

COLONEL JOE R. PARKER

US Army, Retired



Joe Parker was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in Military Intelligence upon graduation as a Distinguished Military Graduate from the University of Tennessee in 1970. COL Parker served 28 years of active duty and commanded or established some of the Army's most sensitive Human Intelligence (HUMINT) and Special Operations organizations. In total, COL Parker has 47 years of continuous service to the nation, including both active duty and civilian service; during this time, he has become widely acknowledged as the Army's HUMINT subject matter expert.

Following commissioning, COL Parker was detailed to Infantry Branch and served as a Rifle Platoon Leader, Company Executive Officer, and Battalion S-2 with 2nd Battalion, 508th Airborne Infantry, 82nd Airborne Division. Volunteering for Special Forces, he served in 5th Special Forces

Group as an "A" Detachment Commander and in 1st and 10th Special Forces Groups as a Counterintelligence and Area Intelligence Section Leader, Operations Officer and Executive Officer.

During 1980-1981, COL Parker served in Korea with the United Nations Military Armistice Commission. He served the next six years as Operations Officer and Detachment Commander at the US Army Intelligence Support Activity. In 1987, he was assigned to the US Army Office of Military Support (USAOMS) where he directed multi-discipline activities supporting Operations JUST CAUSE, DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM.

COL Parker commanded the Army Intelligence and Security Command Training and Doctrine Support Detachment at Fort Huachuca where he established an unprecedented close working relationship between INSCOM and the Intelligence Center and developed the first Action Plan to incorporate Counterintelligence and HUMINT into the Army Intelligence Master Plan. In 1995, COL Parker established and commanded the first Defense HUMINT Service Operating Base and conducted sensitive HUMINT operations worldwide, including support to Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR. He also served detail assignments with the Central Intelligence Agency and Drug Enforcement Administration.

Mr. Parker began his civilian career in 1998 as Deputy for HUMINT at USAOMS and later served as Director of the Army HUMINT Operations Center. In 2008, he was

appointed to the Senior Executive Service as the first Senior HUMINT Advisor to the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-2. COL Parker dedicated his civilian career to revitalizing Army HUMINT, particularly in support of Operations IRAQI FREEDOM (OIF) and ENDURING FREEDOM. He was instrumental in creating the first joint HUMINT operating base supporting the Commander of US Forces Afghanistan. He also directed the creation of new regional collection platforms for full-spectrum HUMINT support to the regional combatant commands. COL Parker was the driving force behind the creation of the HUMINT Training Joint Center of Excellence which, since 2006, has trained more than 20,000 students in advanced HUMINT skills. He also deployed as the CJ-2X, Multi-National Force-Iraq, where he developed initiatives for Iraqi self-reliance and directed counterintelligence and HUMINT activities supporting OIF.

COL Parker's military awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit (2 OLC), Meritorious Service Medal (2 OLC), Army Commendation Medal (2 OLC), Army Achievement Medal (1 OLC), Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Army Superior Unit Award, Expert Infantry Badge, Master Parachute Badge, Ranger and Special Forces Tabs. As a Civilian, he received the first Department of Defense Lifetime HUMINT Achievement Award. Additional Civilian awards include the Global War on Terrorism Civilian Service Medal, Superior Civilian Service Award, and the Knowlton Award. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2017.