

COLONEL DOUGLAS SHELDON US Army, Retired



COL Doug Sheldon's assignments over his 30-year career took him from Vietnam to Fort Bragg, the Pentagon and finally to the US Special Operations Command (USSOCOM). In each consecutive assignment, COL Sheldon left a lasting legacy for all generations of military professionals who followed him.

COL Sheldon was commissioned a Second Lieutenant of Military Intelligence from the University of Iowa in 1966. During his first assignment, he advised an Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) clan collection unit. His maturity, understanding of cultural dynamics, and rapport with his counterpart and other ARVN forces resulted in critical intelligence reporting on enemy operations in the central highlands. When he returned to Vietnam three years later for his second tour, he was assigned as advisor to the same team and counterpart. Using their already solid relationship, COL Sheldon convinced his counterpart to broaden collection

operations into the tribal lands of the central highlands, thus tripling reporting on key enemy operations.

Returning from Vietnam in 1972, COL Sheldon was assigned as S2 for 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division. As only the second MI officer to be assigned below Division headquarters, he developed tactics, techniques, and procedures for tactical intelligence collection operations. Additionally, he developed and tested employment tactics and techniques for the Division's unattended ground sensors—the first of their kind in the continental US.

In 1976, COL Sheldon became an Operations Staff Officer at US Forces Command where he developed the intelligence force structure for the US-based force to deploy in support of general war in Europe. He also was selected as the intelligence trusted agent in the formulation and assessment of a unit later to become known as Special Forces Operational Detachment-Delta, or Delta Force. Based on this experience, he was handpicked to be one of the initial members of the newly developed Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC). As the Deputy J2 for Operations (CHOPS), COL

Sheldon helped build the military's most capable intelligence force and established the core of intelligence operations in this joint community.

COL Sheldon served as G2 of the 82nd Airborne Division from 1984 to 1985, and then as Commander of the 313th MI Battalion in the Division. In 1987, he was handpicked by LTG Sidney T. Weinstein, the Army's Deputy Chief of Staff, Intelligence, to help develop an intelligence structure for the emerging USSOCOM. COL Sheldon then served as the US Southern Command Deputy J2 during Operation URGENT FURY in Grenada and the early days of the "War on Drugs" in South America. He followed that with an assignment as Commander of the Army's Office of Military Support.

COL Sheldon spent the final three years of his military career as the J2, USSOCOM, followed by 15 years as a civilian in USSOCOM where he helped grow the intelligence structure in both billets and funding, thus greatly increasing the capability of Special Operation Forces to execute the most dangerous missions in the most austere environments.

Throughout his career, COL Sheldon's ability to innovate, listen, and create a team of teams not only distinguished him as a leader in Military Intelligence but also within the Joint and Special Operations communities. COL Sheldon's awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, the USSOCOM Outstanding Civilian Service Medal, and the Master Parachutist Badge.