

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER ROBERT A. LEIGH

US Army, Retired (Deceased)



CWO Robert A. Leigh entered the Army in 1945, serving in the South Pacific theater of operations in the Military Police and Transportation Corps. In early 1952, after serving as an Instructor training Military Intelligence (MI) reservists at Headquarters, Military District of Washington, Fort Myer, Virginia, CWO Leigh was placed on military detail to the newly established Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). He was instrumental in developing procedures and methods to provide cover training for CIA personnel designated for operational field assignments. He coordinated CIA and military agreements at the Department of Defense level to protect the careers of personnel involved in CIA operations and assisted in administering a military reserve training program for the CIA Career Staff.

From 1954 to 1957, CWO Leigh served overseas providing undercover operational support to Human Intelligence (HUMINT) collection activities, training indigenous personnel in paramilitary operations, and conducting liaison with foreign intelligence services at the national level. In 1957, CWO Leigh returned to CIA Headquarters where he introduced changes in procedures and policies relating to the cover support program for CIA operations worldwide. He was responsible for providing cover for newly hired employees and for briefing and debriefing case officers proceeding to and from overseas assignments.

In 1960, after being assigned to the 902nd MI Group, CWO Leigh served undercover as a Special Agent in a covert counterintelligence operation. Upon completion of the undercover assignment, he served as Special Agent in Charge of an operations branch that was responsible for cover support of counterespionage and HUMINT collection operations under the auspices of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence (ACSI). CWO Leigh worked directly with federal agencies at the national level to develop a personnel data system to protect the true identities and activities of case officers and special agents in intelligence operations worldwide.

From 1963 to 1966, CWO Leigh worked with the 513th MI Group conducting the sterile introduction and withdrawal of HUMINT case officers in the European theater. Returning to the 902nd MI Group, he served as Chief of an operations division responsible for cover support and national level liaison for worldwide Army intelligence operations. From 1968 to 1972, CWO Leigh was assigned to the US Army Field Activities Command where he implemented cover programs and trained agents in their use for

employment in Europe, Central, and South America. From 1972 to 1974, he served in the 902nd MI Group and then the 500th MI Group as the officer-in-charge for cover support operations in each organization.

From 1974 until his retirement in 1986, he worked for US Army Theater Intelligence Center–Pacific, providing cover support for Intelligence and Security Command (INSCOM) units in the Pacific. He also developed a HUMINT collection program, using US Army Reservists, in response to intelligence requirements from the Defense Intelligence Agency, INSCOM, Commander-in-Chief of Pacific Command, and Western Command (Army).

CWO Leigh retired from government service in 1987.

CWO Leigh was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1991. He passed away in January 2005.