

DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS REGIMENT



**MAJOR
RAYMOND P. AMBROZAK**

Inducted November 2016



Major Raymond P. Ambrozak was born in Nanticoke, Pennsylvania, on Nov. 8, 1935. He entered the Army in 1957 after finishing Industrial Engineering courses at Johns Hopkins University in Maryland. He was commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant, Infantry officer after completing Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia, in 1959. His first assignment was to the 1st Leaflet and Loudspeaker Company at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Maj. Ambrozak's career included more than 10 years in PSYOP at the unit- and theater-levels long before either the Branch or Regiment were formed. He planned and executed operations that involved extensive interface with foreign counterparts and every U.S. governmental agency operating overseas.

In 1961, he deployed to Laos as part of U.S. Special Forces mission known as Operation White Star, training Royal Lao forces combatting the Communist Pathet Lao. He was directly responsible for completion of a radio station dedicated to the King of Laos, airing the country's first nationwide broadcast of a live event and designing and implementing a retraining program for Pathet Lao prisoners of war.

Maj. Ambrozak was assigned to the U.S. Army Broadcasting and Visual Activity, Pacific, the forerunner of today's 7th Psychological Operations Group from 1962 to 1965, serving as commander of a mobile radio company and the PSYOP Staff Officer to a Joint Unconventional Warfare Task Force. He trained and assisted Republic of China military personnel in Taiwan who engaged in PSYOP directed at the Communist People's Republic of China.

In 1964, he deployed to Vietnam as part of a PSYOP Detachment assigned to MACVSOG, playing a key role in establishing and putting on the air the Voice of Freedom radio station broadcasting to North Vietnam. He managed station operations when the Gulf of Tonkin incident occurred.

In 1965, shortly after assuming duties as S-3, 6th PSYOP Bn., the battalion headquarters housed in a downtown theater was hit by a bomb blast totally destroying the building leaving 11 wounded. Working through the turmoil of two re-locations and maintaining daily operations, Maj. Ambrozak was also directly involved with the activation of the 4th Psychological Operations Group in December 1967.

From 1967 to 1970, he served as a PSYOP instructor at Fort Bragg's Special Warfare School teaching PSYOP in every officer and enlisted course. He oversaw development and operation of the first PSYOP unit officer course and a course for PSYOP staff officers. He represented the Special Warfare Center as a guest speaker at the Marine Corps Staff College and the International Police Academy.

On March 15-16, 1971, as Direct Senior Advisor, Phu Nhon District, Pleiku Province, Republic of Vietnam, the headquarters came under sustained heavy mortar and rocket fire, combined with a ground attack by a North Vietnamese Battalion. When a satchel charge ignited a soaring fire that threatened to destroy the operations center, he ordered an evacuation while enduring unbearable heat, to direct the defense. He later led a counterattack, assaulting successive bunkers, to eject the enemy forces who had penetrated the compound. He continued coordinating defense of the compound with relief forces for five days before they were able to break through the enemy cordon. For this action, Maj. Ambrozak was awarded the Silver Star Medal for Heroism.

Maj. Ambrozak helped ensure PSYOP became a core element of today's U.S. Army Special Operations. He retired from the Army in 1978 and for the next 11 years, worked in Department of the Army Civilian assignments at Fort Hood, Texas.

Maj. Ambrozak is married to the former Ann Harrison and they have two children, Teresa and David.