

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER FIVE REX WILLIAMS US Army, Retired



CW5 Rex Williams enlisted in 1971 as an Imagery Analyst. As an NCO, he served in the 2nd MI Battalion, Aerial Reconnaissance Support, at Zweibrucken Air Force Base, Federal Republic of Germany; the 1st MI Battalion, Aerial Reconnaissance Support, at Fort Bragg NC; the 704th MI Detachment, Aerial Surveillance, in Pyong Taek, Korea; and the Directorate of Training Developments at US Army Intelligence Center (USAIC).

In 1978, he was appointed an Imagery Intelligence Warrant Officer. In the US Army Intelligence Center (USAIC) Directorate of Combat Developments, Williams was the primary action officer for imaging systems to include UAVs, the Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System (JSTARS), and all airborne radars. As a CW2 in the early 1980s, he performed the duties later assigned to the US Army Training and Doctrine

Command (TRADOC) Systems Manager (TSM) Joint STARS.

CW5 Williams served as the Chief, All-Source Production Section, 2d Infantry Division, in the Republic of Korea in 1983. While leading an 11-person intelligence analysis section, he prepared intelligence estimates on North Korea and tailored threat assessments to support visiting dignitaries.

In 1984, he returned to "the home of MI" as the Principle Instructor for the MI Officer Basic and Advanced Courses. In 1986, he moved to the Pacific and led the daily operations of a 19-member inter-Service consolidated order of battle section supporting the Commander-in-Chief Pacific Command (PACOM). Under his mentorship, the section published intelligence products for the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) to support more than 8,000 theater-wide targets. In 1989, DIA awarded the Intelligence Producer of the Year award to CW5 Williams' section.

From 1990 to 1993, CW5 Williams was responsible for all Warrant Officer training conducted at the USAIC. In October 1993, CW5 Williams became the Chief of the 28-member Intelligence Production Branch, Joint Intelligence Center, US Central Command (CENTCOM), at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida. He routinely identified gaps in the theater intelligence holdings and developed the necessary Human Intelligence

(HUMINT), Imagery Intelligence (IMINT) and Signals Intelligence (SIGINT) collection requirements to update national-level databases.

In 1995, CW5 Williams moved to the Office of the Chief, Military Intelligence, at Fort Huachuca as the Warrant Officer Professional Development Manager. Additionally, in 1999, he was appointed as the first Chief Warrant Officer of the Military Intelligence Corps. During his tenure, he refined the role of the MI Warrant Officer and reshaped the MI Corps for success in the 21st century. His most significant contribution was his singular effort to develop a detailed set of Army-wide Warrant Officer accession and personnel management recommendations. Briefed throughout the Army, these recommendations became the basis for a Headquarters, Department of the Army, Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel (DSCPER) action plan intended to tackle the Army's difficult Warrant Officer recruiting challenges. CW5 Williams' active service culminated with his final assignment as the Technical Advisor to the Chief, Concepts, Architectures, and Requirements in Combat Developments before his retirement in February 2003.

CW5 Williams' awards include the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), the Meritorious Service Medal (4 Oak Leaf Clusters), and the Army Commendation Medal (1 Oak Leaf Cluster).

CW5 Williams was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2005. In 2014, he was selected as the third Honorary Warrant Officer of the Corps.



CW5 Rex Williams receives the title of Honorary Warrant Officer of the Corps in 2014 from MG Bob Ashley, Chief of the MI Corps. On the far right is CW5 (R) Lon Castleton, who formerly held the honorary position and who was named a Distinguished Member of the MI Corps.