

Colonel Gilbert E. Shortt distinguished himself by outstanding service to the United States of America in developing and promoting the electronic warfare mission assigned to the 193d Special Operations Wing, Pennsylvania Air National Guard.

In 1966, Colonel Shortt, then assigned to Headquarters United States Air Force, was placed in charge of the daunting task of developing a weapons system capable of broadcasting radio messages from an airborne platform. Colonel Shortt performed this herculean task in an exemplary manner. He was directly involved in selecting the airframe that would perform the mission. After selection of the Lockheed C-121 "Constellation" aircraft, Colonel Shortt then proceeded to oversee the development of the mission directives and policies for the new electronic warfare mission. The drive, dedication, and determination of Colonel Shortt resulted in the Air Force buying into the new mission. His foresight, vision and hands-on involvement in the early stages of system development assured the ultimate success and viability of the CORONET SOLO mission.

Since this was a new mission without precedent in the annals of airpower, Colonel Shortt literally wrote the book on the aerial broadcast and transmission of pre-recorded and real-time messages. Under his tutelage, the first-ever aerial psychological warfare operation plans were developed, written and eventually implemented for use in CORONET SOLO. As the newly modified and highly specialized mission aircraft were assigned to the 193d Tactical Electronic Warfare Group, Colonel Shortt stepped forward to help guide and mentor the unit in its development of training and exercise scenarios, regulations and plans. In 1970, the combat capabilities of CORONET SOLO were put to the test in Southeast Asia. This trial by fire proved beyond the shadow of a doubt that CORONET SOLO and psychological warfare had a definite place in America's arsenal of weapons.

Through years of dedicated service, Colonel Gilbert E. Shortt played an absolutely critical and key role in the development of the CORONET SOLO mission. From conceptualization to design, procurement, training, operational implementation and system upgrades, Colonel Shortt did it all. His complete, long-term and total immersion in this project earned him the well-deserved title of "Father of CORONET SOLO."

The singularly distinctive accomplishments of Colonel Gilbert E. Shortt, through years of outstanding, selfless and genuinely superb service in creating and implementing the electronic warfare mission of the 193d Special Operations Wing, reflects great credit upon himself, the United States Air Force and the Pennsylvania Air National Guard and truly warrant his induction into the Pennsylvania Air National Guard Hall of Fame.