COLONEL JAMES A BARTLETT
US ARMY RETIRED

Following graduation from the University of Texas and Officer Candidate School, Jim Bartlett was commissioned a 2LT in Army Intelligence. He served two combat tours in Vietnam. As Aerial Reconnaissance Officer with the 1st MI Battalion, he developed a targeting program to facilitate timely provision of information to commanders. On a second tour, he served with a Military Assistance Command (MACV) Province Advisory Team—responsible for province and district intelligence operations. The Province Intelligence Program was designated the "model" for MACV. Between Vietnam tours, he was an instructor with the Intelligence School.

COL Bartlett commanded the 504th MI Detachment with 4th Armored Division in Germany providing intelligence support to division and subordinate elements. He was assigned to the 66th MI Brigade where he played a key role in a major reorganization initiative and led a Source Control Branch that managed intelligence sources throughout theater.

After Command and General Staff College, he was assigned to the Pentagon. As the Action Officer for Joint Reconnaissance on the Army Staff, he ensured the Army played a key role in national policy. He implemented procedures to provide intelligence from national assets to tactical commanders. He then served at Army Personnel Command (PERSCOM) where he managed assignments for MI Majors.

In January 1980, he took command of the 11th MI Battalion, the only tactical technical intelligence (TECHINT) unit in the Department of Defense (DoD). It provided TECHINT and foreign material support to Defense organizations worldwide. COL Bartlett then commanded the 163rd MI Battalion at Fort Hood. This organization provided Aerial Reconnaissance, SIGINT, CI, interrogation and Long-Range Surveillance Unit support to III Corps. He initiated a training program named the prototype for US Army Forces Command.

After the War College, COL Bartlett served as the MI Branch Chief at PERSCOM, responsible for assignments and professional development for MI Officers. He implemented accession standards to enhance the quality of the MI Officer Corps and ensured that MI Officers filled key positions throughout the Army and DoD. He initiated a program on rating standards for MI leaders. Assigned as Chief, Combat Support Arms Division, he managed 25,000 officers in MI, Engineer, Signal, MP and Chemical Branches.

From 1987-1989, COL Bartlett commanded the 205th MI Brigade providing intelligence support to V Corps in Germany. 205th elements received Army-wide recognition for

excellence. He successfully led the Brigade on the last major Reforger exercise. Selected to be Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff, Intelligence, for US Army Europe, he managed intelligence activities in theater. He played a key role in providing all-source intelligence to Operation DESERT STORM.

COL Bartlett then commanded the Foreign Science and Technology Center. His organization responded to critical intelligence requirements for a variety of users. He spearheaded the effort to form the National Ground Intelligence Center (NGIC) and ensured that NGIC was a Command Designated Position—always led by an MI Officer.

COL Bartlett concluded a distinguished career in Military Intelligence in 1994. His awards include Legions of Merit (2 Oak Leaf Clusters), Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medals (5 Oak Leaf Clusters), Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Defense Intelligence Director's Medal, Army General Staff Badge, Air Crewman's Badge, Presidential Unit Citation and various campaign ribbons.

COL Bartlett was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2019.