



FACT SHEET

*U.S. ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
FORT BRAGG, NC 28310 / (910) 432-6005 / <http://www.soc.mil>
and on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/usasoc.mil>*

ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES MEMORIAL PLAZA

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Army Special Operations Forces Memorial Plaza at Fort Bragg, N.C., was moved in 1994 from the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School to the newly built U.S. Army Special Operations Command headquarters building.

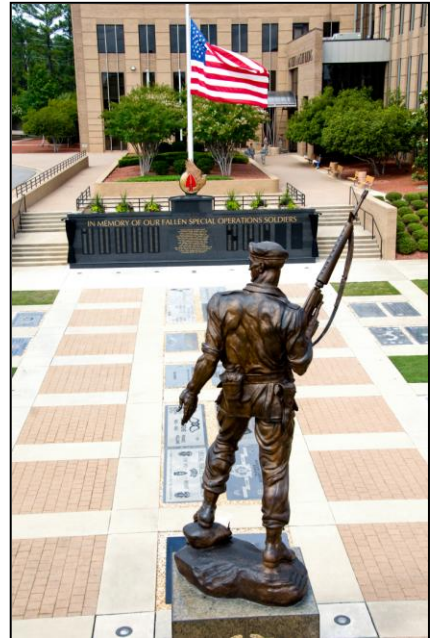
The plaza features the Special Warfare Soldier Statue, a parade field, a statue of legendary special operations Soldier Maj. Richard “Dick” Meadows, a field of Memorial Stones and a Memorial Wall.

The original plaza, first dedicated in November 1969, was built as a tribute to the more than 550 Special Forces Soldiers who had died up to that time in the Vietnam War. It was the first Vietnam War Memorial erected in the United States.

MEMORIAL STONES

Memorial stones representing some of the most elite units in Army special operations history are placed in the plaza between the Memorial Wall and the Special Warfare Soldier Statue. Initially, there were only 11 of these stones in honor of SOF units from World War II to present. The number of stones has since grown to 26.

The Memorial Stones include: the Office of the Strategic Services Detachment 10; the OSS Maritime Unit & Operational Swimmers; the OSS Operational Groups; the OSS Jedburghs; the Special Operations Association; the “Mike Force;” the First Special Service Force; the Alamo Scouts; the Civil Affairs; the 75th Ranger Regiment Association; the Merrill’s Marauders; the 75th Ranger Regiment; the Ranger Infantry Companies (Airborne) Korea; the Ranger Battalions Association (World War II); the Psychological Operations; the Son Tay Raiders; the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne); the Special Forces Panama; the 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne); 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne); the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne); the U.S. Army Special Operations Support Command (Airborne); Project Delta, Detachment B-52, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne); United Nations Unconventional Warfare Forces Vietnam; and 1st Raider Company Korea stones.



FALLEN SPECIAL OPERATIONS SOLDIERS MEMORIAL WALL

In 1995, a year after the plaza was dedicated; the USASOC Memorial Wall of Honor was unveiled, incorporating bronze plates from the original plaza containing the names of 804 special operations Soldiers who were killed in the Vietnam including 20 Medal of Honor recipients, 108 Distinguished Service Cross or Distinguished Flying Cross recipients and 882 Silver Stars recipients.

Fourteen years later in January 2009, USASOC embarked on an ambitious project to replace the well-worn wall with a new one of an appearance and stature more befitting the level of sacrifice of USASOC's fallen warriors and their families. Each May around Memorial Day; USASOC conducts a ceremony adding the names of those comrades lost in the previous year. On May 27, 2010, the Fallen Special Operations Soldiers Memorial Wall, a granite wall capped by a bronze eagle statue designed by famed Oregon artist Lorenzo Ghiglieri, was dedicated containing the names of 1,134 fallen special operations Soldiers.

--USASOC--