

## COLONEL JOHN J. MCFADDEN US Army, Retired (Deceased)



COL McFadden had a distinguished career in Signals Intelligence (SIGINT) in both staff and command positions in the Army Security Agency (ASA). Between the mid-1960s to the mid-1970s, he commanded each of the major ASA commands supporting the American efforts in Southeast Asia. First, he commanded the 509<sup>th</sup> Radio Research (RR) Group in 1966-1967. Five years later, he took over the 7<sup>th</sup> RR Field Station in Udorn, Thailand. In both commands, he demonstrated his unique brand of leadership.

As one of the first commanders of the 509<sup>th</sup> RR Group, McFadden instituted procedures and then perfected them to better support the J2, Military Assistance Command-Vietnam (MAC-V). He continued to improve the Aerial Radio Direction Finding Coordination Center

which tasked both Army and Air Force airborne intelligence assets.

To overcome a lack of an organic processing capability, McFadden created a small section to provide initial analysis of incoming traffic from the field. Most importantly, he established direct, day-to-day personal contact with the MAC-V J2 to ensure the 509<sup>th</sup> RR Group was responsive to the J2's requirements.

With the 7<sup>th</sup> RR Field Station, McFadden commanded a joint, multi-million dollar installation that provided SIGINT to support national and theater requirements. His command had several outlying detachments in the Thai jungles. The 7<sup>th</sup> RR Field Station's technical proficiency improved under McFadden, and the organization won ASA's award for the most outstanding performance.

After he returned to the United States, COL McFadden assumed command of the 504<sup>th</sup> ASA Brigade, which included all the tactical ASA units in the United States. In 1974, he became the ASA Chief of Staff. In 1975, after 31 years of service, he retired.

COL McFadden was inducted into the MI Hall of Fame in 1988. He passed away in June 2008.

*Source: Most of the material for this bio was taken from an article written by INSCOM Command Historian Michael Bigelow in October 2010 for the INSCOM Insight. It was accessed online in 2012.*