

BRIGADIER GENERAL RICHARD T. ELLIS **US Army (Deceased)**



BG Richard T. Ellis was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, Military Intelligence (MI) in 1978 and reported to the MI Officer Basic Course at Fort Huachuca, Arizona. His first assignment as a Second Lieutenant was serving as the Foreign Area Officer and later Intelligence Contingency Fund Class A Agent, 500th MI Group, in Camp Zama, Japan. In August 1980, 1LT Ellis assumed duties as the Administration Officer of the 149th Military Detachment, 500th MI Group. In August 1981, he returned to 500th MI Group as the Assistant Operations Officer/Team Chief of the Foreign Liaison Detachment.

Upon his return to the US in 1982, 1LT Ellis attended the MI Officer Advanced Course at Fort Huachuca. After his promotion to Captain, he headed to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where he assumed duties as the Counterintelligence Team Chief and later the Intelligence Officer of 1st Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Joint Task-11, Honduras. After approximately two years, CPT Ellis became the Chief of Combined Security Element and Assistance Intelligence Officer of the 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment (Delta Force) (Airborne), Fort Bragg. In January 1989, CPT Ellis took command of Charlie Company, 313th MI Battalion (Airborne), 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg. From there he deployed to Panama to participate in Operation JUST CAUSE. In January 1990, he took command of his second company: Area Operations Element, 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment (Delta Forces) (Airborne) out of Fort Bragg.

In August 1992, MAJ Ellis commanded US Army Foreign Intelligence Activity, Detachment K, Korea, and in December 1993, he took command of US Army Foreign Intelligence Activity, Detachment B, Fort Meade. After over two years of command, MAJ Ellis took on the position of Senior Instructor of the Special Training Center at Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), Washington, DC. Less than three years later in 1997, LTC Ellis again took a command position, this time of the 319th MI Battalion, 525th MI Brigade, XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg.

In July 1999, LTC Ellis returned to Washington, DC to serve as the Director of Intelligence, Office of Military Support. During his year there he served as the

Intelligence Officer (J2), United States Intelligence Cell, United States European Command, Supreme Allied Commander, Europe and Commander, Stabilization Force (SFOR), OPERATION JOINT FORGE, Bosnia. Once LTC Ellis returned from deployment, he attended the National War College. COL Ellis then took command for the seventh time, with the 650th MI Group (Counterintelligence), SHAPE, Belgium. He returned to Fort Bragg in 2004 to serve as the Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, G2, XVIII Airborne Corps, and deployed as the J2, Multi-National Corps-Iraq, Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. In August 2006, he became the Director of Intelligence, J2, United States Southern Command, Miami, Florida. As the J2, he led efforts to transform and improve the HUMINT capabilities of our nation into a more relevant and integrated community in the current fight on terrorism. BG Ellis served at the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) for nearly a year.

BG Ellis's final assignment was as Deputy Director, National Clandestine Service for Community Human Intelligence, Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). While in this job, on 4 May 2009, BG Ellis died suddenly of natural causes after having served honorably for 31 years.

BG Ellis' awards included the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal (3 Oak Leaf Clusters), the Meritorious Service Medal (2 Oak Leaf Clusters), the Joint Service Commendation Medal (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), the Army Commendation Medal (2 Oak Leaf Clusters), the Joint Service Achievement Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (2 Stars), the Bronze Assault Arrowhead, the NATO Medal, and the Knowlton Award. He was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, the National Intelligence Distinguished Service Medal, and Distinguished Intelligence Medal.

BG Ellis was inducted into the MI Hall of Fame posthumously in 2010. In his nomination packet, CIA Director Leon Panetta wrote about BG Ellis' work at the CIA: "[BG Ellis] led the effort to develop operational HUMINT capabilities through collaborative planning, targeting, and synchronized operations. He also put in place the tools to monitor and evaluate the performance and status of the HUMINT enterprise. On his watch, the relevance of Community HUMINT grew exponentially."

In 2012, the Human Intelligence Training Joint Center of Excellence (HT-JCOE) at Fort Huachuca dedicated their auditorium in his honor.



Ellis Auditorium plaque inside Matlack Hall honoring BG Richard Ellis, 2012