

2025 CAP Unit Veterans Association
Reunion & 250th USMC Birthday celebration

We have some very exciting news for our 2025 Reunion and 250th USMC Birthday Celebration in San Antonio, Texas for November 6th through November 10th. Our attempt each year is to have speakers that bring an interest to our CAP Marines and Corpsmen, this year will be no different. With a referral from Colonel Blaha we were introduced to Sergeant Major Sommers as a possible speaker.

We have recently received confirmation that Sergeant Major David W. Sommers has accepted our invitation as our Keynote speaker for our upcoming reunion. If his name sounds familiar it is because he was the 11th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps assuming that role on June 1987.

Sergeant Major Sommers was born in St. Louis, Missouri in 1943, joining the Marine Corps and attending boot camp in March 1960 at MCRD San Diego, California. His accomplishments, assignments and awards are quite numerous as I will list a few.

Besides being Marines another commonality we share with Sergeant Major Sommers is he served in the first **Combined Action Company in March of 1965** which was his first of two tours in Vietnam. He was awarded the Purple Heart and Navy Commendation Medal with Combat V while serving as squad leader and platoon commander.

Sergeant Major Sommers left Vietnam and was assigned to MCRD Parris Island as a drill instructor then promoted to Staff Sergeant. In 1968 he was assigned to return to Vietnam to the 1st Marine Division. He transferred back to Parris Island as Senior Drill Instructor. Upon his promotion to Gunnery Sergeant he was assigned as the Drill Master at Drill Instructor School

From 1973 to 1974 he attended Marine Guard School and then assigned to Caracas, Venezuela as Non-Commissioned Officer in charge of the Marine Detachment. Then in 1975 he was assigned to Henderson Hall in Arlington, Virginia to serve as Instructor and Chief Instructor of the Marine Security Guard School. While at that assignment he was promoted to Master Sergeant and then later re-designated to the rank of First Sergeant. In August of 1977 he reported the 3rd Force Service Support Group on Okinawa. He then received orders to Camp Pendleton as the First Sergeant of the Marine Corps Tactical Systems Support Activity. He was then promoted to Sergeant Major in October 1980 and assigned to MCRD San Diego. In June 1982 he was assigned to Camp Lejeune as the Sergeant Major of 1st Battalion, 10th Marines, 2nd Marine Division. Ordered back to Quantico as Sergeant Major of Basic School. Then he was assigned to Twenty-Nine Palms to the Marines Corps Air Ground Combat Center, as Marine Amphibious Brigade Sergeant Major. By 1987 he was assigned as the first enlisted Director of Staff Non-Commissioned Officer Academy at the Marine Corps Combat Development Command where in June 1987 he was selected as the 11th Sergeant Major of The Marine Corps.

Sergeant Major Sommers' personal decorations include: The Legion of Merit; the Purple Heart; the Meritorious Service Medal with gold star in lieu of second award; the Navy Commendation Medal with combat "V" and two gold stars in lieu of second and third awards; the Navy Achievement Medal with gold star in lieu of second award; and the Combat Action Ribbon.

