

# DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE SPECIAL FORCES REGIMENT



**COMMAND SGT. MAJ.  
FRANKLIN D. MILLER**

Inducted 26 October 2017



Command Sergeant Major Franklin D. Miller was born on January 27, 1945, in Elizabeth City, North Carolina. In 1966, he joined the U.S. Army, and at the age of 24, he was serving as a staff sergeant in the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne). On January 5, 1970, in Kontum Province in the Republic of Vietnam, Miller's small group was under attack by a numerically superior enemy force. Single-handedly, he held off an enemy assault, arranged a helicopter for his unit's extraction, and fought off the enemy alone until relief arrived. For his actions during the battle, which left him seriously wounded, he was awarded the Medal of Honor. His citation reads:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. Staff Sgt. Miller, 5th Special Forces Group, distinguished himself while serving as team leader of an American-Vietnamese long-range reconnaissance patrol operating deep within enemy controlled territory. Leaving the helicopter insertion point, the patrol moved forward on its mission. Suddenly, one of the team members tripped a hostile booby trap which wounded four soldiers. Staff Sgt. Miller, knowing that the explosion would alert the enemy, quickly administered first aid to the wounded and directed the team into positions across a small stream bed at the base of a steep hill. Within a few minutes, Staff Sgt. Miller saw the lead element of what he estimated to be a platoon-sized enemy force moving toward his location.

Concerned for the safety of his men, he directed the small team to move up the hill to a more secure position. He remained alone, separated from the patrol, to meet the attack. Staff Sgt. Miller single-handedly repulsed two determined attacks by the numerically superior enemy force and caused them to withdraw in disorder. He rejoined his team, established contact with a forward air controller and arranged the evacuation of his patrol. However, the only suitable extraction location in the heavy jungle was a bomb crater some 150 meters from the team location. Staff Sgt. Miller reconnoitered the route to the crater and led his men through the enemy controlled jungle to the extraction site. As the evacuation helicopter hovered over the crater to pick up the patrol, the enemy launched a savage automatic weapon and rocket-propelled grenade attack against the beleaguered team, driving off the rescue helicopter. Staff Sgt. Miller led the team in a valiant defense which drove back the enemy in its attempt to overrun the small patrol. Although seriously wounded and with every man in his patrol a casualty, Staff Sgt. Miller moved forward to again single-handedly meet the hostile attackers. From his forward exposed position, Staff Sgt. Miller gallantly repelled two attacks by the enemy before a friendly relief force reached the patrol location. Staff Sgt. Miller's gallantry, intrepidity in action, and selfless devotion to the welfare of his comrades are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him, his unit, and the U.S. Army."

Command Sgt. Maj. Miller retired in 1991. He worked for the Veteran's Administration until 1999, when he retired due to combat-related injuries. He continued to teach occasionally at Fort Bragg. The lesson he liked to pass on to inexperienced troops was one he lived, "Share your fears with yourself and share your courage with others." Command Sgt. Maj. Miller lost his battle to cancer on June 30, 2000. Range 37, Miller Training Complex on Fort Bragg, North Carolina, is named in his honor.