

CW5 Aaron L. SKILES

Command Chief Warrant Officer, U.S. Army Counterintelligence Command



Chief Warrant Officer 5 (CW5) Aaron L. SKILES is a U.S. Army Counterintelligence (CI) Special Agent and Technician (351L) who has served in Army CI for over 25 years. CW5 Skiles assumed responsibility as the Command Chief Warrant Officer (CCWO) for U.S. Army CI Command (ACIC) in September 2022.

Born in South Bend, Indiana, CW5 Skiles' military career began with the Indiana Army National Guard in August 1996 when he enlisted as a Light Anti-Armor Weaponry Specialist / Infantryman (11H). CW5 Skiles transitioned to active duty service in June 1999 at which time he reclassified to U.S. Army CI Special Agent (97B - now 35L). His first assignment as a CI Special Agent was with 525th Military Intelligence (MI) Brigade at Fort Bragg, NC where he deployed to Bosnia (six months; 2001-2002) and Afghanistan (AFG; six months; 2003) serving as the Noncommissioned Officer-in-Charge for a CI and Human Intelligence (HUMINT) Operational Management Team.

Between November 2003 and August 2011, CW5 Skiles served in two 902d MI Group formations, the U.S. Army Foreign CI Activity and the 310th MI Battalion. In 2005, he became a U.S. Army Warrant Officer and CI Technician (351L). While assigned to 902d MI Group, he served as a CI Investigator and CI Operations Officer as well as led two (2) teams conducting CI activities in cyberspace. CW5 Skiles also deployed three (3) times during his assignments with the 902d MI Group: one to Qatar (12 months; 2006-2007) serving as a CI Operations Officer; one to the Horn of Africa (six months; 2009) in Djibouti and Ethiopia serving as a CI Team Leader for Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA); and one to AFG (eight months; 2010-2011) serving as the CI and HUMINT Chief (S2X) for Special Operations Task Force-Southeast (SOTF-SE).

From August 2011 to May 2014, CW5 Skiles served as a Joint Advanced CI Instructor and Course Chair for the Joint CI Training Activity (JCITA) in Quantico, VA. He was an instructor for the Advanced Foreign CI Operations Course and led the redesign of JCITA's CI Activities in the Cyber Environment Curriculum. His responsibilities included the development, planning, coordination, and execution of rigorous joint CI courses and seminars.

From May 2014 to December 2017, CW5 Skiles served as a Senior Project Officer and Team Leader for the Defense Programs Support Activity (DPSA) in Elkridge, Maryland. He led two specialized project teams providing tailored support for the unique requirements of diverse worldwide Department of Defense (DOD) programs, offices, and activities requiring regular engagements with senior military officials and corporate executives.

From December 2017 to November 2020, CW5 Skiles served as Chief of the CI Operations Section and the senior CI Technician within the CI and HUMINT Division (J2X), United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida. He developed and coordinated USSOCOM requirements, policy, and strategy for CI activities supporting national, DOD, and USSOCOM objectives globally. As the senior CI Technician for USSOCOM, he also provided advice, guidance, and mentorship on MI and CI activities, policy, and strategy to USSOCOM senior leaders, staff, and components.

Between December 2020 and September 2022, CW5 Skiles was assigned to Headquarters, Department of the Army, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-2, Pentagon, Washington, DC. He served as the Army CI Operations Program Manager and Chief of Controlled CI Activities which involved regular engagements with senior military officials and congressional professional staff members. As a senior CI Technician, he also provided advice, guidance, and mentorship on CI activities, training, policy, and strategy to Army senior leaders, staff, and components.

CW5 Skiles completed all levels of Warrant Officer professional military education. He also completed the MI Pre-Command Course; Advanced Foreign CI Operations Course; Advanced CI Investigations Course; CI Surveillance Course; CI Activities in a Cyber Environment Curriculum; CI Force Protection Source Operations Course; CI Special Agent Course; Advanced Technicians Course; Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape - 215 Course; and Airborne School.

CW5 Skiles' military awards and decorations include: National Intelligence Meritorious Unit Citation, Joint Meritorious Unit Award (2nd award), MI Corps Knowlton Award, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal (3rd award), Meritorious Service Medal (2nd award), Joint Service Commendation Medal (2nd award), Army Commendation Medal (4th award), Army Achievement Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal (2nd award), Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon (3rd award), NATO Medal (2nd award), U.S. Army Staff Identification Badge, U.S. Army Parachutist Badge, German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency (GOLD), and Venezuelan, Polish, and Russian Jump Wings.