

April 16, 2021

Commanding General
U.S. Army John F. Kennedy
Special Warfare Center and School
Attn: Psychological Operations Commandant
3004 Ardennes Street, Stop A
Fort Bragg, NC 28310-9610

Dear Mr. President:

It is truly an honor for me to nominate Command Sergeant Major (CSM) (Retired) Robert A. Smith for the distinction and induction as a Distinguished Member of the Psychological Operations (PSYOP) Regiment (DMOR). His 45 plus years of dedicated service in the United States Marine Corps, the North Dakota National Guard, as a United States Army Reserve Psychological Operations Soldier and as a Department of the Army and Air Force Civilian, makes him an outstanding candidate for this honor. CSM (Ret.) Smith has had tremendous impact on the PSYOP Regiment during his Army career, in uniform and as a civilian, influencing thousands of Psychological Operations Soldiers and civilians, from both the Active and Reserve components.

CSM (Ret.) Smith hails from Aberdeen S.D. and entered the United States Marine Corps in 1975, until transferring to the North Dakota National Guard in 1982, where he served for seven years. He served the next 27 years in the U.S. Army Reserve as both a traditional reservist and an Active Guard and Reserve (AGR) Soldier. CSM (Ret.) Smith served for over 10 years as a senior non-commissioned officer within the Psychological Operations Regiment. His first PSYOP assignment was in 1994 as the First Sergeant of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 13th PSYOP Battalion, in Arden Hills, MN. In 1997, he was promoted to Command Sergeant Major and selected to serve as the 13th PSYOP Battalion Command Sergeant Major. Following his initial CSM assignment, CSM (Ret.) Smith served as the Senior Non-commissioned Officer in a multitude of units and command levels including the 302nd Maintenance Battalion, 300th Military Police Brigade, 353rd Civil Affairs Command, the United States Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command (Airborne), 11th Theater Aviation Command and the 86th Training Division.

In 2007, CSM (Ret.) Smith was selected to become the Command Sergeant Major of the United States Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command (Airborne) (USACAPOC(A)), a two-star level major command of the United States Army Reserve Command, which had the highest operational tempo and personnel tempo for deployments of units and Soldiers in the United States Army Reserve in support of worldwide Global War on Terror combat and noncombat operations. As the CSM, he was responsible for the 13,400 Civil Affairs (CA) and PSYOP Soldiers across four one-star commands, one training brigade, seven CA brigades with 32 subordinate CA battalions, and two PSYOP groups with eight subordinate PSYOP battalions and 32 subordinate PSYOP companies spread across 27 States and the District of Columbia. In 2008, CSM (Ret.) Smith deployed forward to Iraq to meet with deployed USACAPOC Soldiers and supported commands in order to ensure lessons learned were captured in order to better prepare units about to deploy forward and improve the 1st Training Brigade efforts. This period was extremely turbulent in that USACAPOC was accelerating the restructuring of units to implement Force Design Update 05-1, while simultaneously preparing them for deployments, deploying them, executing operations and redeploying units from forward operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and the Philippines, supporting Horn of Africa operations and sustaining Theater Security Cooperation Program operations globally in

addition to recruiting, training and taking care of Soldiers and their families. CSM (Ret.) Smith was instrumental in ensuring the support and sustainment of Family Readiness Groups and ensuring the full support of families dealing with casualties as a result of combat operations.

From March 2010 to March 2013 CSM (Ret.) Smith served as the CSM for the 11th Aviation Command, where he developed the program to train flight medics to paramedic standard. He was the original Army Reserve member of a group that included all three Army components that determined program requirements to train and sustain flight medics to paramedic level in order to provide better treatment to the wounded during the critical "Golden Hour" stage of a MEDEVAC. This effective program saved an untold number of lives on the battlefield due to the increased skill and abilities of flight paramedics.

Throughout his time in organizations outside of the PSYOP Regiment, CSM (Ret.) Smith's experience and ability to engage with soldiers was the reason he was asked repeatedly to return and speak to Pre-Command courses on the relationships between a Commander and the Command Sergeant Major; at the Army Reserve Chaplain's course about the Chaplain's relationship with the Command Team at the General Officer level; and many Warrior Leader Course, Battle Staff Course, and MOS Re-classification Course graduations.

In February 2016 CSM (Ret.) Smith was assigned as the USAR PSYOP SGM to the PSYOP Commandant's office, United States Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School (USAJFKSWCS). While there, CSM (Ret.) Smith was responsible for the coordination between USACAPOC, USARC, Headquarters Department of the Army G3/5/7, USASOC and USAJFKSWCS on integrating PSYOP into the conventional force. CSM (Ret.) Smith's efforts greatly improved trust and interaction between Conventional Force and Special Operations forces while ensuring Army understanding of PSYOP capabilities and requirements.

After his retirement from the military in December 2016, CSM (Ret.) Smith continued to serve the regiment as a strategic planner in the USACAPOC (A) G-3/5/7 Force Development directorate. CSM (Ret.) Smith was essential to the success and implementation of numerous planning initiatives, including a critical force design update (FDU 16-02) for the Army Reserve PSYOP force structure. He was essential in ensuring the accuracy of all conventional force PSYOP MTOEs. Due to his experience within the PSYOP Regiment, CSM (Ret.) Smith integrated with numerous planning efforts and teams within the Total Army PSYOP enterprise, often providing a clear understanding of how Reserve Component PSYOP units and personnel support operations and execute missions.

CSM (Ret.) Smith would be an exceptional DMOR for the Psychological Operations Regiment, as demonstrated by his nomination and selection as the Honorary Sergeant Major of the Regiment (HSGMOR) in 2016 and continued service to the Regiment. Normally, the HSGMOR is a three year appointment, however due to the COVID-19 pandemic, CSM (Ret.) Smith served in the position for four years and nine months. As the HSGMOR, he not only shared his knowledge and experience with the newly trained members of the Regiment, but also served as a conduit between past and presently serving members. He is an active member of the Psychological Operations Regimental Association (PRA), serving as the president for the PRA's National Council, leading initiatives and efforts to support the Regiment from the World Wide PSYOP Conference to annual Regimental birthday celebratory events. CSM (Ret.) Smith's induction as a DMOR would truly benefit the Regiment, continuing to build a more cohesive and fluid relationship between past and present members, providing a linkage between new and currently serving members to know the Regiment's past, increasing pride and ownership of the Regiment.

CSM (Ret.) Smith is a graduate of North Dakota State University, earning his Bachelor of Architecture degree and earning a Master's Degree in Leadership and Management through Liberty

University. He is a graduate of the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy and numerous other professional military education courses such as the Primary Non-Commissioned Officer Course, Basic Non-Commissioned Officer Course, Advanced Non-Commissioned Officer Course, the First Sergeant Course and Keystone, the Joint Senior Enlisted Advisors course.

CSM (Ret.) Smith is currently a Department of the Air Force civilian, working as an architect Randolph AFB, Texas. His most significant military awards and decorations include the Army Distinguished Service Medal, three Legion of Merit Medals, Bronze Star Medal, three Meritorious Service Medals, three Army Commendation Medals, six Army Reserve Component Achievement Medals, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, and numerous other Army and U.S. Marine Corps service and deployment awards. He is a member of the Psychological Operations Regiment with Plank Holder Status.

CSM (Ret.) Smith can be contacted at 1234 Newbern Drive, Fayetteville NC, 28306, 910-123-4567 or Robsmith123@gmail.com. I can be contacted at 9876 Bragg Blvd, Fayetteville NC 28314, 910-987-6543 or john.s.doe@army.mil for any questions regarding this nomination of an outstanding Non-Commissioned Officer.

Sincerely,

Major John S. Doe

Enclosed:
Photo
Biography