



General Ferdinand J. Chesarek
10 March 1969 - 31 October 1970

Ferdinand J. Chesarek was born in Calumet, Michigan, on 18 February 1914. He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy and was commissioned a 2nd lieutenant, field artillery, in 1938. In November 1943, General Chesarek went to the European Theater of Operations to become Commanding Officer of the 28th Field Artillery Battalion, 8th Infantry Division. He participated in the Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, and Central Europe campaigns.

General Chesarek returned to the United States in July 1945 for detail to the War Department's General Staff in Washington, D.C., where he served as a legislative officer in the Logistics Division. From June 1948 to April 1950, General Chesarek attended Stanford University and received his master's degree in Business Administration. He returned to the Pentagon to serve as Assistant to the Chairman, Munitions Board, until February 1953 when he entered the Armed Forces Staff College at Norfolk, Virginia.

After graduation in July 1953, General Chesarek went to Korea to serve with the Headquarters, Eighth U.S. Army. In May 1954, he took command of the 5th Artillery Group, which consisted of six United States and four Korean artillery battalions.

In January 1955, General Chesarek was assigned as Chief of the Military Personnel and Manpower Division, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, until August 1955 when he entered the National War College. Following graduation in June 1956, he served as Military Assistant and Executive Officer to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs. In addition, he acted as International Conference Coordinator for the Secretary of Defense and participated in 12 major international conferences as a Defense Member of the U.S. delegation. During this assignment, he also attended the Advanced Management Program at Harvard University.

In August 1959, General Chesarek became the Chief of Staff, U.S. Army Communications Zone, Europe. He went to Italy in July 1960 to be Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army Southern European Task Force. He returned to France in March 1961 for duty as Commanding General, 4th Logistical Command.

In October 1962, General Chesarek was assigned to the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, first as Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics (Materiel Readiness) and then, from August 1964, as Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics (Programs). General Chesarek was appointed Comptroller of the Army on 1 August 1966 and served in this assignment until 1 August 1967. He was designated the first occupant of the newly created position of Assistant Vice Chief of Staff from February 1967 to May 1968.

One of the highlights of General Chesarek's career was his tour of the United Kingdom in May 1968 as United States 1968 Kermit Roosevelt Lecturer, during which he addressed the students at many British military schools. On 8 July 1968, General Chesarek was appointed Senior U.S. Army Member of the Military Staff Committee of the United Nations, in addition to his primary duty as Assistant Vice Chief of Staff. On 10 March 1969, he was promoted to full general and became the second Commanding General of AMC where he served until retiring on 31 October 1970.

General Chesarek's awards include the Silver Star Medal, Bronze Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Legion of Merit, Air Medal, Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal. He also received: the French Croix de Guerre with Palm and Star; Legion of Honor from the French Government; the Order of Ulchi from the Republic of Korea; the Order of Republic Medal by the Chief of Staff of the Italian Army. General Chesarek died on 20 November 1993.