

DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE SPECIAL FORCES REGIMENT



**SERGEANT MAJOR
WILLIE MCLEOD, JR.**

Inducted February 2011



Retired Sergeant Major Willie McLeod Jr. enlisted in the U.S. Army in February 1958, assigned to Infantry Basic Training at Fort Carson, Colo. He attended Advanced Infantry Training at Fort Ord, California, volunteering for airborne training. Following completion of jump school, he was assigned to the Echo Company weapons platoon, 504th Airborne Infantry Battle Group, 82nd Airborne Division as a 106mm jeep driver.

McLeod's assignments include duty with the 8th Infantry Division; E company, 187th Airborne Infantry Brigade; 101st Airborne Division; the 175th Infantry; and, the 7th Infantry Division Korea. When the Korean government deployed 1,000 troops to Vietnam and needed training for the 112 Anti-Personnel Carrier and the H-34 helicopter, McLeod was selected to lead the six-man team. From Korea, he was reassigned to Fort Polk, Louisiana as a drill instructor. During this assignment, McLeod volunteered for Special Forces training.

After graduating in 1966 as an SF operations and intelligence sergeant, McLeod volunteered for duty in Vietnam. McLeod was assigned to the MAC-V Studies and Operations Group (SOG) Command and Control Central (CCC), running 15 cross-border operations into Laos, Cambodia and Northern Thailand; 13 of those missions as the team leader, during his 15 month tour. He was presented with the most coveted reconnaissance award, the chrome-plated Belgian 9 mm automatic pistol given to only to a few exceptional One-Zeros. Rotating back to fort Bragg, he was assigned to the 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) (SFG(A)), detailed to the United States Army Institute for Military Assistance to help organize and develop the program of instruction needed for a new course based on SOG reconnaissance missions. In 1971, returning to Vietnam, McLeod was reassigned to CCC as an operations sergeant, advising and monitoring reconnaissance team missions. In 1972, McLeod returned to Fort Bragg, assigned to the Special Forces Training Group where he served as a senior instructor in the Operations and Intelligence committee for two years. His follow-on assignment was as a team sergeant with the 5th SFG(A).

In 1977, McLeod volunteered for an assignment as the first sergeant of Headquarters Company, XVIII Airborne Corps; a unit with 421 personnel that had not passed an IG inspection in three years. Under McLeod's direction, the unit passed with a superior rating for each of the next three years. In 1980, assigned to the United States Military Training Mission in Saudi Arabia, he served as the Army Sergeant Major. In this position, he administered a \$2.9 million school program and coordinated with TRADOC for school quotas. He was also responsible for the English language testing, briefing and processing of Saudi Army students for deployment to the United States. In 1982, McLeod returned to Special Forces, this time with the 7th SFG(A) in the Republic of Panama. The next year he was stationed with the U.S. Army Readiness Group, New York, responsible for advising Reserve Component command sergeants major at battalion, brigade and division level in units throughout upstate New York. He also developed and supervised an effective professional development program. McLeod returned to the 5th SFG(A) in 1984 where he was instrumental in establishing a high quality of training for the Jordanian Special Forces during the first Special Forces Mobile Training Team (MTT) to that country, setting the bar for other MTTs that followed.

Sergeant Major McLeod retired in 1985 with more than 27 years of service. Still active, enjoying sharing his experience and knowledge with others, he has served as a Junior Reserve Officer Training Course instructor, and is currently a resistance leader at Camp Mackall during iterations of Robin Sage.

Sergeant Major McLeod's military awards include the Legions of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal with V-device, the Purple Heart Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, Air Medal, Jump Master Wings, Jordanian Jump Master Wings, Special Forces Tab and the Meritorious Service Award. He is a graduate of the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy.

McLeod and his wife, Dorothy, reside in Fayetteville, N.C.