



UNITED STATES ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND

U.S. ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
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Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Menda **U.S. Army Special Operations Parachute Demonstration Team** **The Black Daggers**

Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Menda was born in Tampa, Florida. He enlisted in the U.S. Army on July 5th, 2005, attending Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina where he earned the Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) of 56M, Chaplain's Assistant. In April, 2013 he graduated from the Special Forces Qualification Course and was awarded the 18B MOS of Special Forces Weapons Sergeant.

Sgt. 1st Class Menda's past assignments are: In 2005, he was assigned to 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th ID located at Schofield Barracks, HI. In 2009, he was assigned to Headquarters Battalion, United States Army Pacific (USARPAC) located at Fort Shafter, HI. From May 2011 to January 2013 he attended the Special Forces Qualification Course at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. In 2013, he completed the Special Forces Qualification Course, qualifying as an 18B (Special Forces Weapons Sergeant). He served as a Junior then Senior 18B at A Co, 2nd BN, 3rd SFG (A). In addition to his service on a team, he was a Senior Instructor for the USAJFKSWCS SERE C Course at C Co, 1st BN, 1st SWTG(A) on Camp Mackall, North Carolina; later serving as the NCOIC of the Escape and Evasion Committee in SERE.

Presently, Sgt. 1st Class Menda is assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Special Operations Command, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, as a full-time member of the USASOC Black Daggers Recruiting Support Detachment and Parachute Demonstration Team.

Sgt. 1st Class Menda's past deployments include: Iraq in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM from August 2006 to October 2007; Afghanistan in support of Operation FREEDOM SENTINEL from August through December 2013 and Resolute Support Mission from March through September 2014; Niger, Africa in support of JUNIPER SHIELD from May through October 2016. He has also deployed on numerous occasions to multiple countries such as Thailand, Japan, and Kyrgystan.

His military education includes the Warrior Leaders Course, the Special Forces Assessment and Selection Course, Basic Airborne Course, Special Forces Qualification Course; Special Operations Non-Standard Armor's Course (SOFNAC); Special Operations Static Line Jump Master Course; The Special Forces Advanced Urban Combat Course; The Military Free Fall Parachutist Course (HALO); Senior Leaders Course; Special Operations Instructor Course; Military Free Fall Jumpmaster Course (MMFJM) , and the Advanced Tactical Infiltration Course (ATIC)

Sgt. 1st Class Menda's awards and decorations include, the Bronze Star Medal; Meritorious Service Medal (1 OLC); Army Commendation Medal (5 OLC); Joint Service Achievement Medal; Army Achievement Medal (5 OLC); Army Good Conduct Medal (5th Award); National Defense Service Medal; Afghanistan Campaign Medal (2 Campaign Star); Iraq Campaign Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; NCO Professional Development Ribbon (3rd Award); Army Service Ribbon; Overseas Service Ribbon; Combat Infantry Badge; Parachutist Badge; Military Freefall Parachutist Badge; Master Military Freefall Parachutist Badge; Expert Rifle Marksmanship Badge; Special Forces Tab.