

COLONEL WILLIAM “JERRY” TAIT US Army, Retired (Deceased)



COL Tait is a 1980 Distinguished Military Graduate of the University of Alabama, where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in Military Intelligence (MI) through the Reserve Officer Training Corps.

COL Tait's 30-year career was filled with challenging assignments during which he made a significant mark on the MI Corps. In one of his earliest assignments with the 7th MI Company, 7th Infantry Division, Fort Ord, he was instrumental in creating the 107th MI Battalion, one of the Army's first Combat Electronic Warfare and Intelligence (CEWI) battalions. In 1987, then CPT Tait served as Action Officer for the activation of the Military Intelligence Corps. Besides planning, coordinating and synchronizing all

events associated with the MI Corps' activation worldwide, he was responsible for developing the MI Corps' entry into the Army regimental system.

COL Tait was next assigned to the 66th MI Brigade in Munich, Germany, where he spent four years as a Battalion S3, Brigade Executive Officer, and then commander of the 5th MI Company, leading the overt intelligence operations that predicted and then exploited the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Following graduation from Command and General Staff College in 1993, COL Tait was assigned to Fort Hood, beginning a close association with III Corps and Fort Hood that lasted his remaining 17 years in uniform. He served in various positions in III Corps, including as the Corps G2 for five years from 2003-2008. During this time, he deployed to Iraq with III Corps Headquarters twice, both times serving as the Director of Intelligence (CJ2) of Multi-National Corps-Iraq. He led the Intelligence Battlefield Functional Area at the operational level in Iraq during the 2007-2008 "Surge" in forces, which he had helped plan the previous year. The Surge included an unprecedented infusion of intelligence capabilities and systems. Many of these had been developed or conceived during the FORCE XXI digitization and modernization initiatives led by COL Tait when he was assigned to the 4th Infantry Division, then the Army's "Experimental

Force,” from 1997 to 2001. COL Tait also played a key role in developing and advocating for the Counter-IED Operations/Intelligence Integration Center concept, the Joint Intelligence Operations Capability-Iraq that is now part of the Distributed Common Ground Station-Army, Company Intelligence Support Teams, Weapons Intelligence teams, Cryptologic Support Teams, and Task Force ODIN, among other innovative capabilities, all of which have forever changed intelligence operations.

After 30 years as a Military Intelligence officer, retiring as Executive Officer of III Corps in 2010, Jerry Tait continued to serve as a member of the Army Science Board which advises and makes recommendations to the Army leadership on scientific and technological matters. COL Richard Allenbaugh, US Army, Retired, who nominated COL Tait to the Hall of Fame, stated, “His achievements as an MI officer distinguished him as being among the very best intelligence professionals to ever serve in uniform.”

COL Tait’s awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), the Bronze Star Medal (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), the Meritorious Service Medal (6 Oak Leaf Clusters), the Army Commendation Medal (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), and the Army Achievement Medal (4 Oak Leaf Clusters).

COL Tait was chosen for induction into the Hall of Fame in 2013. He passed away in September 2013.



COL Tait and his family at his retirement ceremony in 2010



Jerry Tait at his commissioning in 1980.



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