

**CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER FIVE STEPHEN T. KISS  
US ARMY, RETIRED (DECEASED)**



CW5 Stephen Kiss, a native of Budapest, Hungary, fought in the 1956 Hungarian uprising against the Soviet Union as a 16-year-old. After escaping Hungary, he enlisted in the US Army in November 1958 under a law allowing the recruitment of foreign nationals. As a Light Weapons Infantryman, he served with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Armored Division in Germany from 1959-1962. Subsequently, CW5 Kiss put his Hungarian and Italian language skills to work for the 525<sup>th</sup> MI Group and the 528<sup>th</sup> MI Company (Interrogation), providing interpreter-translator support to the Army and other federal agencies. After training and leading the Interrogation Prisoner of War (IPW) Section of the 1<sup>st</sup> MI

Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division, at Fort Riley, Kansas, he deployed to Vietnam, where he led field interrogation teams during combat operations. He completed a Vietnamese language course and returned to Vietnam as Senior Interrogator for the 25<sup>th</sup> MI Company, 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, and for the Combined Military Interrogation Center in Saigon.

In 1971, he served his first of several assignments at the US Army Intelligence Center and School (USAICS), Fort Huachuca, where he was a Senior Instructor for interrogation approaches and questioning techniques. During later assignments to the schoolhouse, he revised the Basic Interrogator Course, developed the first Department of Defense Strategic Debriefing and Interrogation Course, and had overall responsibility for Intelligence Combating Terrorism, Counterdrug Analysis, Human Intelligence, and Counterintelligence courses.

CW5 Kiss's made his greatest contributions to MI during his many years in Germany. In 1973, he was attached to the 511<sup>th</sup> MI Battalion as the Officer in Charge of the Border Resident Office (BRO) in Cham, Germany. Under his leadership, BRO Cham became the most productive screening and collection office along the German-Czechoslovakian border. At the behest of successive battalion commanders, CW5 Kiss remained in this assignment for nearly seven years. In 1983, CW5 Kiss served as the Deputy Representative to the German Federal Agency for Recognition of Refugees (BAFL) for the Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence (DCSINT), US Army Europe (USAREUR). With his mastery of the German language, culture, and bureaucracy, he developed and sustained successful relationships with German federal, state, and military intelligence organizations for the next 10 years.

CW5 Kiss's last active duty assignment was as the Counterintelligence/Human Intelligence Advisor to the DCSINT, USAREUR, from 1996-2002. He provided input to every action involving CI/HUMINT collection, analysis, doctrine, policy, organization, training, and material issues. He also deployed to Bosnia, Kosovo, and Macedonia as a member of the USAREUR Intelligence Lessons Learned Team.

CW5 Kiss retired in 2002 after 43 years of active service. He then served with the MI Civilian Excepted Career Program (MICECP) until his death in February 2008. CW5 Kiss's military awards include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal (3 Oak Leaf Clusters), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal (5 Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Achievement Medal (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), and Good Conduct Medal (2 Oak Leaf Clusters).

CW5 Kiss was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2019.