

# DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE SPECIAL FORCES REGIMENT



**COLONEL  
RODGER "IKE" SLAUGHTER**  
*U.S. Army, Retired*

Inducted April 23, 2026



Colonel Rodger "Ike" Slaughter was born in California on Feb. 27, 1948. He enlisted in the U.S. Army on Feb. 14, 1969, and was commissioned the following year. After completing the Special Forces Officer Course at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, he was assigned to the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Fort Devens, Massachusetts, through 1971. He then deployed to Thailand with assignment to the 46th Special Forces Company, advising both the Royal Thai Army Airborne School and Royal Thai Army 1st Airborne Battalion. This was followed by duty with the 1st SFG (A), Okinawa, Japan. There, Capt. Slaughter helped to refine special operations forces amphibious doctrine, including using rubber boats and SCUBA.

Starting in 1974, he had a series of conventional assignments within 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Kansas, including two company commands. After attending the Infantry Officer Advanced Course in 1977, he attended Troy State University at Fort Benning, Georgia, graduating with a bachelor's degree in 1979. Following Spanish language instruction, Capt. Slaughter received orders to be an instructor at the School of the Americas at Fort Benning, Georgia. In 1981, Maj. Slaughter assumed company command in the 7th SFG. In 1982, he became the Senior Internal Defense and Development instructor, Special Operations Branch, Tactics Division, at the Infantry School, at Fort Benning, where he assisted the El Salvadoran Officer Candidate Course. From July 1982 to November 1983, Maj. Slaughter served as a military observer in Lebanon and Beirut. Then, he served as a Test and Evaluation officer, U.S. Army Airborne and Special Operations Test Board.

In late 1985, Maj. Slaughter was selected to join a special missions unit, where he held several assignments, including equipment development and testing, troop command, squadron executive officer, group operations officer, and squadron commander. While with that unit, he participated in Operation Just Cause in Panama. From February to April 1991, Lt. Col. Slaughter was part of the Joint Special Operations Task Force, participating in Operation Desert Storm. In 1994, Col. Slaughter was selected to be the Chief, Special Operations Division, U.S. Army Special Operations Agency, Deputy of the Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans, Department of the Army. From July 1995 to June 1997, he served as the commander of the military group assigned to Bolivia. His final assignment was as senior advisor to the State Adjutant General of Oregon.

Colonel Slaughter retired on Feb. 28, 1999 with 30 years of active service. His decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, three awards of the Legion of Merit, and the Bronze Star. He was awarded the SCUBA Badge, the Ranger and Special Forces tabs, and was qualified as a Jumpmaster, Free Fall Parachutist, and in Special Forces Underwater Operations. Completed courses included Air Assault, Infantry Officers Advanced, Foreign Area Officers, Command and General Staff, and the Army War College.

Slaughter continued contributing to the Special Forces and special operations forces communities after his retirement. In 2002, he was a founding member of two special operations non-profit organizations and helped establish an ROTC leadership award named after the First Special Service Force commander, Maj. Gen. Robert T. Frederick, which is presented annually to outstanding ROTC cadets at 21 universities across the country.