

DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE SPECIAL FORCES REGIMENT



**LIEUTENANT COLONEL
MICHAEL E. TAYLOR**
U.S. Army, Retired

Inducted November 5, 2020



Lieutenant Colonel Michael E. Taylor was born in Grenada, Mississippi, and was a Distinguished Military Graduate of the University of Mississippi ROTC. In June 1966, he commissioned as an Infantry Second Lieutenant.

Upon graduation from college, he attended the Infantry Officers Basic Course, where he was the Honor Graduate. Upon completion of Ranger School, he commanded a Rifle Platoon, a Weapons Platoon and an Infantry Rifle Company in the 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized in Germany during the height of the Cold War.

In 1967, Lt. Col. Taylor completed Airborne School and Special Forces training at the 10th Special Forces Group in Bad Tolz, Germany. While in Germany, he commanded Operation Detachments A 31 and B7.

From 1968 to 1972, he served in Vietnam, commanding Operational Detachment A205, which recruited, organized, equipped, trained and deployed 5th Battalion, II Corps Mobile Strike Force, 5th Special Forces Group, which saw action at the Battle of Ben Het. As a member of the Military Assistance Command Vietnam Studies and Observation Group, or MACV-SOG, he ran cross-border reconnaissance mission in LAOS and Cambodia, served as an operations officer at the headquarters and commanded a SOG launch site. He also participated in the Son Tay Raid as an airborne controller.

Following completion of Command and Staff College, Lt. Col. Taylor attended the Defense Language Institute, where he learned Arabic, with a follow-on assignment as a Middle East and North Africa Foreign Area officer.

Lieutenant Colonel Taylor then conducted special operations training and advisory tours with Saudi Arabian and Egyptian special operations forces. During this time, he participated in hostage rescue missions and conducted theater-wide counterterrorism force protection programs. He went on to lead a Special Forces advisory team with a Saudi Arabian National Guard Battalion during Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

His next assignment was with Special Operations Command Pacific, where he was responsible for theater wide antiterrorism and force protection programs.

He returned to the Middle East in 1990, where he led an SF advisory team with a Saudi Arabian National Guard Battalion throughout Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

His awards include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device and four oak-leaf clusters, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, two Air Medals with "V" Device, Combat Infantryman Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Special Forces Tab, Ranger Tab and the Department of Defense Antiterrorism Lifetime Achievement Award.

Upon retirement, Lt. Col. Taylor served as a Department of Defense Civilian, responsible for antiterrorism and force protection of U.S. units, including deployed Special Forces teams and civilians in Saudi Arabia. Lieutenant Colonel Taylor overhauled the security practices in his area of operation to help keep Americans safe from terrorist attacks.

Lieutenant Colonel Taylor received the Department of Defense Antiterrorism Lifetime Achievement Award and served as president of the Middle East Chapter of the Special Forces Association. He also served as the Chapter Vice President of Chapter 43 of the SF Association and Vice President of the Special Operations Association. Working with the various POW/MIA groups, to gain accountability for Special Forces Soldiers who are still Missing in Action.