

DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE SPECIAL FORCES REGIMENT



**SERGEANT MAJOR
GILBERT R. TURCOTTE**

Inducted 04 May 2018



Sergeant Major Gilbert R. Turcotte was born and raised in Woonsocket, Rhode Island. He enlisted in the United States Army on September 10, 1965. After completing basic training at Fort Dix, New Jersey, and Engineer Advanced Individual Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, Sgt. Maj. Turcotte volunteered for parachute duty and Special Forces.

His assignments include: Co B, 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne), Okinawa, Japan; Studies and Observation Group, Kontum, South Vietnam; 13th Company Commander, I Corps Mike Force; 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Vietnam; Detachment A-402, 2nd Battalion, 4th Mobile Strike Force, Moc Hoa, Vietnam; C Team, Con Tho, Vietnam; 51st United States Army Vietnam Individual Training Company, Individual Training Group (FANK Training Command), Dong Bia Tin, Vietnam; 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne), Okinawa, Japan; 2nd Battalion, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Detachment A, Berlin Brigade; 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Bad Toelz, Germany; Team 6, Detachment A, Berlin, Germany; Co B, 2nd Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Fort Devens, Massachusetts.

Sgt. Maj. Turcotte participated in numerous training and combat operations in Vietnam and Taiwan. He was wounded in combat while assigned to Mike Force, and returned to duty in Vietnam after a full recovery. Assigned to U.S. Army Vietnam (FANK Program), Sgt. Maj. Turcotte trained Cambodian Army Forces in basic infantry skills. He provided much needed assistance to Col. Pham Duy Tat, Commander of C-4 Vietnamese Special Forces, to establish the Communications Section of the Vietnamese Special Forces in supporting their subordinate border camps. In 1986, he served on the Critical Task Selection Board for CMF 18 that selected tasks necessary to qualify an SF Soldier in 19 weeks and four days. He served as Special Task Force Headquarters Operations Sergeant for ELLIPSE BRAVO 81. This highly classified and sensitive exercise involved nearly 500 personnel from the United States European Command components and other agencies.

After retirement, Sgt. Maj. Turcotte entered law enforcement in Maine serving four years in the Winthrop Police Department; 12 years as a detective in Kennebec County; and seven years as a Sabattus Police Officer. In addition to his police duties, Sgt. Maj. Turcotte instituted programs to supply locally grown fruits, vegetables and herbs to low-income senior citizens; organized a senior citizen accountability program to assist them during hazardous weather, and started an in-home visitation for the elderly program during Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday seasons. Continuing this program six years after retiring from the Sabattus Police Department, Sgt. Maj. Turcotte still delivers vegetables and soup kitchen hot lunches to seniors in and around Winthrop, Maine.

Sgt. Maj. Turcotte has not forgotten the regiment. During the last eight years, he has maintained contact with former members of all SF units in which he served, and has generously donated his time, effort and personal funds to ensure that every veteran reunion is an event to remember. He is in the process of commissioning a specially designed walking stick to be signed by former members of Detachment A, Berlin Brigade and presented to the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Museum in their honor.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal (three) awards, Army Commendation Medal with "V" device (two awards), Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Device, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal (four awards), Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Civil Action Honor Medal (1st Class), Vietnamese Campaign Medal with 60 Device, Army Occupation Medal, Overseas Ribbon, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon with numeral 3 Device, Combat Infantryman's Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Navy/Marine Parachutist Badge, German Parachutist Badge, Vietnamese Parachutist Badge, Iranian Parachutist Badge, Meritorious Unit Commendation Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, and the Special Forces Tab.