

DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE SPECIAL FORCES REGIMENT



**MASTER SERGEANT
JOE J. WALKER**
U.S. Army, Retired

Inducted 2021



Master Sergeant Joe J. Walker graduated from the U.S. Army Special Forces Training Group in 1967, qualifying as both an Operations & Intelligence and a Weapons Specialist. He soon deployed to South Vietnam where he volunteered for Detachment B-52, Project Delta. This elite 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) element conducted reconnaissance operations in South Vietnam.

After his year-long Project Delta tour, Staff Sgt. Walker volunteered for another year in combat with Military Assistance Command Vietnam - Studies and Observations Group (MACV-SOG), a top-secret clandestine action unit, which conducted operations behind enemy lines in Laos and Cambodia.

After completing his second year in combat, Staff Sgt. Walker departed SOG for the Thailand-based 46th Special Forces Company. These SF were instructors for a then-classified CIA program that trained Thai military volunteers and Laotian irregulars for combat against North Vietnamese forces in Laos.

Completing his Thailand tour, Staff Sgt. Walker volunteered to rejoin MACV-SOG for his third year in direct combat. On January 15, 1971, his team came in heavy contact with an NVA force, resulting in Walker suffering a gunshot wound to his left leg and multiple fragment wounds to his legs, back and head. Walker insisted upon recovering in-country so he could finish his SOG tour.

Having served four continuous years in Southeast Asia, Staff Sgt. Walker was reassigned to a stateside Special Forces unit in 1971. During this overseas period he had been awarded three Bronze Stars for Valor, and twice been significantly wounded. Walker went on to more than a decade of Special Forces assignments. He retired as a Master Sergeant in 1983.

Shortly afterward he began a second career with our nation's premier intelligence and paramilitary operations organization. Walker worked alongside U.S. and Allied Special Operations personnel and foreign irregulars on six continents. Master Sgt. Walker served 21 years with this organization, retiring in 2004.

Throughout his four decades of exemplary Special Forces and civilian special operations careers, Master Sgt. Walker consistently performed to the highest of standards, placing mission and teammates above himself. He is a great credit to the U.S. Army Special Forces Regiment and leaves a record worthy of emulation by today's Special Forces Soldiers.