

Michael Birnbaum

Service Branch: U. S. Army and South Dakota National Guard

Period of Service, Ranks and Combat Stations:

From June 1967 to January 1969 Birnbaum served in the U.S. Army. This included a tour in Vietnam from November 1967 to January 1969.

Birnbaum joined the South Dakota Army National Guard in 1973 and served through February 28, 2006.

During his tenure in the South Dakota Army National Guard his assignments included: General Supply Sergeant, Supply Control Supervisor, Platoon Sergeant, First Sergeant and Command Sergeant Major.

Birnbaum became the fifth State Command Sergeant Major. Appointed by the Adjutant General of South Dakota, Birnbaum served in this position from 2001 – March 2006. As Command Sergeant Major, CSM Birnbaum served as the Adjutant General's personal advisory on all enlisted matters, with special emphasis on soldier issues and training. Mike also served as an advocate for the more than 3,000 soldiers in the state by spending time visiting soldiers, overseeing training and listening to their concerns. During this tenure he traveled throughout the state, as well as overseas. He retired from the Army National Guard with over 38 years of service.

Decorations include:

- Legion of Merit
- National Defense Service Medal
- Combat Infantry Badge
- Vietnam Service Medal with 1/OLC
- Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with 1/OLC
- Army Commendation Medal with 1/OLC
- Army Service Ribbon with 1/OLC
- Army Component Achievement Medal with 2/OLCs
- Army Forces Reserve Medal with 1/OLC
- Overseas Service Bars (2)
- Republic of Vietnam Unit Citation
- NCO Professional Development Ribbon (3)
- Army Reserve Achievement Medal (4)
- Infantry Mortar Badge Expert
- Meritorious Service Medal with 1/OLC
- Pistol 9MM Expert
- Humanitarian Service Medal
- The Keeper of the Colors Award
- The Honorable Order of Saint Barbara
- The Honorable Order of Saint Christopher

