

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER FIVE PAUL L. O'MEARA

US Army, Retired

Paul O'Meara enlisted in the Army in 1981 and served his first nine years as a Nuclear Weapons Specialist. He became a warrant officer in 1988 and then transitioned into Military Intelligence (MI) as a Counterintelligence (CI) Agent and Human Intelligence (HUMINT). For the next 25 years, he held various positions throughout the United States, commanding the Field Office at Fort Knox and Detachments at the 524th MI Battalion in the Republic of Korea. He also deployed as the Operations Chief, Combined Task Force J2, to Bosnia in Herzegovina in 2001; as the US Special Operations Command's Project Officer in 2001; as the US Special Operations Command's Liaison Officer to the Federal Bureau of Investigations during Operation ENDURING FREEDOM in 2002; and as the Senior HUMINT Advisor to Multi-National Forces Iraq in 2005.



Chief O'Meara's most enduring contributions to the MI Corps came during his final assignment as the Warrant Officer Life Cycle Manager at the US Army Intelligence Center (USAIC) and as the fourth Chief Warrant Officer of the MI Corps from 2006 to 2010. During the course of these five years, his accomplishments had a tremendous and enduring impact on the MI Corps' ability to recruit, retain, manage, and educate the MI Warrant Officer Corps.

First, determined to improve the health of the MI Warrant Officer Corps, he implemented innovative solutions, such as accession and retention bonuses and an increased number of enlisted feeder Military Occupational Specialties (MOSs), and he marketed Warrant Officer opportunities to the enlisted MI community around the world. His efforts led to an unprecedented increase in the number of MI Warrant Officers from 800 to 1,400 over three years, with every MI Warrant Officer MOS filled to no less than 89 percent strength.

Second, after dually serving as the Chief Warrant Officer of the Corps and the Warrant Officer Life Cycle Manager, he successfully fought to separate the two distinct positions in 2008. CW5 O'Meara thus became the first Warrant Officer to serve solely as the Chief Warrant Officer of the MI Corps. In this position, he advised the Commanding General of USAIC on the recruitment, retention, management, and professional development of the MI Warrant Officer Corps. Amid concerns that the curriculum at USAIC lacked relevancy, he recruited the very best Warrant Officers with recent combat

experience to instruct and then overhauled the course material within Warrant Officer Professional Military Education courses. He also extended the Warrant Officer Advance Course from four to six weeks to incorporate focused training on the complex technical skills within each respective MOS.

Finally, CW5 O'Meara changed the culture of the MI Warrant Officer Corps by emphasizing the Army's decision to transition Warrant Officers from specialists to commissioned officers within the greater officer corps. Circulating among the force, he challenged the Warrant Officer community to be technical specialists but also to redefine their role and embrace their leadership position within the force.

CW5 O'Meara retired in 2010, culminating his 29-year military career. He continues to support the Intelligence Community in Human Intelligence Collection Operations for the Department of Homeland Security's Central Region.

CW5 O'Meara's military awards include the Combat Action Badge, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and the Army Achievement Medal. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2018.