

BRIGADIER GENERAL OSCAR W. KOCH **US Army, Retired (Deceased)**



Oscar Koch entered the Army in 1915 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He was commissioned on 15 April 1918 as an Artillery Officer. BG Koch did more for the development of combat intelligence than any other American intelligence officer, prior to or during World War II.

While serving as G2 in GEN George Patton's Third Army, Koch introduced the concept of fully integrated, all-source intelligence techniques that helped the Third Army's commanders make quicker combat decisions than ever before possible and assisted staff planning at all levels with unprecedented confidence. He continued to develop new techniques and procedures and tirelessly improved upon the old ones throughout the war.

Under the guidance of BG Koch, intelligence training was instituted in all Third Army units. The training stressed enemy tactics and order of battle organization. Commanders and staffs at all levels were oriented and trained in the proper use of intelligence specialists. BG Koch's G2 section continuously conducted intelligence preparation of the battlefield. They studied terrain, enemy disposition, capabilities, and weather. They war-gamed plans at least two operations in advance of the one being executed. He, more than any modern soldier, successfully demonstrated the proper place of intelligence in the decision-making process.

Koch also developed a G2 planning cycle which detailed all activities, duties and responsibilities of his section. It showed in detail how to plan all intelligence activities in joint operations. It was a blueprint for combat intelligence planning, adaptable to units of almost any size. It set day-to-day goals during a prescribed period before a major offensive. It also provided a check-list by which the intelligence staff could measure its progress.

After World War II, Brigadier General Koch organized and commanded the United States Army's first ever peacetime intelligence school at Fort Riley, Kansas. His book, *G2: Intelligence for Patton*, may have been his greatest contribution to the Military Intelligence Corps. More than simply a memoir, the book was a tutorial for successful intelligence officers.

BG Koch retired in 1954. His awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), the World War I Victory Medal with clasp, the World War II Victory Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal—American Defense, Occupation of Germany Medal, the Legion of Honour—France, the Croix de Guerre with gold star—France, the Croix de Guerre—Belgium, the Order of the Oak Wreath—Luxembourg; the Order of Leopold—Belgium; Order of the Fatherland—Russia; the United Nations Medal, and the Korean Medal.

BG Koch passed away in 1970.

BG Koch was posthumously inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1993 and was memorialized the same year when Koch Barracks was dedicated in his name.





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INTELLIGENCE SCHOOL

Fort Riley, Kansas

April 18, 1946

INSTRUCTORS INTELLIGENCE SCHOOL