

# DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE SPECIAL FORCES REGIMENT



LIEUTENANT COLONEL  
GEOFFREY T. BARKER

Inducted 28 June 2012



Lieutenant Colonel Geoffrey T. Barker began his military career with the British Parachute Regiment, fighting against the EOKA (Greek for National Organization of Cypriot Struggle). Wounded in 1957 by a command-detonated mine, he left British service, and immigrated to the United States, joining the U.S. Army. Volunteering for Special Forces, he deployed to the Republic of Vietnam where he was recruited and assigned to the CIA Combined Studies Division, forerunner of MACV Studies and Observation Group (SOG) where, for three years, he advised the Provisional Reconnaissance Units (PRU). His work was recognized by a direct commission to First Lieutenant in 1970.

En route to a new assignment as the S2 Intelligence Training Officer with 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) (SFG(A)), he was diverted to provide classes and training on agent handling and creating/establishing agent nets to members of SEAL Team One. Upon finally reporting to 10th SFG(A) and assuming his duties, he discovered a critical capability gap - only a limited number of personnel assigned to the Group had the proper security clearances to critical TOP SECRET information which delineated their actual operational missions. Briefing this deficiency up the chain to the Continental Army Command level, he effected the change, thereby enhancing the planning and executing of all Special Forces contingency missions worldwide.

In the early 1980s, the US Army JFK Center for Military Assistance/US Army Institute for Military Assistance (USJFKCMA/USAIMA) transitioned from a dual-hatted command into two distinct identities: 1st Special Operations Command (Airborne) and USAJFKSWCS. Major Barker, recalled on active duty, served as Chief, Reserve Component Division with the goal to better integrate Reserve Component Special Forces personnel into major exercises world-wide, both as participants and as evaluators. Articulating the Reserve requirements for training, funding and staffing into two white papers, LTC Barker's vision had long term impact. He was able to first justify the necessity for a single resident qualification Special Forces course for all Special Forces personnel, active, Reserve and National Guard, as opposed to the combination of non-resident coursework with a field exercise component, preferably Robin Sage, which the National Guard and Reserve personnel were taking, with uneven results. Not only did he justify the implementation of a uniform standard of training, but he also coordinated the various funding streams needed to launch this concept. Secondly, he illustrated to the Theater Special Operations Commands (TSOC) the unique asset a fully trained Reserve Special Forces soldier was. Not only could the Reserves relieve the over tasking of active duty Groups, but, more importantly, the Reserves contained personnel with unique civilian skills which would be critical when tailoring task forces for overseas operations; and also justified an increase of active duty manning for the TSOCS.

Upon retiring from the military, Lieutenant Colonel Barker was employed by US Special Operations Command (USSOCOM), MacDill AFB, Florida for 19 years. He retired in 2007 as a Senior Operations Analyst. His work was recognized with the Defense Security Service James Cogswell Award for Outstanding Security Management in 2000 and the USSOCOM Outstanding Civilian Service Medal in 2003.

During his career, Lieutenant Colonel Barker served as president to two Special Forces Association (SFA) chapters. In 1993, based on this experience, Lieutenant Colonel Barker created Chapter 60, Special Forces Association in Tampa, Florida. The next year, he formed the Special Operations Memorial Foundation, Inc. to fund, build and maintain the only Joint Special Operations memorial in the country, honoring all special operators killed in action or training. He currently serves as the current President of the Association and concurrently as the Director of Site Operations. For his work, he was the first recipient of the SFA National Member of the Year Award in 1992 and the Silver Saint Philip Neri Award in 2010.