

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER THREE SHERMAN C. REAGAN **US Army, Retired (Deceased)**



CW3 Reagan showed interest in linguistics early in his life. He graduated from Hamilton College, Clinton, New York, in 1967 with a Bachelor of Arts in German. Mr. Reagan began his military career on 13 February 1969, when he enlisted in the US Navy. Upon completion of basic training, he was selected for the Navy rating of Cryptologic Technician Interpretive Branch (CTI), and attended the 47-week Chinese-Mandarin course at the Defense Language Institute (DLI). After further training at the Submarine School in Groton, Connecticut, he was assigned to the Naval Security Group Activity at Brady Air Station, Hakata, Japan. During this assignment, he worked as a Voice Intercept Operator, Transcriber, and Reporter, and regularly deployed to aircraft carriers and submarines of the US 7th Fleet.

When Brady Air Station closed in March 1972, CW3 Reagan left the service and returned to graduate school to complete a Master's degree in German from the State

University of New York at Binghamton in 1973. Serving as a teaching assistant in Wisconsin, CW3 Reagan instructed both undergraduate and graduate students.

In 1979, having taught and studied linguistics thoroughly, and after re-enlisting in the US Navy, he earned his Ph.D. in German Linguistics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. After successfully completing the Basic Arabic course at DLI, where he was awarded the DLI Commandant's prize for excellence as a student of Arabic, CW3 Reagan was assigned to the Naval Security Group Activity at Fort Meade, Maryland. During this assignment, he helped establish Classic Paladin, a new organization which made Arabic, Persian Farsi, and Hebrew linguists available for rapid deployments to a variety of missions in the Middle East. He also translated and transcribed Arabic at the National Security Agency and served as an air crewman on EP3 Orion reconnaissance aircraft. During this tour, he won the General Vernon Walters Prize for Linguistics, awarded annually by the CryptoLinguistic Association of the National Security Agency to the agency's outstanding military linguist.

In 1984, after accepting a direct appointment as a US Army Warrant Officer, CW3 Reagan was sent to the 307th MI Battalion (CEWI) in Ludwigsburg, Germany, where he headed the Language Support Team of VII Corps Technical Control and Analysis

Element. In this capacity he developed and fielded the Army's first-ever computer-based training software for language specialists. This unique software was widely used by all services through the late 1980s. Furthermore, as the Language Program Manager for 207th MI Brigade, he implemented the first-ever Language Olympics, a three-day competition involving over 200 language specialists. His original idea was a tremendous success and evolved into the Worldwide Language Olympics, sponsored annually by the Defense Language Institute.

In 1987, CW3 Reagan transferred to the US Army Foreign Language Training Center, Europe (FLTCE) in Munich, Germany. There, he was instrumental in creating and establishing three entirely new departments- Polish, Serbian-Croatian, and Arabic. Prior to the Gulf War, he not only developed intense Arabic courses, but he also became the focal point in Europe for Arabic language support to US forces during Operations DESERT SHIELD/DESERT STORM. After the war, Mr. Reagan was promoted to Director of Instruction for all of FLTCE. His understanding of the need to enhance Arabic language training in Europe and his successful efforts to establish the Serbian-Croatian program years prior to direct US military involvement in Bosnia, clearly demonstrated his commitment to anticipating the language-training requirements of the military well in advance.

At the end of 1991, CW3 Reagan was assigned to the 704th MI Brigade at Fort Meade. As the brigade's Command Language Program Manager (CLPM), he managed the language training for the largest foreign language unit in the US Army, responsible for over 650 linguists in 20 languages. CW3 Reagan's original efforts from 1991-1994 to develop a comprehensive, quality language program were ultimately instrumental in the selection of the 704th MI Brigade as having the best Command Language Program (CLP) in the Intelligence and Security Command, the Department of the Army, and the Department of Defense in 1997.

Upon his retirement in 1996, the consequence of CW3 Reagan's tenure was both far-reaching and permanent. He clearly established the criteria for integrating technology into language training and recognized the need for quality linguists to support the intelligence community. He directly impacted the intelligence community throughout his career by using his vast knowledge of language and his ability to training linguists.

CW3 Reagan passed away in 1997. In 1998, the Joint Language Center Library in Davis Hall at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland, was named in honor of CW3 Sherman C. Reagan.

CW3 Reagan was posthumously inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2000.