

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR JOHN F. GREGORCYK, JR.

US Army, Retired



CSM Gregorcyk's exceptional military career spanned 30 years in which he provided training, mentorship, and unwavering leadership to Soldiers throughout the United States Army. He began his professional career graduating from Fort Devens, Massachusetts in April 1970 as a 05H10 Morse Intercept Operator. His first assignment was to the Republic of Vietnam where he served with the 411th Radio Research Company and the 175th Radio Research Company conducting operations against North Vietnam and the Viet Cong. In April 1971, SPC Gregorcyk left Vietnam to serve as a Morse Intercept Operator, Squad Leader, and Section Supervisor at US Army Field Station (USAFS) Hakata, Japan; USAFS Sobe, Okinawa; and 7th Radio Research Field Station, Udorn, Thailand, where he conducted intelligence gathering missions against China, Vietnam, and Laos.

This was followed by assignments to USAFS Vint Hill Farms, Virginia; USAFS San Antonio, Texas; and USAFS Augsburg, Germany.

In January 1981, SFC Gregorcyk was assigned as a Platoon Sergeant for a Collection and Jamming platoon of the 502nd MI Company, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment in Nurnberg, Germany. During this assignment, his platoon performed numerous border security and intelligence collection missions along the East German and Czechoslovakian borders in support of the Cold War mission. In March 1984, he was assigned to the Intelligence Center and School at Fort Devens as a Senior Morse Intercept Instructor. During his two years as an instructor, not one soldier failed the course provided by his team.

In April 1986, SFC Gregorcyk was assigned to Support Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Fort Devens. While serving in this assignment, he attended the Special Forces/Special Operations Communications Sergeants Course at Fort Bragg, graduating as the Honor Graduate for his class. This was followed by his transfer to the 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) in Bad Toelz, Germany in July 1988, as a Detachment Sergeant in charge of a 29-man MI Detachment in a forward deployed Special Forces battalion. He was the senior Electronic Warfare/Signals Intelligence advisor responsible for the combat readiness of three Special Operation Teams. MSG Gregorcyk single-handedly developed and energized the detachment language proficiency program. He also placed first in the VII Corps and second in the US Army-

Europe 10km Cross-Country Championships. No Soldier under his command ever failed a Skills Qualification Test, Common Task Test, or Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT). While under extreme manpower constraints, he successfully deployed himself and key personnel to Operation DESERT STORM, where his detachment provided time sensitive intelligence support to numerous Special Forces teams responsible for conducting several Secret missions and search and rescue operations into Iraq. With just five recovery days following DESERT STORM, his detachment was redeployed in support of Operation PROVIDE COMFORT along the southern border of Turkey and northern border of Iraq to provide aid to three Kurdish refugee camps.

In October 1991, 1SG Gregorcyk was assigned to Bravo Company, 713th/714th MI Battalion, 701st MI Brigade in Bad Aibling, Germany, where he oversaw a 141-soldier remote site in support of national level intelligence missions, a military police security and law enforcement mission, and a telecommunications center. His hands-on approach improved the unit's APFT average by over 20 points. He was recognized by the Brigade Commander for his excellent leadership, innovative training programs, and administration of his remote site unit. In June 1993, he was selected for the United States Army Sergeants Major Course.

Following graduation from the Sergeants Major Academy in January 1994, CSM Gregorcyk assumed duties as the Technical Control and Analysis Element Operations Sergeant Major for III Corps in Fort Hood, Texas. Shortly thereafter he was promoted to Command Sergeant Major for the 15th MI Battalion, 504th MI Brigade, an Aerial Exploitation Battalion with more than 225 Soldiers, six aircraft, and 110 wheeled vehicles in Fort Hood, Texas. CSM Gregorcyk was instrumental in establishing and training the first tactical unmanned aerial vehicle company. He set the physical fitness standard by scoring 300 on all of his APFTs and challenging his Soldiers to keep up with him. CSM Gregorcyk organized and directed the Battalion Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) Field Training Exercise resulting in its designation as an annual training event as well as being personally evaluated by the Corps CSM who cited its value as a junior leader development tool. His personal involvement, inspiring his Soldiers and always leading by meticulous example, also resulted in 10 of his 12 Soldiers attending the Primary Leadership Development Course to make the Commandant's List. CSM Gregorcyk lived by the principle that being a good leader meant creating great leaders for the future. His battalion had more SGT Audie Murphy Club members than any brigade in III Corps. His mentoring produced four brigade CSMs, five SGMs, 10 NCOs who are now warrant officers (CW3 and CW4) and a former MI Corps CSM.

CSM Gregorcyk completed his career as the Command Sergeant Major for the 165th MI Battalion, 205th MI Brigade in Darmstadt, Germany, from March 1996 to June 1999. He was responsible for the daily operations of a Tactical Exploitation Battalion with more than 500 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines in support of Task Force Eagle and V Corps. During Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR (Bosnia), he devised and implemented a check ride program which focused on teaching Soldiers to survive in Bosnia where their mission was to conduct security for several of the investigation teams as well as site security for the mass grave sites. He also led the operation to relocate the Battalion

headquarters in Bosnia from Lukavac to Steel Castle. His outstanding oversight of enlisted personnel management was commended by the V Corps Inspector General as the best within the Corps. He personally revamped and supervised the NCO Evaluation Report (NCOER) process within the Battalion resulting in no late NCOERs. His personal involvement with each Soldier also resulted in a 100-percent NCO Education System school pass rate.

After retirement, CSM Gregorcyk continued to serve with the Department of Homeland Security. Some of CSM Gregorcyk's awards include the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal (4 Oak Leaf Clusters), the Army Commendation Medal (6 Oak Leaf Clusters), and the Army Achievement Medal (1 Oak Leaf Cluster).

CSM Gregorcyk was inducted into the MI Hall of Fame in 2008.