

DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE SPECIAL FORCES REGIMENT



**COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR
JAMES E. HARGRAVES**

Inducted 10 January 2008



Command Sergeant Major James E. Hargraves was born 22 April 1934 in Wapato, Washington. He joined the Washington State National Guard in 1950 and attained the rank of Sergeant (E-5). In October 1956, he entered the Regular Army at Fort Ord, California where he attended basic and advanced Infantry training.

From 1957 to 1963, CSM Hargraves served in airborne units as a Squad Leader and Platoon Sergeant in the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Kentucky; 82d Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina; and with the 505th Airborne Battle Group at Mainz, Germany. He attended Special Forces training at Fort Bragg, North Carolina in 1963 and specialized in operations and intelligence training. He was later assigned to the 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne).

From September 1963 to December 1973, he served at numerous levels and with several different commands throughout Special Forces to include two tours in Vietnam with the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), three tours in Europe with the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), and Detachment A, Berlin Brigade. After attending the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy at Fort Bliss, Texas in 1974, he was assigned as the Operations Sergeant Major for XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg.

CSM Hargraves was appointed to Command Sergeant Major in June 1977 and became the Command Sergeant Major, for 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment. He served in various Command Sergeant Major positions in airborne and Special Forces battalions, airborne and Infantry brigades and later as the Command Sergeant Major of the United States Army Institute for Military Assistance, which was reorganized in 1982 as the 1st Special Operations Command. In October 1987, CSM Hargraves retired from the Army.

CSM Hargraves returned to Federal Service as a Department of Defense civilian in January 1990 and was assigned as the Deputy Operations Officer of the United States Army Special Forces Command and subsequently as its Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff, G3. He retired in April 2005 after 15 years of exemplary service.

His military awards include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star with 2 Oak Leaf clusters (OLC), and the Meritorious Service Medal with 1 OLC. His civilian awards include the Secretary of the Army Public Service Award, and the Superior Civilian Service Award.

From April 1999 through May 2003, CSM Hargraves served as the 4th Honorary Sergeant Major of the 1st Special Forces Regiment. He is married to the former Inge E. Goetzke of Berlin, Germany. They have two sons: Mark and Eric and two granddaughters.