



FOOTPRINTS IN THE SANDHILLS

AT FORT

BRAGG: The brothers got their start here but rarely crossed career paths. One exception: For a short while, they lived on the same street in the Normandy neighborhood.

AFTER BRAGG:

Brig. Gen. Charlie Flynn still serves here. Lt. Gen. Mike Flynn was last here as director of intelligence at Fort Bragg's Joint Special Operations Command.

JOB: Mike leads the Defense Intelligence Agency. Charlie is a deputy commanding general at the 82nd Airborne Division.

Two brothers, four stars

STORY BY
HENRY CUNINGHAM

Mike and Charlie Flynn grew up in a Navy town and became Army generals.

More than three decades after they left Providence, R.I., Mike has three stars and leads the Defense Intelligence Agency in Washington, D.C. Charlie's a one-star deputy commander of the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg. Both have global responsibilities.

The brothers largely credit their military success to their father, Charles Francis Flynn — a veteran of World War II and Korea and retired Army sergeant first class — and the people they met at Fort Bragg. In many cases, they were influenced by the same leaders, sometimes a few years apart.

Playing sports and growing up in a family of nine brothers and sisters laid a foundation for Army life.

While Mike was an Army ROTC cadet at the University of Rhode Island, he came to Fort Bragg for the first time for summer advanced

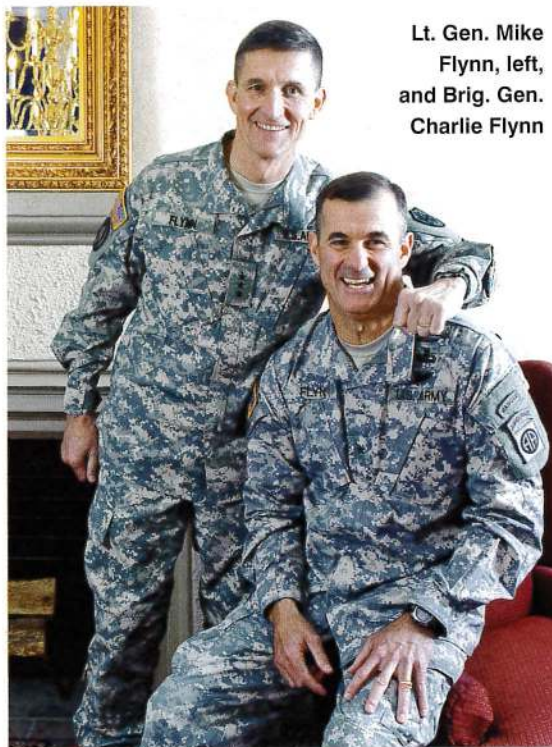


Photo by Raul R. Rubiera

camp. He liked what he saw of the Special Forces and 82nd Airborne Division.

"When I went back and were doing our choices, I wanted to go to Fort Bragg," he said. His career field was military intelligence.

A few years later, Charlie was not quite so sure about the Army but

agreed to go through ROTC and airborne school. The Fort Bragg bug bit him during summer camp, too.

Both brothers went through the crucible of combat as young officers. For Mike, it was the 1983 invasion of Grenada. He was a lieutenant in the 313th Military Intelligence

Battalion of the 82nd Airborne Division.

Charlie's crucible came as a captain during the first Persian Gulf War. Lt. Col. John R. Vines was his battalion commander.

Surprisingly, their careers rarely brought the brothers to Bragg at the same time.

"We got together when I was a brigade commander and he was a one-star," Charlie said. "That was the only time we were at Fort Bragg together. We lived on 1 and 3 Armistead. We were neighbors."

Now, Charlie is helping the 82nd return to its role as a ready force for worldwide deployment.

The "new normal" for the military is an interagency world, Mike said, where the DIA, CIA, National Security Agency and National Geospatial Agency all have a role on Fort Bragg.

Mike sits on the Executive Committee for the U.S. intelligence community. "This place, Fort Bragg, is really the reason why I'm sitting on that board because you learn so much."

BROTHER GENERALS

The Army has pinned several sets of brother generals, including the Schoomakers.



Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker,
Army chief of staff,
2003-2007



Lt. Gen. Eric Schoomaker,
Army surgeon
general, 2007-2011

Lt. Gen. Vincent K. Brooks,
commander,
3rd Army
Brig. Gen. Leo Brooks Jr.,
commandant of
cadets at the
U.S. Military
Academy

Maj. Gen. James A. Guest, commander,
Army Special Forces
Command, 1988-1991
Maj. Gen. Robert K. Guest, U.S. Army
Combined Arms
Support Command
and Fort Lee, Va.,
1993-1996

Maj. Gen. David E. Quantock, Army provost
marshal general and
commander of Army
Criminal Investigation
Command
Brig. Gen. Mark Quantock,
chief of operations, Army
Forces Cyber Command,
Fort Belvoir, Va.