

COLONEL JOSEPH M. BLAIR III

US Army, Retired



Joseph M. Blair III entered the Army in 1964 after graduating from Army Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) and being commissioned as a Second Lieutenant. 2LT Blair attended the Armor Officers Basic Course at Fort Knox, Kentucky and was then assigned to Fort Hood, Texas. While at Fort Hood, 2LT Blair served in a number of positions including S2, S3, and Company Commander in the 1st Battalion, 13th Armor, 1st Armored Division.

In 1967, Blair was assigned to the 4th Military Intelligence Detachment, 4th Infantry Division, serving in combat as a Counterintelligence Chief in the Central Highlands of the Republic of Vietnam. CPT Blair attended the MI Officers Advanced Course at Fort Holabird, Maryland and was subsequently assigned as first J3, and then J2 of the United Nations Command in the Republic of Korea in 1971.

Upon his return from Korea, MAJ Blair completed a tour at the United States Army Intelligence Center and School (USAICS), at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, where he developed combat intelligence courses. This was followed by assignments as Company Commander, Deputy G2, and then G2 of the 4th Infantry Division at Fort Carson, Colorado. In 1981, he led the ROTC program at the University of Michigan and was later assigned as the G2 of the 193rd Infantry Brigade, US Army Panama.

From 1982 to 1985, LTC Blair commanded the 125th Military Intelligence Battalion, 25th Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. After attending US Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania in 1986, COL Blair became the Director of Academic Policy, where he developed the annual curriculum. He then returned to Fort Huachuca, Arizona to command the 111th Military Intelligence Brigade. Two and a half years later, he became the G2, Third Armored Mobile Corps at Fort Hood, Texas.

COL Blair's last assignment was again at Carlisle Barracks, as the Director of Operational and Strategic Level War Fighting Courses. COL Blair spent his career focused on mentoring and serving others. He was a leader in the development and evolution of the tactical intelligence concept. COL Blair was an innovator in Military Intelligence; he recognized early on the importance of training soldiers in cultural awareness and instituted this practice for soldiers of all ranks at USAICS.

COL Blair retired in 1994 after 30 years of dedicated service to the US Army. His awards include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Commendation Medal, Army Commendation medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and National Defense Service Medal.

COL Blair was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2012.