

# DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE SPECIAL FORCES REGIMENT



**COMMAND SGT. MAJ.  
FRANCIS R. MCFADDEN**

Inducted 26 October 2017



Command Sergeant Major Francis (Frank) R. McFadden was born in Montreal, Canada, to Valerie and John McFadden in August 1958. He and his family immigrated to the United States in 1963, and lived in Massachusetts, Delaware, and finally New Hampshire, before entering the U.S. Army in 1976. He entered the Army as a radio mechanic and served his initial years in Germany, at Fort Devens, Massachusetts, and finally with the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, before entering the Special Forces in 1981.

Upon completion of the Special Forces Qualification Course, Command Sgt. Maj. McFadden was assigned to 1st Battalion, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) — first at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, then at Fort Campbell, Kentucky — as a communications sergeant. He served in that capacity on Operational Detachments 512, 531, 533 and 534. Upon his promotion to master sergeant, Command Sgt. Maj. McFadden served as team sergeant for ODA 524 and battalion operations sergeant major until his selection and attendance to the Sergeants Major Academy in 1996. Upon graduation, he returned to Fort Campbell as Sergeant Major, Co. B, 1st Battalion and then again as the battalion operations sergeant major. Upon his appointment to command sergeant major in 2000, he transferred to Fort Bragg to serve as the Battalion Command Sergeant Major, 1st Battalion, 3rd SFG (A). Shortly after 9/11, he transferred to the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School and served as the command sergeant major with oversight over the training and build-up of Green Berets following the attack of 9/11. In May 2002, Command Sgt. Maj. McFadden was selected to serve as Command Sergeant Major, 3rd SFG (A) at Fort Bragg, where he served until his retirement in 2006 following more than 30 years of service within the U.S. Army and 25 years within the Special Forces Regiment.

Command Sgt. Maj. McFadden's operational experience includes numerous deployments to almost every country in the Middle East and Southwest Asia and numerous countries in western Africa, the Horn of Africa and the Caucasus. His combat deployments include, the Persian Gulf, Somalia and Afghanistan. His awards include the Legion of Merit, multiple Bronze Stars and Meritorious Service Medals, the Special Forces Tab, Ranger Tab, Combat Infantry Badge, Master Parachutist and Military Freefall Jumpmaster Badges and Parachutist Wings from Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Kenya, Somalia and Romania.

Command Sgt. Maj. McFadden's service to the regiment continued after his retirement, serving as a contractor for 5th SFG (A) from 2007-2009 and as a Department of the Army Civilian since 2009. He has been awarded the Army Superior Civilian Service Award for his dedication to the unit and the regiment. Command Sgt. Maj. McFadden continues to serve the unit in numerous capacities outside of his current scope of work to include teacher, mentor and advisor.

Command Sgt. Maj. McFadden also serves on the board of the local Special Forces Chapter (Chapter 38). He was elected in 2010 to serve as the president where, among other duties, he resided over shift change in the chapter's mission to better support the 5th SFG (A) and synchronized efforts between 5th SFG (A) and the SF Chapter for the 50th Reunion in 2011. He was elected to serve as the chapter treasurer in 2014, a position he currently holds, where he manages an annual budget in excess of \$150,000 and assets totaling more than \$500,000.