

DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE SPECIAL FORCES REGIMENT



LIEUTENANT COLONEL MAURICE H. PRICE

Inducted 10 January 2013



Lt. Col. Maurice H. Price entered the United States Army in October 1946. Upon completion of Infantry Basic training, he was assigned to Co. H, 20th Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment, 6th Infantry Division in Pusan, Korea. Price was honorably discharged from the Army in October 1949, with follow-on service in both the U.S. Army Reserves and the Maryland National Guard. In 1951, Lt. Col. Price reenlisted in the U.S. Army.

In May 1952, Price entered Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Ga., where he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Infantry, with several Infantry assignments of progressive responsibility, including an assignment with the 8th U.S. Army in Korea, where he was selected to attend Special Intelligence School at Camp Drake, Japan. Upon completion of his schooling, he served with a North Korean partisan unit of 500 troops on the Island of Kyo Dong Do in the Yellow Sea, where he conducted airborne and amphibious intelligence-gathering operations in North Korea. In September 1954, Price was reassigned to the position of executive officer, Co. E., 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. In this capacity, he served on the demilitarized zone and participated in security- and intelligence-gathering operations, with a follow-on assignment to the 77th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Fort Bragg, N.C., the first of many SF assignments, which included service in the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Bad Tolz, Germany, 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne) and 5th Special Forces Group.

In April 1961, he entered the Career Officers Course, Infantry, at Fort Benning, Ga. Upon graduation, he was assigned to 1st Battalion, 503 Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division. He assumed command of the C Company, 1/503, 82nd Airborne Division in April 1962. In December 1962, he was selected for assignment as the deputy military mission chief to Mali. While in Mali, he supervised a joint U.S. Army/Air Force parachute mobile training team. He also planned and conducted a Pilot Selection Program throughout the Malian Army.

In 1965, following an assignment with the 3rd SFG(A), he volunteered for assignment in 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), deploying to Vietnam in 1966 with B-24, serving as executive officer and commanding officer of five ODAs and 2,400 indigenous forces. In July 1966, he was selected to be a senior adviser to the Vietnamese Ranger Command, where he reported directly to U.S. Military Advisory Command-Vietnam for planning, requesting and coordinating all U.S. combat and combat-service support for 20 Ranger battalions and two Ranger Training Centers.

In January 1967, he was reassigned to the U.S. Army Special Warfare School, Fort Bragg as a principal instructor of combat intelligence, raids and ambushes, tactics and physical training. In June 1967, he assumed the duties and responsibilities as the chief of operations. In May 1969, he returned to Vietnam, serving one year as the senior adviser to the 8th ARVN Regiment. Following attendance at Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kan., he returned to Fort Bragg to assume the duties of director of the U.S. Army Institute for Military Assistance. He retired from active duty in 1972 with more than 26 years of service.

His awards and decorations include: Distinguished Flying Cross; Bronze Star Medal with V Device with three oak-leaf clusters; Meritorious Service Medal with one oak-leaf cluster; Air Medal with seven oak-leaf clusters; Purple Heart Medal; World War II Victory Medal; Army Occupation Medal (Korea); National Defense Medal with one oak-leaf cluster; Korean Service Medal; Vietnam Service Medal; Armed Forces Reserve Medal; Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Bronze Star, Vietnam Civic Actions Honor Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal with 60 Device; Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation; Combat Infantry Badge; Parachute Badge, Senior Parachute Badge; HALO Parachute Badge; Ranger Tab; Malian Parachute Badge; Ethiopian Parachute Badge; Vietnam Honorary Parachute Wings and Vietnam Ranger Badge.

Lt. Col. Price has remained active in the special-operations community with 44 years membership in Special Forces Chapter 1, 1/18 and XXI, which he activated in Florida in 1975 and served as its first president. He has been recognized by the Disabled American Veterans at the state and national level as Small Employer of the Year 1982-1983. In 2005, he was selected featured on the History Channel's documentary titled True Heroes.