

## CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER FIVE IVAN SARAC U.S. ARMY, RETIRED



CW5 Sarac was born in Tomislavgrad, Croatia, moved to New York City, and in 1966, enlisted in the Army. His command of six languages, extensive European travel and knowledge of European cultures made him an ideal candidate for special high-risk operations.

In 1983, he was appointed a Warrant Officer and assigned to the 519<sup>th</sup> Military Intelligence (MI) Battalion at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, as the Senior Interrogation Team Chief. Following this assignment, CW5 Sarac was assigned to the 18<sup>th</sup> MI Battalion in Germany. He served in both Munich and Augsburg as the Officer-in-Charge and the Senior Strategic Debriefer. He increased the quality and quantity of intelligence reporting and personally debriefed many high-level sources and wrote 140 Intelligence Information Reports,

many of which were of “major significance” to the national decision-makers during the fiercest fighting in the former Yugoslavia. The United Nations Peacekeeping Force credited CW5 Sarac with saving countless lives. His actions contributed heavily to the recognition his unit received when awarded the Department of Defense and National Intelligence Community’s Best Human Intelligence (HUMINT) Collection Unit distinction.

While assigned to the 18<sup>th</sup> MI Battalion, CW5 Sarac volunteered to deploy to Southwest Asia with the 519<sup>th</sup> MI Battalion in support of Operations DESERT SHIELD/DESERT STORM. He supervised interrogation operations and was responsible for over 12,000 Iraqi prisoners. The XVIII Airborne Corps Commanding General personally commended CW5 Sarac for his outstanding accomplishments.

CW5 Sarac was then assigned as the Assistant Army Attaché and Domino Anchor to the US Embassy Defense Attaché Office (USDAO), Belgrade, and later Zagreb, Croatia. He continued to distinguish himself by successfully completing many exceptionally sensitive and personally dangerous HUMINT collection operations. CW5 Sarac and his wife, Theresa, a collection manager for USDAO Zagreb, hold the unique distinction of being the only husband/wife team to be nominated four times and awarded twice the Director of Central Intelligence Exceptional HUMINT Collector Award.

Following this assignment, he was assigned to the USDAO Sarajevo, where he again distinguished himself as the longest serving US diplomat in the Balkans. Upon his

departure, Peter W. Galbraith, US Ambassador to Croatia, wrote the Director, Defense Intelligence Agency, and expressed his gratitude, admiration, and respect for CW5 Sarac concluding that, "CW5 Sarac will be difficult to replace, and this will be a lesser Embassy when he departs."

CW5 Sarac was then assigned to the 66<sup>th</sup> MI Group as the HUMINT Collection Manager where he leveraged his vast amount of collection experience to focus his unit in support of the Global War on Terror. CW5 Sarac concluded his distinguished 33-year Army career in 2005 assigned to the Joint Special Operations Command, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. His professionalism, leadership, commitment, and dedication to duty saved countless lives and contributed immeasurably to his units' successes and the objectives of US national policy.

CW5 Sarac's awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal (2<sup>nd</sup> Award), the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal (2<sup>nd</sup> Award), the Meritorious Service Medal (5<sup>th</sup> Award), the Joint Service Commendation Medal (2<sup>nd</sup> Award), the Army Commendation Medal (3<sup>rd</sup> Award), Joint Service Achievement Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award (2<sup>nd</sup> Award), Army Superior Unit Award, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal (3<sup>rd</sup> Award), Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Global War On Terrorism Service Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal (w/ 2 Bronze Service Stars), Kuwait Liberation Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal (2<sup>nd</sup> Award), the North Atlantic Treaty Organizational Medal (2<sup>nd</sup> Award), the Croatian Legion of Merit, the US Parachutist Badge, the Croatian Parachutist Badge, the Honduran Parachutist Badge, and the Knowlton Award.

CW5 Sarac was inducted into the MI Hall of Fame in 2007.



**CW5 Ivan Sarac and friend during the 2007 Hall of Fame Ceremony at Fort Huachuca.**