

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER FIVE JOHN A. PINEDA
US Army, Retired (Deceased)



Mr. Pineda entered military service through the delayed entry program on 18 October 1971. After attending basic training, he was sent to Fort Huachuca to attend the Counterintelligence (CI) Special Agent Course and then to Fort Bliss to attend Vietnamese language training through the Defense Language Institute (DLI) Southwest. His first assignment was as a CI Special Agent for the 502nd MI Battalion stationed in Daegu, Korea. From 1975 to 1977, he was assigned to the 902d MI Group Resident Office on Homestead Air Force Base, Florida. After attending German language training at DLI in Monterey, California, Mr. Pineda was assigned to the 165th MI Battalion Field Office in Germany. His next assignment was to the Systems Exploitation Detachment at Fort Meade, Maryland, from 1981 to 1984. Following graduation from the Warrant Officers

Alpha at Fort Meade until 1989. During this time, he provided valuable intelligence support to US forces in Operations URGENT FURY (Grenada) and JUST CAUSE (Panama). During all Mr. Pineda's Cold War-era assignments, he planned and executed sensitive intelligence operations to protect US Army capabilities and operations and, in the process, contributed to the identification and conviction of several foreign espionage agents.

In 1990, Mr. Pineda transferred to the External Management Division, Defense Intelligence Agency, as a Defense Attaché recruiter. Then, during a four-year assignment to the Forward Support Office in Manheim, Germany, he provided intelligence that supported operations in the Balkans. In 2000, he served as the Executive Officer for Detachment 448 at Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico, during which time he also supported operations at White Sands Missile Range. In 2002, Mr. Pineda moved back to Fort Meade to serve at the Army Field Support Center.

In 2006, following extensive recovery after an accident, Mr. Pineda returned to Fort Huachuca to lead the Human Intelligence (HUMINT) Training Joint Center of Excellence (HT-JCOE) team developing the Advanced Source Operations Course (ASOC) Program of Instruction. The following year, after completing and instituting ASOC, he volunteered to deploy to Iraq as the Bilateral Agreement Program Manager under the C2X, Multi-National Forces-Iraq.

After returning from his deployment, Mr. Pineda retired from the Army. Then, as a new member of the Military Intelligence Civilian Excepted Career Program, he was hired to serve as the Military Capabilities Detachment Chief for the US Army Operations Activity. In 2010, Mr. Pineda was promoted to the rank of GG-15 and selected to serve as the Senior Intelligence Officer for the US Army Operations Group (formerly the Army Operations Activity). On 26 April 2014, Mr. Pineda suffered a massive heart attack from which he did not recover.

CW5 Pineda's real legacy was the mentorship he provided to multiple generations of MI professionals, many of whom continue to serve with distinction because of his selfless service and careful guidance. CW5 Pineda's awards include the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal (with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster), Superior Civilian Service Award, Department of Defense HUMINT Career Achievement Award, and induction into the HUMINT Hall of Fame, Class of Fiscal Year 2014.