

COLONEL DOUGLAS C. DILLARD

US Army, Retired



COL Dillard was born 14 September 1925, in Atlanta, Georgia. After receiving a direct commission as an Infantry Officer while serving with the 82nd Airborne Division in World War II, he went on to see combat again in Korea. During the Korean War, COL Dillard developed the concept of air delivery, resupply, and radio intercept for indigenous agents operating behind enemy lines, as well as testing and executing the air recovery by line-pickup of downed pilots and agents. For these actions he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

After attending the US Army Intelligence School at Fort Holabird, Maryland, in 1955, COL Dillard was assigned as an Area Intelligence Officer with the 513th MI Group in Europe. He developed, executed, and taught ground infiltration/exfiltration operations for penetration of priority targets

in the European Command. In 1960, COL Dillard returned to the United States as an instructor at the Intelligence School. In that capacity, he developed and expanded air/ground/water infiltration programs that later became the Army standard.

Returning to Germany in 1963, COL Dillard joined the Collection Division of US Army Europe (USAREUR), where he developed and expanded the operational concept of collection management of radio operations to support combat intelligence collection activities. Later, as Operations Officer for the 513th MI Group in Berlin, on three occasions he supplied the Command with Communist plans and actions, thus preventing enemy damage to the American forces. In 1966, COL Dillard became the Executive Officer of the Continental Army Command Tactical Intelligence Command (CONTIC) at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where he was charged with the preparation of all MI units deploying for Vietnam. He then served as Commander of the 14th MI Battalion and then the 48th MI Group, at Fort Bragg.

In 1968, COL Dillard went to Vietnam and was reassigned as the PHOENIX Coordinator in IV Corps, Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV) Advisory Team in the Mekong Delta. In that position, he instituted a comprehensive intelligence collection and exploitation program, as well as coordination of conventional operations, including the destruction of an entire Viet Cong guerrilla battalion in Cambodia. Upon his return to the United States in 1969, COL Dillard served as Chief, Security Division, Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.



LTC Dillard coordinates forces with US aviation and PRU Strike Force in the Kieng Giang-U Minh Forest.

After graduating from the Army War College, he was assigned as Chief, MI Branch, Officer Personnel Directorate. Despite his many achievements up to that point, it was in this role that COL Dillard made his greatest contribution to MI. Through sheer persistence, he succeeded in getting an MI officer assigned as the G2 in every Active Army division. He also greatly influenced Army policy to ensure promotion, service school selection, credit for command, and equitable efficiency reports for MI officers. His efforts on behalf of the MI Branch directly resulted in improved conditions for MI officers and enhanced the reputation of the Branch.

In 1973, COL Dillard became Commander of the 500th MI Group, US Army Pacific. As the war in Vietnam wound down, COL Dillard successfully persuaded the Army General Staff not to deactivate the Group and personally directed its reorganization and the

maintenance of critical contacts with senior foreign officials throughout Asia.

Returning to Washington in 1975, COL Dillard became the Assistant Director, Human Intelligence (HUMINT) and Collection Requirements, Defense Intelligence Agency. While there he oversaw the reorganization of the HUMINT Department, integrated MI personnel into the agency, and acted as military representative on several national-level intelligence committees.

COL Dillard retired from active duty in September of 1977. His awards include the Distinguished Flying Cross, Legion of Merit (2 Oak Leaf Clusters), Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Bronze Star Medal (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), Air Medal (4 Oak Leaf Clusters), and the Army Commendation Medal (2 Oak Leaf Clusters).

COL Dillard was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1990. He authored the books *Operation Aviary: Airborne Special Operations, Korea, 1950-1953* (2003) and *Tiger Hunters: Special Operations in Support of US Eighth Army's Critical Struggle of Survival during the Korean War* (2010).

