DR. WILLIAM C. SPRACHER
Colonel, U.S. Army, Retired

William Spracher was commissioned a Military Intelligence (MI) second lieutenant in 1970 from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, with an Armor detail. In the 1970s, he served as a tank battalion S-2 in Germany along the East German/Czech border with the 1st Armored Division and commanded the Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the U.S. Army Intelligence Command/U.S. Army Intelligence Agency at Fort Meade, Maryland. In the 1980s, he spent a year as S-2 of the forward-deployed 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division in Korea, where he helped coordinate security for President Ronald Reagan's visit to the demilitarized zone (DMZ) and advised the brigade commander during DMZ infiltration attempts, the shootdown of Flight KAL 007 over the Soviet Union, an assassination attempt on the South Korean president in Burma, and a North Korean MIG-21 defection to South Korea. Extending his short tour, he spent another year as executive officer of the division's MI battalion.

A fluent Spanish speaker, Spracher served 15 years as a Latin America foreign area officer, including time in Peru, Colombia, and Panama. As a division chief in the Intelligence Directorate, U.S. Southern Command, he provided intelligence support to counterinsurgency efforts in El Salvador and Guatemala, insurgency operations in Nicaragua, and counternarcotics activities in Colombia. He also served as the senior Latin America analyst/desk officer in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence from June 1987−October 1989. In 1992, Spracher volunteered for United Nations peacekeeping duty in Western Sahara, where he was U.S. contingent commander and military advisor to the force commander in monitoring the fragile peace agreement between Morocco and the POLISARIO Front. Subsequently, he served as Army attaché to Peru and Defense and Army attaché to Colombia. Spracher's final military assignment was as military professor and executive officer of the William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies at the National Defense University. He retired from the Army in July 2000.

Spracher became an influential scholar within the Intelligence Community (IC) after his retirement. For 17 years between 2004−2021, Dr. Spracher worked as a contractor for the Joint Military Intelligence College (JMIC)/National Defense Intelligence College (NDIC)/National Intelligence University (NIU). He served as editor for the JMIC/NDIC Press, ran the school's funded research travel program, oversaw IC research fellows, and edited approximately twelve books. He later taught full-time and earned the title of full professor while also lecturing at other prestigious institutions in the U.S. and South America.

Spracher was a charter member of the National Military Intelligence Association, the International Association for Intelligence Education, and the Foreign Area Officer Association. Simultaneously, for 13 years, he served as editor-in-chief of the *American Intelligence Journal* and contributed more than forty articles to it and other prominent journals related to national security and intelligence operations, policy, and history. Through his writing, editing, and publishing, Dr. Spracher motivated and mentored others, provided intellectual direction and discourse for intelligence practitioners across the IC, and even helped American citizens better understand the shadowy world of intelligence.

Spracher's military awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal (one Oak Leaf Cluster), Legion of Merit (one Oak Leaf Cluster), Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (three Oak Leaf Clusters), Joint Service Commendation Medal, and Army Commendation Medal (one Oak Leaf Cluster). He also received the Inter-American Defense Board Medal, United Nations Medal, Parachutist Badge, and Army Staff Identification Badge. Upon his retirement from the Army, he received the Knowlton Award from the MI Corps Association. Dr. Spracher holds a bachelor's degree from West Point; master's degrees from Yale University and the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and a doctorate from George Washington University.

Spracher was a 2025 inductee into the MI Hall of Fame.