

## **MAJOR CHARLES D. MCKEE**

### **US Army (Deceased)**



MAJ McKee enlisted in the US Army on 2 November 1970. His initial assignment was as Area Intelligence Specialist, 801<sup>st</sup> MI Detachment, 5<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group (Airborne), Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He completed Airborne, Ranger, and Special Forces training.

MAJ McKee graduated from Officer Candidate School as Distinguished Graduate in 1975 and received a Regular Army commission as Second Lieutenant in Military Intelligence. Following the MI Officer Basic Course, he attended the Counterintelligence Officer Course and was the Distinguished Graduate. MAJ McKee's first assignment was in Germany as Area Intelligence Bilateral Project Officer, 430<sup>th</sup>

MI Detachment, 66<sup>th</sup> MI Group, managing a Human Intelligence (HUMINT) collection operation involving United States and West German personnel.

Next, MAJ McKee served as Assistant S2 and Targeting Officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 10<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group (Airborne) in Bad Toelz, Germany. His section prepared detailed area studies and target dossiers for 12 highly sensitive operational and strategic targets. These target folders were used through the end of the Cold War.

In 1979, MAJ McKee attended the MI Officer Advanced Course and Arabic language training at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California. Upon graduation, he was assigned to Detachment O, US Army Operations Group, with duty in the Middle East, reporting on major terrorist-related incidents.

Returning from overseas, MAJ McKee was selected for the Foreign Area Officer program. After training at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, he attended the Naval Postgraduate School at Monterey, graduating with a Master of Arts degree in National Security Affairs. Due to his demonstrated regional expertise, MAJ McKee was assigned as a Middle East desk officer in the Pentagon. He was the only desk officer to work the highly volatile and complex issues of Israel, Lebanon, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates.

In 1985, MAJ McKee volunteered for sensitive duties with the US Army Intelligence and Security Command. Soon he was selected for an extremely sensitive and high-risk overseas assignment directly related to time-sensitive collection efforts. MAJ McKee

deployed overseas to an extremely hostile operational environment. In December 1988, MAJ McKee was recalled to Washington, DC for debriefing. On 21 December 1988, during redeployment travel aboard PanAm Flight 103, MAJ McKee was killed when the aircraft exploded over Lockerbie, Scotland, as the result of a terrorist bomb.

MAJ McKee was an expert collector, analyst, and area specialist. He achieved tremendous operational success in the face of an unconventional enemy. His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit (posthumous), the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal (2 Oak Leaf Clusters), the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.

MAJ McKee was inducted into the MI Hall of Fame in 2000. His name is also inscribed on the MI Corps Memorial Wall at Fort Huachuca.