

RELEASE NUMBER: 0811019-01
DATE POSTED: NOVEMBER 19, 2008

Special Forces bids farewell to senior chief warrant officer

By Spc. Tony Hawkins
USASOC PAO

FORT BRAGG, N.C. (USASOC News Service, Nov. 19, 2008) – Army Special Forces' senior chief warrant officer said farewell to the regiment at Kennedy Hall Nov. 17 after 39 years of service.

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Roy Tolbert, command chief warrant officer for the U.S. Army Special Forces Command (Airborne), retired from active duty after passing responsibility to Chief Warrant Officer 5 Bruce Watts.

"There could not be a better setting for paying tribute to ... a man who has served our nation, and our regiment, with honor and distinction for nearly four decades," said Brig. Gen. Michael S. Repass, USASFC(A) commanding general, as he and Tolbert stood on the same stage on which they graduated from the Special Forces Qualification Course.

Tolbert enlisted in the Alabama National Guard in 1969, with his first assignment as a radio telephone operator in Company E (Ranger), 200th Infantry Regiment. In 1972, he decided to join Special Forces, eventually earning his green beret and being assigned to the 20th Special Forces Group (Airborne) as a Special Forces weapons sergeant in 1975.

"In saying goodbye today, we bid farewell to one of the very last of a generation of operators who began their service in the Vietnam War," Repass said.

In 1982, Tolbert came onto active duty with the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne). In 1985, he completed Warrant Officer Candidate School and was appointed to the rank of chief warrant officer 2.

Over the next two decades, Tolbert served in nearly every position available to him, from assistant detachment commander to group senior warrant officer advisor, and finally, to the regiment's command chief warrant officer.

"Your hard work and steadfast efforts have made a significant and measurable contribution to the regiment, the Army, and the nation as a whole," Repass said. "Roy, our country is stronger and safer because of your service, and those who had the opportunity to work with you will now carry forward in their critical work with your example firmly in their minds."



Chief Warrant Officer 5 Roy Tolbert (left), outgoing USASFC(A) command chief warrant officer, receives his relief of orders from Brig. Gen. Michael S. Repass, USASFC(A) commanding general, during a ceremony Nov. 17 at Kennedy Hall. Tolbert, who joined Special Forces in 1972, retired after more than 39 years of service.
(Photo by Spc. Tony Hawkins, USASOC PAO)