

COLONEL JAMES H.P. KELSEY US Army, Retired



Upon graduation from the University of Rhode Island, COL Kelsey was commissioned an Infantry Second Lieutenant in 1965. He then served two tours of duty in Vietnam with the 25th Infantry Division. In between those tours, he served as Assistant S3, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1st Special Forces, Bad Toelz, Germany from April 1967 to June 1968. In July of 1969, COL Kelsey branch-transferred from Infantry to Military Intelligence (MI). He served from June 1970 to January 1974 as Tactical Intelligence Instructor in the Advanced Course Department, Company Commander, and Brigade S3, US Army Intelligence Center and School at both Fort Holabird and Fort Huachuca.

COL Kelsey served in various staff positions and commanded at all levels. As Commander, 527th MI Battalion, 66th MI Brigade, COL Kelsey established new bilateral counterintelligence operations with several NATO allies. Absorbing the mission of two other battalions, he integrated all source operational security, tempest, offensive and defensive counter-espionage, signals security and operations against the Soviet Military Mission.

In 1986, COL Kelsey returned to Fort Huachuca as the Assistant to the Chief of Military Intelligence (OCMI), during which time he was instrumental in establishing the Military Intelligence Corps under the Army Regimental System on 1 July 1987. COL Kelsey was directly responsible for establishing the MI Corps Hall of Fame and developed the groundwork for the induction ceremony and activities that now encompass this prestigious event.

COL Kelsey returned to Germany in 1988 to command the 66th MI Brigade and then from 1990-1992, he served as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Plans, and Force Modernization at the US Army Intelligence and Security Command (INSCOM).

In his last assignment from 1992 to 1994, COL Kelsey served as the Chief of Staff/Garrison Commander, US Army Intelligence Center and Fort Huachuca. He established an effective dialogue with local, state, and federal agencies to enhance community relations, awareness of Fort Huachuca and its value to the state and nation.

He effectively worked to retain Fort Huachuca as one of the Army's essential base complexes as viewed by the Base Realignment Commission.

During this time, he oversaw the design, building and occupancy of the largest construction project in the Army with the completion of the Intelligence Center Base Realignment Complex (now known as Prosser Village) to house the Fort Devens elements relocated to Fort Huachuca. With his forethought and planning, the relocation of units from Fort Devens to Fort Huachuca went smoothly with no time lost on soldier training.

COL Kelsey retired from the Army in January 1995. His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star (with V Device and 4 Oak Leaf Clusters), the Meritorious Service Medal (4 Oak Leaf Clusters), the Purple Heart (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), the Air Medal (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), the Army Commendation Medal, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Special Forces Identification Tab, the Basic Airborne Badge, and the Army General Staff Identification Badge.

COL Kelsey was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1996.



COL (Ret) James Kelsey gives the keynote speech at the 2012 Commemoration of the MI Corps and Branch Anniversaries, during which the Corps Founders were recognized. Here, COL Kelsey is displaying the four different versions of the MI Corps Crest.