

LIEUTENANT GENERAL RONALD L. BURGESS US Army, Retired



Commissioned as a Second Lieutenant through the Auburn University ROTC program in 1974, LTG Burgess began his career in a series of company-grade assignments of increasing responsibility in Armor and Military Intelligence units in Germany and at Fort Stewart, Georgia. Later, he held key staff and command positions, including Assistant Executive Officer to the Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Washington, DC, in 1990, and Battalion Commander, 25th Infantry Division (Light) at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, from 1993 to 1994.

From 1995 to 1997, LTG Burgess commanded the 470th MI Brigade. During this period, he expanded the regional focus of the brigade throughout Latin America, the Caribbean, Europe, and Korea. He also filled the role of acting Vice Director of Intelligence, and subsequently the Acting Director of Intelligence for US Southern Command. His superb leadership ensured a continuous flow of intelligence analysis in support of a year-long hostage crisis in Peru that ended with the safe withdrawal of US hostages.

LTG Burgess next served as the Director of Intelligence (J2) for the Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC) from 1997 to 1999. His leadership was instrumental in supporting continuous global deployments, as well as major exercises and complex joint-service training events. Following this assignment, LTG Burgess reported as the J2, US Southern Command (SOUTHCOM). Maintaining high-tempo operations throughout the Americas, to include Caribbean nations, LTG Burgess provided thought provoking, predictive intelligence for key SOUTHCOM missions, including countering transnational organized crime and drug operations and supporting peacekeeping, humanitarian, and disaster relief operations.

In 2003, LTG Burgess left SOUTHCOM to become the J2 for the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS). Assuming control of intelligence operations only months after United States and coalition forces invaded Iraq, he was at the forefront of providing time-dominant and insightful intelligence for all operational requirements in Iraq, Afghanistan, transnational terrorism, and all developing global issues affecting US interests abroad.

LTG Burgess reported to the Office of the Director of National Intelligence in 2005. He served consecutively as the Deputy Director of National Intelligence for Customer Outcomes, Director of the Intelligence Staff, and Acting Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence. Under his leadership during this unprecedented period of change,

the cornerstone Executive Order 12333 governing all intelligence activities was revised; the first-ever Joint Manning Document for military personnel assigned to organizations outside of the Department of Defense (DoD) was established; critical Intelligence Community managerial operations were overhauled; and innovative human capital practices were pioneered.

From 2009 until his retirement in 2012, LTG Burgess served as the 17th Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA). He reinforced the organization's ability to surge in support of contingency operations, improved the Joint Worldwide Intelligence Communications System, and was at the forefront of establishing the Defense Clandestine Service.

During his distinguished 38-year career as a US Army officer, LTG Burgess was a driving force in the US Intelligence Community, providing exceptional leadership and broad strategic vision that contributed to safeguarding national security interests. His awards and decorations include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal (with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster), Defense Superior Service Medal (with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters), Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal (with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters), Joint Service Commendation Medal, US Special Operations Command Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, NATO Medal-Former Republic of Yugoslavia, Parachutist Badge, Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge and Army Staff Identification Badge.