

# DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE SPECIAL FORCES REGIMENT

## CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 4 HARRY RIDER

Inducted 8 July 2010



Harry Rider was born on 13 July, 1934 in Delaware Water Gap, Pennsylvania. In November of 1953, at the age of 19, he enlisted in the U.S. Army as an infantryman. Mr. Rider was subsequently reclassified as a Personnel Specialist with duty at West Point, where he was also an Airborne Instructor for the cadets. He also served tours with the 7th Infantry Division in the Republic of Korea and as the Chief Enlisted Advisor to the Kentucky Army National Guard, achieving the rank of Master Sergeant.

After applying for and receiving an appointment as a Warrant Officer, Mr. Rider served with the 101st Airborne Division and the 3rd Battalion, 508th Infantry Regiment in Panama. In 1967, he volunteered for Vietnam and was sent to the 173th Airborne Brigade where he was the Brigade pay supervisor and pay liaison to the brigade's Forward Operating Bases.

After returning from Vietnam in 1969, Mr. Rider's career in the Special Forces began. After duty with the 6th and 7th Special Forces Groups as the Group Personnel Officer, he moved to Bad Tolz, Germany in 1970 where he spent the next five years as their Personnel Officer. He then was assigned to the 10th Special Forces Group at Fort Devens, MA where he served for five years before returning to Bad Tolz.

After receiving an exemption to remain on active duty beyond thirty years, Mr. Rider qualified for and accepted reclassification to the newly-formed Special Forces Warrant Officer Corps as a 180A on 28 June 1984. He was subsequently assigned as the Warrant Officer Proponency Branch Chief at the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School. In 1985 and 1986, while serving as a member of the Total Warrant Officer Study, he lobbied for and was an integral part in the decision-making process to bring about pay parity for Warrant Officers, to allow retention beyond thirty years of active service, and in the creation of the Chief Warrant Officer Five rank. As the newly-formed Special Forces Warrant Officer Branch grew in numbers and their future was secured, Mr. Rider elected to retire after 32 ½ years of active duty service on 1 May 1986.

In 1990, Mr. Rider was selected as the first Honorary Warrant Officer of the Special Forces Regiment and served in this position for the next 15 years. Mr. Rider frequently visited the Special Warfare Center and School as a consultant to advise and assist in the training of future Special Forces Warrant Officers. His awards include the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star with "V" device, 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Vietnam Service Medal with 4 bronze stars, and the Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device. He also earned the Master Parachutist badges. Mr. Rider is the only Warrant Officer ever honored by two Regimental associations as their Honorary Regimental Warrant Officer; the Adjutant General and Special Forces Regiments.

Mr. Rider and his wife, Shirley, currently reside in Tobyhanna, Pennsylvania where they recently celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary.