

DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE SPECIAL FORCES REGIMENT

COLONEL JOHN H. "SCOTTY" CRERAR

Inducted 31 October 2014



Col. Scotty Crerar graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1953 and later earned a master's from Clemson University and from the University of Southern California.

After joining Special Forces in 1964, Col. Crerar, was assigned to the 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne) and deployed to Vientiane, Laos, as an assistant army attaché with the responsibility of drafting and expanding a national-level information program, consisting of diverse and integrated media efforts including print, radio and variety of entertainment programs. In 1965, the valuable experience he garnered in Laos was immediately put into play when he joined the Military Assistance Command Vietnam-Studies and Observation Group, where commanded FOB 2, a cross-border reconnaissance unit.

Returning to Fort Bragg, N.C., he served as an instructor with the Special Forces Officers Qualification Course at the U.S. Army Institute of Military Assistance. He was then transferred back to Southeast Asia, assigned to Military Assistance Command Thailand. His mission was to coordinate and monitor the counterinsurgency strategies of the Thai Government, train irregular forces for Laos and co-author a concept plan for the creation and stand up of a special forces unit in Cambodia. The Commander-In-Chief-Pacific, recognizing his expertise, pulled him to serve as a unconventional warfare officer, with a primary duty to coordinate and oversee personnel recovery operations in Vietnam as well as other post-war special operations activities in Southeast Asia.

When Col. Crerar returned to Fort Bragg, he served as the G3 at the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Center for Military Assistance. He was then tapped to serve as the Deputy Commanding Officer, 10th SFG(A), and following the death of the commander, Col. E.P. Cutolo, he served as commander for a brief period. While at 10th SFG(A), he concentrated on improving the group's readiness to support rapid overseas deployments in spite of the drastic drawdown of the force. Many of his operational concepts for readiness were later incorporated into Army doctrine. In 1981, the Department of the Army tapped him to conduct a Special Operations Career Management Study. Working with Col. Charlie Beckwith, he scrutinized contemporary Army personnel programs and systemic disincentives to special operations personnel. His findings resulted in the creation of Career Management Field 18, the Special Forces Warrant Officer Military Occupational Specialty and lead to the creation of the Special Forces Branch.

Col. Crerar next served as the senior U.S. special operations officer assigned to Allied Command Europe, where he secured the approval for several initiatives and plans for SOF support of ACE. In his final assignment, he was the UW officer at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe.

Col. Crerar is a strong advocate, speaking in national forums as well as authoring articles on unconventional warfare, psychological operations and the employment of SOF in support of national security. He generously shares his expertise to others, mentoring senior ARSOF officers, warrant officers and NCOs.

Col. Crerar's awards and decorations include the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Special Forces Tab and the Master Parachutist Badge.