

DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE SPECIAL FORCES REGIMENT



**COLONEL
EDWIN "ANDY" ANDERSON**

Inducted 9 August 2012



Colonel Andy Anderson was born in Albany, Ga. on 26 July 1951 and began his military service via an Army ROTC scholarship at the University of Georgia in the fall of 1969. Upon graduating with a Bachelors and a Masters of Business Administration from his beloved University of Georgia, he was commissioned in the Engineer Corps, entering active duty in October 1975. After completing the Engineer Officer Basic Course and Airborne training in Feb 1976, his first assignment was as a combat engineer platoon leader and company XO in Neu Ulm, Germany.

Returning to Fort Bragg, he spent two years as a company commander in the 82nd Airborne Division before being assigned as the 5th Special Forces Group Airborne (A) Engineer. He volunteered for and completed the Special Forces Qualification Course in 1983, assigned to 5th SFG(A) before being selected as an ROTC instructor at the University of Iowa where he served for four years.

Upon completing the Army's Command and General Staff College, he returned to Fort Bragg as the commander of Company A, 3rd Battalion, 5th SFG(A) (later reflagged as 1st Battalion, 3rd SFG (A) in 1990). Remaining with 3d SFG(A) as the Battalion Executive Officer of 1st/3d SFG(A), he deployed with the Group in January 1991 for Operation Desert Storm. Upon returning to the US, he was reassigned to the U.S. Army Special Forces Command as the Chief of Operations and G-3. He was then selected for battalion command of the 2nd Battalion (Advanced Skills), 1st Special Warfare Training Group (Airborne), US Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School (USAJFKSWCS). He commanded the Battalion from 1992 to 1994, overseeing many training initiatives for SF and Joint SOF training. He then served as the Assistant G3 for USASOC until June 1995.

Colonel Anderson was selected to attend and graduated from the Air War College at Maxwell AFB, Alabama. He returned to Fort Bragg in 1997, serving as the Chief of Staff, USAJFKSWCS for two years. In 1999, he became the Group Commander of the 1st Special Warfare Training Group (A). During his two year tenure, he executed significant changes resulting in growth to SFAS and SFQC. Remaining at SWCS for another three years, he was made the Director of Training and Doctrine. His last operational assignment was as the J-3 of Combined JTF Horn of Africa in Djibouti, Africa in support of Global War on Terror. He retired after 30 years of continuous active service on 30 September 2005.

His awards and decorations include: Legion of Merit (2 awards); Bronze Star Medal; the Defense Meritorious Service Medal; Army Meritorious Service Medals (7); Army Commendation Medals (2); National Defense Service Medal; Southwest Asia Service Medal; Kuwait Liberation Medal; Canadian, German, French, and Venezuelan Airborne Badges; Master Parachutist Badge; Combat Infantryman Badge; Special Forces Tab; and the German Silver Cross of Honor.

Col Anderson and his wife, Jan, were married in their home town of Washington, Ga. in 1975. Upon retirement he and Jan have remained very active in the Fayetteville and Fort Bragg military and civilian communities, serving as a key link between many support organizations and military families. Following his love and passion for Special Forces history and lineage, he became a member of the OSS Society board of directors. Serving in the role of educating active duty and other retired Special Forces soldiers on the OSS and the mission of the Society, he was instrumental in reestablishing the USSOCOM "Singlaub Award," given annually by the OSS Society to the SOF Special Operator who most embodies the courage and daring of MG Jack Singlaub. In 2006 he joined the board of the Special Operations Warrior Foundation (SOWF) and as a volunteer, has represented SOWF to Special Forces families and wounded soldiers, at Bragg and at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. In 2009 he was a co-founder of and serves as vice president of the USASOC Soldier, Family, and Command Support Association, a benevolent organization that supports ARSOF in responding to emergencies requiring financial assistance. He also co founded Champions of Freedom, another benevolent organization focusing on supporting military families of the USAJFKSWCS. Since 2004, he has been involved in an effort to have a monumental statue of the SF "Horse Soldier" funded, cast, and placed at Ground Zero in New York City. He is a life member of the SF Association, and has served on the board of the Ft Bragg chapter of AUSA, the Lafayette Society, and the Fayetteville Military Affairs Council. He is active in the Fayetteville Kiwanis Club and is a member of the Fayetteville Independent Light Infantry sponsoring many events for SOF soldiers and units. His commitment was recognized in May 2012 with the USSOCOM Patriot Award for "Significant and enduring support to USSOCOM's wounded warriors and their families."