

COLONEL TERRANCE M. FORD

US Army, Retired



COL Ford entered the Army through the ROTC program at The Citadel in 1970. He served in a number of counterintelligence (CI) and other assignments in Germany, Korea, and the US throughout the 1970s and early 1980s. Much of his career was spent in Germany where his comprehensive expertise in Soviet Union military tactics and doctrine was instrumental to US activities during the Cold War. While serving in Germany, he commanded the 766th MI (CI) Detachment, 302nd MI Battalion, and 66th MI Brigade. He also served as the Regimental 2, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment; G2, 1st Infantry Division, during Operation DESERT STORM; and J2 of Joint Task Force PROVIDE PROMISE, a humanitarian relief effort in the former Yugoslavia.

In 1995, COL Ford became the Deputy Chief of Staff, US Army Europe and 7th Army. He was the key proponent in developing and integrating MI doctrine, organizations, and systems in the initial phases of the Balkan crisis. His keen insights proved invaluable in providing senior leaders with the best intelligence in support of tactical operations. He also facilitated the transition of US Army Human Intelligence units and personnel to the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) and initiated a reorganization of counterintelligence assets to compensate for the significant reduction of such assets in theater.

COL Ford next served as Executive Officer to the Director of the DIA, followed by duty as the Staff Director for Operations, DIA. He played an active role in identifying and generating discussion about future threats, opening new Defense Attaché offices in Southeast and Central Asia and Africa, and guiding DIA through several global security challenges. During his tenure, DIA received its fourth Joint Meritorious Unit Award and the Killian Award, the latter given by the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board for the organization's efforts on foreign intelligence activities critical to national security. COL Ford was also instrumental in the formation of the Defense Alumni Association.

COL Ford concluded his active duty career in 1998 after almost 29 years of service and continued to contribute to Army Intelligence as an Army Civilian. As a member of the Defense Intelligence Senior Executive Service since September 1998, Mr. Ford served as the Vice and Acting Director for Operations, Defense HUMINT Service, and for six years, he served as the Army's Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence. In 2008, Mr. Ford was nominated by the Army, and subsequently selected, to serve as the first J2/Director of Intelligence and Knowledge Development, US Africa Command.

Currently, he serves as the National Intelligence Manager for Africa at the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

COL Ford's military awards and badges include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (2 Oak Leaf Clusters), Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (2 Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Commendation Medal (5 Oak Leaf Clusters), Joint Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, and the Parachutist Badge. His civilian awards include three Presidential Rank Awards (two Distinguished and one Meritorious), the Joint Distinguished Civilian Service Award, the US Army Award for Exceptional Civilian Service and two DIA Director's Awards.

COL Ford was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2016.