

HONORARY SERGEANT MAJOR AND DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE SPECIAL FORCES REGIMENT



CSM CHRISTOPHER ZETS

Inducted 24 October 2014



Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher R. Zets entered the U.S. Army in April 1978 for direct assignment to Special Forces. He completed the Special Forces Qualification Course in January 1979, and was assigned to the 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) as a radio operator in the Group Signal Company, and later as the senior communications sergeant on Special Forces Operational Detachment-Alpha 742.

In 1984, he was reassigned to Special Forces Operational Detachment-Alpha 794, in Company C, 3rd Battalion, 7th SFG (A) in the Republic of Panama, where he deployed numerous times to Colombia to train and advise key Tier I special operations units of the Colombian military. He returned to Fort Bragg, N.C., in 1988 to serve as an instructor at the Special Forces Advanced Reconnaissance Target Analysis and Exploitation Techniques Course at the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School, after which he was again reassigned to the 7th SFG (A). He returned to Panama in 1993. Following completion of the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy, he returned to the 7th SFG (A), where he was a key contributor in the planning and execution of the Colombian Counternarcotics Initiative.

Upon his appointment to command sergeant major in September 2001, Zets was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne), deploying the battalion to Nigeria, and to combat zones in Afghanistan and Iraq. Upon his return from Iraq, he was assigned as the Command Sergeant Major, 1st Battalion, 1st Special Warfare Training Group (Airborne), overseeing the expansion and transition of the field portion of the Special Forces Qualification Course. In October 2006, he returned to the 7th SFG (A), assuming duties as the group command sergeant major, where he completed two more combat rotations as the senior enlisted adviser of the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force-Afghanistan.

Since his retirement, Command Sgt. Maj. Zets has continued to serve the community as the liaison officer and senior adviser to the United States Army Special Operations Command for the Joint IED Defeat Organization's Counter-IED Operations Integration Center and teaches courses on Counter-IED Operations Integration Center's capabilities and coordinates pre-mission training and support for all of the Special Forces groups as they prepare to deploy.

Additionally, Zets is a life member of the Special Forces Association, serving on the national board of officers for two years and is one of the original founders of the Green Beret Foundation.

He is a graduate of the Special Forces Qualification Course, Ranger Course, Spanish Language School, Jumpmaster School, Special Operations Target Interdiction Course, Special Forces Operations and Intelligence Course, Special Forces Advanced Reconnaissance Target Analysis and Exploitation Techniques Course, Anti-Terrorism Instructor Course and several other courses and schools. Additionally, he earned a master of arts in management from Webster University in January 2000.

His military awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal with Oak-Leaf cluster, Defense Meritorious Service Medal with Oak-Leaf Cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with five Oak-Leaf Clusters, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal with three Oak-Leaf Clusters, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal with four Oak-Leaf Clusters, Combat Infantryman Badge, Expert Infantryman Badge and Master Parachutist Badge. He has jump wings from Colombia, Venezuela, Honduras, Australia and Canada. He is also a recipient of the Order of the Saint Phillip Neri Bronze Medal.