

## CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER FIVE ROBERT P. OLIVER US Army, Retired



CW5 Oliver began his military service in 1963 when he enlisted in the US Army. Early in his enlisted career, Chief Oliver served as a HAWK missile repairman. In 1965, he reclassified into Military Intelligence where he spent the remaining 28 years of a 30-plus-year career.

CW5 Oliver's MI training began with Area Intelligence Specialist Training at Fort Holabird, Maryland, followed by Japanese language training at the Defense Language Institute. After graduation, he went to Japan where he served with the 500<sup>th</sup> MI Group. On 25 July 1968, Oliver was promoted to Warrant Officer; on the same day, he reported for another overseas tour to Korea.

In Korea, CW5 Oliver was directly involved in sensitive, and sometimes deadly, bilateral Area Intelligence (AI) operations with the Republic of Korea (ROK) Army. In 1969 he left Korea for a counterintelligence assignment at the Presidio of San Francisco, where he conducted personnel security investigations, subject interviews, and several MI special projects. In 1971, he was headed back overseas to Vietnam and the 525<sup>th</sup> MI Group, where he coordinated and oversaw both unilateral and bilateral AI operations and served as an Instructor at the bilateral case officer school. The following year saw him back in Japan where he coordinated the first-time tasking of an AI source based on targeting received from sensitive (multi-discipline) intelligence.

Back in the States in 1976, CW5 Oliver served at Fort Meade, Maryland for six years. While at the US Army Operational Group (USAOG) at Meade, he revitalized the Reserve Exploitation Program and developed a totally new exploitation and training program that was highly praised at Army and Training and Doctrine Command levels. During this time he also authored dozens of policy position papers for multiple units that were later promulgated, often verbatim, by the US Army Intelligence and Security Command, US Army Europe, Department of Army (DA) and the Defense Intelligence Agency. Some of these were DA Regulations covering maintenance and settlement support to AI sources, Human Resources Collection Procedures, and a Standard Operating Procedure for dealing with a mass AI debriefing program.

From 1982 until 1987, CW5 Oliver went to the 430<sup>th</sup> MI Battalion in Munich, Germany. There, he orchestrated the extensive debriefing of 14 western espionage agents released from prison by the Warsaw Pact. Leaving Germany, he went back to USAOG, where he managed the coordination, planning, and execution of the very first

recruitment of a Soviet scientist by that unit. He also supervised and coordinated a series of actions involving the State Department, Central Intelligence Agency, and Congress concerning the extremely sensitive movement and resettlement of Soviet prisoners of the Afghan resistance forces from Pakistan to the United States.

As a result of a total review of the Measures and Signatures Intelligence program, CW5 Oliver saved the US Government millions of dollars. He was hand-picked as a Human Intelligence (HUMINT) subject matter expert to participate in the Intelligence Electronic Warfare (IEW) Task Force conducted by the US Army Intelligence Center and School at Fort Huachuca which planned the MI structure for Corps and below assets to the year 2000.

CW5 Oliver's last military assignment before retiring was Career Manager for the Military Intelligence Excepted Career Program. Here, he aptly and greatly served as the primary mentor for the entire Great Skill Program for his fellow MI Warrant Officers. CW5 Oliver's military career was long, proud, and exemplary, culminating in his promotion as the first Chief Warrant Officer Five (CW5) in Military Intelligence.

CW5 Oliver retired from active service in September 1993. His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (3 Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Commendation Medal (3 Oak Leaf Clusters), the Army Achievement Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal (two awards), the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal (four awards), and the Armed Forces Reserve Medal.

CW5 Oliver was inducted into the MI Hall of Fame in 1995.



**CW5 Oliver receiving his Knowlton Award from John Black in 1995.**