

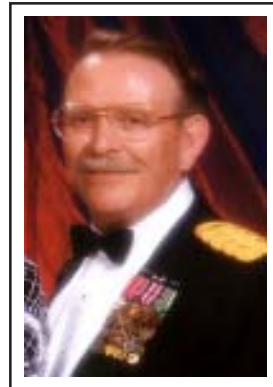
Geoff Barker

Soldier, author and analyst, is dedicated to recording and memorializing the airborne and special operations forces of the United States Army.

A native Englishman, he enlisted in 1956 in the British Parachute Regiment serving in the Middle East against the EOKA (Ethniki Organosis Kyprion Agoniston - National Organisation of Cypriot Fighters) Terrorist organization. Wounded in December 1958, he spent that Christmas in the RAF Hospital at Akrotiri, Cyprus.

Enlisting in the U.S. Army in 1965, his initial assignment was with the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina during Operation POWER PACK in the Dominican Republic.

His first assignment in the Republic of Vietnam was in 1966 with the 1st Brigade (Separate), 101st Airborne Division, through February 1968. From there, based on his former British counterterrorism experience, he was recruited as a military assignee detailed to the Combined Studies Division of the Far East Division, of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). He lead indigenous Provincial Reconnaissance Units (PRU) – many of whom had formerly served with the North Vietnamese Army or Viet Cong, where his successes in capturing key underground Viet Cong Infrastructure resulted in his 1968 direct commissioning as a First Lieutenant of Infantry. Following his later promotion to Captain while still in Vietnam, he served as the Chief of PRU covering Military Region IV – the entire Mekong Delta, leading 16 Americans and 1,200 mercenaries. He left Southeast Asia in October 1970 for assignment to the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Fort Devens, Massachusetts. Following a tour in Germany and various CONUS Special Forces and intelligence assignments, he retired in November 1987 as a Lieutenant Colonel, Division Chief, G-3 (Operations), 1st Special Operations Command (Airborne), Fort Bragg, North Carolina.



He served as the Chief of Staff, North Carolina Guard, and was advanced in 1988 to the grade of Colonel by Governor Jim Martin.

During December 1988 he was approached to relocate to Tampa Bay, Florida to assist in the initial development of the Joint Mission Analysis of the recently created United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM). He relocated to MacDill Air Force Base in February 1989, remaining with USSOCOM until his retirement in August 2007 as a Senior Special Operations Analyst supporting the Joint Operations Center, Center for Special Operations, U.S. Special Operations Command.

He was a 1995 charter board member thru 2019 of the Special Opns Memorial Foundation Inc., MacDill Air Force Base, Florida.

He lives in Florida and also has a home in Newfoundland, Canada.

Recipient:

1992 Special Forces Association National Member of the Year Award, Fayetteville, North Carolina. (initial year for this award).

1995 President Emeritus, Chapter 60, Special Forces Association, MacDill AFB, Fl.

2000 Defense Security Service James S. Cogswell National Award for Outstanding Security Management, Washington, DC. (Facility Security Manager for SAIC supporting USSOCOM).

2003 USSOCOM Outstanding Civilian Service Medal, MacDill AFB, Florida from General Charles Holland, USAF.

2010 Saint Philip of Neri Silver Medal National Award, Special Forces Association, Fayetteville, NC.

2012 Inducted as a Distinguished Member of the Special Forces Regiment, Fayetteville, NC.

2012 USSOCOM Outstanding Civilian Service Medal, MacDill AFB, Florida from Admiral William McRaven, USN.

2019 President Emeritus, Special Operations Memorial Foundation, Inc, MacDill AFN, Florida (Charterboard member 1995, and served as President/CEO 2008-2019)

Author:

75-year Chronology of U.S. Army Special Operations Forces. ISBN 978-1-4705-1324-5

Elected Positions held:

Past Secretary, Vice Chairman, & President/CEO, Special Opns Memorial Foundation, Inc., MacDill Air Force Base, Florida
Past President, Chapters 27, 40, and 60, U.S. Army Special Forces Association, Missouri and Florida.
Past President, U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Museum Association, Fort Bragg, NC.
Past Chairman, Tampa Bay Chapter, 82nd Airborne Division Association, Clearwater, Florida.
Executive Advisory Board, Vietnam Veterans Institute, Timonium, Maryland.
Advisory Board, National Special Forces Memorials, Fort Bragg & Fayetteville, North Carolina.

Life Memberships:

75th Ranger Regiment Association.
82nd Airborne Division Historical Society, Inc., Fayetteville NC
82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions Associations.
Air Commando Association, Mary Esther, Fl.
American Legion, Post 139, Tampa, Florida.
American Veterans Association, Post 67, Clearwater, Florida.
Disabled American Vets Assn, Chapter 46, Fayetteville, NC.
Military Order of the Purple Heart Association, Annandale, VA.
Parachute Regiment Association, Colchester, England.
Special Operations Association, Las Vegas, NV.
State Defense Force Assn of the United States.
U.S. Army Special Forces Association, Fayetteville, NC
Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 6796, Garland, Texas.

Memberships:

Elite Unit Editor, American Society of Military Insignia Collectors.
Chute and Dagger, International Military Insignia Collectors.
Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 64, Holyrood, Newfoundland, Canada.
Office of Strategic Services Society, MacLean, Va.

Military Decorations and Awards

Decorations include:

Legion of Merit Medal; Bronze Star Medal w/'V' (Valor) w/2 oak leaf clusters (OLC); Purple Heart Medal; Meritorious Service Medal w/2 OLC; Air Medal w/numeral 2; Army Commendation Medal w/5 OLC; Army Achievement Medal; National Defense Service Medal; Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Dominican Republic); Vietnam Service Medal w/10 campaign stars; Armed Forces Service Medal; Humanitarian Service Medal; Armed Forces Reserve Medal w/Hourglass device; NCO Professional Development Medal; Army Good Conduct Medal; Army Service Ribbon; Overseas Service Ribbon w/numeral 3; Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal; Army Republic of Vietnam Crosses of Gallantry w/Palm, w/Silver Star, and w/Bronze Stars (2), Honor Medal, Staff Medal, Civic Action Medal and Campaign Medal w/60 device; and British Army General Service Medal (Cyprus).

Awards include:

U.S. Army Special Forces Tab, Master Parachute Badge and expert Rifle and Pistol Badges; Royal Thai Army Special Forces Aguillette, Master Parachute Badge and Balloon Parachute Badge; Republic of Vietnam Ranger Badge and Master Parachute Badge; German Army Expert Infantryman Badge, Master Parachute Badge and Silver Shooting Rope; Republic of Korea Master Parachute Badge; British Army Parachute Badge, Expert Rifle and Light Machine Gun Badges and Signals Badge; also awarded Parachute Badges from Canada and France.

Author

A Concise History of U.S. Army Special Operations Forces (1988, 1993) ISBN: 0-922004-00-5
A Concise History of U.S. Army Airborne Army, Corps, Divs & Bdes (1989) ISBN: 0-922004-01-3
A Concise History of the U.S. Army Airborne Infantry (1990) ISBN: 0-922004-02-1
75-year Chronology of U.S. Army Airborne & Special Operations Forces, (CD) ISBN:978-1-4705-1324-5