

MR. JUNIUS A. WATLINGTON
US Army, Retired
Department of Army Civilian (Deceased)



Junius Watlington's service to his country, both as an Army Officer and civilian employee, spanned over 46 years. His military career began in June 1944 and culminated with his retirement as a Lieutenant Colonel in August of 1968. He then became a Department of the Army Civilian. Mr. Watlington first became associated with US Army Intelligence in May 1955. For the next 35 years, 13 while in uniform and 22 as an Army civilian, his service to Army Intelligence was continuous.

In the early 1960s, Mr. Watlington served with a field operating agency of the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence (OACSI), responsible for clandestine Human Intelligence (HUMINT) operations in Latin America. He then commanded a HUMINT unit in Miami, charged with conducting operations against Cuba and the new

Communist challenge it represented. His unit successfully recruited agents in Cuba at a time when that nation and its patron posed a significant threat to American national security.

In the mid-1960s Mr. Watlington served as Deputy Commander, 502nd MI Battalion in Korea, where he played a key role in the intelligence coverage of North Korea. His growing HUMINT expertise was then rewarded by service on the Army Staff with the OACSI). Mr. Watlington was responsible for developing organization, training, and doctrine for Army Intelligence units in Vietnam.

The extensive experience acquired by Mr. Watlington during his military career superbly qualified him for sensitive managerial duties with the Army's Military Intelligence Civilian Excepted Career Program. He was hired to fill the critically important position of Operations Officer for the clandestine HUMINT collection unit of the 500th MI Group in Japan.

His exceptional performance of these duties led to his promotion to GS-13 in 1970 and reassignment as Liaison Officer for the Commander, 500th MI Group to all US military

and civilian intelligence agencies in Japan. He was required to coordinate all Group operational activities with appropriate civilian and military agencies.

The culmination of Mr. Watlington's career was seven years as Director, Collection Operations, US Army Operational Group, US Army Intelligence and Security Command (INSCOM). During his tenure, this continental United States-based collection unit pioneered HUMINT collection in the Third World. The magnitude of its accomplishments was honored four times when its personnel and operations were cited as "National HUMINT Collectors of the Year" by the Director of Central Intelligence.

Mr. Watlington was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1992. He passed away in 1999.