

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR JOHN C. BUTLER US Army, Retired



CSM Butler began his military career as an Infantry soldier in 1969 and spent his first 15 years serving in Infantry branch assignments. After basic and advanced individual training, he was sent to Company D, 1/8th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) in Vietnam. He also had assignments with the 3/8th Cavalry in Germany, 1/31st Infantry in Korea, United Nations Command Security Group-Joint Security Area in Korea, and as a Drill Sergeant at Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

In 1984, CSM Butler was selected to serve as a Senior Intelligence Sergeant in the 3rd Brigade, 7th Infantry Division (Light). He enthusiastically threw himself into his new duties. In preparation for the Brigade's certification during Exercise CELTIC

CROSS IV, he was singularly responsible for writing the intelligence portion of the 3rd Brigade Operations Plan. During the actual exercise, he supervised the Intelligence Section and ensured the prompt, accurate flow of intelligence information throughout the command.

By 1986, CSM Butler had decided to make a career change to Military Intelligence. He completed the Intelligence Analyst Course and was subsequently assigned to S2 duties. His common sense approach to his new intelligence duties was immediately recognized, and during a GALLANT KNIGHT command post exercise, he was singled out by the Commander, XVIII Airborne Corps, for his outstanding contribution.

CSM Butler's next assignment was as First Sergeant of B Company, 107th Military Intelligence (MI) Battalion, 7th Infantry Division (Light). In this role, he provided exceptional leadership, mentoring and training for all the Soldiers of his unit. After his time as First Sergeant, he moved on to become the G2 Sergeant Major, 5th Infantry Division, Fort Polk, Louisiana in 1990. During Operation DESERT SHIELD, he created an in-depth training program for all of the G2 Soldiers in anticipation of deployment to Southwest Asia, raising unit readiness to its highest level while continuing to provide quality intelligence support to 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized).

In 1992 he became Command Sergeant Major of the 302nd MI Battalion, 205th MI Brigade, Germany. During his time as the battalion Command Sergeant Major, his battalion was cited as the best intelligence organization of its type during a V Corps Battle Command Training Program. He was personally responsible for the successful relocation of the battalion from Frankfurt to split locations at Wiesbaden and Heidelberg. During this time, the battalion continued to provide full intelligence support. He also unrelentingly sponsored comprehensive intelligence training for all battalion soldiers.

In 1996, CSM Butler moved on to become the Command Sergeant Major for the 15th MI Battalion (Aerial Exploitation), 504th MI Brigade, Fort Hood, Texas. His final assignment was as the Brigade Command Sergeant Major for 504th MI Brigade. Here again his continued support of training and leadership development through mentoring resulted in an exceptional command climate within the brigade.

CSM Butler's dedication to duty and outstanding contributions over a long and illustrious career had a lasting and significant impact on all the soldiers and commands he served. His was a positive influence on the lives, careers and families of all those he served. A true mentor and Soldier's Soldier, CSM Butler retired in 1999.

His awards include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), Bronze Star Medal (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), Meritorious Service Medal (3 Oak Leaf Clusters), Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal with Combat Distinguishing "V" Device "V", and the Army Commendation Medal (2 Oak Leaf Clusters).

CSM John Butler was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2004.