

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR JAMES “ART” JOHNSON US Army, Retired



CSM James Johnson enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1965 and served a 17-month combat tour in Vietnam with the 2nd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division. He joined the Army in 1970 and served with the 400th US Army Security Agency (ASA) Special Operations Detachment (SOD), 1st Special Forces Group (SFG), in Okinawa, Japan. In 1976, he went on to serve as Team Sergeant, 402nd ASA SOD, 10th SFG, at Fort Devens, Massachusetts, where he was part of the initial cadre that developed the concept of direct military intelligence (MI) support to the Special Forces.

Between 1981 and 1987, CSM Johnson served as a First Sergeant in the Support Battalion, US Army Field Station Augsburg and in the 519th MI Battalion, 525th MI Brigade, XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. In 1988 he was then selected as the Command Sergeant Major of the 3rd MI Battalion (Aerial Exploitation) in the Republic of Korea.

CSM Johnson was selected as the CSM of the 111th MI Brigade at Fort Huachuca in 1989 and established a comprehensive training program to prepare the newly formed unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) platoon for deployment to the theater of operations to support VII Corps in support of Operation DESERT STORM. The platoon received numerous operational commendations and returned to Fort Huachuca with no casualties. CSM Johnson was then selected for the position of the Command Sergeant Major, US Army Intelligence Center and Fort Huachuca (USAIC&FH) and of the Military Intelligence Corps in 1991.

CSM Johnson next became the US Army Intelligence and Security Command (INSCOM) CSM in 1993. His unique ability to communicate effectively with soldiers and NCOs, to identify issues in their training or support, and to initiate corrective actions immediately enabled him to solve problems quickly and ensure soldiers always received the best possible support.

CSM Johnson retired in October 1995. Selected for a position with the Army component of the Medina Regional Signals Operations Center (MRSOC), at Lackland Air Force Base (AFB), Texas, he served from 1995 to 2003 as the Chief, Regional Technical

Control and Analysis Element, and later as the Mission Director of a remote signals mission with the 314th MI Battalion, 116th MI Group. He then served as the Senior Intelligence Advisor (SIGINT) to the Commander, 470th MI Brigade, Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

In 2002, CSM Johnson received the INSCOM Commander's Plaque for Operational Achievement for his work in collection mission Swift Canopy, which provided force protection to US Army South personnel. This award goes to the nonsupervisory individual who made the single greatest contribution to the operational effectiveness of INSCOM during the previous calendar year. He also received numerous Letters of Appreciation and Department of the Army Certificates of Achievement for operational support. His efforts redesigned the process used to leverage National Capabilities in support of Army warfighter intelligence requirements. He created a more vibrant, timely and accurate responsive team that greatly improved support to the tactical consumer.

CSM Johnson was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2005. He began serving a term as the Honorary Sergeant Major of the Corps in 2012.



CSM Art Johnson receives his certificate as the Honorary Sergeant Major of the MI Corps from COL Roger Sangvic, Adjutant of the MI Corps, during the 2012 Hall of Fame induction ceremony. On the far left is CSM Bobby Hall, former Honorary SGM of the Corps. On the far right is CSM Todd Holiday, Command Sergeant Major of the MI Corps.