

## **COLONEL ROBERT KELLY US Army (Deceased)**



COL Kelly entered the Army in 1967 after graduating from Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts. His first assignment was as an Armor Platoon Leader with the 2<sup>d</sup> Battalion, 33<sup>d</sup> Armor, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 3<sup>rd</sup> Armored Division. Upon completion of his first tour, he reverted to Military Intelligence (MI) and was assigned to First Field Force, Republic of Vietnam, where he was involved in the evolution of Signals Intelligence on the battlefield.

After a tour as an Instructor with the Intelligence Center and School, COL Kelly was assigned as the Officer in Charge of an intelligence field office in Giessen, Germany. He was later assigned to the Headquarters, 165<sup>th</sup> MI Battalion, Frankfurt, Germany, as the Special Operations Officer. His next assignment brought him to Fort Lewis as the S2, 2<sup>d</sup> Brigade, 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. After two years, he was reassigned as the G2 Operations Officer, 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. He left Fort Lewis in 1980 for a one year tour in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia,

where he was the Team Chief assigned to instruct Saudi officers in S2 functions.

After a year at Fort Leavenworth, COL Kelly was assigned to Fort Polk as G2, 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. In 1988 he assumed command of the 109<sup>th</sup> MI Battalion, 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. He studied German at the Defense Language Institute and attended the Command and General Staff College and the Naval War College where he earned his master's degree.

COL Kelly's final assignment was as the Assistant Chief of Staff, G2, V Corps. He was recognized as a dedicated, tenacious intelligence officer, who relished his role as mentor and team player throughout his career. COL Kelly was instrumental in developing doctrine, designing the future structure and most significantly, implementing the split-based, seamless architecture to support key deployments of MI units in Europe. He was both a futurist and a realist who had a vision and knew how to implement it.

COL Kelly was killed in a helicopter crash in Germany in 1993.

COL Kelly was posthumously inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1996. The same year, Fort Huachuca's Kelly Operations Building was named in his honor.



**The dedication of Kelly Operations Building on Fort Huachuca, 1996. On the left is MG Charles Thomas, Commanding General of USAICS & FH. On the right is COL Bob White, Chief of Staff. In the center is Navy Captain John A. Gallant, Robert Kelly's best friend.**

