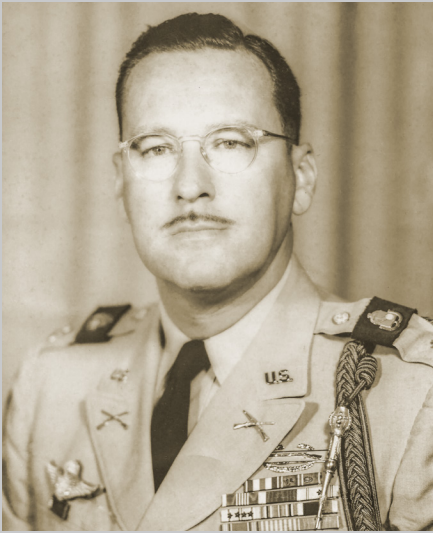


# DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE SPECIAL FORCES REGIMENT



**Lieutenant Colonel  
Albert S. Madding  
U.S. Army, Retired (Posthumous)**

Inducted June 7, 2019



Lieutenant Colonel Albert S. Madding, grew up in Newport, Arkansas, and attended the Gulf Coast Military Academy in Mississippi and Washington University in Missouri. He joined the Army in 1941 and worked as a staff sergeant in an anti-aircraft battalion in Panama. Lt. Col. Madding later completed the Officer Candidate School, earning his commission as an officer in 1942. He immediately attended Yale University for an intensive Chinese language course which prepared him for a position as a linguist with the China-Burma-India command.

Lt. Col. Madding served in Burma with the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional), better known as Merrill's Marauders, during the siege of Myitkyina. He then served as a Platoon Leader and Weapons Company Commander with the 475th Infantry (Long Range Penetration, Special), of the MARS Task Force. Both the 5307th and the 475th are lineage units to the 75th Ranger Regiment. After the war, Lt. Col. Madding taught Army ROTC in Utah, and served as Battalion S-2 and Executive Officer of the 3rd Battalion, 504th Airborne Infantry at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Once the Korean War began, Lt. Col. Madding was "seconded" to duty with the Central Intelligence Agency, and trained guerrilla forces. When Lt. Col. Madding returned from Korea in 1954, he served as Executive Officer and Battalion Commander of the 1st Battalion, 61st Infantry at Fort Carson, Colorado.

In 1955, Lt. Col. Madding completed the Special Forces Qualification Course, and took command of the Detachment FC-2, 77th Special Forces Group. He was charged with organizing four detachments to deploy to the Pacific Theater as the leader of what would become the 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne). During this time, Lt. Col. Madding took command of the 14th Special Forces Operational Detachment, which would later become the command and control element of the new group. He assisted in the development of the unconventional warfare capacity by leading mobile training team missions to Thailand in 1956 and to Taiwan in 1957. Lt. Col. Madding became the first commander of the 1st Special Forces Group in Okinawa, Japan, after deploying with the 14th SFOD in Vietnam. In 1959, he returned to Washington, D.C., and served as the Branch Chief and Operations Chief for the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence at the Pentagon. He then took command of the 1st Psychological Warfare Battalion at Fort Bragg, with a follow-on assignment as the Deputy Director of the Airborne School at Fort Benning, Georgia. Lt. Col. Madding retired in 1964 after 23 years of military service.

Lt. Col. Madding's awards include: Infantry OCS Hall of Fame, Silver Star Medal, Bronze Star Medal for Valor with two oak-leaf clusters, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, the Parachute Badges of Thailand, South Vietnam, Taiwan, South Korea, the Philippines, and the Chinese Order of the Flying Cloud. Lt. Col. Madding was instrumental in developing and carrying out intelligence-gathering and unconventional warfare missions.

Upon retirement, Lt. Col. Madding pursued his Ph.D. in Pastoral Counseling and reached out to convicts in Georgia prisons. He was also active with the Civitan Club and the Boy Scouts of America. He passed away in 1984.