

DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE SPECIAL FORCES REGIMENT

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR GORDON SMITH

Inducted 5 March 2009



Command Sergeant Major Gordon Smith was drafted into the Army in 1971 and attended Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training as an Infantryman at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

In 1976, Command Sergeant Major Smith completed Special Forces training and was assigned to the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), where he served for four years. He was subsequently assigned to the 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne), also serving four years there, followed by three years at the 1st Special Warfare Group (Airborne) where he served as an Anti-Terrorism Instructor.

Prior to his selection for Sergeant Major, Command Sergeant Major Smith served over 30 months as an Operations Sergeant for two Operational Detachments in the 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne). Promoted to Sergeant Major in 1991, he then served as the Company Sergeant Major for Company B, 2nd Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne), afterwards serving as the battalion Operations Sergeant Major until May 1993 when he was selected to serve as the Command Sergeant Major of 2nd Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne). Command Sergeant Major Smith culminated his military career as the Command Sergeant Major of 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne), where he held that position for nearly three years.

Command Sergeant Major Smith has deployed on numerous contingency operations and training events throughout the world. He was involved in the conflict in El Salvador and Operation UPHOLD DEMOCRACY in Haiti. A natural trainer of Soldiers, Command Sergeant Major Smith has deployed and instructed soldiers in Spain, Tunisia, Guatemala, Honduras, Columbia, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Paraguay, Uruguay, Japan, and numerous countries in the Caribbean.

Command Sergeant Major Smith's awards include the Legion of Merit (with one Oak Leaf Cluster), the Meritorious Service Medal (with six Oak Leaf Clusters), Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Expert Infantryman's Badge, Military Freefall Jumpmaster Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, and the Special Forces Tab.

In retirement, Command Sergeant Major Smith has continued his support to the Special Operations community and the Special Forces Regiment. He currently is a civilian instructor of Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape (SERE) with the 1st Special Warfare Training Group, training Special Forces candidates and designated Army Special Operations Forces personnel in High Risk survival, evasion, resistance to interrogation and escape techniques at Camp Mackall and surrounding area the Special Forces Qualification Course. Due to his professionalism as an instructor, he was recognized as the United States Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School Civilian Instructor of the year for 2005.