

**MASTER SERGEANT TRAVIS C. BUNN**  
**US Army, Retired (Deceased)**



MSG Travis C. Bunn enlisted in the Army in 1957 and attended the Basic Morse Intercept School. In 1958, he was assigned to the 320<sup>th</sup> US Army Security Agency (ASA) Battalion in Bad Aibling, Germany. When ASA joined the counterinsurgency effort in 1961, he was among the first volunteers to support the 10th Special Forces Group (SFG) (Airborne). MSG Bunn advised and instructed Special Forces teams in the application of security and counterintelligence techniques for clandestine, covert and overt operations and provided ASA support for Special Forces operations.

In 1963, he was assigned as an instructor at the Special Warfare School, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Two years later, MSG Bunn was the Noncommissioned Officer in Charge (NCOIC) of the ASA Special Operations Detachment (SOD) Operations & Training in Panama. He planned, organized and supervised the training and actions of Special Operations teams involved in ASA and Special Forces operations. Additionally he served as instructor for both US and Latin American forces at the US Army School of the Americas.

While in Panama, MSG Bunn took it upon himself to tackle two complicated missions. First was an effort to convince the Special Forces teams to stop transmitting radio signals from within their base camps. Second was finding a way to make a “man packable” direction finding set. He went about solving these problems in reverse order. MSG Bunn took a PRC-6 Homing Device Antenna, a variable tuning coil attached to an AN/GRC-109 receiver, a broomstick with a nail driven in the bottom, and various other odds and ends, to make the world's first “man packable” radio direction finding set. He and his team used this system against the 8<sup>th</sup> Special Forces teams in the jungles of Panama and succeeded in surprising two of the teams in their base camp. Through his perseverance and ingenuity he proved his point. Deployed teams no longer transmitted from within base camps and this life-saving operations security measure became standard procedure for all teams in the group.

Following his assignment in Panama, in 1967, MSG Bunn was assigned to the Republic of Vietnam as Special Forces/ASA Team Leader with the 403<sup>d</sup> SOD, 5<sup>th</sup> SFG. He recruited, trained and led a company of tribesmen in combat operations within the

central highlands of Vietnam and supervised and controlled a team of 20 personnel in ASA and Special Forces operations. During this assignment he was wounded twice and awarded the Silver Star for valorous actions during a search and destroy mission near Bu Dop, Vietnam on 17 November 1967.

In 1969, MSG Bunn was stationed in Germany at the ASA Field Station at Herzozenaurach (Herzo Base), where he was the NCOIC of Morse Collection. He was instrumental in exceeding the national-level standards of productivity of Morse collection operations. When operations were consolidated at Augsburg, MSG Bunn personally ensured continuity of operations and the move was completed with no loss of productivity. In 1974, MSG Bunn was asked to be the Acting Sergeant Major of the 402<sup>nd</sup> SOD, 10<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group where he served with distinction. In July of 1975 he returned to Panama as the Acting Sergeant Major of the ASA Southern Command.

MSG Bunn retired in 1977 after 20 years of service characterized by creativeness, initiative and selfless devotion to duty. In addition to his Silver Star, he was also awarded the Soldier's Medal for heroic actions. In 1974, he rescued and provided medical attention to a couple whose home was on fire. During his career, he was also presented with the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Army Commendation Medal, and a second Purple Heart.

MSG Bunn was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1992. He passed away in 2006.