

## COLONEL THOMAS G. FERGUSON US Army, Retired



COL Thomas G. Ferguson, who was born at Fort Huachuca and raised in an Army family, was commissioned in Military Intelligence (MI) after graduation from the US Military Academy at West Point in 1965. Following completion of the MI Basic and Tactical Surveillance Officer Courses in 1966, 2LT Ferguson was assigned to the 131<sup>st</sup> Aviation Company (Aerial Surveillance) near Hue, Vietnam where he led the imagery analysis platoon and participated in more than 100 combat reconnaissance missions over North Vietnam and Laos aboard the OV-1 Mohawk.

Returning from Vietnam in 1968, CPT Ferguson attended the MI Officers Advanced Course, then served at MI Branch, Officer Personnel Directorate as an assignments officer. He was the first

Captain selected for a Permanent Change of Station assignment at MI Branch. In 1971, CPT Ferguson was assigned to Laos as Executive Officer of a unique MI unit providing all-source analysis and targeting support to the US Ambassador and the Country Team. Afterwards, he attended the US Army Command and General Staff College and Duke University, where he earned both a Master's and Doctorate degree in military history, before joining the Department of History at West Point.

From 1978 to 1984, he served back-to-back tours as S2, 3<sup>rd</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment at Fort Bliss, Texas, and G2, 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division at Wurzburg, Germany. As Senior Intelligence Officer of these two major combat units, he played a vital role in implementing and evaluating the Army's new Combat Electronic Warfare and Intelligence (CEWI) doctrine and fielding new tactical CEWI systems. While a Division G2, LTC Ferguson developed an operations & organizational concept for a long range reconnaissance unit. In 1983, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Reconnaissance Company (Provisional) was activated as the US Army, Europe test-bed for divisional long range reconnaissance units, a groundbreaking effort that led to the fielding of long range surveillance (LRS) units in all active Army divisions.

In 1984, LTC Ferguson was the first MI officer to join the faculty of the School of Advanced Military Studies (SAMS) at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. As a SAMS seminar leader, he served as teacher, mentor, and evaluator for 12 of the Army's most promising young Majors each year. He was the first Commander of the 532<sup>nd</sup> MI Battalion

(Operations), 501<sup>st</sup> MI Brigade, activated in Korea in 1986. In 1990, after a year as Army Senior Fellow at Harvard University's Center for International Affairs, COL Fergusson took command of the 500<sup>th</sup> MI Brigade, the Army's Pacific Theater MI brigade, at Camp Zama, Japan. While accomplishing its challenging intelligence and counterintelligence missions under Fergusson's command at the strategic and operational levels, the 500<sup>th</sup> played a leading role in developing the new Army Intelligence and Security Command force structure in the Pacific Theater.

COL Fergusson retired in 1995 after 30 years of Army service and continued to contribute to the Intelligence Community as a defense consultant. Since 2009, he has taught courses on critical thinking and intelligence analysis to thousands of young men and women from all 16 agencies of the Intelligence Community.

COL John G. Lackey III, US Army, Retired, nominated COL Fergusson for induction in the MI Corps Hall of Fame. He called COL Fergusson "a visionary of intelligence architecture...and a mentor of the intelligence community." He stated, [COL Fergusson's] contribution to the Military Intelligence service is immeasurable."

COL Fergusson's awards include the Legion of Merit (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), Bronze Star Medal (2 Oak Leaf Clusters), Meritorious Service Medal (5 Oak Leaf Clusters), Air Medal (4 Oak Leaf Clusters), Joint Service Commendation Medal, two National Defense Service Medals, and the Vietnam Service Medal with seven campaign stars.

COL Fergusson was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2014.



**Cadet Thomas Fergusson, USMA Class of 1965**



**CPT Tom Fergusson in the right (observer's) seat of an OV-1 Mohawk surveillance aircraft of the 131<sup>st</sup> Aviation Company (AS) at the Hue-Phu Bai Army Airfield, preparing for a reconnaissance mission over the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Laos, 1967**

**LTC Tom Fergusson, (right) Commander, 532<sup>nd</sup> MI Battalion (Ops), and MAJ Tommy Faust (left), Commander, 332<sup>nd</sup> MI Company (SIGINT/EW) during a Field Training Exercise north of Seoul, Republic of Korea, 1987**

