

# DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE SPECIAL FORCES REGIMENT



**MAJOR STEVEN E. COOK**

Inducted 04 May 2018



Major Steven E. Cook was born and raised in Elkins, West Virginia. He served 20 years in the U.S. Army, with 13 of those years in Special Forces. Maj. Cook served as both a noncommissioned officer and a commissioned officer.

His assignments include: 1st Cavalry Division, South Vietnam, attached to Special Forces Operational Detachments B-32 (Tay Ninh East), A-334 (Tong Le Chon), A-332 (Katum) and A-323 (Thien Ngon); SFODA 531, Co. A, 3rd Bn, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Fort Bragg, North Carolina; SFODA-3 (Military Free Fall), Co A, 1st Bn, 10th SFG (A), West Germany; SFODA-9 (Scout Swim), Co B, 1st Bn 10th SFG (A), West Germany; Instructor, Infantry Officer Basic Course, U.S. Army Infantry School, Fort Benning, Georgia; 3rd Bn, 10th SFG (A).

As a staff sergeant, Maj. Cook served as a Pathfinder Team Sergeant in the 1st Cavalry Division in South Vietnam, was attached to SFODB-32, SFODA-334 and SFODA-323. He provided Pathfinder training and support to prepare the Special Forces units, sites and Mike Force for the spring invasion of Cambodia in 1970. In 1973, while assigned as the executive officer for SFODA 531, Co A, 3rd Bn, 5th SFG (A), his detachment was among the first "Green Light Teams" that trained in SADM operations. This resulted in his detachment successfully passing Department of the Army Tactical Proficiency Inspection. While assigned to SFODA-3 (MFF), Co A, 1st Bn, 10th SFG (A), he tested and assisted in perfecting nonstandard MFF parachutes, equipment and procedures. In 1983, he was appointed as the acting director for FTX Flintlock in Stuttgart, Germany. He supervised a small battalion of SOF and conventional Soldiers that supported a major unconventional warfare field training exercise. Maj. Cook was responsible for selecting and manning numerous infiltration and exfiltration sites, managing operational funds, procuring supplies, managing numerous civilian and military vehicles, helicopters, MEDEVACs and two companies of U.S. Marines role players.

After retirement in 1986, Maj. Cook continued to serve the regiment as a Department of Defense civilian. He was an instructor at the Special Forces Operations and Intelligence Course at Fort Bragg. In 1998, he worked at the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School for the Combat Development Directorate as the plans officer and managed the development and testing of new and non-standard equipment. From 1989 to 2000, Maj. Cook was the Deputy Chief of the Joint, Army and Special Operations Forces Division, Directorate of Training and Doctrine where he integrated SOF doctrine into Army, Multiservice and Joint Publications. He was instrumental in developing the SOF Imperatives.

In addition, Maj. Cook volunteered his time to serve on the Fort Bragg Retiree Council from 1986 to 1990. In 1988, he worked cooperatively with local, state and federal agencies to improve the quality of life for active-duty military, retirees and their families in 30 counties in North Carolina. MAJ Cook volunteered numerous after-duty and weekend hours as an instructor, role player, area commander/sector commander, evaluator and guerrilla chief for the Special Forces Qualification Course, Advanced Special Operations Techniques Course, Survival, Evasion, Resistance, Escape Course and the Noncommissioned Officer Academy.

Maj. Cook performed numerous Gabriel Demonstrations and Special Forces Parachute Demonstration Team activities promoting the Special Forces recruiting effort. After retiring from civil service, Maj. Cook continued to support the regiment through fundraisers for The Green Beret Foundation and Team Red, White and Blue.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal (six) awards, Purple Heart Medal (four) awards, Vietnam Service Medal with nine campaign stars, Combat Infantryman Badge, Expert Infantryman Badge, Military Free Fall Jumpmaster Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Special Forces Combat Diver Badge, Pathfinder Badge, Special Forces Tab, U.S. Army Staff Identification Badge and various foreign parachutist badges.