

LIEUTENANT GENERAL HARRY E. SOYSTER US Army, Retired



LTG Harry Soyster graduated from the US Military Academy in 1957 and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Engineering. He later obtained a Master's of Science degree in Chemistry in 1963 and a Master's of Science degree in Systems Management in 1973.

LTG Soyster's long career culminated while serving as the Director, Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) from December 1988 to September 1991. Prior to this, other key positions included commanding the US Army Intelligence and Security Command (INSCOM), and serving as the Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence for Systems and Automation at Headquarters, Department of the Army, where he was promoted to Brigadier General. He also

served as Commander, Division Artillery and later as Chief of Staff, 24th Infantry Division.

As Director of DIA, LTG Soyster oversaw the Defense Intelligence effort in support of Operation JUST CAUSE in Panama which demonstrated the benefits of increased cooperation and planning between DIA and operational force planners. The end of the Cold War marked a reevaluation of the Intelligence mission throughout the Defense Community as a new era began with the fall of Communist parties in many East European countries and the reunification of Germany. LTG Soyster was quick to realize the implications of these events and placed increased emphasis on improved management of Department of Defense-wide intelligence production. Iraq's invasion of Kuwait resulted in a coalition of United Nations Forces that resolved to force the Iraqis from the country. Establishing a Joint Intelligence Center, LTG Soyster oversaw an intensive and extensive 24-hour operation with daily tailored intelligence support to coalition forces, participation in daily press briefings, and the full range of materials required by various consumers. No commanders had ever had as full and complete a view of the adversary as did the United States and coalition field commanders during Operation DESERT STORM. It was one of the greatest examples of Intelligence support to operational forces in modern times.

Under LTG Soyster's tenure as Commanding General, INSCOM, the worldwide command met a number of new challenges which extended across a wide spectrum of intelligence and security disciplines. Highlights included restructuring assets to permit

expeditious transition to war, introducing new technological support to the commander on the ground, undertaking new collection initiatives, and making preemptive actions to counter the threat to the Army's security.

Throughout his entire military career which spanned 34 years, LTG Soyster exercised vigorous leadership of the highest order in applying state-of-the-art technology to the challenges facing Army Intelligence. He helped map the future of the Military Intelligence Corps.

LTG Soyster's awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal with V Device (2 Oak Leaf Clusters), the Purple Heart, the Meritorious Service Medal (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), Air Medals, the Joint Service Commendation Medal and Army Commendation Medal.

LTG Soyster was inducted into the MI Hall of Fame in 1995.