

DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE SPECIAL FORCES REGIMENT



**MAJOR
HERMANN ADLER**
U.S. Army, Retired

Inducted October 2014



Major Hermann Adler entered the U.S. Army in 1956 and spent six years of service as an infantryman in U.S. Army Europe conducting Honor Guard duty.

In 1962, Sgt. 1st Class Adler, formally a noncommissioned officer, attended Basic Airborne training and completed the Ranger and Special Forces Qualification courses. He completed Special Forces Operations/Intelligence and Intelligence Analyst courses at Fort Bragg (now Fort Liberty), North Carolina, in 1963. He was selected as an instructor for the course and taught until 1966.

In 1966, Adler was assigned as the team leader/intelligence NCO for the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Detachment 8-52, Project Delta, conducting long-range reconnaissance operations in southern Vietnam. In late 1967, Adler and his team reacted to assist a team in heavy contact with North Vietnamese forces. All of the officers on Adler's team were killed, leaving Adler to lead the remainder of the team to liberate the camp. General William Westmoreland visited the team shortly after this event and told Adler, "You will not be forgotten." Keeping his word, Westmoreland initiated a direct commission for Adler.

Adler then returned to Fort Bragg to serve as the contingency plans NCO at the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center's G3. His follow-on assignment was with the 46th Special Forces Company (Separate) in Thailand training Thai and other foreign military forces. While in Thailand, Adler received a direct commission to captain, serving as the O&I officer.

In 1969, Adler returned to Project Delta, 5th SFG (A) as the group O&I officer. His next assignment was in Berlin, Germany, where he assumed command of Team 3, Detachment A, 39th Special Forces Detachment. Returning to Fort Bragg in 1974, Adler was promoted to the rank of major and was assigned as the officer-in-charge of the Special Forces School's Selection and Field Training. He worked directly for Col. Charlie Beckwith, who tasked Adler with revamping the Special Forces Assessment and Selection to make it more demanding. In a follow-on assignment, he was in charge of Phase III, Unconventional Warfare.

In 1978, Adler was one of 22 individuals selected to be a part of a unique special operations force unit under Beckwith. From 1978 until his retirement in 1980, Adler served as the unit training officer, supporting operations worldwide.

Retiring in 1980, Adler continued to serve in special operations units as a clandestine and human intelligence operations specialist. From 1981 through his retirement in 1995, Adler served in a series of HUMINT jobs, each with more responsibility, culminating in his service as the deputy for HUMINT and Special Advisor to the commander for the U.S. Army Office of Military Support in Washington, D.C.

Adler earned a bachelor's in history, a teaching certification from Campbell University, and a master's in education from East Carolina University. He is a graduate of the U.S. Army Special Forces Qualification Course, U.S. Army Ranger Course, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, U.S. Army Special Forces Operations/Intelligence Course, Infantry Officer Basic and Advanced courses, Intelligence/Military Operations Training Course, National Senior Intelligence Course and the Counterintelligence Officer Course.

Adler's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal with "V" device for Valor with two oak-leaf clusters, Air Medal with "V" device with one oak-leaf cluster, Army Commendation Medal with two oak-leaf clusters, Legion of Merit and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry.

Adler is married to Gudrun Maria-Theresa Eschenbach. They have three daughters, Gabriele, Francesca and Jennifer, three sons-in-law, and six grandchildren.