

DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE SPECIAL FORCES REGIMENT



**BRIGADIER GENERAL
FRANK TONEY**

Inducted 23 February 2012



Frank Toney, born 1 March 1950 in Tampa, Florida, attending Arkansas State University on an athletic scholarship. A Distinguished ROTC Graduate in 1972, he was commissioned, serving his first tour with the 7th PSYOP Group and the 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne) (1st SFG(A)) at Camp Buckner, Japan. This was followed by an assignment with the 1/51st Infantry Battalion (Mech).

Following the Advanced Infantry Officer Course, he assumed command of the C/2/75th Rangers for two years at Ft Lewis, Washington. Following graduation from the Q Course, and selection for major in 1981, he served four-years with 5th SFG(A) at Ft Bragg, filling key positions as a Battalion S-3 and Executive Officer, and B-Team Commander. Returning to Fort Bragg after Command and General Staff College in 1986, Major Toney was assigned to the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School, first, as the Chief of Basic Special Forces Skills Division, and later as Deputy Director of the department. MAJ Toney was instrumental in laying the foundation for the Special Forces Selection and Assessment Course.

Promoted in 1989, LTC Toney commanded 3/5th SFG(A) when it was reflagged as 1/3rd SFG(A), the first unit formed under the reactivated 3rd SFG(A). Leading the 1/3rd SFG in combat during Operation DESERT STORM, he aggressively employed his unit in more than 72 sensitive, unilateral and combined high risk missions in Kuwait City-. One especially noteworthy mission was seizing, clearing, holding, and safeguarding the US Embassy.

After attending the National War College, Colonel Toney commanded the 10th SFG(A) between 1992 and 1994. When 10th SFG(A) deployed to Entebbe, Uganda for Operation Support Hope, COL Toney was the joint task force commander of the mission. Returning to Ft Bragg, COL Toney served two years with the US Army Special Operations Command (USASOC), first as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, and then as the Deputy Commander. Promoted to Brigadier General, he assumed command of Special Operations Command Central (SOCCENT) where he commanded all SOF assets during Operation DESERT FOX, and six other Maritime Interdiction Operations to stop the flow of contraband to Iraq. The relationships BG Toney developed proved critical to the US invasion of Afghanistan in 2001. BG Toney's final assignment prior to retirement in January, 2002, was as Commander, US Special Forces Command.

General Toney's decorations and awards include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Combat and Expert Infantryman Badges, the Master and Military Free Fall Parachute Badges, and the Special Forces and Ranger Tabs.

After retirement, General Toney continued to serve US interests abroad in Africa. He supervised US initiatives in Nigeria, Liberia, Sudan, Kenya, and, between 2002 and 2004, led a Department of State program for the Democratization and Revitalization of the Nigerian Armed Forces. In 2004, he led the Department of State Civilian Protection Monitoring Team in Sudan and Kenya. His leadership played a key role in establishing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement for Sudan. In 2005, Frank Toney had oversight of programs accelerating the transition from the US Military to Iraqi Armed Forces. While in Iraq, he established Special Forces Association Chapter 91 (Crossed Swords), was elected the first President of the Chapter, and remains the President Emeritus today.

He was recalled to Africa, and from 2007 to 2009 lead DOD/DOS operations, including training the Liberian Army, coordinating logistic support of African Union forces in Somalia during combat operations, and establishing the Sudanese General Officer Staff Course in Juba, Southern Sudan.

In 2009, General Toney was handpicked as the senior advisor to all Iraqi counterterrorism forces, advising and mentoring key Iraqi generals at the ministerial level on best practices as well as developing plans on how to handle critical, complex issues to counter terrorists disrupting security in Iraq.