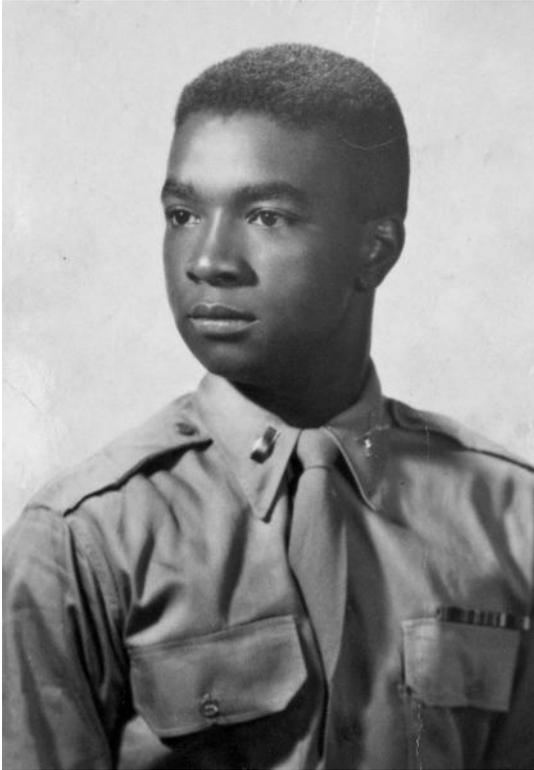


MAJOR GENERAL OLIVER DILLARD

US Army, Retired (Deceased)



2LT Dillard, 1947

Oliver W. Dillard enrolled at the Tuskegee Institute at age 15. The Army had just started the Tuskegee Airman Program and Dillard proudly wore the uniform of an ROTC cadet. In 1945, PVT Dillard was drafted, and he reported to Fort McClellan, Alabama, for basic training.

Dillard was sent to Bavaria to serve as an Administrative Specialist in the 349th Field Artillery Group. After completing Officer Candidate School in 1947, 2LT Dillard emerged as honor graduate of his Infantry Officers Basic Course.

2LT Dillard was assigned to the all-Black 365th Infantry Regiment at Fort Dix, New Jersey, as Platoon Leader and Battalion Operations Officer. In 1950, he was assigned to the 24th Infantry Regiment, one of the famous Buffalo Soldier units, in Japan. Half way into the voyage from San Francisco to Japan, North Korea invaded South Korea, and America was at war.

2LT Dillard headed immediately to Pusan, South Korea with the 24th Infantry Regiment. He served as the Intelligence Officer for 3rd Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division.

In 1954, CPT Dillard returned to Germany with the 4th Infantry Division, this time as Company Commander, and later as the Regimental Communications Officer. In 1957, MAJ Dillard attended Command and General Staff College, one of only three Black officers in his class.

In 1960, MAJ Dillard served as Deputy Chief of Mission and later as the Operations Officer to the US Military Mission in Monrovia, Liberia. Leveraging his Korea, Germany, and Africa experiences, the Army assigned Dillard to the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence (ACSI) to lead the Foreign Intelligence Assistance Section, Special Warfare and Foreign Assistance Branch in Washington, DC from 1962 to 1964.

In 1964, LTC Dillard became the first Black officer to attend the National War College. In 1966, he was selected to command the 2nd Battalion, 5th Combat Support Training Brigade. The following year, LTC Dillard assumed command of the Brigade and was promoted to Colonel in 1969.

LTC Dillard served with US Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV), as a Province Senior Advisor for Kontum Province. After two years of distinguished service, Dillard returned to Washington, DC, as the Deputy ACSI, the first Black officer in this position. He was promoted to Brigadier General, only the fifth Black general in Army history and arguably the first Black general officer serving in Military Intelligence. BG Dillard returned to Saigon for duty as MACV Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff, Civil Operations and Rural Development Support, the precursor to the counterinsurgency program used in Iraq. Following the signing of the Paris Peace Accords, BG Dillard left Vietnam when MACV disbanded.



COL Dillard, 1970



Dillard's promotion to Brigadier General, 1970. Secretary of the Army Stanley Resor is standing on the left. The Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, MG Phillip Davidson, stands on the right.

BG Dillard served as the first Deputy Chief of Staff, Intelligence (DCSINT) for the new US Army Forces Command at Fort McPherson, Georgia. In 1974, he served as the 2nd Armored Division's Assistant Division Commander for Maneuver at Fort Hood, Texas, where he worked diligently for operations intelligence integration. From 1975-1978, Dillard served as the DCSINT, US Army Europe and Seventh Army in Heidelberg, Germany. His use of US Army Intelligence and Security Command assets ensured



MG Dillard

a multi-disciplinary approach to understanding and countering Soviet forces at the height of the Cold War. As his final assignment, MG Dillard served as the Commanding General, US Army Readiness Region II at Fort Dix, New Jersey until 1980, when he retired.

His awards include the Distinguished Service Medal (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit (2 Oak Leaf Clusters), Bronze Star (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), and the Purple Heart.

MG Dillard was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2012. That same year, US FORSCOM Deputy Chief of Staff G2 dedicated a room in their headquarters in his honor. MG Dillard passed away on June 16, 2015.