

MAJOR GENERAL JOHN A. LEIDE

US Army, Retired



MG Leide was commissioned as an Infantry officer through the Reserve Officer Training Program (ROTC) at Georgetown University. He deployed as an airborne Infantry company commander during Operation POWERPACK (Dominican Republic 1965) and as both an airborne Infantry company commander and an airborne Military Intelligence (MI) company commander during two tours and numerous combat operations throughout the Republic of Vietnam.

In 1968, MG Leide transferred from the Infantry Branch to the MI Branch. He also was selected into the Army's Foreign Area Officer (FAO) program, specializing in China. He studied Chinese Mandarin at the Defense Language Institute (DLI) and at the US Department of State Foreign Service Institute (FSI) School of Chinese Language and Area Studies in Taiwan. He was the only US officer

selected to attend and graduate from the Chinese Army Command and Staff College. Following his graduation, MG Leide assumed duties as Assistant Army Attaché in Hong Kong.

In 1978, MG Leide commanded the 1st Special Forces Battalion, Fort Bragg, North Carolina with responsibility for Special Forces training. He initiated new programs including a unique Survival, Escape, and Evasion Course. Following his Special Forces battalion command, MG Leide served as G2 of the 82nd Airborne Division.

He next became the Chief, Far East Division, Directorate of Estimates, at the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA). He then served as a Military Assistant in the Office of the Secretary of Defense in 1982. In 1984, he assumed command of the 500th MI Group in Japan. In 1988, MG Leide assumed duties as Defense and Army Attaché, in Beijing, Peoples' Republic of China. When Chinese students protested against the regime in Tiananmen Square, Beijing on 3 June 1989, MG Leide's immediate and concurrent reports from the scene of the crisis went to national decision makers, directly influencing US policy and actions.

MG Leide became the J2 of US Central Command (CENTCOM) in 1990 and served as General H. Norman Schwarzkopf's Director for Intelligence throughout Operations DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM. General Schwarzkopf said that no commander in history had the intelligence support and picture of the enemy that he had

during DESERT STORM. Upon leaving CENTCOM, MG Leide was assigned to DIA where he reorganized a significant portion of the agency and assumed responsibility for three positions simultaneously: Director of the National Military Intelligence Collection Center, Director of the Central Measurement and Signatures Intelligence Office, and the first Director of the Defense HUMINT Service.

MG Leide retired from the Army in 1995. His awards and decorations include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), the Defense Superior Service Medal (2 Oak Leaf Clusters), the Legion of Merit (2 Oak Leaf Clusters), the Bronze Star (with V Device and 3 Oak Leaf Clusters), the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, and the Army Meritorious Service Medal (2 Oak Leaf Clusters).

MG Leide was inducted into the MI Hall of Fame in 2005. He is also a member of the Attaché Hall of Fame.