

Reference:

STANAG 2103 (Edition 9). *Reporting Nuclear Detonations, Biological and Chemical Attacks, and Predicting and Warning of Associated Hazards and Hazard Areas (Operators Manual)–ATP-45(C)*. 14 December 2005.

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A Farewell to a General

Major General David William Einsel, Jr. (Retired), a decorated Army officer instrumental in guiding the country's efforts to develop chemical and nuclear weapon systems, died on 30 October 2006 in Tiffin, Ohio. He was 77.

General Einsel was born in Tiffin on 4 November 1928. He graduated from Ohio State University in 1950, with a bachelor's degree in chemistry and a master's degree in physical chemistry. He also received a master's degree in physics from the University of Virginia in 1956.

Major General Einsel began his Army service in September 1950, serving in a variety of field artillery command positions. In Korea, Major General Einsel participated in the fierce fighting at Heartbreak Ridge. During the 1960s, he served as the Assistant Professor of Chemistry at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York. In Vietnam, he served in the First Cavalry Division (Airmobile), where he was directly involved in the tactical use of riot control agents and herbicides. During the 1970s and early 1980s, he commanded the Harry Diamond Laboratory in Adelphi, Maryland, where he was responsible for the development of new electronic fuzes for artillery, rockets, bombs, special-purpose radar, and fluidic sensors (the type now routinely used on aircraft). He later became the deputy commander of the Army's largest research and development organization—the U.S. Army Armament Research and Development Command.

Major General Einsel held a number of staff assignments in Washington, D.C., including nuclear advisor to the Deputy Chief Chemical Officer; deputy assistant to the Secretary of Defense; executive secretary to the Military Liaison Committee, Department of Energy; and Chief of the Nuclear-Chemical Office for the Deputy Chief of Operations, where he played a significant role in reversing a decision by the Secretary of the Army to abolish the Chemical Corps. During this period, he was a principal player in obtaining chemical research and development funding, preparing presidential decision memorandums that initiated the production of the binary chemical weapons program, and reinitiating U.S. participation in the Geneva negotiations and international chemical arms control treaties.

After retiring in 1985, Major General Einsel was selected by the Director of Central Intelligence to serve as a consultant to firms involved in chemical, biological, and nuclear matters of interest to the United States.

Major General Einsel is survived by his wife, two daughters, and four grandchildren.

