

MAJOR GENERAL JOSEPH A. MCCHRISTIAN US Army, Retired (Deceased)



Joseph A. McChristian enlisted in the Army in 1933 and served two years before accepting an appointment to West Point. Graduating from the US Military Academy's Class of 1939, MG McChristian went on to serve his country through three wars. During WWII, he served as G3, Chief of Staff, and as a task force commander with the 10th Armored Division. Due to his exceptional performance GEN George Patton personally requested that he serve as the G2 of Third Army in 1945.

From 1949 to 1950, MG McChristian served with the Joint Military Assistance Group in Greece during the Greek Communist war. He was the S3 in the Department of Tactics at West Point from 1951 to 1953 and then commanded the 1st Regiment of Cadets until 1954. After attending the Army Language School for Greek, he became the Army

Attaché to Greece from 1956-1960.

Upon his return to the United States, MG McChristian commanded the Armor Training Center for two years before returning to MI to serve as the Chief, Western Division, Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Department of the Army. He was in charge of the Department of Defense War Room during the Cuban Missile Crisis. From 1963 to 1965, he served as the G2 for US Army, Pacific and, subsequently, deployed to Vietnam as the J2 for Military Assistance Command–Vietnam (MACV). He wrote a book based on his intelligence experiences in Vietnam entitled, The Role of Military Intelligence: 1965-1967 which was published by the Department of the Army in 1974. When McChristian took over the J2, it was a purely advisory role. He quickly changed that, building a “computerized, automated intelligence processing organization with more than 1,100 American and Republic of Vietnam staffers interrogating suspects, translating captured documents, interpreting photos and other data, processing onto IBM cards and tapes, editing, sorting, analyzing and coding every minute detail on the enemy.”¹

MG McChristian returned to the United States to command the 2nd Armored Division before returning to the Army Staff in August 1968 to serve as the Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence (ACSI). While the ACSI, he championed the creation of an Army

¹ Norman, Lloyd H. “Westmoreland’s J2,” Army Magazine, May 1967.

Intelligence Center, from which the US Army Intelligence Center and School was born, and was instrumental in Fort Huachuca being selected as the home of Military Intelligence.

MG McChristian retired in 1971 after a distinguished 32 years of service to the Nation. He was the recipient of two Distinguished Service medals, the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit, the Air Medal, the Combat Infantry Badge, and four Bronze Star medals.

MG McChristian was inducted into the MI Corps Hall of Fame in 1988. He passed away on 13 May 2005 in Jupiter, Florida.

