

COLONEL JERRY G. WETHERILL US Army, Retired (Deceased)



Jerry Wetherill enlisted in the Army in 1945 and attended Officer Candidate School. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in 1947 and served as an Infantry Platoon Leader in Japan and Korea, including the 2nd Infantry Division in Korea until 1951.

Between 1952 and 1966, he served with the 902nd Counter Intelligence Corps (CIC) Detachment twice, the 66th CIC Group, the 513th Intelligence Corps Group, and in the Office of

Personnel Operations in the Army Intelligence & Security (AIS) Branch (the forerunner to the MI Branch).

From 1966 to 1967, COL Wetherill served as AIS Branch representative to the Norris Board. Despite the designation of MI as a separate Branch in 1962, MI had not been fully accepted by the other branches because of its secretive image. It was the vision and persistence of COL Wetherill, as a member of the Norris Board, which convinced that panel to designate MI as a Combat Support Branch on a par with the Corps of Engineers, Signal Corps, and other branches. As a result, MI officers began appearing as corps and division G2s, and regular unit designations such as company, battalion, and brigade were adopted. COL Wetherill's efforts caused MI's acceptance and respect within the Army, as well as the now common belief that Army, corps, and division intelligence officers must be in the Military Intelligence Branch.

In 1967, COL Wetherill took command of the 1st MI Battalion in Vietnam followed by duty with the US Army Field Activities Command, and then command of the 111th MI Group and Administrative Survey Detachment. In 1972, he joined the Defense Investigative Service, which was followed by duty as Deputy G2, Central Army Group from 1973 to 1976. COL Wetherill retired from active service in 1977 as Director, Central Intelligence, with the US Army Intelligence Agency.

COL Wetherill's awards and decorations include the Combat Infantry Badge, Air Medal, Honor Medal (1st Class) (Vietnamese), and the Legion of Merit (5 Oak Leaf Clusters).

COL Wetherill was inducted into the MI Hall of Fame in 1990. He passed away in 1993.