

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER FOUR WILLIAM T. RAGATZ US Army, Retired (Deceased)



CW4 Ragatz entered active duty in February 1953 as a Private. He served as the S2 Sergeant with 317th Engineer Battalion (Combat) in Germany. After attending the Defense Language Institute, CW4 Ragatz served as an Operations Sergeant in the 502nd Communications Reconnaissance Group when the Soviet Union invaded Hungary in 1956. As a young Noncommissioned Officer (NCO), he was Chief of a section ensuring the accuracy and smooth flow of product reports during this crisis.

After further training at Fort Devens, Massachusetts, CW4 Ragatz became Collection Chief/Watch NCO for the US Army Field Station, Aibling, Germany. After serving at Fort Devens, Massachusetts, as an Instructor, he was appointed as a Warrant Officer and in 1965 became Collection Officer at the US Army Field Station, Hakata, Japan. During this tour, CW4 Ragatz was sent to Korea to provide expertise and assistance when the USS

Pueblo was captured. For three months he worked around the clock to ensure policy makers at the Cabinet level had accurate and timely intelligence concerning the Pueblo Crisis.

In 1968, he was assigned as Collection Management Officer for the 330th Radio Research Company, Vietnam, where he maximized his limited resources to provide optimum intelligence support to the combat units located in the First Field Force. In 1969, he became Collection, Officer, US Army Security Agency Field Station, Herzogenaurach, Germany. In 1972, CW4 Ragatz served in the same position at the 7th Radio Research Field Station, Thailand. His unit received the National Security Agency's Travis Trophy as the best Signals Intelligence (SIGINT) unit worldwide.

Returning to the United States in 1973, CW4 Ragatz served as an Academic Division Chief at Fort Devens before attending the Warrant Officer Senior Course. In 1976, he was assigned to Fort Huachuca, Arizona, where he developed and taught Warrant Officer training at the US Army Intelligence Center and School. Over the next six years, CW4 Ragatz wrote the initial Program of Instruction for the first Warrant Officer

Advanced Course and served as the Senior Faculty Advisor, Course Director, and SIGINT Instructor.

After retiring from active duty in February of 1982, CW4 Ragatz worked as a civilian contractor in intelligence-related fields in private industry for two years. In July of 1984, he returned to the Intelligence Center and School as a Department of the Army Civilian in the Directorate of Combat Developments. Working in the Fielded Systems Branch, Tactical Software Division, CW4 Ragatz employed his years of experience with battlefield automated Intelligence and Electronic Warfare systems in the application of tactical software development and the Interim Signal Source Processor-SIGINT. He was also selected by MG Sidney Weinstein, the Commander of the school, as part of a small team of MI experts to write and brief "The MI Story" to major commands worldwide. CW4 Ragatz is widely recognized as one of the architects of the present-day Signals Intelligence discipline.

CW4 Ragatz's awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), the Army Commendation Medal (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), and numerous service medals.

CW4 Ragatz was inducted into the MI Hall of Fame in 1990. He passed away in 1991 in Sierra Vista, Arizona, and was memorialized when Ragatz Hall was named in his honor in 1992.



CW4 William Ragatz at his 1990 induction into the MI Hall of Fame.