

DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE SPECIAL FORCES REGIMENT



**MASTER SERGEANT
JOE ALDERMAN**

Inducted 13 August 2008



Master Sergeant Joe Alderman was born in Bartley, West Virginia, the son of a coal miner, on September 11th 1940. He graduated from Big Creek High School in War, WV and joined the Army in June of 1958. He began his service with the Army's first Airborne Scout Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol Team where he served for four years. He joined the Special Forces in 1962 and was assigned to the 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne) (SFG (A)) in Okinawa. MSG Alderman served an incredible seven years on several Special Forces detachments in Vietnam from 1963 to 1972. His duty positions included Light and Heavy Weapons NCO, Engineer NCO and Intelligence NCO. During his tenure in Vietnam MSG Alderman executed numerous operations while working in Project Delta and with MACV SOG as a Reconnaissance Team Leader and advisor. After Vietnam MSG Alderman was a Military Freefall Instructor at the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School and later identified as one of sixteen officers and NCOs selected by GEN Abrams to organize the 75th Ranger Regiment at Ft. Stewart in Savannah, GA.

In 1976 MSG Alderman was assigned to the 1st BN, 10th SFG (A) in Bad Tolz, Germany as Team Sergeant of an Unconventional Warfare/Combat Swim Special Forces Operational Detachment Alpha (SFODA), later serving as the Battalion Operations NCOIC. MSG Alderman retired from the US Army in 1980 after twenty-two years of service. From 1982 to 1987 MSG (Ret.) Alderman served on Fort Bragg, NC as the Deputy Installation Range Officer, later becoming the Deputy and Technical Advisor to the Director of Training and Doctrine at the Center and School.

MSG Alderman's awards include the Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Soldier's Medal, six Bronze Stars (four w/Valor), Meritorious Service Medal, five Air Medals (two w/Valor), Joint Service Medal, six Army Commendation Medals (two w/Valor), three Purple Hearts. Vietnamese awards include Special Service Medal for Heroism, Cross of Gallantry w/Silver and two Bronze Stars, and the Armed Forces Honor Medal. Badges and Tabs earned included the Combat Infantryman Badge, Expert Infantryman Badge, Master Parachute Badge, Scuba Badge, Ranger Tab, Vietnam Parachutist Badge, Republic of China Parachutist Badge, German Army Parachutist, German Army Marksman Badge, Austrian Army Parachute Badge, and the Pathfinder Badge.

Military Training and Education includes the Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol, Pathfinder, 7th Army NCOA, SF Combat Engineer, Jumpmaster, MACV Recondo, Combat Recon Leader 10 Course, Advance Airborne Techniques (HALO) RVN, Military Freefall Ranger, Intelligence Analyst, MFF Jumpmaster, ANCOES, Arctic Military, PO Course, Mountaineering, Desert Warfare Operations, Jungle Warfare Operations, Amphibious Combat Scout Swimmer, Norway Winter Warfare Course, Military Skiing, Underwater Operations (SCUBA), First Sergeant Administration Course, French, Chinese (Mandarin), Vietnamese and German Command Language Courses. He was an Honor graduate from the US Army Ranger School and Special Forces Underwater Operations Course.

MSG Alderman was married for twenty-four years to the former Ms. Linda Holder of Caretta, WV and has two children Shay Lynn and Joel.