

DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE SPECIAL FORCES REGIMENT



**SERGEANT FIRST CLASS
CLIFFORD M. NEWMAN**

Inducted 5 April 2012



SFC Clifford M. Newman enlisted in the U.S. Army in March 1963 and was recruited by the 10th SFG (A) from the 7th Army NCO Academy where he was a TAC NCO. He served with the 10th Group both in Bad Toelz, Germany and, after the Group moved to Ft Devens, Massachusetts.

In 1969 he joined 5th SFG (A), Vietnam, volunteering for MACV Studies and Observation Group (SOG) Command and Control North (CCN). While serving with CCN as a Reconnaissance Team Leader (One-Zero) Cliff Newman distinguished himself numerous times in missions along the Ho Chi Minh Trail complex in Laos and into the DMZ. He was responsible for planning all aspects of these missions from initial briefing to final debriefing. Some of his accomplishments include leading the first combat free fall mission in the history of the United States Army at 0200hrs 28 November 1970 over Laos. Additionally, Cliff Newman, on numerous occasions, volunteered for extremely hazardous "Bright Light" missions to extract teams under enemy attack and/or to recover KIAs/MIA's deep inside hostile territory. By the time, he rotated out of Viet Nam, Cliff Newman had risen in rank to E-7, less than seven years from his original enlistment,

From Vietnam, he transferred to 1st SFG(A) where he led a Disaster Area Relief Team (DART) into the Philippines. Cliff Newman returned to Vietnam in 1972 as part of 1st SFG (A)'s Forces Armee Nationale Khmer (FANK) mission to train Cambodians national forces in military subjects ranging from basic operations to counterinsurgency. While on patrol he was severely wounded, eventually losing his foot. He medically retired on April 1973.

For thirty three years after retirement, Cliff Newman worked in the Wholesale Food industry. He ended his career as General Manager and Sales Manager for Tom & Glasser, a major food distribution company. He has maintained ties to California, being elected Board Chair for the Los Angeles Athletic Club - Board of Governors in 2006.

Following discharge Cliff Newman continued to actively support and serve the Regiment. In 2002 he returned to the A Shau Valley in Vietnam with Joint Task Force Full Accounting, now known as Joint Prisoners of War, Missing in Action Accounting Command to assist in the recovery of 3 Intruder team members and 4 crew members of the downed helicopter lost on a Bright Light RT Intruder recovery mission in 1972. The recovery attempt included climbing a 5,000 foot peak through triple canopy jungle. Despite having an artificial foot, Cliff not only participated in the climb, but actually led the ascent.

In addition to being a founding member and previously service as President of the Special Operations Association (SFA), Cliff Newman is also a past President of SFA Chapter XII, Southern California chapter, and since 2009, has served as the Administrative Director of the SFA's national headquarters. During his tenure as the Administrative Director, communications within the organization and the overall operations have improved significantly. He was a founding member in the Special Operations Association, serving in every capacity on the executive board since its founding. He also is a member in good standing with the United States Parachute Association. Additionally, Cliff Newman is a founding member and part of the initial working group of the Special Forces Charitable Trust, a 501 (c)(3) charity serving the Active, National Guard and Retired SF community.

Throughout his career, Cliff Newman has been active in HALO and sports parachuting. While assigned to 10th SFG(A) in 1971 - 1972 at Fort Devens, Massachusetts, he served as the President and Club Safety Officer for the Trojan Sports Parachute Club and led free fall demonstrations throughout the New England area. He also was the airborne representative from the Group to the FAA in Boston. He continues to participate throughout the country in freefall demonstrations with the Green Beret Sports Parachute Club, Fayetteville, NC.