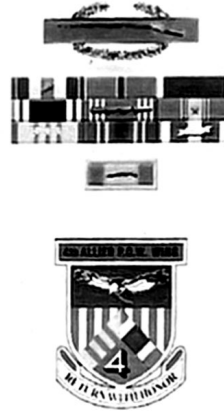


Master Sergeant John T. Anderson



John T. Anderson enlisted in the Army National Guard at his hometown of Niagara Falls, New York on May 16, 1947 at age 16. He went on active duty with the U.S. Army on December 31, 1947, ultimately serving as a broadcast specialist.

On 2 February, 1968, Sergeant Anderson was serving as the Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of Detachment No. 5, American Forces Television Station, Hue, South Vietnam. That day the enemy attempted an armed attack upon Hue and the Detachment 5 quarters. This was part of the Communist "Tet Offensive". Sgt. Anderson, without hesitancy, courageously took an uncovered position in the quarters living room. Armed with a shotgun he defended this position for more than 16 hours against several enemy attempts to gain entry into the house. During this period, he was severely wounded by enemy grenade fire and was under constant exposure to enemy small arms fire. Throughout the ensuing battle, Sergeant Anderson was instrumental in warding off several enemy attempts to overrun the detachment's position. His position was later overrun and he was held as a Prisoner of War until his release on 5 March 1973, after spending 5 years and 1 month in captivity in very harsh conditions. Sergeant Anderson was awarded two Silver Stars for his heroic actions.

While in captivity, Sergeant Anderson was able to make three escape attempts. In his first, he made it about a mile, then passed out because of his wounds. The second time he managed to get farther but walked into the middle of an enemy military camp. The last time he was nearly beaten to death with bamboo clubs by women in a North Vietnamese village.

When Sergeant Anderson returned home to Niagara Falls in 1973, he was greeted with a large welcome ceremony in his honor and a parade through the city. In December 1985, the Army renamed its annual "Journalist of the Year" award the "MSgt John T. Anderson Military Journalist of the Year" award.

John Anderson died on April 1, 1988 in Niagara Falls, New York while working for the U.S. EPA and was buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Additional information about Sergeant John T. Anderson can be found at:

Google Search: "Master Sergeant John T. Anderson" (see story "Hell Years")
historynet.com: "The Last Stand of Detachment 5", Dec 2, 2017