

DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE SPECIAL FORCES REGIMENT



**COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR
STEPHEN P. HOLMSTOCK**

Inducted 14 November 2007



Command Sergeant Major Stephen P. Holmstock enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1957. Two years later, he re-enlisted in the United States Army, where he served as a rifleman in the 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Ky., and the 8th Infantry Division in Germany. He volunteered for Special Forces and completed training in 1964 as a Special Forces weapons sergeant.

CSM Holmstock's assignments included duty with the 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne), the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) in the Republic of Vietnam, and the 46th Special Forces Company (Airborne) in Thailand. Returning to the United States, CSM Holmstock served as an instructor for the U.S. Army Institute for Military Assistance (Phases 1 and 3). He subsequently served as a Special Forces team sergeant in the 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne) in Okinawa and the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne). After graduation from the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy, he served as a first sergeant in the 1st Ranger Battalion, 75th Infantry Regiment; as the sergeant major, Florida Phase Ranger School; and as the command sergeant major, 1st Battalion, 60th Infantry (Airborne) at Fort Richardson, Alaska. Returning to Special Forces, he became the command sergeant major for the 2nd Battalion, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) and then the command sergeant major for the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne). CSM Holmstock culminated his military career as the command sergeant major, 1st Special Operations Command, Fort Bragg, N.C. In August 1988, CSM Holmstock retired from active duty after 31 years of military service.

Upon retirement, CSM Holmstock continued to serve the special operations community as a Department of Army civilian. CSM Holmstock retired from civil service on April 30, 2002, after 45 years of federal service.

During his military career, CSM Holmstock attended the Special Forces Weapons Sergeant Course, basic and advanced noncommissioned officer courses, U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy, Special Forces Operations and Intelligence Course, instructor training, and airborne, jumpmaster, military free-fall and rough terrain parachuting courses. Other specialized courses that he attended included the Japanese Northern Warfare Training Course, Egyptian Commando Course, and Vietnamese and Thai language courses.

CSM Holmstock's awards include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Joint Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster and the Army Commendation Medal with four OLCs. He has earned the Combat Infantryman Badge, Military Free-Fall Parachutist Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Ranger Tab and Special Forces Tab. CSM Holmstock served as the second Honorary Sergeant Major of the Special Forces Regiment.

CSM Holmstock resides in Waterford, Maine, with his wife, Dianne. They have four children.