

## MILESTONES

# Hoquiam grad appointed Commander of U.S. Special Operations in Europe

Brigadier General Eldon A. Bargewell, a former Hoquiam resident, has been appointed Commander of the U.S. Special Operations Command in Europe. He is stationed in Stuttgart, Germany.

The change of command took place Aug. 6 with Bargewell replacing Brig. Gen. Geoffrey Lambert. Gen. Wesley K. Clark, Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, performed the ceremony.

Bargewell, 51, graduated from Hoquiam High School in 1967. He is the son of Hoquiam resident Audrey Bargewell and the late Arthur Bargewell, who was a long-time Washington School principal.

Mrs. Bargewell noted that her son's yearbook listed Eldon as "the most likely to succeed because he wants to."

"And he's certainly done that," said his mother proudly.

In a recent letter to his mother, Bargewell detailed his job in Germany as follows:

### HARBORITES IN UNIFORM

"I will be responsible for Special Forces soldiers, Navy Seal Commandos and Air Force Combat Controllers, including 15 Air Force airplanes and helicopters. The European command is involved with 87 countries, many of them in Africa."

Bargewell said he recently returned from Africa, where he visited the special forces who were training Rwandan soldiers. He had also been dispatched to Africa after the U.S. Embassies were bombed.

Throughout his 31-year service career, Bargewell has commanded special operations units from team to battalion level in Southeast Asia, Operation Just Cause and Operation Desert Storm.

He enlisted in the Army right out of high school and completed the Special Forces Qualification

Course in December 1967.

He was assigned to Special Forces as a Detachment Radio Operator, and in 1968, was assigned to reconnaissance command in Laos and North Vietnam. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Infantry upon graduation from Officers' Candidate School in 1973.

Bargewell was then assigned as an officer with the Rangers at Fort Lewis, where he worked his way up to Company Commander. He was assigned to Special Forces at Fort Benning, Ga., in 1981 and moved up through the chain of command to Commander.

He is a much-decorated war veteran with numerous medals for service and valor in Southeast Asia, the Distinguished Service Cross, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze



**Brig. Gen. Eldon Bargewell**

Star Medal, Purple Heart and numerous good conduct medals.

Bargewell is married to the former Marian Britt, an Alabama woman. They have five children, Lauren, Audrey, Logan, Brant and Jason.