

# DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE SPECIAL FORCES REGIMENT



**COLONEL  
DARRELL W. KATZ**

Inducted 28 March 2013



Col. Darrell W. Katz was born in Alliance, Neb., on March 12, 1939. The son of an Army officer, he attended school in Germany and on numerous Army installations. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in March 1956. Following basic training and jump school he served in the 1st Airborne Brigade/505th Infantry at Fort Bragg, N.C., and Mainz, Germany through 1961 when he was reassigned to the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) in Bad Toelz, Germany. Before attending Infantry Officer Candidate School and graduating as the Distinguished Honor and Leadership Graduate, he served as a detachment radio operator on ODA 123.

From 1967 to 1968, Col. Katz served his first tour in Vietnam as commander of 14 Company, a Vietnamese Mobile Strike Force in I Corps, 5th SFG(A), Republic of Vietnam. Attached to the 2/502nd Battalion, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, Katz was awarded the Silver Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal. Upon his return from Vietnam in 1968, he commanded Company A, 2/325th Airborne Infantry, 82nd Airborne Division. Completing the Army Rotary Wing Flight School, Cobra transition and the Infantry Officer's Advanced Course in 1971, he returned to Vietnam and served as company executive officer of Company D, 227th Cavalry and Battalion S3 of the 1st Battalion, 10th Aviation Battalion, 1st Aviation Brigade. Upon his return from Vietnam, he attended the University of Nebraska at Omaha to complete his bachelor's degree in business administration.

Between 1973 and 1974, he served as operations officer, 71st Assault Helicopter Company, 11th Aviation Brigade, Wertheim, Germany, before returning to Special Forces in 1975 as commander of ODA 6 and executive officer, Detachment-A, Berlin Brigade, Berlin, Germany. Upon completion of the Command and General Staff College and attaining a master's degree in political science from Appalachian State University in 1978, then-Maj. Katz served as G5, 2nd Armored Division (Forward), in Garlstedt, Germany. Promoted to lieutenant colonel, he returned to Berlin, commanding Detachment-A, Berlin Brigade for three years, between 1981 and 1984. For the next two years, he commanded the 1st Battalion, 10th SFG(A) in Bad Toelz, Germany. He then completed the Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Penn., and was then assigned to the newly activated United States Special Operations Command at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., as the operations division chief. In 1989, Col. Katz returned to Bad Toelz, Germany, assuming the command of the 7th Special Operations Support Command, U.S. Army Europe; a multi-functional logistical and planning command that supported Operation Desert Storm and all phases of Operation Provide Comfort, the Kurdish relief operation in northern Iraq. His follow on assignment was a three-year tour as the deputy chief of staff of operations, U.S. Army Special Operations Command, Fort Bragg. He later assumed the post of deputy director of operations, U.S. Special Operations Command, where he was primarily accountable for the planning and coordination of the worldwide deployment of 47,000 joint special operations forces. He retired in December 1995, concluding more than 39 years of service.

Following retirement, Col. Katz has remained actively engaged in the Special Forces and the veteran's community through participation in the Special Forces Association, serving as Veterans' Affairs Officer and past president of Chapter LX. He is also actively involved with the Disabled Veterans of America serving as a volunteer service officer, assisting veterans and surviving spouses in pursuit of veterans benefits and driving a DAV transportation van to the regional veterans hospital in Tampa, Fla.

His awards and decorations include the Silver Star Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal with one oak-leaf cluster, Legion of Merit with two oak-leaf clusters, Bronze Star Medal with one oak-leaf cluster, Purple Heart Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal with numeral 7, Army Commendation Medal with one oak-leaf cluster, Combat Infantryman's Badge, Army Aviator's Badge and Master Parachutist's Badge.