

JOHN G. "GREG" HOWE

Greg Howe was born in Rumford, Maine on January 8, 1946. He attended the East Bethel School, Crescent Park middle school, and Gould Academy, class of 1964. He was on the football, track, and ski teams, serving as co-captain in 1964. He graduated from the University of Maine in June 1968 with a B.S. in Education. The same week he married his college sweetheart, the former Sandra Gillings of Scarborough, and was also commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. After taking a delay in entry on active duty to allow Sandra to finish college, in February 1969 he was assigned to Fort Benning, Georgia for Infantry Officer Basic Course. From there, they went to Fort Holabird, Maryland to attend the Military Intelligence Staff Officer course, followed by a one year assignment at Fort Carson, Colorado as the Intelligence Officer (S-2) of a nuclear capable 8" howitzer unit, the 4th/80th Artillery (July 69 - July 70). Their next assignment was to Fort Bliss, Texas for 9 weeks of Vietnamese language training. Next was a return to Fort Holabird for Counterintelligence Officer training.

In February 1971 he was sent to Vietnam to work in the Phoenix (later Phung Hoang) program in Ba Xuyen province in Military Region 4. After six months, Greg was reassigned as a District Senior Advisor (an Infantry Officer slot) of My Xuyen district in Ba Xuyen province where he served until his rotation back to the United States in March 1972.

Greg fully intended to resign his commission at some point and return to New England as a social studies teacher and ski coach. His assignment to Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland was as close as he would get to that goal. After several stops and starts on a new career, he decided, at this time as a captain, to abandon his other career choice and remain in the military. Part of that decision included attendance at the Military Intelligence Officers Advanced course at Fort Huachuca, Arizona. After graduation in December 1973, he was assigned to the U.S. Army Intelligence Agency (USAINTA) at Fort Meade, Maryland as a counterintelligence officer.

He joined a new organization under the Director of Counterintelligence called the Sensitive Activity Vulnerability Estimate or SAVE Team. This team was staffed by ten soldiers with a combination of skills in imagery analysis, signals intelligence, open literature research, and other skills. The method of operation was to imitate an adversary's intelligence collection methods and assets directed towards Army programs to demonstrate to program managers the real-world methods used to compromise their classified information. The primary focus was on Army research and development programs, such as the M1 tank, in order to preserve a technical edge on the battlefield. The team used U.S. intelligence collection assets to mimic hostile intelligence service platforms and techniques.

The SAVE Team eventually evolved into a much larger organization called the Operations Security (OPSEC) Support Detachment and was assigned support to

other Army missions, such as special operations units. From 1975 – 1988, Greg was assigned to three different units at Fort Meade and the Pentagon as part of a personnel management program that allowed soldiers to serve continuously in certain classified mission areas. He was heavily involved in the Army's move to Special Access Programs (SAPs) where the Army designates critical programs to a more intense security environment. He had several temporary duty assignments in the United Kingdom, Germany, and the Marshall Islands along the way. In 1988, he was assigned to the National Security Agency working in its OPSEC program, this time supporting various Department of Defense and civilian agencies and programs. He retired in 1992 as a Lieutenant Colonel. During his 24 year career, he was awarded the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Combat Infantry Badge.

After retirement from military service, Greg worked in the security field as an analyst for Booz-Allen Hamilton, as a multimedia division manager for Aegis Research Corporation (later part of ManTech), and as a security awareness specialist for BAI. He retired completely in 2006 to his home in Gettysburg, PA, and wrote a book about the history and evolution of the OPSEC Support Detachment. He and Sandy now (2022) split their time between Gettysburg and Venice, Florida.



Howe & Interpreter



Army Special Ops UH-60



River Operations – Military Region 4