

MR. THOMAS P. DILLON, SIES
US Army, Retired
Department of Army Civilian, Retired
(Deceased)



Mr. Dillon's career began as an Army Infantry Platoon Leader in the 101st Airborne Division. In 1960, he entered the intelligence field, where he was trained as a Counterintelligence (CI) Officer and Human Intelligence (HUMINT) Case Officer. Throughout the 1960s, Mr. Dillon served with distinction in a number of critical CI and HUMINT assignments in Munich and Berlin, Germany, where he led teams conducting clandestine HUMINT collection against the former Soviet Union and other Warsaw Pact nations.

Following two tours of duty in Vietnam, he was reassigned to Bangkok, Thailand, where he served as a commander until 1975. During this time, he was responsible for running controlled Army HUMINT collection operations throughout Southeast Asia.

Upon retirement as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1975, Mr. Dillon began a career as a civilian Army intelligence officer. Assigned to Germany in 1976, he served in a series of assignments culminating as the Senior US Army Europe Intelligence Liaison Officer to the Federal Republic of Germany from 1981-1985. Subsequently, he assumed the position of HUMINT Advisor to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Intelligence) at the Pentagon where he provided oversight on all Defense HUMINT (DH) activities and developed new policies regarding HUMINT support to drug interdiction and Special Operations.

In 1989, Mr. Dillon returned to Germany as the Special Assistant to the Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence, US Army Europe. With the fall of the Soviet Union and breakup of the Warsaw Pact, HUMINT efforts in Europe posed unique challenges and opportunities, which were exacerbated by a changing relationship with the Federal Republic of Germany. Mr. Dillon effectively managed this evolving relationship, by personally working with senior German intelligence and security officials.

Upon returning to the US, Mr. Dillon was given the lead for the transition and establishment of the Defense HUMINT Service. He oversaw restructuring of the entire collection operations to respond quickly to new challenges brought about by the evolving asymmetric threats. His extraordinary efforts in reshaping DH operations made a critical contribution to assessments of Russian and Chinese weapons of mass destruction, protection of US interests from terrorist activities, information operations,

and intelligence support to forward-deployed forces. He was singularly responsible for fostering unprecedented cooperation between the Defense Intelligence Agency and its sister intelligence organizations, forging a partnership which greatly improved the effectiveness of joint operations. Mr. Dillon also partnered with many foreign governments to establish joint, multilateral, and bilateral collection programs furthering US national objectives.

Recognizing the demands that the Global War on Terrorism would place upon the Army's tactical forces, Mr. Dillon moved quickly to reconstitute an organic Army HUMINT capability. Additionally, during this period, Mr. Dillon spearheaded a transformation of the Army's CI efforts by helping to implement several major initiatives. Among these were the establishment of worldwide CI Force Protection Detachments, the Army Research and Technology Protection Center, and the placement of Army CI agents in the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Joint Terrorism Task Forces.

Mr. Dillon retired from civil service in 2004, after more than 40 years in service to the US Army. His awards include the Presidential Rank Award, National Intelligence Distinguished Service Medal, Exceptional Civilian Service Award, Meritorious Civilian Service Award, National Military Intelligence Association's Special Achievement Award, Defense Intelligence Agency's Director's Award, Central Intelligence Agency's Seal Medallion, the Knowlton Award, and the Intelligence Community's Distinguished Service Medal.

Mr. Dillon was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2006. He passed away in 2011. The US Army G2 Thomas Dillon Award for Security Excellence was created in his honor. This annual honorary award is given to an Army security professional for outstanding contributions and performance in support of security programs that further the Army's security posture and protect National Defense Information.