

## LIEUTENANT GENERAL JAMES C. KING US Army, Retired



LTG King received his commission in 1968 through the Army Reserve Officer Training Corps as a Second Lieutenant in Military Intelligence (MI). Initially assigned to the US Army Security Agency (ASA) Field Station in Hakata, Japan, he distinguished himself as a Company Commander, S1 and S3. Immediately following duty in Japan, he was assigned to the Republic of Vietnam where he assumed command of the 509<sup>th</sup> Radio Research Group responsible for tracking North Vietnamese forces during the final days of American presence. Subsequent assignments included staff positions at the National Security Agency (NSA) and in the 307<sup>th</sup> ASA Battalion in Germany.

Following Command and General Staff College and graduate school, he went to the first of his two assignments at US Total Army Personnel Command (PERSCOM). Later he returned to Germany to command the 307<sup>th</sup> MI Battalion (Operations) and

distinguished himself by pioneering the introduction of new tactics, techniques, and procedures to assure timely and predictive intelligence to the commander.

After graduation from the Army War College in 1988, LTG King became the Chief, MI Branch at PERSCOM. Later, he was handpicked to serve as the Chief of Intelligence, Electronic Warfare, Reconnaissance, Surveillance and Target Acquisition; Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans, Department of Army Staff in June 1989. There, he guided the development of the first modernization plan for Army intelligence systems, the basis for MI system development throughout the 1990s. During his tenure he made bold and visionary recommendations to senior Army leadership, Congress, and the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) which resulted in significantly increased funding and a more capable tactical MI force.

LTG King then assumed command of the 66<sup>th</sup> MI Brigade, Germany. Throughout his command tenure, he reinforced his reputation for excellence; gaining well-deserved recognition from the Commanding General, US Army Europe (USAREUR), for his innovation in leveraging national, theater, and joint capabilities to satisfy the USAREUR Commanders' Priority Intelligence Requirements. After command, he returned to the

Army Staff and served as Executive Officer to the Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence (DCSINT).

Selected for Brigadier General in 1993, LTG King became the Associate Deputy Director for Operations (Military Support)/Chief of Operations and Targeting Group, at NSA, Fort Meade, Maryland, where he refined the focus of NSA efforts in collecting and processing relevant intelligence. In August 1994, he was assigned as the Director of Intelligence (J2), United States Central Command (CENTCOM), at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida. There, he personally spearheaded a major effort to reinvigorate critical warfighting skills and intelligence exchange programs in support of CENTCOM. Under his guidance, new joint intelligence architectures were developed and a complete overhaul of the command's indications and warning system was put in place.

Moving to the J2, Joint Chiefs of Staff, position in 1996, he began a period of incredible challenge managing such diverse problems as the terrorist attack on Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia to the crisis in the Balkans. Appointed as the Director, National Imagery and Mapping Agency (NIMA), LTG King used his unique planning and programming skills to transform NIMA into a premier combat support agency. He was the driving force behind the "geospatial" concept, forcing the Intelligence Community to integrate the entire spectrum of NIMA products into their planning and lexicon.

LTG King retired from the Army in 2001 with more than 33 year of active service. His awards and decorations include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), the Legion of Merit (3 Oak Leaf Clusters), the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (2 Oak Leaf Clusters), the Joint Service Commendation Medal (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), the Army Commendation Medal, and the Army Staff and Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badges.

LTG King was inducted into the MI Hall of Fame in 2006.