

MAJOR GENERAL JOHN DEFREITAS III US Army, Retired



MG DeFreitas enlisted in 1973 and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant through Officer Candidate School in 1975. Throughout his career, he served as the Senior Intelligence Officer at squadron and division, as well as at three different joint/combined commands. He was twice an MI battalion S3 and commanded at every echelon from platoon through brigade and major command. In 1994, he led the 519th MI Battalion into Haiti, where it conducted intelligence operations, including successful detention operations under the watchful eye of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

In 1998, MG DeFreitas took command of the 504th MI Brigade, III Corps, Fort Hood. The Brigade was tasked to deploy Task Force Hunter to Macedonia in support of operations in the Balkans. Within one week of notification, 504th Soldiers re-deployed the unit's assigned Hunter Unmanned Aerial Vehicles from a National Training Center rotation and deployed to Macedonia. Upon arrival in Macedonia, the 504th was mission ready and conducting flight operations within 24 hours. The Brigade's successful operation in support of military contingencies overseas proved the value of the Hunter which, although scheduled for decommissioning, still flies today.

After a year as the J2, US Special Operations Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, MG DeFreitas became the J2, United Nations Command/Combined Forces Command/US Forces Korea in 2001. In less than 12 months, he fully integrated all US and Republic of Korea collection systems to provide full visualization of the operational environment and intelligence support to mission command from any of six warfighting headquarters on the peninsula. This intelligence/operational visualization technology remains one of the most robust in the Department of Defense.

In July 2004, MG DeFreitas was assigned as C2/J2 Multi-National Force, Iraq. He quickly consolidated the supporting intelligence organization into a Joint Intelligence Operation Center (JIOC) and built the facility that housed intelligence operations for most of the war. He helped prepare the theater to receive the Joint Intelligence Operations Capability-Iraq (JIOC-I), a revolutionary concept of intelligence data storage and advanced search with which he had supported as a prototype—Project Morning Calm—while serving in Korea. JIOC-I was funded and ultimately deployed across the area of operations and in stateside units for "reach-back" intelligence operational support. JIOC-I capabilities later integrated into the Distributed Common Ground

System-Army (DCGS-A), the Army's premier intelligence processing, exploitation, production and dissemination system.

MG DeFreitas' next assignment was Commanding General, US Army Intelligence and Security Command (INSCOM). During his command, MG DeFreitas convinced the Army Staff to consolidate the Army's five Aerial Exploitation Battalions (AEB) within INSCOM. By doing so, AEB flight crews could deploy worldwide for collection missions while the processing functions remained at a fixed location stateside. This concept allowed the continuation of operations in four theaters with no break in mission support. MG DeFreitas was also the driving force behind the design of the INSCOM Detention Training Facility at which all Army interrogators now train in accordance with published doctrine.

MG DeFreitas' 36-year Army career culminated with his assignment as the Deputy Director of Analysis and Production at the National Security Agency. He retired on 30 September 2009.

MG DeFreitas's military awards and badges include the Distinguished Service Medal (with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster), Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster), Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (with 6 Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Commendation Medal, Master Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, and the Army Staff Identification Badge. He was also awarded the National Intelligence Distinguished Service Medal by the Director of National Intelligence.