

DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE SPECIAL FORCES REGIMENT



**MASTER SERGEANT
LARRY D. TOWNSEND**
U.S. Army, Retired

Inducted 2021



Master Sergeant Larry D. Townsend served in the U.S. Army from 1972 to 1992 and in the Special Forces (SF) Regiment, from 1975 to 1992. After graduating from the SF Qualification Course in 1978 Staff Sgt. Townsend was assigned to Operational Detachment Alpha (ODA) 575, A co, 3rd Battalion, 5th SF Group. As a Staff Sgt. he was assigned to the position of Radio Operator Supervisor, performing the duties of a Sergeant First Class. Due to his communications expertise, he was assigned to the SF Gabriel Demonstration team. Staff Sgt. Townsend represented SF with excellence in over 300 very challenging demonstrations to numerous high level government and civilian officials. As a result of this service, Staff Sgt. Townsend earned the Meritorious Service Medal.

In 1982, Staff Sgt. Townsend was selected to serve with the elite SF Operational Detachment-Delta (SFOD-D). Staff Sgt. Townsend served as a Base Station Radio Operator and was subsequently promoted to Section Chief. He then served as the radio operator for B Squadron. Staff Sgt. Townsend participated in many strategic level missions such as, the invasion of Grenada in 1982. Staff Sgt. Townsend demonstrated exceptional bravery and perseverance while successfully completing a mission to rescue US hostages, after being wounded when his aircraft was shot down. He was awarded a Purple Heart and the Army Achievement medal for his actions. Staff Sgt. Townsend also earned the Army Commendation Medal for his meritorious service while serving in SFODD.

From March 1985 to May 1989 Master Sgt. Townsend served as the principal Drill Instructor, U.S. Army ROTC Battalion, East Carolina University. During his time there, Master Sgt. Townsend worked extra hours and weekends teaching his ROTC cadets basic and advanced SF skills. Master Sgt. Townsend earned the Army Commendation Medal for exceptionally meritorious service while training the future of the force.

Master Sgt. Townsend was personally selected by the Commanding General of SF Command as a Senior SF Doctrine and Training Analysis and Specialist. He reviewed and refined class room curricula and doctrine used by SOF units. Many of his recommended changes have been tested in combat and remain in use today. He was recognized as the command's Advanced Special Operations Techniques (ASOT) coordinator and subject matter expert. Master Sgt. Townsend retired honorably from the U.S. Army in 1992.

After retirement, Mr. Townsend continued his support for SF in various roles throughout Army and Joint Special Operations, serving in assignments such as; Directorate of Training and Doctrine in U.S. John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Warfare and School and Joint Special Operations Command J7, 1st SF Command G3X, as well as Deputy Director of the Operations Support Office and Sensitive Activities Officer for the OSW. For his exceptional service within these positions, he was awarded both the Department of the Army Commander's Award for Civilian Service and the Department of the Army Superior Civilian Service Medal. Mr. Townsend retired with distinguished honors from Federal Civil Service in 2020.

Mr. Townsend is an outstanding model citizen, Christian, humanitarian, and supports his community, through various organizations in order to make daily life better, safer and enjoyable for his community. Master Sgt. Townsend is a life member of the National SF Association, an active supporter of the Green Beret Foundation, and supports the other SF Association charitable programs.