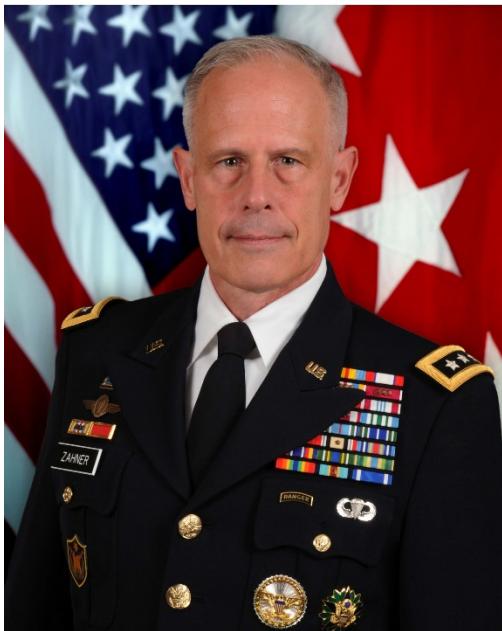# LIEUTENANT GENERAL RICHARD P. ZAHNER
US Army, Retired

LTG Zahner was commissioned a 2LT in Military Intelligence following his graduation from Cornell as a Distinguished Military Graduate in 1976. His earliest assignments with the 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, included several key shaping positions during the transition of Army Intelligence to the Combat Electronic Warfare and Intelligence (CEWI) force structure. He was also a "plank-owner" of the Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC), for which he developed tactics, techniques, and procedures and identified, acquired, and integrated leading edge technology to drive the intelligence process and battle rhythm.

Throughout the 1990s and into the 21st century, LTG Zahner served as an intelligence staff officer at division, corps, theater, and national levels and commanded the 102nd MI Battalion and the 525th Military Intelligence Brigade (Airborne). Throughout this period, he developed new systems and procedures to deal with the new intelligence challenges of the Balkans, illustrating the forward thinking innovation that proved significant in the post-9/11 period. During the early years of Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM, while Assistant J2 for US Central Command, LTG Zahner significantly changed how the Army developed, processed, and disseminated intelligence in a counterinsurgency environment. He continued to provide exceptional support to both Multi-National Forces, Iraq (MNF-I) and NATO in Afghanistan while serving as J2 for the US European Command and C2 of MNF-I. He designed and established NATO's first Intelligence Fusion Center as well as the intelligence structures of Iraq's Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Interior, and Border Force.

Following eight months as the Director of Signals Intelligence, National Security Agency, LTG Zahner was hand-picked by the Secretary of Defense to serve as Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence and Warfighting Support. He led the Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Task Force in its first year; helped build the initial concept design for US Cyber Command; restructured intelligence elements of ten Combatant Commands into a common support core with tailored analytic capabilities; and redrafted policy charters of each DoD Intelligence Agency. During his subsequent assignment as the Deputy Chief of Staff, G2, Department of the Army, he not only pushed for critical improvements in intelligence architecture and analysis for the warfighter but also built on his predecessor's efforts to "rebalance" the MI force structure and systems to address the realities of a changed conventional and asymmetric threat environment.

LTG Zahner retired in 2012 after a lifetime of exceptional achievement and contributions to Army Intelligence. During his distinguished 36-year career as a US Army officer, he received the following awards and decorations: the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal (3 Oak Leaf Clusters), Legion of Merit (3 Oak Leaf Clusters), Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (3 Oak Leaf Clusters), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Parachutist Badge, Ranger Tab, Office of the Secretary of Defense Identification Badge, and the Army Staff Identification Badge.

LTG Zahner was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2016.