

COLONEL LELAND J. HOLLAND US Army, Retired (Deceased)



COL Leland J. Holland enlisted in the Army in 1952. In 1955, he attended Officer Candidate School and received his commission as a Second Lieutenant in the Infantry. He served for 56 months in Germany, three years in Italy, 26 months in Vietnam, and over 31 months in Iran. As a US Army Attaché in Iran he also was assigned the additional duties of liaison with the Imperial Iranian Army providing martial law protection to the US Embassy facilities. Following the demise of the Shah's government in mid-February 1979, COL Holland played a key role in the defense and subsequent liberation of the US Embassy and its personnel during the 14 February attack by Iranian rebel forces. He then resumed his liaison role with the Mujahideen guerrilla elements who provided security to the Embassy. For his conduct during and after the revolution, he was awarded the

Distinguished Service Medal. In mid-1979 he resumed full-time duties as US Army Attaché. On 4 November 1979, COL Holland was taken hostage, along with other Embassy personnel. He spent a total of 7 ½ months in solitary confinement, longer than any other military hostage did. Fourteen months later, the hostages were released.

In June 1981, COL Holland was assigned as Chief, Current Intelligence Division, Department of the Army in the Pentagon until his assignment as Post Commander, Vint Hill Farms Station, Virginia in June 1983. After retiring in 1987, COL Holland delivered more than 1,400 speeches to military and civilian organizations for training and professional development purposes.

COL Holland's principal military awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), US Army Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal with "V" Device for valor (Third Award), the Army Commendation Medal (2 Oak Leaf Clusters), the Humanitarian Service Medal and numerous decorations from the government of the Republic of Vietnam.

COL Holland was inducted into the MI Hall of Fame in 1988. COL Holland passed away in 1991, and later that year, the Holland Conference Room, Riley Barracks, at the US Army Intelligence Center was dedicated in his honor.

