

# DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE SPECIAL FORCES REGIMENT



**CAPTAIN CLAUDE O.  
"BUD" McBROOM**

Inducted 31 October 2014



Capt. Claude McBroom was born in Plymouth, N.H., March 3, 1938 and raised in the Ozarks of southern Missouri. In 1956, following his graduation from high school, he joined the U.S. Army.

He spent 20 years in a variety of command and staff assignments with both conventional and special operations forces. He volunteered for Special Forces in 1962 and upon completion of training, was sent to Panama, assigned to the 8th Special Forces Group (Airborne). His first team sergeant was Dick Meadows. He deployed on missions in Ecuador, Columbia and Guatemala. Four years later, he graduated from Officers Candidate School at Fort Benning, Ga. and was assigned to the Special Forces Training Group as a Military Freefall instructor. In 1967, he was assigned to 5th SFG(A) in the Republic of Vietnam, employed first with an A-team in the Central Highlands and then with the MIKE Force, commanding four Montagnard companies and one Chinese Nung company.

After returning to the United States, he attended Army flight school, graduating in December 1969. For the next nine years, he was on flight status. During this time, he also graduated from St. Leo University. He retired from the Army in 1978.

Upon retirement, he joined the Central Intelligence Agency, and was assigned to the Air Branch. He was given assignments in the Middle East and Central and South America. He flew as a co-pilot with CIA officer Jim Rhyne and Air Force Maj. John T. Carney on the March 31, 1980 flight to reconnoiter proposed landing strips for the C-130s for use in Operation Eagle Claw. Additionally, McBroom assisted Carney in laying in the remote lighting at the site. McBroom and Rhyne were awarded the Distinguished Intelligence Cross, the highest award given by the CIA.

In 1983, he went to work for the Saudi ARAMCO Oil Company assigned to the flight department as a pilot for the F27, Boeing 737 and the Gulfstream IV. In January 1996, retiring a third time, he settled in Colorado, forming McBroom Aviation Services, Inc., flying in support of various worldwide joint contingency operations from Africa to the Balkans. He is currently associated with Sierra Nevada Corporation as a consultant.

His military awards and decorations include the Soldiers Medal for Heroism, Bronze Star Medal with "V" device with one oak-leaf cluster, Air Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal with one oak-leaf cluster, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with four bronze service stars, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with bronze star, Special Forces Tab, Combat Infantryman Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Senior Army Aviator Badge and Master Vietnam Jump Wings.