

BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES A. MARKS

US Army, Retired



James "Spider" Marks is the son of a soldier who was the son of a soldier. As a third generation West Pointer, Marks recalls few discussions about career options. After commissioning in 1975, he commanded an Infantry Company in the 1-503rd Infantry.

Assigned to US Pacific Command (PACOM), Marks became the aide-de-camp to ADM William Crowe, US Navy, Commander-in-Chief of PACOM and future Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In this position, Marks learned that informed strategic decision-making does not always lead to informed actions on the ground.

As a Major in 1986 and a Lieutenant Colonel in 1992 in XVIII Airborne Corps, Marks led early efforts to push national intelligence to better inform tactical decisions. He served in the 525th MI Brigade, the 82nd Airborne Division, and 7th Infantry Division. Marks was the Senior Intelligence Officer for Joint Task Force-Los Angeles and Commander of the 107th MI Battalion, Fort Ord, California, during the 1992 Los Angeles riots.

As the Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff of the Army in 1995 and a Brigade Commander at Fort Hood in 1996, Colonel Marks' mission was to drive digitization and the use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles into the tactical force. Selected to Brigadier General, Marks became the Executive Officer to the Commanding General, Stabilization Force in Bosnia during Operation ALLIED FORCE, the military operation that resulted in the arrest of the war criminal, Slobodan Milosevic.

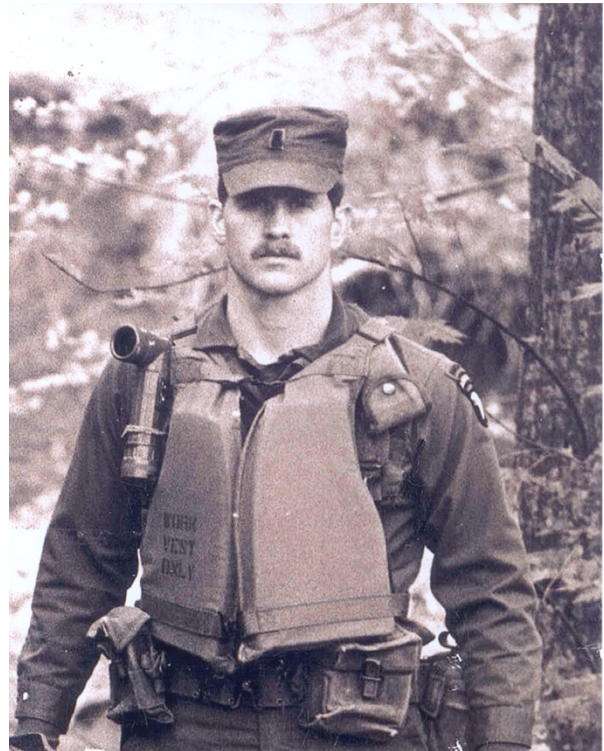
Following his duty as the Assistant Chief of Staff, J2, US Forces Korea, BG Marks assumed command of the US Army Intelligence Center and School on the morning of 11 September 2001. As the new leader of the MI Corps, Marks created the US Army Training and Doctrine Command model for support to formations in combat through routine deployments of Fort Huachuca Mobile

Training and Assessment Teams to Iraq, Afghanistan, and Joint Task Force-Guantanamo.

While in this position, BG Marks was handpicked to conceive, design, and lead the intelligence team for Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. As the Intelligence officer for the Combined Forces Land Component Command, Marks and his team enabled US Central Command to achieve a lightening victory against Saddam Hussein's military. Returning to the Intelligence Center, Marks began a process to capture lessons learned from combat and integrate them into training. Marks was promoted to Major General on 1 January 2004. He retired from the Army shortly thereafter, holding the rank of Brigadier General.

Marks' awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), Bronze Star, and multiple Expeditionary and Service Medals.

BG Marks was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2012.



Cadet James "Spider" Marks

