

COLONEL DANIEL T. MORRIS
US ARMY, RETIRED



COL Daniel Morris began his military career as an enlisted infantryman (draftee) and was commissioned through Officer Candidate School in 1971. His earliest intelligence assignments included S-2, 1/48 Infantry, and Commander of 856th Army Security Agency Company, 3rd Armored Division, in Germany. From 1979-1982, he was the Force Modernization Planner and MI Branch Professional Development Officer, US Army Military Personnel Center. Then, following 18 months as an Intelligence and Targeting Officer for the Commander in Chief, European Command, Airborne Command Post in England, COL Morris was selected as Chief of the unit's Standardization and Evaluation Section. Subsequently, he served as Chief of the G-2 Exercise Division, XVIII Airborne Corps.

From 1987-1991, COL Morris served consecutively as the Executive Officer and Commander of the 519th MI Battalion (Tactical Exploitation) (Airborne), which he successfully deployed during Operations JUST CAUSE in Panama and DESERT STORM in Iraq. In Panama, he deployed and operated the largest tactical interrogation facility in combat since Vietnam. During DESERT STORM, COL Morris validated the concepts for the Corps' Long-Range Surveillance capability, which conducted cross-border operations with an attached attack and lift helicopter element.

After attendance at the Naval War College and a year as the G-2, 7th Infantry Division, COL Morris was selected to be the Chief of the Joint Intelligence Center (JIC) at US Central Command (CENTCOM) in 1993. He led the JIC to be the model for all Modernized Integrated Data Base producers, integrated an imagery analysis element into the JIC, supported combat operations in Somalia, and set the conditions to make the organization a Command instead of a Center.

In August 1996, COL Morris became the Deputy Chief of Staff, Intelligence for Army Special Operations Command. His partnership with the XVIII Airborne Corps G-2 and the 525th MI Brigade gave junior officers professional development opportunities not available within their own organizations. Additionally, his senior analysts served as guest instructors with the John F. Kennedy Center for Special Warfare, providing relevant and timely instruction to maximize Intelligence Community support of special operations.

COL Morris's final military intelligence assignment was J-2, US Special Operations Command (SOCOM). He successfully fought to reinstate 40 Defense Intelligence Agency-funded analytic billets for the SOCOM JIC that had been previously cut and worked on a select team with the Central Intelligence Agency and Joint Chiefs of Staff to identify and recommend targets for then President Bill Clinton's consideration after the 1998 terrorist bombings in Kenya.

COL Morris retired from military service in July 1999 and entered private business as a Program Manager, then became President/CEO of a small company. After September 11, 2001, he returned to the Department of Defense as a Senior Executive to serve 16 additional years, initially as CENTCOM's Deputy J-2 and then Executive Director, National Ground Intelligence Center. His military awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal (3 Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Commendation Medal (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), the Master Parachutist Badge, Aircraft Crewman Badge, and the Expert Infantry Badge.

COL Morris was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2019.