-1986, n.d.](#)
- [82d Airborne Division, 1944-1980, n.d.](#)
- [United States Army, Japan, 1972-1982, n.d.](#)
- [Academic File, 1951-1993, n.d.](#)
- [Subject File, 1947-1993, n.d.](#)
- [Classified, 1982-1985](#)
- [North Atlantic Treaty Organization Classified Material, 1983-1984, n.d.](#)

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-8	<p><u>North Atlantic Treaty Organization, 1968-1986, n.d.</u></p> <p>Correspondence, cables, subject files, photographs, scrapbooks, speeches, interviews, briefings, and miscellaneous material related to Robinson's assignment as United States representative to the North American Treaty Alliance Military Committee.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by type of material or subject and chronologically thereunder.</p>
BOX 9-13	<p><u>82d Airborne Division, 1944-1980, n.d.</u></p> <p>Correspondence, chronological files, office files, subject files, monographs, notebooks, speeches, and miscellaneous material related to Robinson's various commands in the 82d Airborne Division.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by type of material or subject and chronologically thereunder.</p>
BOX 13-19	<p><u>United States Army, Japan, 1972-1982, n.d.</u></p>
BOX 13-15	<p><u>United States Army Garrison, Okinawa, 1972-1976, n.d.</u></p> <p>Correspondence, newspapers and newspaper clippings, notebooks and note cards, photographs, subject files, speeches, and miscellaneous material related to Robinson's command of the United States army garrison in Okinawa, Japan.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by type of material or subject and chronologically thereunder.</p>
BOX 15-19	<p><u>IX Corps, 1980-1982, n.d.</u></p> <p>Correspondence, newspapers and newspaper clippings, notebooks and notes, photographs, reports, speeches, briefings, and interviews related to Robinson's command of United States Army, Japan, IX Corps.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by type of material or subject chronologically thereunder.</p>
BOX 19-22	<p><u>Academic File, 1951-1993, n.d.</u></p> <p>Term papers and thesis, honorary degrees, notes, subject files, reports, printed matter, and miscellaneous material.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by name of institution and therein chronologically.</p>
BOX 22-31	<p><u>Subject File, 1947-1993, n.d.</u></p> <p>Correspondence, biographical material, topical files, awards and certificates, photographs, notebooks, speeches, printed matter.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material and chronologically thereunder.</p>
BOX CL 1- CL 3	<p><u>Classified, 1982-1985</u></p> <p>Documents containing national security information removed from the collection.</p> <p>Arranged and described according to the series and folders from which the items were removed.</p>
BOX NATO 1-NATO 2	<p><u>North Atlantic Treaty Organization Classified Material, 1983-1984, n.d.</u></p> <p>Documents containing security information removed from the collection.</p> <p>Arranged and described according to the series and folders from which the items were removed.</p>

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-8	North Atlantic Treaty Organization, 1968-1986, n.d. Correspondence, cables, subject files, photographs, scrapbooks, speeches, interviews, briefings, and miscellaneous material related to Robinson's assignment as United States representative to the North American Treaty Alliance Military Committee. Arranged alphabetically by type of material or subject and chronologically thereunder.
BOX 1	Address lists and calendars, 1983, n.d. Belgian value added tax, 1982 Cables, 1983-1985 <i>See also Classified Material</i> (2 folders) Correspondence Congratulatory 1982 Aug.-Sept. (3 folders)
BOX 2	Oct.-Nov., n.d. General 1982 Incoming Outgoing (2 folders) 1983 Incoming (3 folders) Outgoing (1 folder)
BOX 3	(2 folders) 1984

North Atlantic Treaty Organization, 1968-1986, n.d.

Container

Contents

	Incoming (2 folders)
	Outgoing (3 folders)
	1985
BOX 4	Incoming (1 folder)
	(1 folder)
	Outgoing (2 folders)
	Requests for autographs and photographs, 1982-1985
	Defense Department advisor to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, 1983
	General Officer Management Office, briefing book, 1982
	Gift policy, 1977, 1982-1985
	Halbleib, Richard C., 1983
	Miscellany, 1984-1985, n.d.
	NATO Runners, 1982-1985
	Newspaper clippings, 1982-1985
	Notebook, 1983, n.d.
	Officer fitness reports, 1981-1985
	“Personal Security Vulnerability Assessment of the US Military Representative to NATO,” prepared by the Kaiserslautern District of the Second Region, United States Army Criminal Investigation Command, 1985 <u><i>See Classified Material</i></u>
	Photographs
	European Community ball, 1985
	Miscellany, 1984, n.d.
BOX 5	Tour of Canada, 1985
	United States fall tour, 1985

North Atlantic Treaty Organization, 1968-1986, n.d.

Container

Contents

BOX 6

Scrapbook, 1982-1984

Social events, 1982-1983

Speeches, interviews, and briefings

Background material

1968-1983
(3 folders)

BOX 7

1984-1985, n.d.
(3 folders)

Chronological file

1983
(2 folders)

1984
(1 folder)
(3 folders)

BOX 8

1985, n.d.
(3 folders)

Interviews with Robinson regarding NATO Military Committee,
1985-1986

Vessey, John W., memoranda, 1982-1985 *See Classified Material*

BOX 9-13

82d Airborne Division, 1944-1980, n.d.

Correspondence, chronological files, office files, subject files, monographs, notebooks, speeches, and miscellaneous material related to Robinson's various commands in the 82d Airborne Division.
Arranged alphabetically by type of material or subject and chronologically thereunder.

BOX 9

Airborne Antiarmor Defense, 1977

Armor briefing, Fort Knox, Ky., 1978

Chronological file, ca. 1957, 1972-1979, n.d.
(4 folders)

Collins, John M., "Oil Fields as Military Objectives," 1975-1976

Correspondence

82d Airborne Division, 1944-1980, n.d.

Container

Contents

	Congratulatory, 1972-1976 (4 folders)
BOX 10	General, 1971-1978 (6 folders)
	Division Management Conference II, 1976
	Doran, Thomas L., 1974-1977
BOX 11	Housing expenses, 1976-1978
	Newspapers and newspaper clippings
	<i>Impact</i> , Fort Bragg, N.C., 1978, n.d.
	Miscellany, 1976-1978, n.d.
	<i>Paraglide</i> , Fort Bragg, N.C., 1961, 1976-1978
	Notebooks, 1972-1978 (2 folders)
	Note cards, 1977-1978, n.d.
	Officer fitness reports, 1976-1978
BOX 12	Operational readiness
	FALCON operational readiness training test, 1973 (2 folders)
	Unit Operationally Ready Reporting System (UORRS), 1978
	Organizational chart and other printed matter, 1977, n.d.
	Photographs
	Commanding general, 82d Airborne Division, 1972-1978
	Commanding officer, 2nd Brigade, 1972-1973
	Miscellany, 1972-1978
	Public Affairs Office, 82d Airborne Division, 1977
	Prop Blast ceremony, 1973
	Speeches and briefings

82d Airborne Division, 1944-1980, n.d.

Container

Contents

	Chronological files
	Tabs A-C, 1975-1978 (2 folders)
BOX 13	Tabs D-E, 1977
	Miscellany, 1973-1978, n.d.
	Temporary duty (TDY) vouchers, 1976-1978
	United States Army Forces Command (FORSCOM)
	Commander's conference, 1978
	Race relations, 1977-1978
	Voskuhl, Alice P., "Pocketbook Concerns," ca. 1977
	World War II, 1944, 1977-1980
BOX 13-19	United States Army, Japan, 1972-1982, n.d.
BOX 13-15	United States Army Garrison, Okinawa, 1972-1976, n.d.
	Correspondence, newspapers and newspaper clippings, notebooks and note cards, photographs, subject files, speeches, and miscellaneous material related to Robinson's command of the United States army garrison in Okinawa, Japan. Arranged alphabetically by type of material or subject and chronologically thereunder.
BOX 13	Correspondence
	Congratulatory, 1976 (2 folders)
	General, 1973-1976
BOX 14	Letters of appreciation, 1973-1976
	End of tour report, 1976
	"Memory of Okinawa" scrapbook, 1976, n.d. (2 folders)
	Miscellany, 1974-1981, n.d.
	Newspapers and newspaper clippings, 1973-1976
	Notebooks and note cards, 1974-1976, n.d.

United States Army, Japan, 1972-1982, n.d.

Container

Contents

	Office of the High Commissioner of the Ryukyu Islands, "Final Civilian Affairs Report," 1972
BOX 15	Photographs, 1973-1976
	Press kit, 1975
	Recreation Services Libraries, "The Black American Experience: A Bibliography," 1975
	Social functions, 1973-1976
	Speeches, 1973-1976 (2 folders)
BOX 15-19	IX Corps, 1980-1982, n.d.
	Correspondence, newspapers and newspaper clippings, notebooks and notes, photographs, reports, speeches, briefings, and interviews related to Robinson's command of United States Army, Japan, IX Corps. Arranged alphabetically by type of material or subject chronologically thereunder.
BOX 15	Change of assignment, 1980
	Correspondence
	Congratulatory, 1980
	General
	1980
	Incoming
	Outgoing
BOX 16	1981
	Incoming
	Outgoing (2 folders)
	1982
	Farewell ceremony, 1982
	General Officer Management Office, briefing book, 1980
	Newspapers and newspaper clippings, 1980-1982, n.d.
	Notebooks and notes, 1980, n.d.

United States Army, Japan, 1972-1982, n.d.

Container

Contents

BOX 17

Photographs

Japan Defense Agency, 1982

Miscellany, 1980-1982, n.d.
(2 folders)

Report to incoming commander and end of tour report, 1982

Scrapbooks

“IX Corp Tour of Duty,” 1982
(2 folders)

Ground Self-Defense Force (Japan) Signal School, visit, 1981

Social functions

1981

BOX 18

1982, n.d.
(2 folders)

Speeches, briefings, and interviews

Chronological files, 1980-1982
(5 folders)

Commanding general's CONUS command briefing, 1981

Miscellany, 1981, n.d.

Saint Augustine's College, Raleigh, N.C., 1981

Talking papers fact sheets, 1982

Television programs

“Excerpts from USARJ tv programs with LTG Robinson,” n.d.

Perspective 1981, television interview, 1981

BOX 19

Travel vouchers, 1980-1982

United States Army Corp of Engineers, Pacific Ocean Division, visit, 1980

BOX 19-22

Academic File, 1951-1993, n.d.

Term papers and thesis, honorary degrees, notes, subject files, reports, printed matter, and miscellaneous material.

Arranged alphabetically by name of institution and therein chronologically.

Academic File, 1951-1993, n.d.

Container

Contents

BOX 19

Harris-Stowe College, St. Louis, Mo.

Davis, Julia, 1967-1985, n.d.

Honorary degree, 1984

Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass, Executive Program in National and International Security, 1982

National Defense University, Washington, D.C., "Days of Supply" seminar, 1987-1988

National War College, Washington, D.C.

Class visit to Liberia, 1958

Miscellany, 1968-1969, 1986

Notes, 1968-1969

BOX 20

Thesis, papers, and reports

Background material, 1968, n.d.

Textual material, 1969
(2 folders)

United States Army graduate and advanced training schools

United States Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kan., nuclear weapons employment workbook
(2 folders)

United States Army Infantry School, Fort Benning, Ga., ca. 1951, 1957

United States Military Academy, West Point, N.Y.

African American cadets, 1969, 1977, 1985-1987, n.d.

Association of Graduates, 1984, 1992, n.d.

Class of 1951, 1951, 1980-1984, 1989-1993, n.d.

Edwards, John P., 1988

Honor code, 1988

BOX 21

Miscellany, 1983-1990, n.d.

Academic File, 1951-1993, n.d.

Container

Contents

Reports and findings

Final Report of the West Point Study Group, 1986

Long Range Planning conference, 1990

Special Commission on the United States Military Academy, 1976

University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Book reports and other critiques, 1963-1964, n.d.

Class notes, 1964

Miscellany, 1963-1964, n.d.

Term papers

“Executive Development in the United States Army,” ca.1964

Miscellany

1963-1964
(3 folders)

BOX 22

Undated

“SEATO: An Appraisal”

Correspondence and drafts, 1964

Typescripts, 1964

Washington University, St. Louis, Mo., honorary degree, 1983

BOX 22-31

Subject File, 1947-1993, n.d.

Correspondence, biographical material, topical files, awards and certificates, photographs, notebooks, speeches, printed matter.

Arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material and chronologically thereunder.

BOX 22

1st Air Cavalry Division (Airmobile)

Chronological file, 1966-1968, n.d.

Clippings, 1968, n.d.

First Air Cavalry Division Association, 1969-1970

Fragmentary orders, flight operation schedules, 1968

Subject File, 1947-1993, n.d.

Container

Contents

“Garry Owen, 7th Cavalry Regiment,” 1965

Notebook, 1967-1968

Photographs, 1967-1968, n.d.
(3 folders)

Staff directories and rosters, 1967-1968

Vietnam Intelligence Summary, Seventh Air Force, 1968

BOX 23

201 file

Chronological file, 1947-1985, n.d.
(4 folders)

Efficiency and fitness reports, 1952-1977

Medical records, 1947-1981

African-American soldiers

24th Infantry Regiment in the Korean War

Miscellany, 1989

Rishell, Lyle, “A Game of Checkers: A Story of Blacks Against Reds in Korea,” 1990

BOX 24

555th Parachute Infantry Association, 1984-1986, n.d.

Miscellany, 1974, 1982-1993, n.d.

Moskos, Charles, “Blacks in the Army: An American Success Story,” 1985-1986

Tuskegee Airmen

Miscellany, 1991-1993, n.d.

Scrapbook, 1993

Association of the United States Army (AUSA), 1977-1984, 1990

BOX 25

Awards and promotions

Chronological file, 1951-1993, n.d.

Photographs, 1973-1982, n.d.

Biographical material

Subject File, 1947-1993, n.d.

Container

Contents

Miscellany, 1972-1992

Obituaries and memorial material, 1993

Program Corporation of America, 1985-1986

Clark, Ronald F., 1981-1983

Corporate file

Comsat Corp., 1988-1992

High Tech Group, 1988

Military Professional Resources, 1987

Planning Research Corp.

Miscellany

1977-1986
(2 folders)

BOX 26

1987-1988

Notes, 1986-1987, n.d.
(2 folders)

Post-retirement employment search, 1985-1992, n.d.

Fact sheets, 1983-1988

General correspondence

1962-1990
(3 folders)

BOX 27

1991-1993

General officer promotion boards, 1980-1985, n.d.

Infantry Branch, Office of Personnel Operations, Department of the Army

Miscellany, 1966-1968

Notebooks and notes, 1966-1967, n.d.

International Security Council Conference, 1990

Subject File, 1947-1993, n.d.

Container

Contents

Miscellany, 1968-1991, n.d.
(2 folders)

Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University, Washington, D.C., 1975

Photographs, 1986-1990, n.d.

President's Commission on Executive Exchange, 1983

Retirement

Chronological file, 1985

Newspaper clippings, 1985

BOX 28

Photographs, retirement ceremony, Fort Myer, Va.

The Rocks, Inc., 1981-1992

Senior Officer Oral History Program

Interview with Robinson, 1987-1988

Miscellany, 1987-1988

Sigma Gamma Rho sorority, 1981

Speech and engagement file

Chronological file

1987

1988

Feb.-May

BOX 29

July-Aug.

1989-1991, n.d.
(5 folders)

United States Army speech writing services

General officer speaker kit, 1981

Miscellany

1981-1982
(3 folders)

Subject File, 1947-1993, n.d.

Container

Contents

BOX 30	United States Army speech writing services 1983-1985 (2 folders) United States Army, Europe Clarke, John L., Olmstead Scholarship recommendation Correspondence Congratulatory From Robinson, 1979-1980 To Robinson, 1978-1979 General, 1979-1980 Miscellany, 1978-1979, n.d. Notebooks, 1979-1980 Photographs, 1980, n.d.
BOX 31	Questionnaire results, n.d. Speeches, 1979-1980 Temporary duty orders, 1978-1980 Travel vouchers, 1978-1980 Writings, 1991
BOX CL 1- CL 3	Classified, 1982-1985 Documents containing national security information removed from the collection. Arranged and described according to the series and folders from which the items were removed.
BOX CL 1	North Atlantic Treaty Organization Cables, 1983-1985 (Container 1)
BOX CL 2	“Personal Security Vulnerability Assessment of the US Military Representative to NATO,” Kaiserslautern District of the Second Region, United States Army Criminal Investigation Command, June 1985 (Container 4)

Classified, 1982-1985

Container

Contents

BOX CL 3

Vessey, John W., memoranda, 1982-1985 (Container 8)

BOX NATO 1-NATO 2 North Atlantic Treaty Organization Classified Material, 1983-1984, n.d.

Documents containing security information removed from the collection.

Arranged and described according to the series and folders from which the items were removed.

BOX NATO 1

North Atlantic Treaty Organization

Speeches, interviews, and briefings

Background material, 1984, n.d. (Container 7)

BOX NATO 2

Chronological file, 1983 (Container 7)