DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE SPECIAL FORCES REGIMENT



COMMAND SGT. MAJ. HENRY D. LUTHY Inducted March 2008



Command Sergeant Major Henry D. Luthy was born Dec. 5, 1938, in Huntington, W.V. He enlisted in the United States Army for Special Forces in June 1957. He served in both the Army Reserve and the Regular Army, retiring in February 1994 after having served our nation honorably for 37 years.

After basic, advanced infantry and airborne training in 1957, he was assigned to the 77th Special Forces Group from 1957 to 1960. During that time, he trained in light weapons, demolitions and as a medical sergeant. CSM Luthy was a founding member of the 7th Special Forces Group upon its designation in June 1960. In 1962, he qualified as a Special Forces engineer and remained assigned to the 7th Special Forces Group, where he completed training as a Special Forces medical sergeant. Between 1962 and 1970, he served four combat tours in Vietnam as a Special Forces medical sergeant in Vietnam with the 5th and 7th Special Forces groups.

From 1967 to 1969, CSM Luthy was assigned to the Special Forces Training Group as a scuba instructor and later as a HALO instructor. In 1970, CSM Luthy returned to the United States Army Institute for Military Assistance (the precursor of the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School) as both a dive instructor and a military free-fall instructor. From 1972 to 1975, he was assigned to a Special Forces scuba team and later to a Special Forces company headquarters in the 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group. From 1975 until 1982, he served in leadership and command sergeant major positions in the conventional Army at the battalion and brigade level before returning to special operations as the command sergeant major of the 3rd Battalion, 5th Special Forces Group, serving there through March of 1984. CSM Luthy went on to serve as the commandant of the XVIII Airborne Corps NCO Academy; as command sergeant major of the Joint Special Operations Command, the 7th Infantry Division (Light) and the 7th Special Forces Group; and as the first command sergeant major of the United States Army Special Forces Command. CSM Luthy was the first enlisted airborne commander in the 82nd Airborne Division when he commanded the 82nd Airborne Division's Replacement Company.

After retiring from active duty in February 1994, CSM Luthy continued to serve our nation as a Department of Army civilian, instructing Army special-operations Soldiers in the Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape Course. He was selected as the third Honorary Sergeant Major of the Special Forces Regiment in 1996.

CSM Luthy's awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Purple Heart, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Army Meritorious Service Medal with five OLCs, Air Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with seven battle stars, the Presidential Unit Award, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Valorous Unit Award and the Special Forces Tab.

CSM Luthy has a daughter, Rene, and a son, Marcel.