

## COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR ODELL WILLIAMS US Army, Retired (Deceased)



CSM Odell Williams entered the US Navy Reserves in 1955 and served as an Aircraft Mechanic and Firefighter. Later, in 1960, he entered the US Army and attended the Manual Morse Collector's Course at Fort Devens, Massachusetts. In 1961, SPC Williams was assigned as a Morse Interceptor at Vint Hills Farms Station, Virginia until October of the same year. The following month, he reported to the 5<sup>th</sup> Radio Research Unit, Bangkok, Thailand as a Morse Interceptor. SPC Williams returned to the US in 1963 and served two more assignments as a Morse Interceptor: first with the 303<sup>rd</sup> Army Security Agency (ASA) at Fort Carson, Colorado, and then at Fort Lewis, Washington with the 303<sup>rd</sup> ASA.

In 1965, SSG Williams was assigned as a Senior Morse Interceptor with Detachment 2, 3<sup>rd</sup> Radio Research Unit in Vietnam. One year later, he departed Vietnam to be the Senior Morse Instructor, US ASA Training Center, Fort Devens. SSG Williams remained as an instructor at Fort Devens for three years.

Beginning the fall of 1969, SFC Williams served as a Morse Supervisor at US Army Field Station, Japan. SFC Williams was then selected to be the First Sergeant of Alpha Company, Field Station, Japan, where he remained for two years before being reassigned to the Cryptology Supervisor Course and then to leadership training at Senior NCO training at Fort Devens. Following training, SFC Williams served as a Senior Instructor with the Operations Company, Support Battalion, Fort Devens until 1974, and then as First Sergeant for F Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion. In 1976 he was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, USA Field Station, Korea where he served as Mission Management Supervisor and Operations Sergeant until 1977. SFC Williams then served as First Sergeant with the Operations Company, Field Station Korea. MSG Williams returned to Fort Devens to serve once again as the First Sergeant of F Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion for two years before reporting for training at the US Army Sergeant Major Academy at Fort Bliss, Texas.

In 1980, he served as Operations Sergeant, US Army Field Station Germany before being selected and serving as the S3, Operations Sergeant.

CSM Williams was then selected as the Command Sergeant Major for the US Army Station in Kunia, Hawaii in 1982. In 1985 he became the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the National Security Agency (NSA) in Maryland. He was the first-ever Command Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Director of the NSA. His leadership and intelligence support were instrumental in operations such as investigating the TWA hijacking in Lebanon in June 1985, the rescue of the Achille Lauro in October 1985, and the bombing raid in Libya in April 1986.

CSM Williams retired in 1988 after honorably serving 33 years. His awards and badges include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal (6 Oak Leaf Clusters), National Defense Service Medal (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), Vietnamese Service Medal, and Department of Army Staff Badge.

CSM Williams passed away in 2002. He was posthumously inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2009.