

# DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE SPECIAL FORCES REGIMENT



**MASTER SERGEANT  
CARL L. COMPTON**

Inducted 9 November 2011



Master Sgt. Carl L. Compton was born in La Ward, Texas, on June 14, 1939. He enlisted in the Army in 1961 and, two years later, was assigned to Fort Bragg, N.C., having successfully completed Airborne School, Ranger School and the Special Forces Qualification Course. Assigned to 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne), he served as a light weapons sergeant and operations and intelligence sergeant. From 1967 to 1969, Compton was deployed to Vietnam, assigned to the Military Assistance Command Vietnam – Studies and Observations Group (MACV-SOG).

After a short break in service, Master Sgt. Compton returned to active duty, assigned to the U.S. Joint Military Assistance Group Project 404 in Thailand, where he conducted numerous sensitive operations. When he returned to the United States, after completing counterintelligence training, he was assigned to Oxford, Miss., where he served as the senior special agent until 1975. After a brief posting at the Army Counterintelligence Command at Fort Meade, Md., he was assigned to the 66th Military Intelligence, Munich, Germany, before returning to Fort Bragg, N.C., as the senior counterintelligence agent for a special-mission unit. Compton was instrumental in establishing and implementing many sensitive training programs in support of the Operators Training Programs throughout the United States and overseas. He remained at this post until his retirement on Oct. 31, 1987.

Many of the successes that Special Forces continue to achieve today in the field of information operations are directly attributable to Master Sgt. Compton's contributions, especially to the Advanced Special Operations Program. Maj. Gen. William Garrison, then commander of the United States Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School (USAJFKSWCS), handpicked Compton for the newly created position of program developer and manager of the Advanced Special Operations Techniques Program in 1988. When the U.S. Army Special Forces Command identified a capabilities gap in its ability to effectively conduct information operations in 1990, Compton was sought out by Maj. Gen. James Guest to develop what is known today as Allies Dagger. Continuing to support the special operations forces, Mr. Compton returned to USAJFKSWCS, writing FM 31-26 and serving as senior instructor for the Special Forces ASOT course until his death on July 11, 1995. In 1991, Compton was selected as the USAJFKSWCS Civilian of the Year.

His awards and decorations include the Silver Star Medal; Legion of Merit; Bronze Star Medal with "V" device and two oak-leaf clusters; Meritorious Service Medal with three oak-leaf clusters; Air Medal; Joint Service Commendation Medal; Army Commendation Medal with "V" device and one oak-leaf cluster; Army Achievement Medal; National Defense Service Ribbon; Army Good Conduct Medal (seven awards); Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; Non-Commissioned Officers Professional Development Ribbon; Army Service Ribbon; Overseas Service Ribbon (five awards); Vietnam Service Medal (six awards); Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal; Joint Meritorious Unit Award; Combat Infantryman Badge; Special Forces Tab; Ranger Tab; and Vietnam Parachutist Badge.

Throughout his life Compton was active in the Boy Scouts of America. He obtained the status of Eagle Scout and was admitted into the Order of the Arrow. As an adult, he continued to actively support the Boy Scouts of America as a leader and adviser in many capacities. He is survived by his wife, Judy.