

LIEUTENANT GENERAL WILLIAM E. POTTS US Army, Retired (Deceased)



LTG Potts achieved renown as both an intelligence officer and combat arms leader during his 33 years of commissioned service. He fought in 15 campaigns during three different wars. At the age of 20, six weeks after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, he passed up an appointment to the US Military Academy to enlist in the Army. He then was commissioned underage as a Second Lieutenant during the war. LTG Potts performed numerous deep reconnaissance missions behind enemy lines to collect vital information and destroy critical enemy installations in front of the Third US Army. The unit was so effective in night operations that the German General Staff dubbed its Soldiers "the ghosts of Patton's Army." LTG Potts received a battlefield promotion to become the youngest field grade officer in Europe.

After graduation from the National War College in 1961, LTG Potts served successively as the Director of Intelligence for the NATO Standing Group and Military Committee; Chief of Staff, Army Security Agency; G2, US Army Pacific; J2, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam; Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Department of Army; Deputy Director, Defense Intelligence Agency; and Senior Army Representative within the US Intelligence Community. He served as the Senior Intelligence Officer for ten different four-star flag officers; as the S2, G2, J2, and C2 at every echelon in our Armed Forces, and headed the US delegation during 19 separate exchange conferences with various Allied nations.

In addition to his many intelligence accomplishments, LTG Potts commanded at every echelon in the Armored Cavalry Regiment and served as a pioneer of the Army's Combat Development Program.

LTG Potts retired in 1974. During his ceremony, he was decorated by seven different nations for intelligence support to the free world.

LTG Potts was inducted into the MI Corps Hall of Fame in 1987 as a Distinguished Member of the MI Corps. The William E. Potts Hall was dedicated by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Governor of Oklahoma on 20 November 1986 at the

National Guard Education and Training Center, Pryor, Oklahoma. In addition, the Department of the Army presents the LTG William Potts leadership award to the distinguished honor graduate of each Basic Officer Leadership Course at the Intelligence School at Fort Huachuca. LTG Potts died of heart disease on 16 August 2005 and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.