

THE DROP

FALL 2025



CROUCHING PANDA, HIDDEN DRAGON: *CONTESTING CHINESE SUBVERSION IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND CENTRAL ASIA*



**COLONEL ROGER H.C. DONLON:
THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF A GREEN BERET**

**TWO GENERATIONS OF SPECIAL FORCES SOLDIERS
A LEGACY OF SERVICE**





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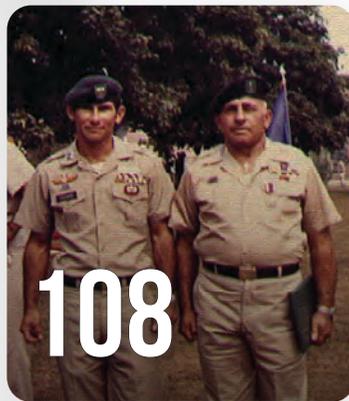
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THE drop

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FALL 2025

Special Forces Association

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UPDATES FROM HEADQUARTERS



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE **Chris Wilkerson**

Fellow SFA Members,

I am pleased to report another quarter of productivity from the National Board of Officers (NBO). We completed the Constitutional amendments vote that began last February. Three of the four proposals were approved by the membership to amend the Constitution.

The Adjutant position is now an elected officer with voting rights. This additional officer brings the total number of elected officers to 7, ultimately allowing a 4:2 vote to pass motions made by the President, excluding his own vote in support of his motion.

- Immediate family members, as defined by the IRS, may now become Associate members. This change provides widows, children, grandchildren and parents of any deceased SF-qualified soldier the opportunity to become an Associate member and remain in the SFA family, pay dues and attend events.
- Future SF-qualified Medal of Honor recipients will automatically be presented with a lifetime membership to the SFA. In the past, Boards have voted to make this happen, now it's a standard policy.
- The one proposal that didn't pass was clarifying the verbiage in the 2013 Constitution that restricted Associate members from being an elected officer at the Chapter level unless allowed by approved Chapter by-laws. My intent was to clean the verbiage, allowing Associate members to hold office, but allowing Chapters to restrict it. That proposal was split 49% to 51%, not meeting the 2/3 approval of membership. – Any Chapter that currently has Associate members in an elected position needs to ensure the NBO has a copy of those bylaws on record to be in concurrence with the 2013 Constitution.

While some of these proposals may appear minute or immaterial, a secondary effect of this vote was to provide the NBO and interested membership a good picture of participation in Constitutional amendment votes. Between February 20th and June 30th, ballots were emailed, posted on Teamhouse, included in the Spring Drop and lastly USPS mailed to all members (at a cost of \$5500). Of the 11,200+ current members in the SFA, only 1750 responded. The current quorum and ballot distribution requirements should be redefined for future votes.

The Convention Committee has been busy preparing for October. This year's convention will be a memorial one, combining our convention with the Special Operations Association.

This will be the last convention in the upcoming years to take place in the fall. We are shifting the conventions back to the summer months in hopes of increasing attendance of younger audiences like active-duty soldiers with school age children.

- SFACON 2026 is scheduled to occur in Destin, FL during 7th SFG's Red Empire Week June 15-19 with the assistance of Chapter 7.
- SFACON 2027 is tentatively scheduled for June 7-11, taking place at Fort Bragg in celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the Special Forces.
- SFACON 2028 planning is in the infancy stages. More to follow as it develops.

The diligence that Mike Hurst and the Finance Committee have brought to the Association have allowed a couple large expenditures with minimal loss of overall funds. The transfer of funds from one bank to another with better interest rates and placing some funds into low-risk investment has resulted in substantial gains. We were able to provide \$58,000 in scholarships and purchase an improved bathroom facility for the National Grounds for \$30,000, without showing a loss as compared to funds on hand this time last year.

Lastly, the election cycle for the 2026-2028 National Board of Officers is underway. The last election consisted of a ballot that only had one candidate listed for most of the positions. If you think you'd bring value to the NBO and the SFA or you simply have heartburn about the direction or activities of the current board, I welcome you to submit your name. Candidates for National Board of Officers must be Decade Members in good standing, computer literate and available to serve the SFA membership.

If you do not receive email updates from members of the NBO, your email is either incorrect, absent from the contact information on hand, or our emails are going to your spam folder. To stay connected and up-to-date, please login to Teamhouse and ensure your email is correct.

THE DIRECTOR'S CUT **Mike Goodrich**

Membership: As of 21 August, 2025, there are 11,233 members. The breakdown is: 5002 (Decade), 4,886 (General), 1,345 (Associate).

Final Formation: Thanks to Len Cummings for his work creating a searchable database of our fallen members. This can be found in the Documents Section of the Teamhouse. A reminder that all obituaries should come to me to ensure that notification our fallen members is published in the Drop.

Club Express: Club Express is a valuable tool for Chapter Secretaries to manage their membership. Please make time to reach out to members who have let their membership lapse and encourage them to renew. HQs will assist where needed. Also, some members have seen their access to Club Express data change while HQs is completing its' annual database security review. This is done to ensure the integrity of our database and that our member's personal information continues to be secure. Please contact HQs with any questions.

The Drop: I want to again remind the Chapter Secretaries that it is their responsibility to ensure their Chapter Masthead is up to date and that all Chapter Drop input is sent directly to the editor (sfaeditor@10-power.com). There is a 500-word limit on all Drop submissions. Also, it is incumbent upon each member to ensure that HQ has your current address.

A Tip of the Beret: Thanks to Chapter 78 for their generous support of the recent SFQC graduates. Chapter 1-18 hosted SFQC Class 340 for a BBQ and social at the Chapter Teamhouse. Congratulations to all of the newly minted Green Berets. Also, congratulations are in order for the 75th Ranger Regiment team that took top honors at the recent USASOC Best Squad Competition. They will be representing USASOC at the upcoming Army Best Squad Competition.

A special shout out again to **Mission BBQ** for their excellent work supporting the SFQC graduation BBQ and the USASOC Best Squad ceremony.

THE SFA MEMORIAL BRICK PAVER WALKWAY

Special Forces Association Board of Trustees

The **SFA Memorial Brick Paver Walkway** is located on the SFA National Grounds, beginning behind the Chapel and extending to the Memorial Garden. This program establishes a forum to honor a teammate, family member or other noteworthy ideas—such as teams, special projects, etc.

PAVERS: You may have two lines on each paver (Can buy a third line for \$20) with no more than 18 letters per line. Commas, spaces, dashes, numbers, etc. count as a letter. Cannot put insignias. Pavers are \$40 each. Print legibly because what you put is what is engraved on a brick. Also ensure dates are correct. The MBF will order the pavers when we have 50 orders. There will be a mention in *The Drop* of your purchase and to whom.

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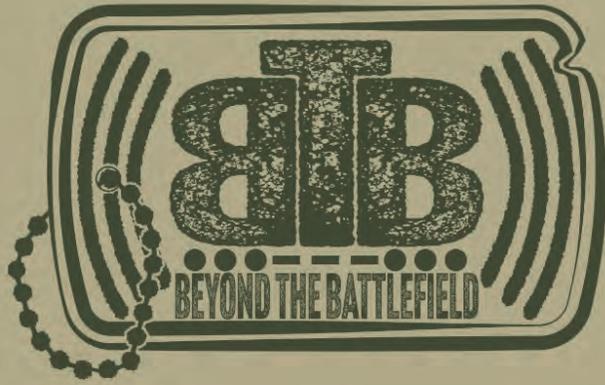
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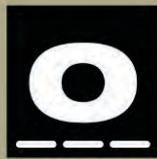
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TAPS **We Will Not Forget...**

*Rest easy, sleep well my brothers.
 Know the line was held, your job is done.
 Rest easy, sleep well.
 Others have taken up where you fell, the line has held.
 Peace, peace, and farewell.*



ALDEN D. ACKELS

A-3182



COL (R) Alden "Dale" Ackels, 83 of Sheridan, Wyoming passed away at the Big Bend Rehabilitation and Care Center on June 9th, 2025.

Dale was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in 1965 upon graduation from the University of Minnesota. After a tour in Vietnam, he earned a Master's Degree in Comparative Politics from Georgetown University and was assigned to the Foreign Area Officer Program. In 1980, Dale was reassigned to the newly formed Joint Special Operations Command at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. He was retired from active duty in 1992 while serving as the Director of African Studies at the U.S. Army War College. After retirement, Dale founded Africa Research

Associates, a consultancy that assisted clients conducting business in Africa.

He is survived by his wife (Bet), and sons (Travis, Derek). A graveside service was held at the Sheridan Municipal Cemetery in Sheridan, Wyoming on July 4th 2025.



ARNOLD ANDERSON

D-4979



CSM(R) Arnold 'Andy' Anderson, 80 of Pelican, Louisiana passed away on July 21st, 2025. Andy enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1963 and upon completion of his initial training was assigned to the 6th Infantry Division. He volunteered for Special Forces duty in 1967; he completed SFQC in August of that year and was assigned to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam. Returning stateside in 1968 Andy served a tour with Training Group as cadre. In 1969, he was reassigned to the 7th SFG(A) as an Intelligence/ Assistant Ops Sergeant. Andy served a year with JCRC in Thailand before returning stateside to 7th SFG(A) in 1973. He was retired from active duty in 1985 after a 22-year career. Among his awards and decorations are The Silver

Star, The Bronze Star (w/V,1 OLC), The Army Commendation Medal (w/V), the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, The Special Forces TAB, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Master Parachutist's Badge. Andy soon began a new career with the DeSoto Parish Sheriff's Office where he served for another 12-years.

He is survived by his son Adam. A memorial service was held at Pelican Baptist Church on July 27th,2025.



JOHN BROOKS

D-6042



John Brooks, 64 of Bangor, Maine passed away at home on May 17th, 2025.

John enlisted in the U.S. Army after graduation from high school in 1979. He was awarded his Special Forces qualification in 1981 and assigned to the 10th SFG(A). In 1988 John was reassigned to the Special Warfare Command as an instructor. He returned to the 10th SFG(A) in 1991. His final assignment was back at Ft. Bragg, NC with the Special Warfare Command. John retired from active duty in 1999.

After retirement, he began a new career as a military contractor. Among his awards and decorations are the Meritorious Service Medal (3 OLC), the Army Commendation Medal (1 OLC), the Army Achievement Medal, the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, the Army Superior Unit Award, the Special Forces TAB, the Ranger TAB, the Master Freefall Badge, and the Master Parachutist's Badge.

John is survived by his mother (Mildred), and brothers (James, Peter, Paul, Gerald). A celebration of life was held at the East Union Grange Hall in Bangor on June 22nd, 2025.



MICHAEL BROWN

D-7637



Michael Brown, 81 of Haymarket, Virginia passed away on June 16th, 2025.

Michael's military career spanned 29 years of service both active duty and Army National Guard. He was assigned to the 6th SFG(A) in 1962 and was reassigned to the 1st SFG(A) in 1969 where he served until 1974.

Among his many awards and decorations are The Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Army Achievement Medal, the Air Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal (w/60 device), the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry (w/Palm), the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Special Forces TAB, the Ranger TAB, and the Senior Parachutist's Badge.

After his retirement, Michael served as the Deputy Director of the Office of Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security for the State of Louisiana.

He is survived by his wife (Pamela), sons (Michael, Brian), and daughter (Ashley). A funeral service was held on June 27th, 2025 at the Culpeper Virginia National Cemetery.

HERSCHEL CALDWELL

D-2594

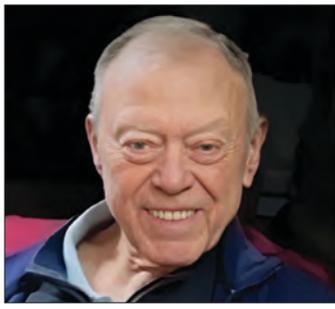


Herschel Caldwell, 85, of Hope Mills, North Carolina passed away on December 1st, 2024.

Herschel was awarded his Special Forces qualification in 1964 and was assigned to the 10th SFG(A). He was reassigned to the 3rd SFG(A) in 1965. In 1966 Herchel volunteered for duty with the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam. He served two combat tours with the 5th SFG(A).

Among his awards and decorations are the Bronze Star, the Army Commendation Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (1 OLC), the Meritorious Unit Citation, the Presidential Unit Citation, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry (w/ Palm), the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Special Forces TAB, and the Master Parachutist's Badge.

He is survived by his wife Marian. A graveside service was held at the Cumberland Memorial Gardens in Fayetteville, North Carolina on December 11th, 2024.

**KENNETH COOPER**

M-2564



Kenneth Cooper, 88 of Yakima, Washington passed away at his home on July 31st 2025.

Kenneth was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army upon graduation from Washington State College. He volunteered for Special Forces duty in 1972 and was assigned to the 1st SFG(A).

Among his awards and decorations are the Bronze Star (2 OLC), The Purple Heart, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Parachutist's Badge.

Upon retirement from active duty, Kenneth moved his family to Ritzville, Washington to fulfill his childhood dream of being a farmer. Later he changed careers once again and moved to Yakima, Washington where he was employed at the Yakima Training Center. He is survived by his daughter Carah. A graveside service was held at the Tahoma National Cemetery in Kent, Washington on August 22nd, 2025.

**ROBERT COWAN**

D-9680



Robert Cowan, 83 of Taylorville, Utah passed away on June 6th, 2025.

Bob enlisted in the U.S. Army and was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division. He deployed with the division to Vietnam. Returning stateside, Bob was honorably discharged from active duty. He joined the Utah National Guard in 1977 and was assigned to the 19th SFG(A).

Bob retired from the Utah National Guard in 1993 after 24 years of service to his country.

Among his awards and decorations are the Bronze Star, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Special Forces TAB, and the Master Parachutist's Badge.

Bob is survived by his wife (Miesje), sons (Rex, David, Doug, Robert), and daughters (Corby, Coralee). A funeral service was held at the Church of Later Day Saints in Taylorville, Utah on June 16th, 2025. Interment is at the Utah Veteran's Cemetery and Memorial Park.

**JOHN DE TREVILLE, III**

D-5535



John 'Jack' de Treville, III, 88 of North Chesterfield, Virginia passed away on May 19th, 2025.

Jack was awarded his Special Force qualification in 1964 while assigned to the 5th SFG(A). In October of 1964, he was reassigned to Vietnam (MACV-SOG). Returning stateside, Jack was assigned to the Special Warfare Center (HALO Committee). Leaving active duty, Jack later joined the 11th SFG(A) where he served until 1984 after having dedicated 27-years to military service. Jack studied at NC State University and later at Virginia Christian University's interior design program after which he founded Jack de Treville and Company Interior Decoration and design.

He is survived by his wife (Linda), son (Jack), and daughters (Lauren, Michelle). A memorial service was held at Bailey's in Richmond, Virginia on June 14th, 2025.



GERALD DENISON

D-4031



Gerald Denison, 87 of Talkeetna, Alaska passed away on November 28th, 2024.

Gerald enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1955; he completed Airborne training in 1963 and was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division. In 1967, Gerald completed Special Forces training and was assigned to the 5th SFG(A). He was reassigned to the 10th SFG(A) in 1969 after recovering from combat wounds. In 1970, Gerald was again assigned to MACV-SOG (CCC) where he was again wounded and transferred stateside for recovery after which he rejoined the 10th SFG(A).

He retired from active duty in 1976 after a tour as an ROTC Advisor.

Among his awards and decorations are The Bronze Star (w/V, 1 OLC), The Purple Heart (2 OLC), the Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Master Parachutist's Badge. After retirement, Gerald moved to Alaska and became an Alaska State Trooper. He retired a second time in 1987.

A private service was held at a later date.



TUYEN VAN DEO

A-2483

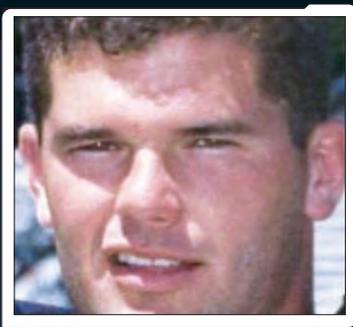


Tuyen Van Deo, 88 of Lawrenceville, Georgia passed away on June 14th, 2025.

Tuyen came to the United States as a refugee from the war in Vietnam where he served as a Vietnamese Army Commando.

He settled in Lawrenceville, Georgia where he built a new life in his adopted country.

Tuyen is survived by his wife (Kim) and children (Thu, Thanh, Khoi, Sali, and Ani). A celebration of life was held at Wages & Sons Gwinnett Chapel in Lawrenceville on June 19th, 2025.



GARTH ESTADT

M-9322



Garth Estadt, 60 of Scott Township, Pennsylvania passed away at the Geisinger Community Medical Center on June 27th, 2025.

Garth graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York in 1988 and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Artillery Corps. In 1994, he volunteered for Special Forces duty and upon completion of SFOC was assigned to the 3rd SFG(A).

In 1997, Garth was honorably discharged from active duty and settled in Scott Township where he built a successful career as a State Farm Insurance agent.

He is survived by his wife (Christie), son (Garth), and daughter (Brooke).

A celebration of life was held at the Montage Mountain Pavilion in Scranton, Pennsylvania on July 2nd, 2025. Interment is at West Point Cemetery, West Point, New York.

**LUDWIG FAISTENHAMMER, JR.**

D-530



COL (R) Ludwig (Lou) Faistenhammer, Jr., 101 of York, Pennsylvania passed away on June 12th, 2025.

Lou volunteered for active duty after graduating from high school in 1943. He served in the European Theater with General George Patton's 3rd Army as a tank commander. After the war ended, Lou attended St. Bonaventure University. Called to duty during the Korean War, Lou served as Company Commander of the 7th Ranger Company. In 1956, Lou volunteered for Special Forces duty and was assigned to the 77th SFG(A) until 1957 when he was reassigned to the 10th SFG(A). In 1961, Lou returned stateside to the 7th SFG(A). He was reassigned to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam in 1966. Completing his tour in 1968, Lou was assigned to Detachment 'A' in Berlin. He

returned stateside to Ft. Bragg, North Carolina in 1971 to his last assignment as Chief of Combat Development at the Special Warfare Command. Lou retired from active duty in 1974.

Among his many awards and decorations are the Bronze Star (3 OLC), The Purple Heart (2 OLC), The Combat Infantryman's Badge (w/Star), the Master Parachutist's Badge (w/Star), and the Ranger TAB. In retirement, Lou was employed under contract in Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Pakistan.

He is survived by his daughters (Josephine, Mari). A Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. Joseph Catholic Church in York, Pennsylvania on June 21st, 2025. Interment will be at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

**JOHN FOLEY**

M-1075



John Foley, 76 of Lombard, Illinois passed away due to complications from Alzheimer's disease on June 4th, 2025.

John was awarded his Special Forces qualification in 1971 and assigned to the 1st SFG(A). John was a long-standing member of SFA Chapter 37 and served as its' secretary before his diagnosis.

He is survived by his wife, Karen. A celebration of life was held on July 19th, 2025 at the Morton Arboretum, a place that John enjoyed and frequently visited.

**JAMES FOSTER**

M-714



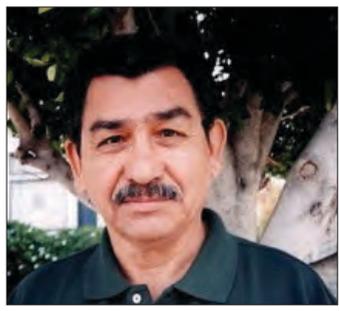
James Foster, 84 of Concord, North Carolina passed away on July 23rd, 2025 at Atrium Health Cabarrus.

Jim enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1959 upon graduation from high school. In 1967, he volunteered for Special Forces duty and was assigned to the 6th SFG(A). In 1968 he was reassigned to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam (B-56).

Returning stateside, Jim was assigned to the 11th SFG(A) briefly before returning to Vietnam and the 5th SFG(A). Upon completion of his second combat tour, Jim was assigned to the Institute Battalion of the JFKUSAIMA until his retirement in 1981. Retiring from active duty, Jim entered the Campbell

Law School and became a practicing attorney for 23-years until his final retirement in 2007.

Jim is survived by his son (Jay) and daughter (Margaret). A funeral service was held at the Mt. Olive United Methodist Church in Concord, North Carolina on July 28th, 2025 with interment at the church cemetery.



RAUL GARCIA

D-1590



Raul Garcia, 90 of San Diego, California passed away at his home on May 30th, 2025.

Raul enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1953. He was honorably discharged from active duty in 1962 and joined the 12th SFG(A) (USAR). Raul was awarded his Special Forces qualification in 1965 and, in addition to his service with the 12th SFG(A), he was assigned to the 17th SFG(A), 1st SOCOM, USASOC, and SOCPAC. Raul retired from military service in 1994.

Among his awards and decorations are the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Special Forces TAB, the Scuba Badge, and the Master Parachutist's Badge.

Raul was a valued member of SFA Chapter 75.

He was predeceased by his wife Judy. No service information is available.



DOUGLAS GARRETT

D-8475



Douglas Garrett, 62 of Sanford, North Carolina passed away on July 17th, 2025.

Doug volunteered for Special Forces duty in 1989. He was awarded his Special Forces TAB and assigned to the 7th SFG(A) as a Communications Sergeant later that same year. He was retired from active duty in 2005 and began a new career with USASOC as a Civilian Deployment Specialist.

Among his awards and decorations are the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal (3 OLC), the Joint Service Achievement Medal (1 OLC), the Army Achievement Medal (7 OLC), the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, the Special Forces TAB, and the Master Parachutist's Badge.

Doug is survived by his wife (Toe), and daughters (Alex, Savannah, Samantha).

A memorial service was held at the Adcock Funeral Home in Spring Lake, North Carolina on August 2nd, 2025.



DONALD GILMORE

D-4086



Donald 'Don' Gilmore, 82 of Memphis, Tennessee passed away on May 26th, 2025 after a lengthy illness.

Don enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1960 and was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division. He was honorably discharged from active duty in 1963 and joined the National Guard.

In 1980, Don transferred to the 20th SFG(A) and was awarded his Special Forces qualification in 1983. He remained with this unit until his retirement from service in 1992. In civilian life, Don worked at the Velsicol Chemical plant in Memphis, Tennessee until his retirement in 2005.

He is survived by his son, Donald. A funeral service was held at Forest Hill East (Forest Hill Funeral Home) in Memphis, Tennessee on May 30th, 2025.

JOHN GRIFFITH

M-13255



John Griffith, 78 of Lorton, Virginia passed away on July 6th, 2025. John enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1965, was commissioned as an Infantry Officer and assigned to the 6th SFG(A) in 1966.

In 1967 he was reassigned to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam (A-251). Returning stateside in 1968 John was briefly assigned to the Special Warfare Command before returning again to the 6th SFG(A). John served two tours of duty in Vietnam; the first with the 5th SFG(A) and the second with the 101st Airborne Division. John retired from active duty in 1990 and worked as a defense contractor until 2012.

Among his awards and decorations are The Bronze Star (w/V, 2 OLC), The Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (3 OLC), the Air Medal (2nd Award), the Army Commendation Medal, the Presidential Unit Citation, the Valorous Unit Award, the Special Forces TAB, and the Parachutist's Badge.

He is survived by his wife (Angela). Funeral services were held at the Old Post Chapel at Ft. Meyer, Virginia. Interment will be at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

**THEODORE HARRIS**

D-3043

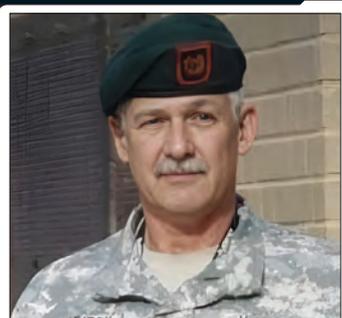


Theodore Harris, 90 of DeRidder, Louisiana passed away on July 30th, 2025.

Theodore was awarded his Special Forces qualification in 1963 and assigned to the 5th SFG(A). He deployed with the Group to Vietnam in 1964. Returning stateside, Theodore was assigned to the Special Warfare Command as an O & I instructor. In 1967, Theodore was reassigned to the 10th SFG(A) in Bad Toelz, Germany. He returned to Vietnam in 1969 (CCN) for his second combat tour. Returning stateside he was again assigned to the 10th SFG(A). Theodore was honorably retired from active duty after 25 years of service.

Among his awards and decorations are The Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star (1 OLC), The Purple Heart, and the Master Parachutist's Badge.

He is survived by his wife (Shirley), son (Dave), and daughters (Laurie, Kimberly). A funeral service was held at the Chaddick Funeral Home in DeRidder on August 4th, 2025. Interment is at the Central Louisiana Veterans Cemetery.

**PERRY M. HARRISON**

D-5144



CSM(R) Perry Michael Harrison, 66 of Fayetteville, North Carolina passed away on June 10th, 2025.

Mike completed his Special Forces training in 1984 and was assigned to the 7th SFG(A). In 1989 he was reassigned to the USAJFKSWC. After a tour at Ft. Benjamin Harrison, Mike returned to Ft. Bragg and the 3rd SFG(A). He was a veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Mike retired from active duty in 2006 after 30-years of service. Among his awards and decorations are The Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star (1 OLC), the Special Forces TAB, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Master Parachutist's Badge.

Mike is survived by his wife (Karen), son (Perry), and daughter (Crystal). A graveside service was held at the Sandhills State Veterans Cemetery in Spring Lake, North Carolina on July 14th, 2025.



KENNETH HINZ

D-9883



Kenneth Hinz, 83 of Indianapolis, Indiana passed away on January 5th, 2025.

Kenneth volunteered for Special Forces duty in in 1967. He was awarded his qualification later that year and assigned to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam. Returning stateside in 1968, Kenneth was honorably discharged from active duty and joined the U.S. Army Reserve (12th SFG(A)).

Among his awards and decorations are the Army Commendation Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Meritorious Unit Citation, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Parachutist's Badge.

Kenneth was employed with AT&T for many years and retired in 2010.

He is survived by his wife (Marinell), sons (Michael, Peter), and daughters (Elizabeth, Annemarie).

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at the St. Pius X Catholic Church in Indianapolis, Indiana on January 13th, 2025.



RALPH KEITH

D-1588



Ralph Keith, 88 of Sandy, Utah passed away on May 7th, 2025.

Ralph's Special Forces career began in 1965 with his assignment to the 7th SFG(A). In 1966 he was reassigned to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam (B-51). He completed his first combat tour in 1967 and was reassigned to Detachment A, Berlin Brigade. Ralph returned to Vietnam in 1971 and was assigned to MACV-SOG (CCC). He returned stateside in 1971 to Ft. Devens, Massachusetts and the 10th SFG(A).

Ralph was honorably retired from active duty after 27 years of service.

He is survived by his wife (Berta), son (William), and daughters (Anne, Donna).



HENRY KENNY

M-9586



Henry "Hank" Kenny, 87 of McLean, Virginia passed away at his home on June 5th, 2025.

Hank was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army upon graduation from West Point in 1961. He was awarded his Special Forces qualification in 1965 and assigned to the 7th SFG(A). Hank was reassigned to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam in 1965. He was severely wounded during his second combat tour in 1968. After recovering from his wounds, Hank was assigned to the Department of Social Studies at West Point. He later served on the Select Committee for Missing Persons in Southeast Asia and as the Special Assistant for Policy to Ambassador Mike Mansfield in Japan.

Hank is survived by his wife (Mary Frances), sons (Frank, John), and daughters (Susan, Kate). A funeral Mass was held at St. John the Beloved Catholic Church in McLean, Virginia on June 20th, 2025. Interment will be at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.



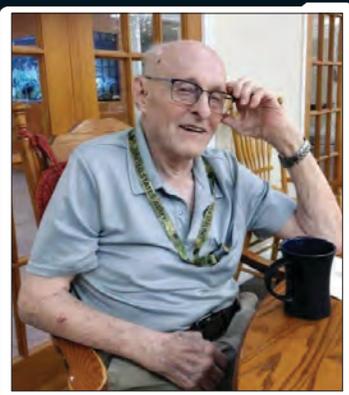
GLE Y KLAHORST, JR.

M-14579



Gley "Skip" Klahorst, Jr., 79 of Mequon, Wisconsin passed away on June 25th, 2025.

Skip volunteered for Special Forces duty in 1966 and, upon completion of SFQC was briefly assigned to the 7th SFG(A) before reassignment to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam (B-56). He was honorably discharged from active duty in 1968. Among his awards and decorations are the Bronze Star, The Purple Heart, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Parachutist's Badge. Skip is survived by his wife (Diane), son (Pete), and daughter (Peggy). A celebration of life was held at the American Legion Post 288 in Cedarburg, Wisconsin on July 25th, 2025.



RICHARD MANNES

A-3051



Richard Mannes, 94 of New Braunfels, Texas passed away on February 4th, 2025.

Richard enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1949 and served during the Korean War. He was honorably discharged from active duty in 1952. In 1955, Richard joined the Illinois National Guard. He transitioned to the U.S. Army Reserve in 1962 and, in 1963 he was assigned to the 12th SFG(A). He retired in 1979 as a CW4. In civilian life, Richard served his community as a Chicago Policeman and later as a U.S. Marshall Special Deputy. He is survived by daughters (Audrey, Susan, Cindy). A graveside service was held at the Ft. Sam Houston Texas National Cemetery on May 28th, 2025.



GREGORY MARNON

A-1193



Gregory Marnon, 81 of Haverhill, Massachusetts passed away at his home on August 9th, 2025.

Greg enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1962 at the age of 18. He was honorably discharged from active duty in 1970. Greg later continued to serve by joining the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

He is survived by his wife (Margaret), son (Michael), and daughter (Suzette). A funeral service was held at the Kevin B. Comeau Funeral Home in Haverhill, Massachusetts on August 21st, 2025.



ROBERT M. MURRAY

A-538



Robert "Mike" Murray, 82 of Dublin, Ohio passed away on July 14th, 2025. Mike enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1965 upon graduation from Syracuse University and served as a counterintelligence officer for the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam. Among his awards and decorations are the Bronze Star, the Air Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Parachutist's Badge. Returning stateside, Mike was honorably discharged from active duty. He enrolled in the Syracuse University College of Law and graduated in 1973.

He is survived by his wife (Claudia), son (Brian), and daughters (Kathleen, Kelly). A memorial service was held at the Liberty Barn Church in Delaware, Ohio on July 27th, 2025. Interment

will be at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

GARY NICHOLS

D-8406



Gary Nichols, 81 of Cottonwood, Arizona passed away on July 21st, 2022 at his home.

Gary was awarded his Special Forces qualification in 1965 and assigned to the 7th SFG(A). In 1966 he was reassigned to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam (B-52, MACV-SOG). Returning stateside in 1972 after serving six years in combat, Gary was assigned to the 10th SFG(A).

Among his awards and decorations are The Silver Star, the Bronze Star (2 OLC), the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, The Presidential Unit Citation, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, and the Master Parachutist's Badge.

Retiring from active duty, Gary worked as a training coordinator and assistant chief of security for the Maine Yankee Nuclear Power Company.



VINCENT ORME, JR.

D-6619



Vincent Orme, Jr., 87 of Glendale, Arizona passed away on May 22nd, 2025.

Vincent Special Forces career began in 1961 with his assignment to the 1st SFG(A) in Okinawa, Japan. In 1964 he returned to Ft. Bragg as a Military Freefall Instructor. He was reassigned to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam in 1969 and, upon completion of his combat tour, returned to the 1st SFG(A) in Okinawa.

Vincent is survived by his son (Vincent) and daughters (Vicki, Tina, Cansada). A graveside service was held at the Highland Cemetery in Glendale, Arizona on June 14th, 2025.

EUGENE OTTESEN

D-6461



Eugene Ottesen, 87, of South Ogden, Utah passed away on May 30th, 2025 after a battle with cancer.

Eugene joined the 19th SFG(A) (UANG) in 1961 and retired 1998 after 37 years of service. In civilian life, Eugene worked for the Utah Department of Corrections as an Officer/Agent.

He is survived by his wife (Karen), sons (Randy, Mark), and daughters (Julie, Teresa). A funeral service was held at Leavitt's Mortuary on June 6th, 2025.



WILLIAM PALMER

D-10139



COL(R) William 'Nick' Palmer, 89 of Valdese, North Carolina passed away on July 19th, 2025.

Nick graduated from the University of North Carolina in 1959 and joined the 30th Infantry Division of the North Carolina National Guard. He graduated from Officer Candidate School and was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in 1961. In 1964, Nick was reassigned to the 16th SFG(A) as a Detachment XO and later to the 20th SFG(A) as a Detachment Commander.

Called to active duty, Nick was assigned to the 6th SFG(A) briefly before his reassignment to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam where he served as a Civic Action Officer (B-23) and Detachment Commander (A-236).

continued on next page...

WILLIAM PALMER**CONTINUED**

Nick returned to Vietnam with 173rd Airborne Brigade in 1971. He retired from active duty in 1991.

Among his awards and decorations are The Silver Star, The Bronze Star (w/V, 5 OLC), The Purple Heart, the Air Medal (2nd Award), the Defense Meritorious Service Medal the Joint Service Commendation Medal (1 OLC), the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Ranger TAB, the Special Forces TAB, and the Master Parachutist's Badge.

Colonel Palmer was inducted into the U.S. Army Officer Candidate School Hall of Honor in 2002.

No services are planned at this time.

THOMAS PINGRY**M-2679**

Thomas Pingry, 87 of Ferdinand, Indiana passed away on July 13th, 2025.

Thomas was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant upon graduation from Pittsburg State University in 1959. He was assigned to the 10th SFG(A) in 1962 and awarded his Special Forces qualification in 1963. In 1966 Thomas was reassigned to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam.

Among his awards and decorations are The Bronze Star (w/V, 1 OLC), the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry (w/ Palm), the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Presidential Unit Citation, the Valorous Unit Citation, and the Parachutist's Badge.

Thomas is survived by his wife (Sheila), son (Tom), and daughter (Julie).

A celebration of life was held at the Ferdinand American Legion on August 16th, 2025. Interment to be at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

JAMES T. PRICE**D-3847**

James "Tom" Price, 85 of Lenoir, North Carolina passed away on July 24th, 2025.

Tom volunteered for Special Forces duty in 1962 and was awarded his "3" in March of 1963. His first SF assignment was with the 7th SFG(A). In 1965 Tom was reassigned to the 1st SFG(A) in Okinawa, Japan. 1968 saw his return to Vietnam and the 5th SFG(A). Tom's final duty station was at Ft. Myer, Virginia where he served as the Deputy Post Commander.

Among his awards and decorations are The Silver Star, The Bronze Star (w/V, 5 OLC), The Purple Heart, The Legion of Merit, and the Master Parachutist's Badge.

Tom is survived by his wife (Nancy), son (Jay), and stepdaughter (Christine). A memorial service was held at the First Presbyterian Church in Columbia, South Carolina on August 8th, 2025. Interment will be at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

ROBERT RYAN

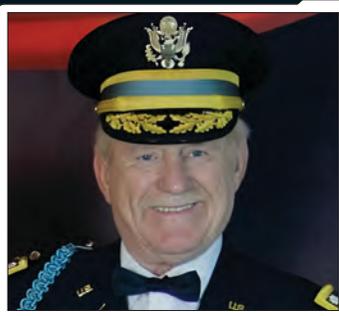
D-4669



Robert Ryan, 76 of Riverview, Florida passed away on March 22nd, 2025.

Bob began his special operations journey in 1972 as a Civil Affairs officer. He completed SFOC and was reassigned to the 5th SFG(A) in 1973. He later became a Foreign Area Officer with duty at U.S. Embassies in Jordan and Sudan. In 1989, Bob was reassigned to the University of Tampa, Florida as a Professor of Military Studies. Bob was a Charter Member of SFA Chapter 60.

He is survived by his wife (Priscilla), son (Chris), and daughters (Vivian, Allison). A celebration of life was held at Stowers Funeral Home in Brandon, Florida on April 3rd, 2025. Interment is at the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, Florida.



LARRY SCOTT

D-9292



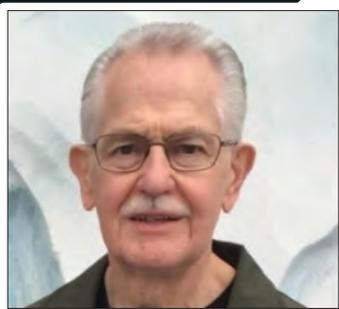
Larry Scott, 82 of Hudson, Florida passed away at Gulfside Hospice on May 27th, 2025.

Larry enlisted in the Rhode Island National Guard in 1960. He volunteered for Special Forces duty and was assigned to the 16th SFG(A) in 1964. He would serve the remainder of his military career with the 20th, 19th, and 7th SFG(A). Larry retired in 1988.

Among his awards and decorations are the Army Commendation Medal (3 OLC), the Humanitarian Service Medal, the Special Forces TAB, the Ranger TAB, the Pathfinder's Badge, and the Master Parachutist's Badge.

Larry is survived by his wife (Sherry), son (Larry), stepson (Taylor), and stepdaughter (Alicia).

A memorial service will be held at a later date.



GARY LEE SMITH

D-7320



Gary Smith, 80 of Ogden, Utah passed away at his home on July 30th, 2025.

Gary joined the 19th SFG(A) at Camp Williams, Utah in 1965 and was awarded his Special Forces qualification in 1967. He retired in 2005 after serving in the Utah National Guard for 30 years.

In 1964, Gary graduated from the Salt Lake Barber College. He opened Oakridge Barbers which he operated until his retirement in 2019.

Gary is survived by his wife (Arliss), son (Ryan), and daughters (Tresa, Stacy). A funeral service was held at the Burch Creek 4th Ward Chapel in Ogden, Utah on August 6th, 2025. Interment is at

the Myers Evergreen Memorial Park Cemetery



ERIC SMITH

D-9233



Eric Smith, 73 of Lawrenceburg, Indiana passed away on July 9th, 2025. Eric enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1970 upon graduation from high school.

After a tour in Vietnam, Eric was honorably discharged from active duty. In 1975, Eric joined the U.S. Army Reserve and was assigned to the 11th SFG(A).

Eric was awarded his Special Forces qualification in 1978. He retired in 1992 after serving for 21-years. In civilian life, Eric worked for the B & O Railroad. He was deeply passionate about local history and served on the Dearborn County Historical Society Board.

He is survived by his wife (Judy), son (Jeremiah), and daughter (Maria). Funeral services were held at the Bright Christian Church in Lawrenceburg, Indiana on July 14th, 2025. Interment is at the Gibson Cemetery, Lawrenceburg.



JOHN SMYTHE

D-5520

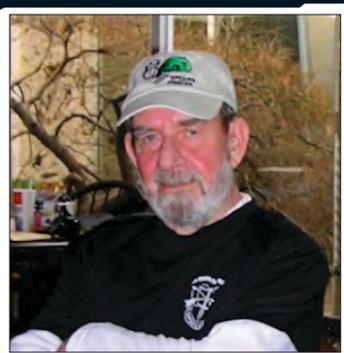


John 'Keoni' Smythe, 76 of Ft. Collins, Colorado passed away on June 16th, 2025.

John enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1967, served a tour in Vietnam, and was honorably discharged from active duty in 1971. In 1975, John reenlisted in the U.S. Army and was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division. He volunteered for Special Forces duty in 1987. He was awarded his Special Forces qualification in 1988 and assigned to the 1st SFG(A). John retired from active duty in 1994 after 25-years of service.

Among his awards and decorations are the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal (2 OLC), the Vietnam Service Medal (w/4 Bronze Stars), the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry (w/ Palm), the Special Forces TAB, the Navy/Marine Corp Combat Action Ribbon, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Master Parachutist's Badge.

John is survived by his sister (Naomi). A Celebration of Life was held at Goes Funeral Care in Ft. Collins, Colorado on July 11th, 2025.



KENNETH STICKNEY

D-2591



Kenneth Stickney, 94 of Shelby, Ohio passed away on March 19th, 2025 at the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Gulfport, Mississippi. Ken was awarded his Special Forces qualification in 1963 while assigned to the 5th SFG(A) and served two tours of duty in Vietnam with that Group. Ken also served tours with the 3rd, 7th, and 10th SFG(A). He was an original member of SFA Chapter 33.

Ken is survived by his sons (Dale, Mark) and daughters (Dala, Shirley). A graveside service was held at the Georgia National Cemetery on May 2nd, 2025.



JAMES VERNON

M-5254



James Vernon, 84 of Norristown, Pennsylvania passed away on June 28th, 2025 at the Southeastern Veterans Home in Spring City, Pennsylvania.

Jim was awarded his Special Forces qualification in 1967 as assigned to the 3rd SFG(A). Later that year he was reassigned to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam (FOB-1, FOB-3). He returned stateside to Ft. Bragg, North Carolina in 1968 as was assigned to the Special Warfare Command.

Jim was honorably discharged from active duty in 1969.

Among his awards and decorations are The Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal, the Air Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Parachutist's Badge. No services are planned.



ELLISON VICKERY

M-6981



Ellison Vickery, 86 of The Villages, Florida passed away on July 27th, 2025.

Ellison enlisted in the U.S. Army upon graduation from high school in 1958. Ellison volunteered for Special Forces duty in 1962 and was assigned to the 7th SFG(A). In 1963 he was reassigned to Special Forces Vietnam (Provisional). He returned stateside to the 7th SFG(A) in 1964. Ellison retired from active duty in 1979 after 21-years of service. Among his many awards and decorations are The Silver Star (1 OLC), the Bronze Star (4 OLC), The Purple Heart (4 OLC), the Air Medal (w/ number 29), the Legion of Merit, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry (w/Palm), the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Parachutist's Badge. Retiring from active duty,

Ellison began a new career as a Department of Defense Civilian.

He is survived by his wife (Suzanne) and son (Chris). A graveside service was held at the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, Florida on August 28th, 2025.

JAMES O. WELLS, SR.

D-6393



James Wells, Sr., 92 of Richmond, Virginia passed away on January 9th, 2025.

Jim enlisted in the U.S. Navy at the age of 17 and served for two years before transferring to the U.S. Army. Jim volunteered for Special Forces duty in 1959 and was assigned to the 77th SFG(A) and later the 7th SFG(A) after its' reorganization in 1960. In In 1962, Jim was reassigned to the 10th SFG(A). In 1966, Jim was reassigned to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam where he served with the Provincial Reconnaissance Unit (PRU). He returned stateside in 1968 to the 7th SFG(A). Jim retired from active duty in 1972. Among his awards and decorations are the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, and the Master Parachutist's Badge. After retiring Jim served as a North Carolina State Trooper. He would later move to Virginia where founded a carpentry business.

He is survived by his sons (James, Gary) and daughter (Patricia). No services are planned at this time.



RALPH WILKERSON

D-6500



Ralph "Buck" Wilkerson, 93 of Cody, Wyoming passed away at Spirit Mountain Hospice on July 24th, 2025.

Buck enlisted in the U.S. Army at the age of 17 and served in the Korean War with an armored artillery battalion. In 1962, Buck volunteered for Special Forces duty and was assigned to the 7th SFG(A). In 1965, he was reassigned to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam (MACV-SOG). Among his awards and decorations are The Soldier's Medal, the Bronze Star (1 OLC), The Purple Heart (1 OLC), The Presidential Unit Citation, and the Parachutist's Badge. Buck retired from active duty in 1974 and began a new career as a real estate agent and broker in Cody, Wyoming. He is survived by his

son (Woody) and daughter (Sue). A funeral service was held at the Church of Latter-day Saints in Cody, Wyoming on August 1st, 2025. Interment is at the Riverside Cemetery in Cody.



CRAIG WILSON

D-8218



Craig Wilson, 57 of Fountain, Colorado passed away on May 27th, 2025.

Craig earned his Special Forces TAB in 1992 and was assigned to the 10th SFG(A) as an SF Engineer Sergeant. He later attended the Special Forces Warrant Officer Course and transitioned to ODA and Company Warrant Officer duties. In 2006 Craig was reassigned to a tour as an instructor in the Warrant Officer Course. Upon completion of that tour, he returned to the 10th SFG(A). Among his awards and decorations are the Bronze Star (1 OLC), the Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Ranger TAB, the Special Forces TAB, and the Master Parachutist's Badge. Retiring from active

duty, Craig served as a civilian contractor at USNORTCOM.

A celebration of life was held at the American Legion Post 38 in Fountain, Colorado on June 29th, 2025.

STEVEN WILSON

M-4409



Steven Wilson, 79 of Charlevoix, Michigan passed away on April 1st, 2025.

Steven enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1966 and volunteered for Special Forces duty. Upon completion of his training, Steven was assigned to the 7th SFG(A). In 1967 he was reassigned to the 1st SFG(A) in Okinawa, Japan. He was reassigned to the 5th SFG(A) and MACV-SOG (CCN, RT ASP, RT Missouri) in 1969. Returning stateside upon completion of his combat tour, Steven was honorably discharged from active duty. Among his awards and decorations are the Bronze Star, The Purple Heart, the Presidential Unit Citation, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, and the Parachutist's Badge. He is survived by his wife, Mary. No services are planned at this time.



CARL WIRT, JR.

M-13313



Carl Wirt Jr., 82 of Simpsonville, South Carolina passed away on May 26th, 2025.

Carl enlisted in the U.S. Army upon graduation from high school. He volunteered for Special Forces duty and reported to Training Group in 1962. Carl was awarded his Special Forces qualification in 1963 and assigned to the 7th SFG(A). Later that year he was reassigned to the 6th SFG(A) as a radio operator. Carl was honorably discharged from active duty in 1965 and began a successful career as an Insurance Executive with the American Security Group.

He is survived by his wife (Virginia), sons (Carl, Terry), and daughters (Christine, Kathryn, Joelle).

No services are planned at this time.



MARION WITTE

M-13495



Marion Witte, 77 of Jewell Iowa passed away on August 10th, 2025 at the Mary Greeley Medical Center in Ames, Iowa.

Marion volunteered for active duty while serving with the Iowa National Guard. He was awarded his qualification as a Special Forces Engineer Sergeant in 1971 and assigned to the 5th SFG(A). In 1973 he was reassigned to the Special Forces Underwater Operations School in Key West, Florida. Marion was honorably discharged from active duty in 1975. He returned to Iowa and was employed by Fisher Controls. He would later operate a service station in Melbourne, Iowa for several years.

Marion is survived by his wife (Pat), son (Jay), and daughters (Bobette, Tammy, Pam, Brandy). A graveside service was held at the Melbourne Cemetery in Melbourne, Iowa on August 15th, 2025.



ANDREW WOJCICKI

D-6572



Andrew "Wojo" Wojcicki, 78 of Fayetteville, North Carolina passed away on July 22nd, 2025.

Alexander was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army upon graduation from Notre Dame University in 1970. He deployed to Vietnam in 1972. In 1973, Alexander volunteered for Special Forces duty and, upon completion of SFOC, he was assigned to the 7th SFG(A). In 1979, he was reassigned to the 10th SFG(A) in Germany. Returning stateside, Alexander served tours of duty with 1st SOCOM and USASOC. Among his awards and decorations are the Bronze Star, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Special Forces TAB, and the Parachutist's Badge. After his retirement from active duty, Alexander formed his own business

management consulting firm from which he retired a second time in 2020.

He is survived by his wife (Katey) and daughters (Rene, Katrina). No funeral services are planned. Interment will be at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.



TIM WOJCIEHOWSKI

M-9265



Tim Wojciehowski, 55 of Lacey, Washington passed away on June 27th, 2025.

Tim was awarded his Special Forces qualification in 1992 and was assigned to the 5th SFG(A). In 2001, Tim was a member of SFOD-A 574 whose mission was to link up with Hamid Karzai and the Pashtun tribesmen to open the southern front in Afghanistan. This mission is chronicled in "The Only Thing Worth Dying For". Tim retired from active duty in 2011 as a Chief Warrant Officer. Among his awards and decorations are the Bronze Star (2 OLC), the Meritorious Service Medal, the Special Forces TAB, the Master Freefall Badge, and the Master Parachutist's Badge. Tim is survived by his son (Daniel) and his mother (Maureen). A graveside service was held at the Crown Hill National Cemetery in Indianapolis, Indiana on August 8th, 2025.

Cemetery in Indianapolis, Indiana on August 8th, 2025.



HONORATO YACAPIN, JR.

M-10218



Honorato "Hono" Yacapin, Jr., 79 of Portland, Oregon passed away on July 7th, 2025.

Hono enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1965 and was accepted into the Officer Candidate School. Upon commissioning as a 2nd Lieutenant, Hono was assigned to the 1st Infantry Division in Vietnam. Returning stateside, he volunteered for Special Forces duty and was awarded his qualification in 1969. He returned to Vietnam with the 5th SFG(A) and served with the Mobile Strike Force Training Command at An Khe. Completing his second combat tour in 1970, Hono served as an advisor to the 12th SFG(A). He would later revert to his enlisted rank and was assigned to the 75th Ranger Regiment. He was retired from active duty in 1986 and began a second career in ornamental landscaping. Among

his awards and decorations are the Bronze Star (2 OLC), the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal, the Army Commendation Medal (1 OLC), the Army Achievement Medal, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Ranger TAB, the Pathfinder Badge, and the Parachutist's Badge. Hono was a long-standing member of SFA Chapter 47. A Mass was held at the St. Clare Catholic Church in Portland, Oregon on August 23rd, 2025. Interment is at the Willamette National Cemetery, Portland, Oregon.



JAMES ZIEBA

D-1545



James Zieba, 86 of Salisbury, North Carolina passed away on July 11th, 2025.

James completed his Special Forces training in 1962 and was assigned to the 7th SFG(A). In 1963 he was reassigned to the 1st SFG(A) in Okinawa, Japan from where he deployed to Vietnam. Returning stateside in 1964 he was again assigned to the 7th SFG(A) at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina where he served until 1969 when he was reassigned to the 46th SF Company in Thailand. James completed his tour in Thailand and returned stateside to the 10th SFG(A) at Ft. Devens, Massachusetts. He returned to Ft. Bragg, North Carolina and the 7th SFG(A) in 1973. James retired from active duty in 1978. After retirement, James worked as a government contractor and later founded A-Z Enterprises. He is

survived by son (James), daughters (Linda, Helene), and partner (Lucia). A Liturgy of Christian Burial was held at the St. Stanislaus Kostka Church in Adams, Massachusetts on July 28th, 2025. Interment is at the St. Stanislaus Kostka Church Cemetery.

OTHER FALLEN COMRADES:

SFA



- Louis Lucero..... April 22nd, 2024
- Edward Post..... D-6658 June 19th, 2025

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Joint SOA/SFA POW/MIA Committee Update

**DAVID GORDON, CHAIR, JOINT SOA/SFA
POW/MIA COMMITTEE**

Coordination for the 2025 Joint SOA/SFA POW/MIA Symposium during the concurrent Special Operations Association and Special Forces Association Reunions at the Orleans Hotel and Casino are nearly complete.

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) Director Kelly McKeague has committed to fully support their participation in the Symposium with personnel and funding. Coordination with DPAA has been outstanding.

There will be presentations reviewing updates,

current and future activities from the National League of POW/MIA Families, Mission: POW-MIA, DPAA-HI. The newly assigned Deputy Director Operation, CAPT Megan Bodnar, USN and DPAA-HI Senior Enlisted Advisor, SGM Lauren Flores, USA will present updates on DPAA-HI current and future activities in Southeast Asia.

Dr. Nicolette Parr, Forensic Anthropologist, DPAA-HI and Mr. Eric Phillips, Stony Berach, DIA will be presenting the case study on recoveries and continued search for those still missing from the Lang Vei battle on 2 January 1968.



Dr. Parr has participated on several on site recovery operations and is currently at an onsite operation.

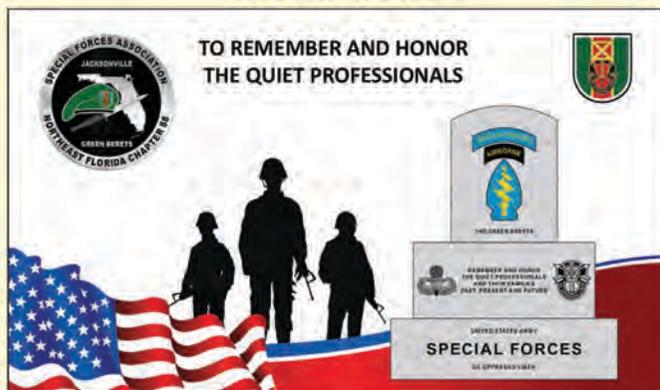
Throughout the reunions DPAA will have representatives available at two locations to provide information about DPAA and ongoing cases. Please visit each table or booth.

Mr. Greg Hayes and MSG Ben Sievert will be staffing the DPAA information booth. Mr. Matt Kristoff, Vietnam War Branch Chief and Mr. Ben Kristy, Historian/Analyst will be staffing the case study table, which will be in the Hospitality Room.

Last year members visiting and telling their stories at the case study table provided at least 7 items of new information for the Vietnam War cases. MSG Sievert, Head of Expeditionary Support (an SOA member), has participated in on site recovery operations.

Myself and CSM(R), James 'Kimo' Wheeler will be representing SOA and SFA at the National POW/MIA Recognition Day on September 19th at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (The Punch Bowl) in Oahu, Hawaii. We will be presenting a wreath in honor of those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Help Honor our Heroes Support the Special Forces Monument



SFA Chapter 88 (Northeast Florida) has an ambitious goal to raise **\$18,000** for a Special Forces monument for the Jacksonville National Cemetery. Donations are needed for the construction, delivery, installation and future maintenance of the monument; and fund the dedication ceremony -- planned in conjunction with the 39th anniversary of the Special Forces Branch.

Our goal is to raise the money before **Dec. 31, 2025**. This allows us time to complete a contract, finance the down payment and balance, construct the monument, deliver and install it in time for the unveiling ceremony this next year.

This monument project is very important for honoring the service of the Army veterans interred in Jacksonville. It also serves as a remembrance for the families, loved ones, friends, comrades in arms and visitors to the National Cemetery.

On **Saturday, April 11, 2026**, the public and our Special Operations veterans are invited to join us for this significant and historical event. More information will be forthcoming in 2026.

SFA Chapter 88 has partnered with **GoFundMe.Com** and donations are fast and easy at www.gofundme.com/f/SFA88-SF-Monument-Fund or scan the QR Code with your smartphone or tablet for direct access to the donation page. GoFundMe offers many ways for credit and debt payments. Use the "Enter Custom Tip" link to adjust any tips you want to leave for GoFundMe.

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Your support is so important to reach our goal on time and finish this important and lasting monument. Thank you for your consideration and donation.

For more information, contact Padraic Mulvihill, Monument Committee Chairman, at (904) 534-0035 or email: pem@axisp.com. Corporate sponsors welcome.



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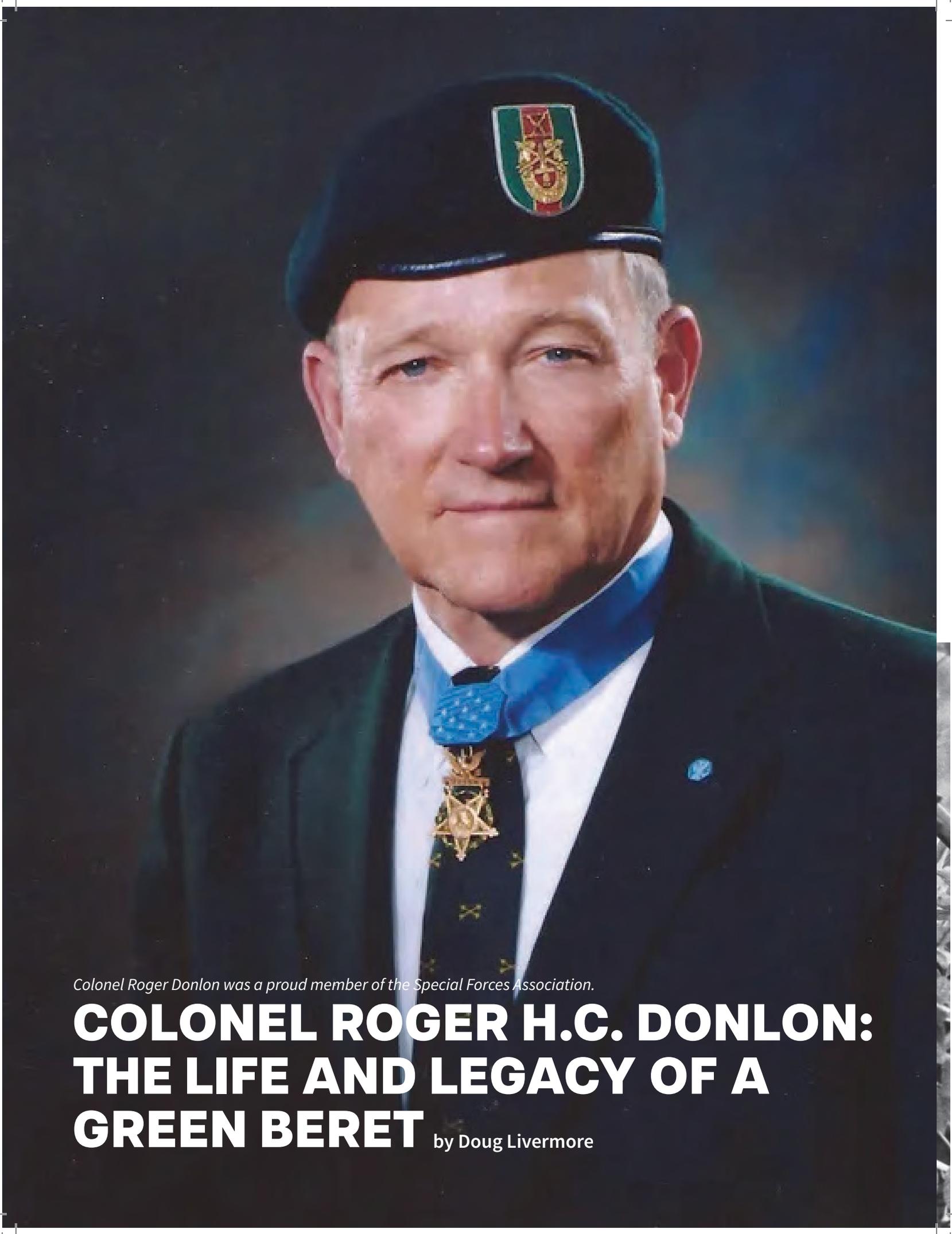
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Colonel Roger Donlon was a proud member of the Special Forces Association.

COLONEL ROGER H.C. DONLON: THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF A GREEN BERET

by Doug Livermore

“Life will spin you around but stay on the azimuth. With faith, you will make progress toward your goal and purpose.” — Colonel Roger H.C. Donlon

Introduction

In the storied annals of the U.S. Army Special Forces, few names evoke as much reverence and pride as Colonel Roger H.C. Donlon. As the first Green Beret awarded the Medal of Honor, Colonel Donlon did more than etch his story in the chronicles of American military heroism—he helped define our Special Forces ethos for generations. We honor Colonel Donlon’s life and service from the perspective of his own SF community and for all the Quiet Professionals who have followed his example.

Saugerties to Special Forces: The Making of a Warrior

Born January 30, 1934, in Saugerties, New York, Colonel Donlon was the eighth of ten children—a product of a large, close-knit family steeped in the ethos of military service. His father, a World War I veteran, and several brothers served in the Armed Forces; the sense of duty ran deep in the Donlon household, shaping a young Roger’s resolve and regard for selfless service.

After attending the New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse University for a year, Colonel Donlon answered the nation’s call and enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1953.

Members of the SF team at Nam Dong help indigenous soldiers prepare for battle.





President Lyndon B. Johnson awards then-Captain Donlon the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Point cadet was cut short for personal reasons, the formative experience provided him with foundational training in military leadership, the study of battlefield tactics, and an appreciation for the brotherhood and exacting standards that underpin elite units.

Refusing to let adversity define his trajectory, Colonel Donlon pivoted, enlisting as a private in the U.S. Army in 1958—a crucial detail often overlooked but revered in our ranks, as few men climb the ladder from the bottom with such determination. At Fort Benning, Donlon excelled at Officer Candidate School and, in 1959, earned his commission as a second lieutenant in the Infantry, embracing the crucible of Army basic branches before the days of branch immateriality. Following his commissioning, he received assignment to the 31st Infantry Regiment and subsequently served with the 8th Infantry Division in Germany, where he developed proficiency in small-unit tactics and honed a command presence under garrison and field conditions.

During this phase, Donlon harnessed vital skills in conventional maneuver, logistics, and leadership under pressure—experience that would later prove indispensable on the unconventional battlefields of Southeast Asia. His exposure to airborne operations and infantry patrolling became stepping stones to the next phase of his journey.

It was in August 1963, after successfully completing Airborne School and then the demanding Special Warfare School at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, that



Then-Captain Donlon inspects the Nam Dong Camp after the North Vietnamese attack.

Assigned as an airman, he underwent basic training and technical schooling in Texas and Colorado, where he quickly demonstrated both adaptability and leadership potential—attributes critical for any aspiring unconventional warrior. His time in the Air Force exposed him to the organizational rigor and operational discipline of a service then at the forefront of Cold War readiness.

Ambitious and driven to lead from the front, Colonel Donlon sought greater challenges and earned an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1955. While his tenure as a West

Colonel Donlon proudly donned the Green Beret. For him, selection and qualification were not isolated events but the culmination of a decade-long pursuit of operational excellence and personal growth. The Green Beret was not just an award—it was the recognition that this soldier had mastered conventional fundamentals and now possessed the adaptability, partnership skills, and cultural fluency required to serve bravely “alongside the oppressed” in the world’s most volatile domains.

Nam Dong: The Defining Battle

No account of Colonel Donlon’s combat exploits can begin anywhere but Camp Nam Dong, Vietnam, 0216 hours, July 6, 1964. Situated at the very edge of the Republic, just 15 miles from the Laotian border, the camp was isolated, surrounded by dense triple-canopy jungle that both shielded and betrayed its defenders. That night, Colonel Donlon, commanding U.S. Army Special Forces Detachment A-726, led a composite force: twelve American Green Berets, one Australian Warrant Officer, 311 locally recruited Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) soldiers, and 60 ethnic Chinese Nungs—each man and woman seasoned by months of advisory work and living under constant threat.

The siege began with coordinated mortar fire—over 200 rounds—crashing into the compound, instantly killing the camp’s doctor and gravely wounding several Americans. Illuminated by muzzle flashes and the sickly green light of flares, the defenders spotted sappers advancing through the concertina wire while the outer perimeter crackled under relentless Kalashnikov fire and rocket propelled grenades. Colonel Donlon moved through the kill zones without hesitation, his web gear drenched as he crawled between sandbagged positions—dragging crates of ammunition from ablaze supply sheds, all while evading accurate enemy rifle bursts.

Multiple charges breached the outer wire; Colonel Donlon personally intercepted enemy demolition teams attempting to blow the main gate, dispatching at least one sapper at close range with his CAR-15 and grenades, and rallying South Vietnamese CIDG alongside Sergeant John Houston. Even after sustaining wounds to the stomach, shoulder, leg, and face—he patched himself up to continue the fight, refusing morphine or evacuation. He directed sector fires, threw fragmentation grenades from exposed positions, and repeatedly crossed open ground to reach wounded teammates, including Sergeant Mike Dissar, shouting encouragement and orders above the



Then-Major Donlon participates in a parade in his honor in El Paso.



Major Donlon back in Vietnam with a camp dog.

cacophony. At one point, only partial communications survived, and Colonel Donlon made his way to the camp radio in a burning bunker to call for supporting fires and evacuation for the worst casualties.

Despite a shattered knee and concussion from grenade blasts, Colonel Donlon maneuvered throughout the compound, inspiring indigenous fighters and Americans alike, holding together sectors threatened with encirclement. As ammunition grew short and casualties mounted, Colonel Donlon ensured every wounded soldier received medical attention and prioritized their evacuation, intervening with helicopter pilots as dawn broke over the battered camp.

The fight lasted for over five brutal hours. The enemy—nearly 1,000 strong, by the best estimates taken from the bodies left behind—finally broke contact as the sun rose. More than 60 dead attackers littered the wire, and untold numbers of their bodies were dragged back into the jungle by the North Vietnamese. Of Donlon’s defenders, two Americans, one Australian, and 55 Vietnamese were killed; every survivor bore marks of the night’s violence. The cost for the enemy: dozens killed, several weapons captured, and total failure to overrun the camp.

Nam Dong did not fall. Its battered defenders had repelled a main-force Viet Cong battalion with nothing but training, grit, and the tenacity embodied by Colonel Donlon. For the Regiment, it became a legend—a living lesson in small-team leadership, fire discipline, courage under direct fire. Colonel Donlon’s refusal to abandon his men or his post, and his ability to rally Americans and indigenous soldiers alike under catastrophic odds, remains the standard every Special Forces soldier strives for—the moment when the Green Beret proved irrevocably what it means to liberate the oppressed, whatever the cost.

First Green Beret — First Medal of Honor

In December 1964, Captain Colonel Donlon became the first Special Forces soldier ever to receive the Medal of Honor. Presented by President Lyndon B. Johnson, this achievement carried symbolic weight beyond the individual—it represented national recognition of the courage, innovation, and professionalism embedded in the Special Forces Regiment. At his acceptance speech, Colonel Donlon reminded us that he “wears this award on behalf of those who didn’t come home,” a reflection of humility and kinship that resonates deeply within our SF brotherhood.

Over his career, Colonel Donlon earned an impressive array of decorations including the Medal of Honor, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, and the Purple Heart, along with the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, the Combat Infantry Badge, the Parachutist Badge, and the American Legion Distinguished Service Medal. These honors, alongside numerous campaigns and service ribbons told the story of relentless service and sacrifice—the kind of decorated career only a handful of Quiet Professionals ever achieved.

Service, Sacrifice, and Special Forces Leadership

Colonel Donlon's thirty-three-year career reflected the broad spectrum of our mission set. He commanded Special Forces units, advised local and allied forces, and led by example in diverse locations throughout Asia and the Americas. He served as battalion commander, advanced training commandant, senior advisor in Vietnam, adviser to the Royal Thai Army, and instructor and mentor to students at Fort Leavenworth's Command and General Staff College.

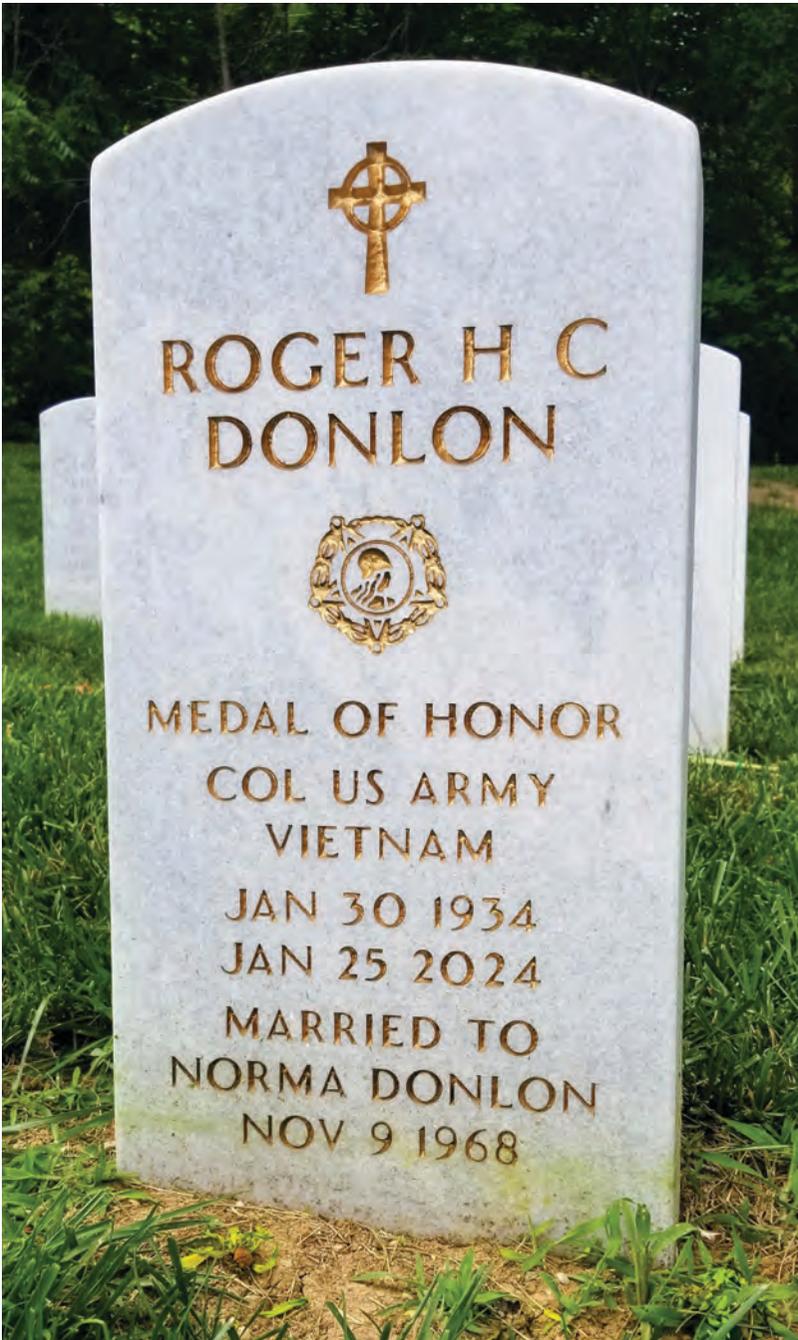
After retiring in 1988, Colonel Donlon never stopped serving the Regiment. As Honorary Colonel of the Special Forces Regiment, he attended graduations, mentored candidates, and championed veteran causes, all while battling Parkinson's Disease for more than a decade. His deep faith in values of honor, teamwork, and service continued to unite his personal and professional life. His marriage to Norma Shinno Irving was an enduring partnership marked by respect, understanding, and their shared belief that "those who have invested the most in war should be the first to reach out in peace." Their family understood sacrifice and modeled compassion, extending it to other military families facing hardship or loss.

Colonel Donlon delivers comments at a remembrance ceremony at the Vietnam Memorial in 2014.





Colonel Donlon with 7th Group Bust - Colonel Donlon provided motivational comments at the unveiling of his bust at 7th Special Forces Group.



This stone marks Colonel Donlon's final resting place at Fort Leavenworth's National Cemetery.

The Quiet Professional's Legacy

Colonel Donlon's life and lessons remain immutable parts of Special Forces lore. He mentored thousands of soldiers, consistently reminding new Green Berets to honor the trust and traditions of the Regiment. His leadership at Nam Dong is still a case study in resilience, adaptive tactics, and the asymmetric warfare approach that defines Special Forces operations. In addition to his battlefield achievements, Colonel Donlon authored *Outpost of Freedom* and *Beyond Nam Dong*, works that conveyed both the technical details of combat and the personal, moral dimensions of a life in service.

Whether on the battlefield or in a classroom, he embodied a defining characteristic of our Regiment: Quiet Professionalism. His presence was never about self-promotion, it was about upholding the values, skills, and honor of the Green Beret, and ensuring those who came after him understood the responsibility that comes with wearing it.

Memorials and Continuing Influence

Within the Special Forces Association and among all who have worn the Green Beret, Colonel Donlon is remembered as a brother, a teacher, and a leader whose impact spans generations. The life-size bust dedicated at the 7th Special Forces Group Headquarters at Eglin Air Force Base remains one of the visible tributes to his legacy, but the truest memorial lies in the example he set and the standards he sustained.

His burial at Fort Leavenworth was attended by our Regiment, by Medal of Honor recipients, by

veterans, and by his family. The honors paid were not only for the life of a hero, but for the values he lived, which bore the creed of De Oppresso Liber.

Our Perspective: SF Brotherhood and Enduring Lessons

From within our Special Forces community, Colonel Donlon's story is part of our collective foundation. His courage at Nam Dong and his humility in the decades that followed set the standard for Green Berets everywhere. He led from the front, showing that even while wounded and exhausted, a leader never gives up. He never lost sight of the mission, reminding us that success is measured in service: training indigenous forces, offering skills and hope, and fighting for those who cannot fight for themselves.

Colonel Donlon's devotion to his teammates proved that comrades-in-arms are brothers, worthy of every sacrifice. His consistent gifting of symbolic compasses to friends and colleagues captured his belief in staying true to one's azimuth—one's values—even when life's challenges spin us around. His quiet humility demonstrated that the most effective leaders listen as much as they instruct. And his intentional remembrance of the fallen, wearing his medals for their sake rather than for his own, continues to challenge us all to honor their memory in everything we do.

Conclusion: Living the Legacy

Colonel Roger H.C. Donlon lived and breathed the values that define the Special Forces community—courage, innovation, fidelity, and selfless service. His life remains a guidepost for every service member who earns the Green Beret. As we reflect on his remarkable journey, we must remember his call to lead quietly, to serve humbly, and to extend the olive branch of peace in equal measure to the readiness for war.

His examples are our heritage, our challenge, and our inspiration. Those who knew him saw firsthand the profound impact he made on countless young Army officers who were fortunate to receive his mentorship. From all of us in the Regiment, thank you, Colonel Donlon, for showing us the way. Colonel Donlon will forever symbolize the Quiet Professional—his memory alive in every detachment, in every graduation formation, and in every silent mission done for freedom's sake.

About the author: Doug Livermore is the National Director for External Communications at the Special Forces Association, Director of Engagements for the Irregular Warfare Initiative, the National Vice President for the Special Operations Association of America, and the Deputy Commander for Special Operations Detachment–Joint Special Operations Command in the North Carolina Army National Guard. He is a former senior government civilian, intelligence officer, and contractor in various roles at the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Department of the Navy, and Department of the Army. 

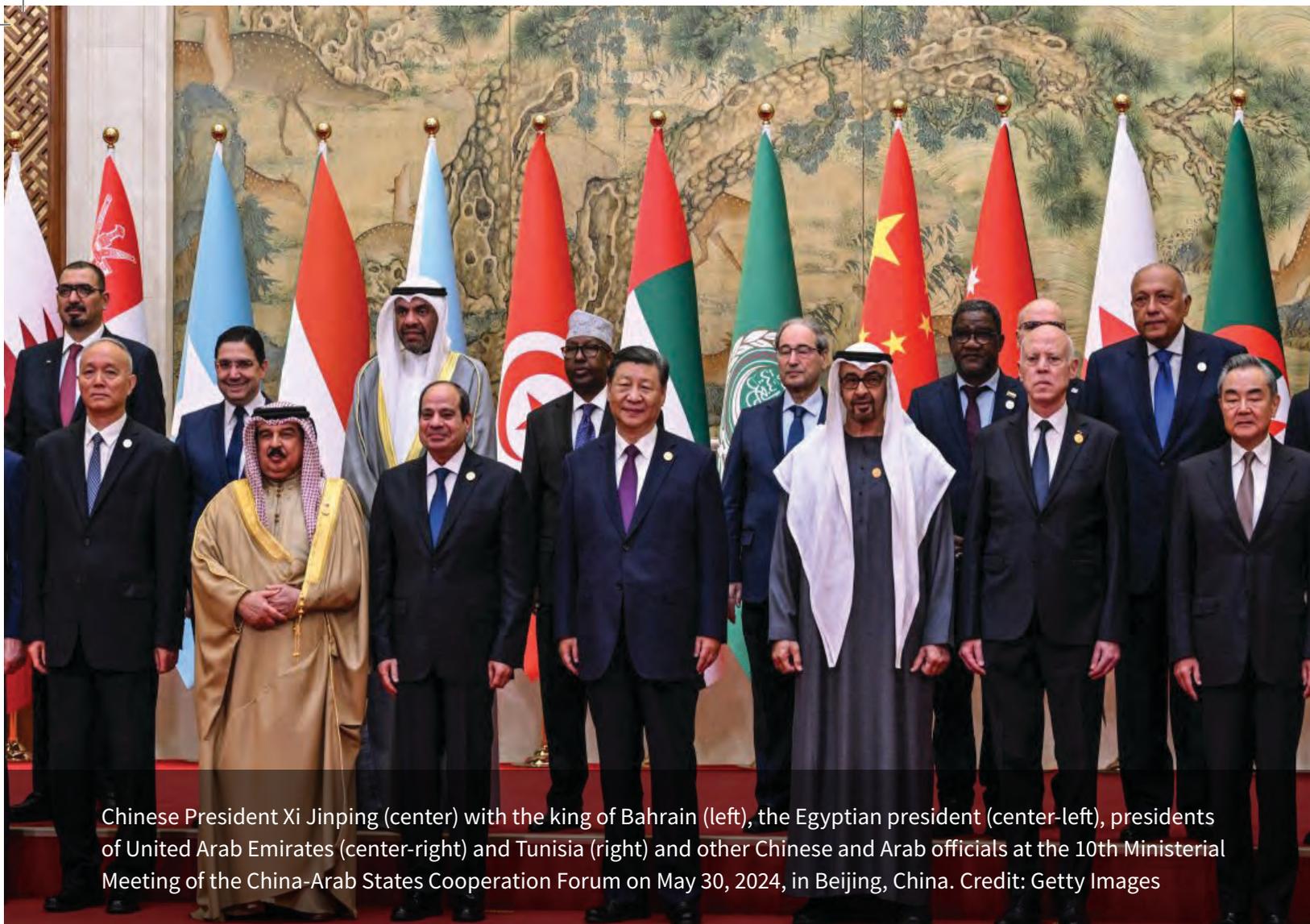


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Chinese President Xi Jinping (center) with the king of Bahrain (left), the Egyptian president (center-left), presidents of United Arab Emirates (center-right) and Tunisia (right) and other Chinese and Arab officials at the 10th Ministerial Meeting of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum on May 30, 2024, in Beijing, China. Credit: Getty Images

CROUCHING PANDA, HIDDEN DRAGON: CONTESTING CHINESE SUBVERSION IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND CENTRAL ASIA

by Steve Ferenzi and David Harden

Pandas, Dragons, and Irregular Deterrence—oh my!

With their charming appearance, gentle demeanor, and playful behavior, pandas are adored worldwide. The People's Republic of China (PRC) deceptively uses this disarming motif to present itself as a gentle giant while obfuscating its global predatory, neocolonial behavior. But hiding inside the PRC's cheap panda suit is a red dragon seeking to prey on the Middle East and Central Asia. Unfortunately, the singular U.S. focus on Taiwan creates blinders enabling the PRC to "securitize its greater periphery" by capturing strategic geography and human terrain globally beyond the Indo-Pacific. To comprehensively shape PRC decision calculus over Taiwan and other areas of U.S. national interest, the United States must exploit outsized gray zone deterrence opportunities via irregular warfare in the Central Region. Otherwise, bureaucratic and cognitive stovepipes will impede application of a true trans-regional approach to "integrating" deterrence as U.S. national defense and security strategies call for.

Forgotten in America's shift away from counterterrorism, the Central Region remains a core political and economic axis for the PRC's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to connect Asia to Europe. Beijing exploits access and influence opportunities along the BRI through economic statecraft with military implications—opened by perceptions of declining U.S. engagement and loss of credibility. Whether through “strategic fulcrums” like the United Arab Emirates or via states under massive debt distress like Tajikistan, the PRC can wield significant ideological, economic, and political power on the global stage. Today, we see the PRC increasing its role in regional peace, security, and diplomacy, while trade with the region has more than tripled over the past 20 years. As the world's largest crude oil importer, the People's Republic sources 46% of its oil from the Middle East. To wit—the PRC is truly beginning to “win the Middle East” at the expense of U.S. national security.

To enhance deterrence—“integrated” or otherwise—the United States must approach the Middle East and Central Asia as a focal point for shaping Beijing's decision calculus in both daily competition campaigning and any crisis-driven Taiwan contingency. The Central Region is fertile ground for a counter-predation campaign that would deny the PRC the benefits it seeks to gain—by illuminating its exploitative activities and strengthening partners against entanglements with the PRC that usurp sovereign decision-making. Irregular warfare offers multiple ways to contribute to deterrence by denial—the cornerstone of pending Undersecretary for Policy Elbridge Colby's Taiwan strategy, that manifest through cognitive and financial vectors alongside traditional military capabilities.

All Under Heaven, or One Chinese Belt and Road?

When Chinese Communist Party (CCP) General Secretary Xi Jinping introduced the One Belt, One Road in 2013—known in English as the more disarming Belt and Road Initiative—he claimed a goal to promote peace, regional connections, and economic integration. However, in practice, the BRI is less about altruistic outreach than expanding China's worldwide economic and political power, and along with it, coercive and anti-sovereign influences. Though China advertises the BRI as benign, it is part of its strategy to supersede the United States as the world's leading superpower by 2049 and make the world more conducive for autocracy. Fundamentally, the BRI is a mechanism of predatory economic colonialism that facilitates global encirclement of the West.

The PRC's self-serving activities demonstrate—like the ancient tributary system of the Warring States period—that the People's Republic is attempting to make all roads once again lead to Beijing.

The CCP's dominant master narrative is a romanticized version of China as Zhōngguó (“Central Kingdom”). This narrative stems from China's rich history and cultural heritage, and its adherents believe their civilization to be superior to all others. Beginning with the Han Dynasty (206 BC–AD 220), ancient China led a feudal system of vassal states where the Central Kingdom was the center of the world, and its leader—the “Son of Heaven”—ruled the known world. States in the Central Kingdom's orbit paid tribute to the Chinese emperor while recognizing Chinese civilizational superiority. This imperial worldview is encapsulated in the ancient cultural concept of tiān xià—“all under heaven.”

However, this master narrative maintains that since the First Opium War (1839–1842), foreign imperial nations forced China to succumb to economic and political domination such as the 99-year lease of Hong Kong to Britain and Macau to the Portuguese. Beijing seeks to end that perceived ignominy, which it calls a “Century of Humiliation” (1839–1949), and gradually reclaim its rightful place as the dominant global power. To this end, CCP leaders have followed a Chinese idiom combining Confucian benevolence with the brutality of the Warring States period (481–403 BC): wài róu, nèi gāng (“be outwardly benevolent, but inwardly ruthless”). Thus, few in the West suspected that the PRC is not the gentle panda it claims to be.

Encircle to Win

The People's Republic maintains investments in or ownership of approximately 129 foreign ports around the world, processing nearly two-thirds of the world's container traffic. These global port ventures are clustered around major trade routes and strategic maritime chokepoints—like the Bab al-Mandab Strait and Strait of Hormuz, that allow access to the Middle East. Additionally, the PRC has six port facilities around the world confirmed for both commercial and military use—such as Djibouti and Gwadar.

Beijing envisions the world as a wéi qí (“encircling game”) board game that involves surrounding one's opponent. Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger observed that the United States instead approaches China like playing chess. In Kissinger's view, chess teaches the player singlemindedness, whereas the wéi qí player learns strategic flexibility [ironically, it was Kissinger's foreign policy efforts during the Nixon administration that led to the United States becoming economically entangled with the PRC]. Chinese thought thus cultivates achieving victory through psychological advantage rather than direct conflict.

The PRC's economic practices, global acquisitions, and access to strategic overland routes, ports, and sea lanes harken to the wéi qí strategy whereby Beijing uses the BRI to encircle the United States and its allies and partners to supplant the post-World War II, U.S.-led international order. Ultimately, this strategy conforms to the Sun Tzu axiom that “to subdue the enemy without fighting is the acme of skill.”

PRC Debt-trap Diplomacy

“Debt-trap diplomacy” involves a creditor country extending debt—which is difficult or impossible to repay due to high interest, to a borrowing nation solely to increase the lender's political leverage. The West has been concerned for years that Beijing is pursuing this predatory lending practice (BRI loans are as high as 33%) to extort political support from its borrowers by fostering economic dependency.

The USS Annapolis (SNN-760) loads a Mk 67 sub-launched mobile mine in Apra Harbor, Guam in May 2022. Naval mines would contribute directly to a defense of Taiwan by denying the PLA Navy sea control and the ability to project power across the Taiwan Strait. Credit: U.S. Navy



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First, the PRC does not support sustainable and transparent lending practices. According to analysis of one hundred BRI contracts, many contain non-disclosure agreements that obfuscate implementation details—counter to globally accepted norms. Second, the PRC employs widespread use of the “No Paris Club” clause, which expressly prohibits borrowing nations from restructuring outstanding debts to the PRC in coordination with Paris Club creditors. Thus, PRC state-owned banks have positioned themselves as preferred creditors exempt from restructuring, outside the influence of the Western-dominated banking system. Finally, PRC contracts give lenders discretionary authority to cancel loans or demand full repayment. Therefore, BRI contractual terms afford PRC lenders an avenue for unduly influencing the domestic and foreign policies of the borrower.

Beijing’s intransigence on debt restructuring and lack of transparency make it more difficult for borrowers to negotiate debt relief. Based on PRC activity in Africa, where numerous countries are saddled with debt in return for economic partnerships with Beijing, some characterize the BRI as “opportunistic mercantilism.” The PRC’s predatory lending tactics allow Beijing to negotiate debt relief on its own terms, the results of which have facilitated PRC global superpower ambitions by accruing strategic dual-use port and land rights as collateral.

Implications for the Central Region

The Central Region is a critical axis for the PRC’s Belt and Road to connect Asia to Europe. The BRI must pass through two areas in particular—the Central and South Asia (CASA) region and the Gulf states—to be most lucrative for Beijing’s strategic aims. These areas are subject to vulnerabilities driven by the need for foreign investment and the perception of declining U.S. engagement. This allows the PRC to play a role like one played by Victorian Britain and Tsarist Russia in the 19th Century—in the original “Great Game.”

The PRC’s “New Great Game” in Central Asia

In the CASA region, multiple countries—among them Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Pakistan—are facing “debt distress” after accepting billions of dollars in loans from Beijing with initially low interest rates. Central Asian states owe a large percentage of their national debt to the PRC: Tajikistan (52%), Kyrgyzstan (45%), Turkmenistan (16.9%), Uzbekistan (16%), and Kazakhstan (6.5%). The PRC exploits corrupt politicians within those governments who often pocketed borrowed funds to enrich themselves to secure deals favorable to the People’s Republic. Beijing eventually increased those rates, which many governments were unable to repay. When recipient countries balked at PRC demands, Beijing leveraged the debt to coerce compliance—often translating into influence over the domestic policies of those countries.

As PRC surveillance technology becomes more integrated into the region, Beijing will increasingly weaponize it for intelligence collection.

Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan provide two cogent examples. In 2016, Tajikistan ceded the rights of two gold mines to a PRC state-owned enterprise (SOE) to repay debt for a power plant and a lavish \$230 million parliamentary complex. Chinese commercial culture is rife with bribery, and SOEs use it as part of their corporate strategies. One tactic is charging customers inflated rates for their projects. For example, in Kyrgyzstan in 2018, following the mid-winter failure of a PRC-funded thermal power plant in Bishkek, an investigation revealed the Chinese firm that upgraded the facility had charged a 90% inflated rate on construction materials. The then-prime minister was removed from office on charges of embezzlement, and 30 government officials were charged with corruption that cost the Kyrgyz government \$111 million.



A Pakistani naval guard at Gwadar port which was financed, built and is now owned by China. Credit: Aamir Qureshi/AFP/Getty Images

More specifically, Pakistan is ground zero for PRC predatory lending. With a debt-to-GDP ratio of 87%, it is the second highest in South Asia after Sri Lanka. Moreover, Islamabad owes 22% of its debt to the PRC. Beijing's predation manifests most significantly in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Pakistan's Gwadar Port. The CPEC is an overland network of roads and pipelines linking western China to Gwadar allowing the PRC to diversify access to the Arabian Sea by bypassing the Strait of Malacca. In terms of debt-trap diplomacy, Pakistan is struggling to repay its loans to China and has asked for a \$9 billion bailout from Beijing.

The Gwadar Port illustrates the PRC's duplicitous bait and switch negotiation tactics designed to secure dual-use infrastructure. In addition to PRC naval bases in Djibouti and Cambodia, Beijing's seemingly innocuous commercial port investment in Gwadar shifted to something more aggressive than just economic development. After building the deep-water port with Chinese workers and signing a 43-year lease, officials later admitted in 2015 that PRC naval access to nearby global shipping lanes presented a strategic opportunity. "There is an inherent duality in the facilities that China is establishing in foreign ports, which are ostensibly commercial but quickly upgradeable to carry out essential military missions," notes Abhijit Singh, senior fellow at the Observer Research Foundation in New Delhi.

Sri Lanka's debt profile is like Pakistan's, and the case of the Hambantota port—on the periphery of the Central Region—is a cautionary tale of the PRC's predatory economic colonialism. In 2017, when Sri Lanka defaulted on \$8 billion debt, in part due to presidential corruption, the PRC coerced the government to sign a 99-year lease of the port in a debt-for-equity swap. On the day of the transfer, Xinhua, the CCP's official news agency, gloated on Twitter that Beijing had usurped foreign territory. This, and other 99-year port leases in Australia and Greece are reminiscent of the former leases of Hong Kong and Macau, which Beijing considers humiliating acts of Western imperialism. Indian officials have also maintained that the CPEC and other BRI ports across the Indian Ocean and Arabian Gulf are intentional PRC efforts to encircle India. As the BRI expands, the PRC will logically seek to expand its naval capabilities to protect strategic supply lines from the Middle East to China.



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We had a special kind of brotherhood. We would have given our lives for each other, and in some cases, we did. -Jim Butler, SOA Founder

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Middle East Encroachment—Slow, but Intertwined

China views select Middle Eastern states as “strategic fulcrums”—conduits through which it can build military, ideological, economic, and international political influence. The United Arab Emirates—a BRI signatory since 2018—is one such fulcrum where the PRC has been building a secret military base at the Khalifa Port in Abu Dhabi. The Emirati government—reportedly unaware that China intended the facility to serve the PRC’s expansionist agenda—halted construction on the controversial facility in late 2021. The facility would have not only served in an intelligence collection capacity endangering the operational security of U.S. forces stationed in the country, but it also represented the first possible step of a PRC naval access agreement. China is unlikely to cede access to the Emirates so easily, and its activities suggests that Beijing is willing to conduct duplicitous activities in other BRI signatory nations to advance its strategic objectives.

Israel is another of the PRC’s little-known Mideast strategic fulcrums. In 2020, after a period of significant PRC investments in Israel’s high-tech sector, the U.S. government engaged emphatically to warn Israel to prevent PRC multinational tech corporation Huawei from developing the country’s 5G network out of concern it would compromise Israel’s sovereignty. In protest to the deepening Israeli-PRC relationship, the United States initially refused to allow the U.S. Navy’s 6th Fleet to berth in Haifa following PRC control over the port. As a result, Israel scaled back PRC investments and continues to consult with U.S. officials regarding future economic ties with Beijing that may impact the important U.S.-Israeli partnership.

Partner-nation collaboration with the PRC’s Huawei to develop “Smart City / Safe City” networks also places traditional U.S. relationships at risk for PRC exploitation beyond financial leverage. Israel, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt have invested heavily in such technology, with the latter seeking to create a new administrative capital to replace Cairo based on this platform. As PRC surveillance technology becomes more integrated into the region, Beijing will increasingly weaponize it for intelligence collection.

The threat is twofold: it encourages authoritarian behavior within states against their own populations, and it allows the PRC to conduct intelligence operations against the host country governments and their peoples.

Big-data collection opens the door for the PRC to freely monitor the leaders of participating BRI nations, to include their private diplomatic discussions and intimate relations. Collection on the latter creates opportunities for blackmail. Dr. Evan Ellis, a professor at the U.S. Army War College, warns about the global technological threat: “When you’re at a stage where China has that amount of knowledge over partner nations... the ability to resist or work against China will become extremely difficult.”

In the language of deterrence and compellence, this reality creates an entirely new understanding of holding assets at risk outside of conventional and nuclear warfighting modalities. More specifically, it allows the PRC to pressure critical nodes in partner political networks to effect strategic-level political outcomes counter to U.S. interests—aspects that U.S. military campaigns struggle to address due to cognitive and bureaucratic self-constraints.

The focus on traditional U.S. partners becoming PRC strategic fulcrums merits continued attention. However, U.S. adversaries like Iran and Syria also provide China opportunity to expand unfettered regional access. In March 2021, the PRC and Iran drafted a 25-year strategic accord injecting \$400 billion of PRC infrastructure, banking, and telecommunications investments in exchange for a steady supply of heavily discounted Iranian oil. Worthy of note, even within the Iranian government critics protested that Tehran was giving too much away to China.

Similarly, in January 2022 the Assad regime—desperate for foreign capital—signed a “memorandum of understanding” allowing Syria to officially join the BRI. Leveraging Syria’s need for foreign assistance to rebuild its country after a decade-long civil war presented the chance for Beijing to offer purported humanitarian aid and financial investments to promote its interests in the Eastern Mediterranean. Ultimately, it is asserted that the PRC seeks to build a railway through Iran and Turkey into Syria, onward to the Lebanese port city of Tripoli. A Levant BRI corridor would allow the PRC to diversify its trade routes and reduce dependence on the Suez Canal, but risk associated with the ongoing Syria conflict and the fall of the Assad regime tempers Beijing’s current ambitions.

A Way Forward: Irregular Deterrence through Counter Predation

Mark Green, former administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, observed that the BRI is Beijing’s strategy to “stimulate its own economy, gain critical foreign natural resources, obtain strategic assets within recipient nations, and convert economic access into geostrategic influence”—all at the expense of the self-reliance and freedom of the PRC’s purported “partner nations.” The PRC’s self-serving activities demonstrate—like the ancient tributary system of the Warring States period—that the People’s Republic is attempting to make all roads once again lead to Beijing. However, this does not need to be the case. The PRC’s predatory behavior sows the seeds of its own demise, offering sufficient opportunity to illuminate and amplify PRC missteps and subversive behavior through multinational and interagency partner networks.

As such, the Central Region is a focal point to enhance deterrence. More specifically, the Central Region is fertile ground for a counter-predation campaign that denies the PRC the benefits it seeks to gain—by illuminating its anti-sovereign activities, raising the costs of its exploitative approach, and inoculating partners against deals with the PRC that usurp their independent decision-making. Irregular warfare activities provide multiple ways to contribute to deterrence by denial that manifest in the Central Region through cognitive and financial vectors.

First, cognitive access denial works by fostering partner nation resilience against PRC influence operations. The aforementioned cases of PRC SOE corruption in Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and UAE are perfect examples of potential inoculation against future PRC attempts to usurp sovereignty. Explaining the backdoor dealing of SOEs to illuminate the debt trap in which partner nations are about to be ensnared is an essential tool.



A photo released by the office of President Hassan Rouhani of Iran as he welcomed Foreign Minister Wang Yi of China, left, in Tehran on Saturday. Credit: Office of the Iranian Presidency, via Associated Press

In the case of Pakistan, fiscal problems with the BRI are compounded by public resentment over high unemployment amid the importation of Chinese workers to complete infrastructure projects. Protesters claimed that the PRC profits from BRI projects at the expense of local workers. Public distrust, at least partly due to Pakistan's \$60 billion infrastructure debt trap, resulted in a "no confidence" vote for Prime Minister Imran Khan's leadership in April 2022—demonstrating the catalytic potential of people power to deny the PRC's coercive and anti-sovereign goals in the Central Region.

Financial access denial via counter-threat finance and intelligence support to partner nations and the U.S. interagency offers a complementary way to deny the PRC the benefits derived from its coercive and illicit economic statecraft. Illuminating and targeting prohibited financial activities such as the illegal Iranian-Chinese oil trade, alongside the PRC's predatory BRI investments that endanger partner sovereignty are high-payoff financial targets—which present additional risk to host-countries of penalties such as sanctions and status in the G7's Financial Action Task Force.

Starving the Dragon

The 2021 annual DoD report to Congress on the status of PRC military and security developments concluded that the BRI's objective is to develop deep economic integration with selected countries, shape their interests to align with the PRC's autocratic practices, and prevent criticism of the CCP's policies on sensitive issues—like internal subjugation of its Uyghur Muslim population in Xinjiang. Therefore, the BRI is not a grand, benign venture for global peace and cooperation, but a cleverly disguised PRC vector for achieving global economic hegemony and foreign dependency.

The PRC's global behavior demonstrates it is a predatory neo-colonial power—a dragon in a panda suit. Global campaigning against the PRC must exploit what the PRC truly seeks for partner nations across all geographic combatant commands, not just the Indo-Pacific Command: second-class dependency at the expense of sovereign prosperity and security.

Taken together, cognitive and financial vectors constitute a counter-predation campaign that could deny the PRC the benefit of its neo-colonial approach. Illuminating subversive behavior, inoculating partners against sovereign exploitation, and providing interagency escalation options across the financial and economic instruments power are three critical elements that irregular warfare can bring to a strategy of deterrence by denial. To comprehensively shape PRC decision calculus over Taiwan and other global areas of national interest, the United States must exploit these outsized gray zone deterrence opportunities via irregular warfare to starve the Chinese dragon in the Central Region.

Disclaimer: The views expressed in this article are those of the authors and do not reflect the official policy or position of the Department of the Air Force, the Department of Defense, or the U.S. government.

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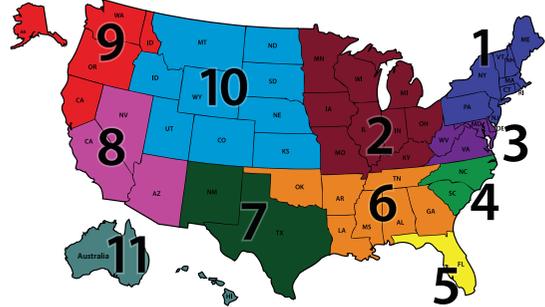


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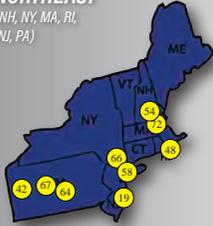
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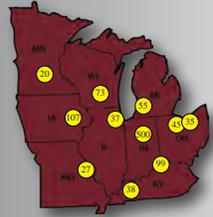
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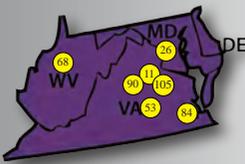
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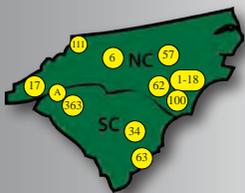
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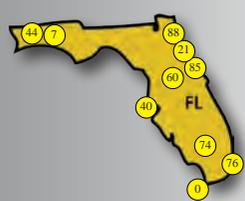
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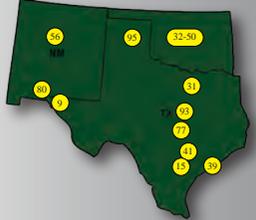
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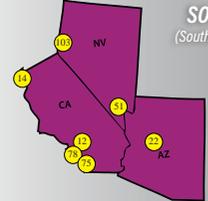
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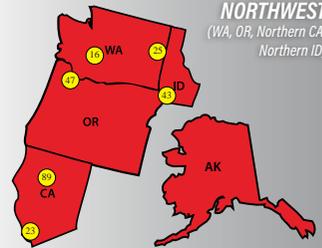
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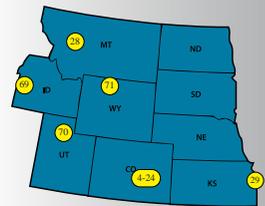
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(Okinawa, Thailand, Hawaii, South Korea, Guam/Philippines, Australia, Afghanistan, Germany, Belgium)



Chapter LXV (65)

c/o Clarence Grant
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www.sfahq.com/chap/65
Clarence Grant 49(0)8041 4838 c-ugrant@t-online.de

Chapter LXXXVI (86)

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Chapter XCI-CI (91-101)

c/o Chris North
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Montgomery, TX 77316
Chris North
chrishnorth1776@yahoo.com



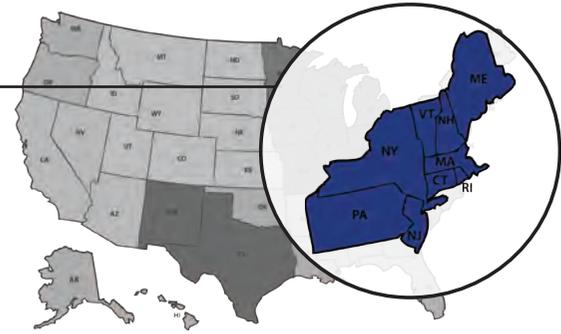
REGION I

Northeast Region

(NEW HAMPSHIRE, NEW YORK, MAINE, NEW JERSEY, RHODE ISLAND, PENNSYLVANIA)

CHAPTERS: XIX (19), XLII (42), XLVIII (48), LIV (54), LVIII (58), LXIV (64), LXVI (66), LXVII (67), LXXII (72)

**Chapters in red did not submit input for this quarter*



19

CHAPTER XIX

The Ed Muller & Jim Miller Memorial Chapter

New Jersey

www.sfa19.org



PRES : Myles Cappiello
VICE : John Wilson
SEC : Lou Hernandez
TRES : Bob Leicht

Chapter Camp Out

On the weekend of 30 MAY - 01 JUN 2025, the Chapter held its Spring Camp Out in Freehold. Participating in this festivity was the 82 Airborne Ass'n NJ Chapter, the Marine Corps League and the NAM Knights. Some of the activities were ATV Trail riding, Firing Range (pistol and rifle), Horse Shoes, and Corn Hole. John W. did an excellent job on breakfasts with eggs, beef, taters, bread, butter, OJ, coffee. Sean and Paul K. roasted a pig and two outstanding briskets. There were campfires with tall stories and short shots of whiskey along with various libations. Many thanks to RED who has continued to support the Chapter with use of his facilities and well wishes.

<https://sfa19.org/chapter-camp-out-spring-2025/>



Chapter Camp Out



Army 250th Birthday

Army's 250th Birthday

Chapter 19 participated in the Association of the US Army (AUSA) Northern New Jersey chapter's 250th Army Birthday Gala. The event was held at the Liberty House, overlooking the Statue of Liberty on the New Jersey side. This occurred Thursday evening on the 26th of June, 2025, at Liberty State Park, Jersey City, NJ

NJ Korean War Memorial

The NJ Korean War Memorial was created to ensure that future generations remember and honor the pride and dedication of those who served, the legacy they continued, and the freedom they preserved. The Memorial was dedicated on November 13, 2000 and stands where Park Place meets the Boardwalk on land donated by Atlantic City. Governor Christine Todd Whitman attended the dedication ceremony and laid the wreath honoring the 191,000 New Jerseyans who served in the conflict.

On 25 JUL 2025, Chapter 19 attended the ceremony to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Korean War. This took place at the New Jersey Korean War Memorial, 124 Park Place, Atlantic City, right along the oceanside.



Korean War Memorial Ceremony

PRES : Al Tolleson
VICE : John Nottell
SEC : Steve Kelley
TRES : John Hardman
SGT at ARMS : Chris Carreiro



www.48sfa.net

CHAPTER XLVIII
 The Rhode Island Chapter

48

Rhode Island

The 56th Troop Command, RIARNG conduct Leapfest on 2 Aug 25 and featured 53 teams. These teams represented 18 countries, showcasing the event's international scope. The competition is known as the world's largest and longest-running static line parachute competition. Members of Chapter 48 are "the founding fathers" of Leapfest. We set up our tent in the vendor area, and it served as a hospitality venue for our members and guests with free hotdogs and beverages.

The group photo taken at our Memorial Day ceremony could not be submitted with our input for the summer edition of The Drop because of the deadline. However, we did not want to disappoint Mason Carreiro, son of our Sergeant at Arms, Chris Carreiro, so it is included in our submission for the Fall edition. Mason has bragging rights with his friends and family because his picture appears in a national publication.

We visited with Co A, 2/19SFGA at the Middletown, RI armory and were happy to recruit two new Life members, 1 Decade and 2 General members, thanks to the support of the Company Commander, Chris Heath, Life member of Chapter 48. Welcome, James Cavan, Lewis Dunaway, James Andreozzi, Patrick Lee, and Ross Severn. We are also happy to welcome Ryan Gallagher, who joined through National.

Since our last submission for the summer edition of The Drop, Chapter 48 has lost two long-time members. LTC (R) Larry Scott and 1SG(R) Robert Perry. Larry travelled from his home in FL to RI in May. He knew the end was near, and he wanted to say goodbye to his SF brothers. The following week he passed. Bobby had many health issues, which he dealt with stoically and courageously. In the words of Tecumseh, Chief of the Shawnee: When it comes your time to die, be not like those whose hearts are filled with the fear of death, so that when their time comes, they weep and pray for a little more time to live their lives over again in a different way. Sing your death song and die like a hero going home. Both men were heroes going home, and we shall miss them.



Leapfest crew: Tom, Aida, Al, Walt, Mo, Rich, John, Larry, Steve and Bob



Brother Larry Scott on his last visit to RI

Chapter XLVIII (48) Continued...



Our Memorial Day ceremony at the SF Monument in the RI Veterans Cemetery with our mascot Mason Carreiro



Brother Robert Perry

54

CHAPTER LIV

The LTC William F. Buckley Memorial Chapter




PRES : Kevin Paicos
 VICE : Michael Fuenfer
 SEC : Alan Kornacki
 TRES : George Durfee Jr.

Boston, MA
www.sfob54.org

Chapter 54 recently sponsored several events for its members and their guests. During May, a group toured the USS Constitution -- the oldest commissioned warship still afloat -- at the Charlestown Navy Yard. It was sobering to walk through the gundeck and imagine the controlled chaos there during a pitched naval battle. After the tour, we enjoyed lunch at the nearby Warren Tavern (a historic restaurant named after Dr. Joseph Warren, a patriot who died during the Battle of Bunker Hill). The next month, several members participated in the annual fishing trip in Vineyard Sound launched from Falmouth Harbor on Cape Cod (again generously sponsored by chapter member Kevin Casey and his son). The striped bass responded well to the fishermen's challenge and many cooperated by allowing themselves to be caught.



Chapter members and their guests visiting "Old Ironsides."



A striped bass that "volunteered" to make sure this angler didn't go home empty-handed.

Sixty-seven Chapter members and their guests attended the annual cookout, which was held during late July at the Hanscom AFB Family Campground. Carl and Susie Ingrao, the owners of 4 Seasons Firearms of Worcester, MA, for the third consecutive year generously sponsored this no-cost event for participants. The menu included lobster, steak, BBQ chicken, salads, strawberry shortcake dessert, and a variety of beverages. For many years Carl and Susie have been good friends of our chapter and the local Green Beret community, donating to the burial expenses of deceased members and assisting families facing financial hardships. Their family has had some recent health concerns and our entire Chapter extends its prayers and best wishes to Carl and Susie.

We also drew the winner of our annual shotgun raffle at the cookout, which raised more than \$8,000 for our charitable activities. We thank chapter member Vin Pestilli and his wife Lin for donating the shotgun for the raffle - as they have for many years!

SGM Pete Smith and MSG Tom Wasilewski (Company C, 1st Bn/20th/SFGA) presented Chapter member Laurie Whitlark with an encased SOG knife at the cookout for his service to their unit. Laurie, who served in a SOG unit in RVN, has generously supported SF Brothers facing serious life issues. Congratulations Laurie!!



We recognize Carl and Suzie Ingrao, who sponsored the annual chapter cookout.



[L-R] MSG Tom Wasilewski, Laurie Whitlark and SGM Pete Smith present Laurie with an encased SOG fighting knife.

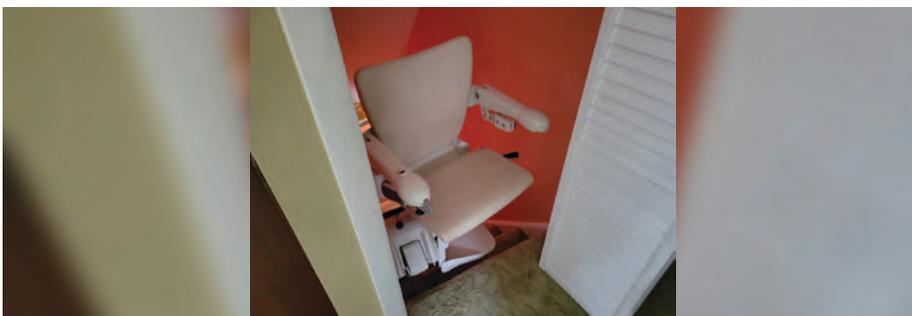
The Chapter Scholarship Committee, led by Fred Rice with members Alan Kornacki and Bob DePonte, recently selected two students to receive academic scholarships. Ashley Patterson, the daughter of chapter member James M. Patterson, will receive the \$3,000 scholarship our chapter sponsors. Ashley will enter her junior year at the University of Texas at San Antonio, where she is studying to become an OB-GYN doctor. The recipient of the \$1,000 Rudy Szegda Scholarship (generously sponsored by his family) is Koen Thomsen, the grandson of chapter member Allen Thomsen. Koen will enter his junior year at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where he is earning a Civil Engineering degree.

We are proud of Chapter member Ken Gingras who recently participated in the 16th annual Run/Walk to Home Base at Fenway Park, which raised more than \$3.6 million to help Massachusetts General Hospital provide care to veterans diagnosed with PTSD, TBI, and other physical disabilities related to their military service.

<p>PRES : Tom Kelly VICE : Dave Donmoyer SEC : Oren "BJ" Kauffman TRES : Jack McFadden</p>		<p>CHAPTER LXIV The SFC Randall Shughart Memorial Chapter</p>	<p>64</p>
<p>www.sfa64.org</p>		<p>Carlisle, PA</p>	

The 4th Qtr. of 2024 was an unusual one, in that we got into a couple things that aren't within our normal skills but were fun anyway. First, let's start with the one that ended-up being the single most valuable donation that we ever granted to a single veteran.

One of our members downsized and moved from a two-story house to a one-floor apartment. When he was done, he had two electric chairlifts in excellent condition. The buyer didn't want them, and he knew he'd only get peanuts for them on the used market. So, he donated the chairlifts to SFA64 and advertised their availability through the local VSOs. Before Christmas, one was already by a disabled Navy C.B. Vietnam Vet. The install took place on Feb 3rd. And we still have one more of these for another disabled vet. So, if you are local and in need, we can be reached through 484-459-9038.



Chapter LXIV (64) Continued...

Our second unusual story has to do with that same downsizing SFA64 member and what he found in an old jewelry box. There in his hands, for the first time in 50-odd years was an original "POW/MIA" bracelet. This one carried the name of 1LT Ralph Galati. Our member googled the name and learned that the young LT had not only survived the Hanoi Hilton and the Vietnam War, but he was living in Southeast PA and working at St Joseph's University.

A quick stop at the VVA436 meeting in Oct and we had Ralph scheduled as the guest of honor of the Nov 2024 Monthly Membership Meeting to receive his original of his 1972 "POW/MIA" bracelet. The meeting happened on Nov 13, 2024. Ralph was delighted to be honored by a local VVA Chapter, accepted our award of the bracelet and sent us a photo of it in his memory cabinet. See photo (top left compartment to the right of liberty bell)

In addition to the above fun events, we also managed to close the 2024 SFC LIAM NEVINS ANNUAL TRAPSHOOT AND FUNDRAISING DRIVE with an additional \$15,000 for 2024, bringing the total for 11 years to \$130,000. The overwhelming majority of this fund is donated to Special Operations Warrior Foundation.

On 14 December 2024 our Chapter celebrated the holidays with a great meal at the Carlisle VFW. There were 10 members and guests in attendance.



On 14 December 2024 our Chapter celebrated the holidays with a great meal at the Carlisle VFW. There were 10 members and guests in attendance.

72

CHAPTER LXXII

The Trojan Horse Chapter

PRES : Richard Giero
VICE : Jim Crispen
SEC : Harry Miller
TRES : Paul Miller

New Hampshire

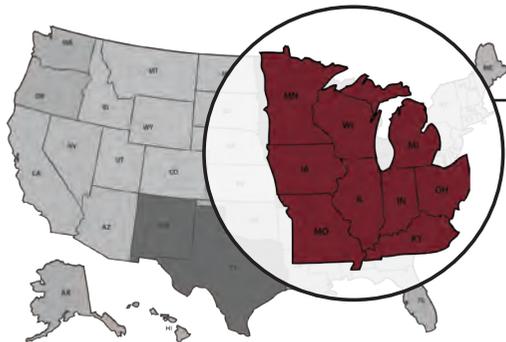
www.returntodevns.org

Greetings from the Granite State and the New England Trojan Horse Chapter.

The Chapter's annual fundraiser to support Camp Resilience was a huge success for the fifth year in a row. Approximately fifteen Chapter 72 members volunteered to support this year's VIP Experience and Green Beret with a Mission Challenge which historically takes place on the last weekend in June. The weekend long event is held at the Ladd Farm which is owned by John and Brenda Ladd who graciously host the event at their equestrian farm which overlooks Newfound Lake in Bristol, NH. Our members served as trainers, walkers, point setters and G-chiefs. Fifteen teams participated with numerous corporate sponsorships including Lockheed Martin, Fidelity, SIG Arms, cross fit gyms, the NH National Guard and local law enforcement SWAT teams to name a few. The scenario consisted of a mission to rescue a downed F-22 pilot captured in the country of Pineland. Teams received training on mission planning, movement techniques, immediate action drills, CQB and SERE prior to conducting a "clean" cross border ground infiltration. Teams were immediately scarfed by border guards which tested their training and development of their cover stories. They then proceeded to conduct UW operations in support of Pineland resistance forces culminating with the rescue of the downed pilot. The weekend was hugely successful resulting in over \$140K which funds Camp Resilience. Camp Resilience is a non-profit founded by our Chapter member Kurt Webber. The "Camp" conducts several retreats annually for military veterans, fist responders and their families of which mental health and chaplain support are always available. (see photos below)

Please don't hesitate to reach out when traveling through New England as we have several "safe houses" available to fellow Green Berets. Also please feel free to contact our Secretary, Harry Miller at 603-321-5070 or harry.e.miller58@gmail.com for anyone trying to locate/reconnect with our members.





REGION II

Midwest Region

(MINNESOTA, WISCONSIN, MICHIGAN, ILLINOIS, OHIO, MISSOURI, KENTUCKY)



CHAPTERS: XX (20), **XXVII (27)**, XXXV (35), XXXVI (37), XXXVIII (38), XLV (45), LV (55), LXXIII (73), XCIX (99), CVII (107), D (500)

*Chapters in red did not submit input for this quarter

PRES : Ron Lachelt
VICE : John Wilcox
SEC : Dan Kaiser
TRES : Bill Rouleau



CHAPTER XX

The Kenneth Worthley Memorial Chapter

20

www.sfa20.org

Minnesota



Parade of Flashes

Greetings from Minnesota!

Great summer here so far. We attended the Two Harbors Heritage Days in early July and some of us stayed with Keith and Jean Larson. Great hospitality! We met up at the St. Louis County Fire and Rescue building for their annual fund-raising breakfast and adjourned back to the Larson home to change and organize for the parade.

Two of our stalwarts, Gary Hedin and Sam Lakey, were MIA due to work commitments. We rallied at the American Legion and then moved to the parade marshalling area.

Before the parade, we lined up based on our flashes for a picture; 1st Grp-Ron Lachelt, 5th Grp-Keith Larson & Mike Erkel, 7th Grp-Chad Dickey, 10th Grp-Doug Brown, SOCOM-John Wilcox, SFA-Dan Kaiser. Tim Kirk-5th Grp was temporarily absent.(Or on a secret mission?)

The parade began at 1300 hrs and lots of candy was bargared to the kids. Weather was cooler than previous years.



Ken Larson (Keith's twin brother) talks with Dan and Mike



Tim models his expression when he landed at Lang Vei

Chapter XX (20) Continued...

We listened to Marty's Golderaires marching band at the American Legion after the parade. They played a number of patriotic and rousing songs! Adjourning to the Larson residence for a lake trout dinner. Thanks to Keith and Jean for their hospitality! A good time was had by all.

Jonathan Swoyer is scheduled to be the guest speaker at the Veterans Day gathering at the MN State Capitol Vietnam Memorial. Our Christmas party luncheon is scheduled for 13 December. You are welcome to join us! DOL



Saddled up and ready to march

35

CHAPTER XXXV

The Christian Girard/Daniel West Memorial Chapter

Northern Ohio

www.sfachapter35.org



PRES : Paul Collins
 VICE : J.P. Guidry
 SEC : Leone DiCesare
 TRES : David Pritash
 CHAPLAIN : Buck Wolford



Greetings to our SF Brothers from NE Ohio Chapter XXXV.

Chapter XXXV has had a fairly quiet summer, cancelling the Chapter Picnic until 4 October with wives/significant others.

Former members of B2/11met for their annual reunion at Rachel's Restaurant on 9 August.

Upcoming Chapter XXXV Events and Activities

- **6 September Chapter 45 Gun Shoot**
 - o Volunteers Collins, Guidry, Pearce & DiCesare
- **27 September Veterans Informational & Help Day at Cleveland Browns Stadium (see below)**
- **4 October Chapter 35 Meeting**
 - o N. Ridgeville VFW
 - o Spouses/Significant Others Encouraged to attend
 - o Presentation by JoAnn Boulter, Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator
 - Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission
- **14-17 October SFACON 2025**
 - o Registration form below
- **8 November Team Work Detail**
 - o Details to follow. Emphasis on increasing Chapter membership

- **6 December Chapter Christmas Party**
 - o Aviator Pub & Restaurant
 - o Details to follow but there will be a 25 person limit due to space
- **RFF Cookout for Q Course Graduates**
 - o Chapter 35 will have a table to recruit new members
 - o Board agreed to cover 1 year membership into SFA & Chapter 35
 - o Dates
 - 28 August 2025
 - 11 December 2025
 - 09 July 2026
 - 10 September 2026
 - 18 February 2027
 - 22 April 2027

DiCesare

<p>PRES : Patrick Crimmins VICE : Mark Radziszewski SEC : William Stach TRES : Michael Tuman</p>	 	<p>CHAPTER XXXVII The MG Michael D. Healy Memorial Chapter</p> <p>www.sfa37.org</p>	37
			Chicago, IL



Chaplain Peterson left and Chaplain Rindahl right with Doctorate



2nd Picnic Presentation Chaplain Rindahl left and Chaplain Peterson right

Greetings to all our SF Brothers from Chicagoland Chapter XXXVII

On June 22, 2025, our religious leaders from Chicagoland Chapter XXXVII and Chapter XV had a truly memorable and busy day. Both Chaplain Rindahl and Chaplain Peterson, who served together with the 12th SFG(A), were celebrated. Chaplain Rindahl took the initiative to honor his mentor, Chaplain Peterson, with an honorary Doctorate from Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi Christian University. This recognition is particularly meaningful as Chaplain Peterson provided guidance and mentorship to Chaplain Rindahl during their time in the 12th Group, helping him transition from a rigger to the ordained Chaplain and Priest he is today, serving his community and Chapter XV of the SFA.

We were especially fortunate that this significant event coincided with our Chapter XXXVII family picnic. Chaplain Rindahl was able to make two presentations that day: one at Chaplain Peterson's church and another at our family picnic later that afternoon. We've included photos of both presentations with this submission. This inter-Chapter cooperation between the San Antonio XV and Chicagoland XXXVII Chapters of the Special Forces Association truly embodies the spirit of our Brotherhood. A huge "Tip of the Beret" to Chaplain Rindahl for his dedication and for recognizing a fellow religious leader within the Association and the 12th SFG(A). We now have the pleasant task of adding a new title for our esteemed Chaplain Peterson - Doctor! Congratulations to Chaplain (Maj) (Doctor) Peterson of Chapter XXXVII! I wanted to provide a quick update on our annual family picnic for Chapter XXXVII, which took place on June 22nd, 2025.

Chapter XXXVII (37) Continued...



Group photo of Chapter XXXVII picnic attendees

Despite the excessive heat and humidity that afternoon, the event went off without a hitch! It was wonderful to see so many of our members, along with their families and friends, brave the weather to enjoy a day of camaraderie. Everyone had a fantastic time with plenty of good food, engaging games, and the sharing of memorable tales. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make it such a success. We truly appreciate your continued support and participation in Chapter XXXVII events.

We hope to see you at our next event, the Annual Chapter XXXVII Christmas Party, on 12DEC25. You can find all the details on the event calendar on Teamhouse.

Please see our webpage at www.sfa37.us and check out our Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/SFAch37> for updated future events.

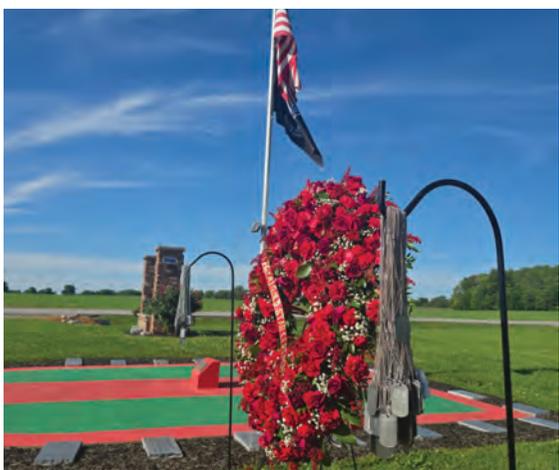


Chapter XXXVII guests enjoying themselves at picnic

38 **CHAPTER XXXVIII**
The LTG William P. Yarborough Chapter
Fort Campbell, KY www.sfa38.us



PRES : Joel Pruitt
VICE : Joshua Burch
SEC : Michael Cunningham
TRES : Israel Betanzos



Remembering

Best wishes from Middle Tennessee, South Central Kentucky and Ft Campbell.

It has been a busy summer for the Chapter. We continue to grow in numbers and participation while remaining on solid fiscal ground. The Chapter remains committed in taking care of one another and all the members of the Legion Family.

Remembering those who paid the ultimate price for our freedom is always at the forefront of our activities especially during the month of May. Many of the Gold Star families from the 5th Special Forces Group joined us and the Unit for a weekend of activities punctuated with the Annual Gold Star Ceremony on Gabriel Field. The Chapter hosted over 50 family members on a trip to Nashville Tennessee followed by an evening social with food and fellowship. The Special Forces Brotherhood Motorcycle club conducted a memorial bike ride ending up at the Chapter Safehouse for food and music to cap the weekend. Thanks to everyone who made this an extraordinary weekend of remembering.



Chapter 38 honored at baseball game

Chapter 38 was again pleased to partner with the Nightstalker Association and conduct the 7th Annual 160th/Legion Memorial Shoot at Cross Creek Sporting Clays in Palmyra TN. The event honors the fallen from the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment and the 5th Special Forces Group. There were over 400 shooters involved as well as Soldiers from both units supporting including a Mod Demo Team, Blackhawk, and Little Bird helicopters.

The event raised over \$100,000 which was split between the Nightstalker Association and Chapter 38 who provide assistance to the Soldiers and their families from both Units respectively. Thanks Zach, Sara, and Joe!

On the 4th of July, members of the Chapter, the 5th SFG and their families gathered at our Safehouse grounds to enjoy an evening of camaraderie, food, and drinks, capped off with a plus 30-minute firework display. A special thanks to Hunt Brother's Pizza for providing all the pizza we could eat. Also, in July we said goodbye to COL Gabriel Szody and welcome home to new commander of 5th SFG, Col Kenneth Wainwright.

Finally on 5 August, the Chapter and its contractors were able to install the Vietnam Monument on Gabriel Field. It is still an active construction site with pavers, concrete work, benches and landscaping to be completed but we are making progress. The monument list nearly 800 Special Forces Soldiers who gave their lives during the Vietnam War. The monument is made completely from materials in the United States with the black granite originating from Pennsylvania and the grey granite from Georgia. The Unit plans on conducting a ribbon cutting ceremony on 24 September during the Old and New Mixer event during Legion/Reunion week 20-27 September. See our website sfa38.org for more information.



Front of Vietnam Memorial



Back of Vietnam Memorial

PRES : Mark Arnold
VICE : Patrick Enlow
SEC : Andy Schneider
TRES : Chadd Kuhn



www.sfa45.org

CHAPTER XLV
 The Buckeye Chapter

45

Central Ohio

Greetings from the Buckeye Chapter.

The great Americans of AMVETS Post 1928 in Columbus, Ohio and AMVETS Post 51 at Buckeye Lake, Thornville, Ohio hosted chapter 45's annual Freedom Ride fundraiser on 9 August 2025. The ride was also supported by AMVETS 76ers Riders in Athens, Ohio and several other AMVETS posts across the state. Post 1928's Riders organized the entire event during the past several months and mobilized their network of other Riders groups.

Chapter XLV (45) Continued...



Group photo of many of the riders at SFA 45's annual Freedom Ride 9 August 2025



Chapter 45 members who volunteered to support the Freedom Ride as well as ride in it. That's Andy Schneider in the boonie hat next to Dannene

A total of 87 riders participated in one long formation of motorcycles riding across central Ohio to the post at Buckeye Lake. Not only did these veterans and veterans supporters help with their registration fees, but they also bought tons of T shirts, SF coins, silent auction items, raffle tickets. And the Riders groups at these AMVETS posts also presented charitable cash donations valued over \$3000 to the chapter's 501c3 subsidiary, The Ohio Green Beret Support Group.

And a shout out to Chapter 45's volunteers who worked tirelessly (and rode) all day supporting sales of all items and ticket sales. A special Thank You to chapter Secretary, Andy Schneider and his wife Dannene, for working at all locations selling T shirts, SF coins, and managing the Silent Auction items.



Riders stop at a traffic light. The riders' 2-bike staggered formation stretched over a quarter mile



Chapter Treasurer, CW4 Chadd Kuhn, rolls out on his vintage-styled US Army WWII Harley Davidson

It warms the heart to see these veterans' groups support the Buckeye Chapter. These Americans "get it" and understand the foundation of the Buckeye Chapter's mission to support the members and family members of Ohio's only Special Forces unit, B Co., 2nd BN, 19th SF Group. Like all SFA chapters, we enjoy the fraternity of our Special Forces chapter members, and we also do a significant amount of fundraising and programs for this local SF unit. And they deploy later this year.

Chapter 45's next big event is our annual 3 Gun Shoot fundraiser in September. We also have a couples luncheon later

in August following the deadline for this quarter's submissions for The Drop. We look forward to sharing those details in the next issue of The Drop.

Like other chapters, we meet regularly, but we meet twice monthly in two locations and our average monthly attendance is over 40 members. To see the chapter's latest news, upcoming events, and memorials go to www.sfa45.org.

De Oppresso Liber

PRES : Joe Kolp
VICE : Lee Silvers
SEC : Chris Mize
TRES : Doug Morgan



CHAPTER LV
The Michael May Memorial Chapter

55

www.sfachap55.org

Michigan

Michigan Chapter 55 just concluded a summer picnic instead of our usual summer campout weekend.

The weather has been very hot and dry this year and a 2-3 day campout would have been very difficult trying to stay comfortable in the heat and humidity without indoor air conditioned spaces. The day of the picnic was hot, the humidity bearable, and there was a nice breeze through the open sided pavilion. This was adequate for a fine day starting with a lunch followed by a short business meeting, lots of quality time to meet new members, visit with the usual gang, have long conversations, and then ease into an evening cookout. Doug Morgan and wife Sandy did all the planning and preparation for the picnic and made sure things ran smoothly throughout the day's activities. Thank you both very much.



L to R: John Forsberg, Don Bruce, Tim Leahy, Matt Greca



L to R: Harry Smith and Dale Abbuhl

Chapter 55 is going through a transition of leadership due to the ongoing health problems of our president Doug Sherd. He felt obligated to resign due to his inability to focus on Chapter business while attending to his struggles, which must remain his top priority. This gathering provided the opportunity to introduce the Chapter's new President, Mr. Joe Kolp, and our new Vice President, Mr. Lee Silvers. Doug Sherd could not attend. Doug Morgan remains our Treasurer and conducted the business meeting while Chris Mize remains as Secretary. A warm welcome was extended to the new members of the reorganized staff and who were heartily approved by the members.



Chapter staff L to R: Sec. Chris Mize, President Joe Kolp, Treasurer Doug Morgan, VP Lee Silvers, Chaplain Vince Messina



Picnic clean-up crew

Chapter LV (55) Continued...

Outgoing President Doug Sherd (SFA member number M-164!) has served the Chapter with distinction as quartermaster for 2 years, as Vice President for 7 years, and as President for the last 4 years. We members thank Doug for his dedication, efforts, and achievements while in office. At the same time, we need to thank Mike Jaciuk for stepping in and serving as VP for 2 years at a time when we either got someone or did without! Thank you both.

Looking forward, the Chapter will hold our luncheon and next business meeting in the afternoon on Saturday, November 8, followed by an evening semi-formal meal with music. We used to call it a "dinner dance" but I'm sure you understand why most of us can't dance anymore!

73

CHAPTER LXXII
The Great Lakes Chapter

Milwaukee, WI

<http://sfachapter73.com>



PRES : Tim MacGillis/Rubin Littmann
VICE : Bruce Wozniak
SEC : Greg Smith
TRES : Mark Muehl



Chapter member Skip Klahorst



Chapter member Skip Klahorst

Chapter member Gley "Skip" Klahorst passed away on June 25, 2025. Chapter 73 extends our heartfelt condolences to Skip's wife, Diane, his daughter, Peggy, and his son, Pete. Skip's obituary can be found in the taps section of "The Drop". He will be greatly missed.

Chapter 73 held its summer business meeting on July 19, 2025, in Madison, Wisconsin, at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. Oral historian Luke Sprague presented chapter members with an engaging and informative overview of the Wisconsin veteran oral histories being collected by the museum. As of the meeting date, the Wisconsin Veterans Museum held the third-largest

collection of veteran oral histories in the nation, with 2,913 interviews. In comparison, the Library of Congress Folklife Center Veterans History Project has conducted 120,014 interviews, and the National WWII Museum's Digital Collections have documented 7,000 veterans.

Following Luke's presentation, Wisconsin Veterans Museum (WVM) education specialist Erik Wright led a tour explaining Wisconsin's involvement, beginning with the Civil War and continuing through the Philippine Insurrection. Luke shared his expertise on Wisconsin's military history throughout the tour. Due to time constraints, a longer tour was not possible. All chapter members agreed that another meeting next summer at the WVM is essential.



Chapter Secretary Greg Smith, Luke Sprague, Erik Wright



Chapter Co President Rubin Littmann, Chapter Treasurer Mark Muehl

The WVM currently displays only a small portion of its collection. A new, larger building is planned, although specific details have not been released. Luke and Erik provided an excellent experience at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum; thank you both very much. The WVM also provided a conference room for the chapter's business meeting. Plans were discussed for upcoming meetings, and members were reminded to submit a biography to Teamhouse or provide a paper copy. Following the meeting, chapter members enjoyed lunch at Sass restaurant, located a few doors down from the museum. The food, stories, and camaraderie were exceptional.

Chapter Secretary Greg Smith coordinated the July meeting and restaurant selection. Good job, Greg; everyone enjoyed the museum and the Sass restaurant.

Chapter Co-president Rubin Littmann presented Chapter Treasurer Mark Muehl with a Certificate of Appreciation for his dedicated work as chapter treasurer. Thank you, Mark, for a job well done.

Chapter 73's next meeting will be our annual picnic on September 6, 2025, at the Pine View Campground, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.

PRES : Don Wolfe
VICE : Ted Riggs
SEC : Tom Hudson
TRES : Ted Riggs




CHAPTER XCIX
 The Bluegrass Chapter
99
www.sfa99.org
 Louisville, KY



Participants 2025 Woodhaven Country Club

For the second year in a row, we held our Annual Memorial Golf Scramble at Woodhaven Country Club in Louisville on 2 June 2025, and it turned out to be our biggest and most successful scramble yet.

Thanks to the 74 golfers who participated, and the numerous sponsors and donors who made the day possible: Brown-Forman, Northwestern Mutual, Diorio's Pizza & Pub, Reisert Insurance, Double Dogs, Tee It Up Golf USA, Thorntons, PGA Superstore, Golf HQ's, Golf Galaxy, Bubba 33's, Matt Michels, Mark Blankenbaker, Gary Demling, Wayne Burd, George Mason, Henry Watson, and Mike Benfield of Dr. B's Concierge Care & Weight Loss. Special Thanks to Brandon Routt, PGA Pro and staff of Woodhaven Country Club. Congrats to the winners: Mark Blankenbaker, Terry Algeir, Eli Boggess, and Bill Needy, who also won the longest drive. Congrats to Cale Hensel who won the NM Putting contest.

We presented four-\$1000 JROTC scholarships to Abigail Hopkins of Meade County HS, and Quenten Delgado, Hallie Spears, and Jocelyn Agustin-Duke of North Bullitt HS, and a \$1000 ROTC scholarship to George McGrath of the University of Kentucky. I'd like to give a very special thanks to Duane Larson, for his continued efforts in once again identifying the most scholarship recipients from North Bullitt High School, great job!



Northwestern Mutual Putting Contest Winner, Cale Hensel

Chapter XCIX (99) Continued...

Thanks to Colonel Adam Woytowich, the ARSOF Director at HRC, for a brief discussion of the new SF Group organization and state of the Regiment at our last meeting; the future of the Regiment looks safe under his and Deputy John Holevas's leadership. As we move into the fall, I'd also like to thank Craig Mackin for his generous donation of 4-tickets to all University of Louisville home football games, to members of the chapter and their families; remember first come first served so make your request early. Stay safe and hydrated as we close out this very hot summer, and I look forward to seeing everyone in October.

Bluegrass Chapter 99 continues to have in person meetings on the second Thursday of even months, at 1800 hrs, watch for the invite to know the location. We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting, and don't forget we still have about 600 bottles of our Woodford Reserve Personal Selection for sale for \$50 per bottle to members, and \$60 for anyone else; contact John Holevas if you'd like to get one.

De Oppresso Liber! COL(R) Don Wolfe, President Chapter 99



Winners: Mark Blankenbaker, Terry Algeir, Eli Boggess, and Bill Needy (Long Drive Winner)



JROTC Scholarship Recipients from North Bullitt HS, Quenten Delgado, Hallie Spears, and Jocelyn Agustin-Duke.

107

CHAPTER CVII

The Galen Kittleson Chapter

Cedar Rapids, IA

facebook.com/groups/807219109655830/?ref=share&mibextid=NSMWB7

PRES : Mike McElmeel
 VICE : Jerry Jochum
 SEC : Mike Woods
 TRES : Jordan Conrad

Chapter 107 participated in the 86th North Iowa Band Festival parade held in Mason City, Iowa on Saturday, May 24th. Turn out from the Chapter was excellent and the reception from the crowd was outstanding. Chapter member Dan Thorsen let the chapter make use of his restored quarter ton vehicle. Gary Pearson of Pearson's Gun Shop located in Little Cedar, Iowa loaned the Chapter his HMMWV for use in the parade.

After the parade the Chapter visited the grave of CSM Kittleson and had lunch at a local eatery.



Chapter member and attachments before the parade



Chapter CVII (107) Continued...

The Chapter held a scheduled meeting on July 12th at the Iowa State Capitol building. Chapter business was discussed and food and camaraderie was had at the Iowa Tap House following the meeting.



Chapter 107 on Parade



Chapter members at lunch following July meeting at Iowa Tap House

PRES : Jeremy Miller
VICE : PENDING ELECTION
SEC : Adam Jennings
TRES : Jerry DePold
EXTERNAL COMMS: Blake Miles



CHAPTER D
 The Hoosier Chapter
500

www.specialforcesac500.org Indianapolis, IN



WO Tim Wojciehowski's Funeral



Color Guard in Attendance



Some Chapter Members meeting up and breaking bread

The SFA 500 is bouncing back from losing some great members from our ranks and putting together the plans for events in the year to come.

We also lost another Special Forces Veteran from the Hoosier State, Warrant Officer Tim Wojciehowski. A number of our members were able to attend and pay their respects.

Various members have been meeting up while passing through the hotspots scattered around the state and communicating with each other through our Group Chat on a variety of topics.

Staying engaged is a great way to keep in great spirits!



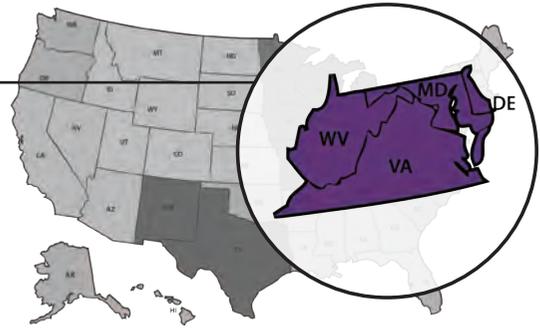
REGION III

Mid-Atlantic Region

(VIRGINIA, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
WEST VIRGINIA, MARYLAND)

**CHAPTERS: XI (11), XXVI (26), LIII (53), LXVIII (68), LXXXIV (84),
XC (90), CV (105)**

**Chapters in red did not submit input for this quarter*



11

CHAPTER XI

The National Capital Chapter

Washington, DC

www.sfall1.org



PRES : Ray Oden
VICE : David Jackson
SEC : John Schram
TRES : David Lewis



SFA Chap XI 2025 Pool Party Attendees: L-R: Doc Lloyd & Mary Lou Glover, Leslie Reimen, Jim Marshall, Art Mott, Ginny Norton, Gary Butler, Leila Foster, Harry Christian, Thuy Hugo, David & Marita Jackson, Larry Reimen, Ray Oden, & Karla Addis

We've had a jam-packed summer! Although, we've suspended our monthly Chapter meetings from May-August we've continued running the monthly LTC James K. Waters Memorial Ranger-SF Breakfast for the National Capital Region on the second Saturday each month at American Legion Post 176, Springfield, VA and Joe Crane initiated a Shenandoah Valley Ranger-SF Breakfast on the fourth Saturdays in Winchester, VA at the Golden Corral.

In May, following the Regimental Birthday Ball, the Chapter hosted a five-year Remembrance reception in honor of MG Victor J. Hugo, Jr. Then, we supported the Friends of Rocky Versace at their Memorial Day Ceremony at the CPT Rocky Versace Memorial Plaza in Alexandria, VA.

In June, we celebrated the 81st Anniversary of D-Day and the Rangers of Pointe Du Hoc at the Residence of the French Ambassador to the United States.

In July, Virginia Norton graciously hosted our Chapter XI Pool Party at her home, followed by two book-signing events. The first, for Robert Kim's book: "Victory in Shanghai: A Korean American Family's Journey to the CIA and the Army Special Forces" is about a Korean American family's struggle to come to the United States during the Second World War era and the role of Asian Americans in the creation of modern U.S. intelligence and special operations. This is SF Legend Father Dick Kim (LTC, SF, USA Ret) and his three brothers, sister, and mother's fight to become American citizens and serve America in the CIA and the Army Special Forces! The second book: "Soldiers Widow-Soldiers Wife- Soldiers Mother" is Norma Donlon's autobiography. Both are inspiring reads and are available on Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble.com.

The Chapter capped July by attending the U.S. Army's Twilight Tattoo at Fort Myer. The U.S. Army's Twilight Tattoo is a live action-packed military experience featuring U.S. Army Military District of Washington ceremonial units, the 3d U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard), and The U.S. Army Band "Pershing's Own."



Chapter member Helana King at the French Ambassador's Residence, Celebrating the 81st Anniversary of D-Day and the Rangers Scaling Pointe de Hoc

Chapter XI (11) Continued...

Chapter XI represents the Regiment at every Special Forces Soldier's funeral at Arlington National Cemetery and assists family and friends of our comrades-in-arms. This summer, we honored the lives of: MAJ Hermann G. Hasken, Jr [1st, 5th, and 10th SFG(A) & Two tours MACV-SOG]; LTC Robert H. Huckabee [173rd ABN, 5th SFGA]; a Memorial Service for Mrs. Katherine Cooper "Nippy" Crerar [Widow of COL John H "Scotti" Cerar, DMOR]; Mrs. Karen I. Dorsey [Widow of COL Mercer M." Mac" Dorsey, Jr.]; MSG Robert Arnold Boggs [10th SFGA]; LTC Quewanncoii C. Stephens Sr. [3/11 ACR, 44th STZ; 6th SFGA; Cdr B/3/35 ARM; OIC, SFOC, USAIMA]; and Mrs. Joan Singlaub [Widow of MG Jack Singlaub, DMOR]. If you are aware of any upcoming SF funerals in Arlington or the DC area, please notify Chapter XI so we can reach out to the next of kin and offer our support.



The Inaugural Shenandoah Valley Ranger-SF Breakfast for Shenandoah Valley, in June, organized by Joe Crane



The Chapter's usual suspects at the U.S. Army's Twilight Tattoo

The Chapter is already working on the 2026 SF Regimental Birthday Ball, scheduled for Friday, May 8, 2026, at the Army Navy Country Club in Arlington, VA. It will be a night to come, enjoy, and remember! So, please save the date and join us!

PRES : Kevin Woodrum
 VICE : Gene Swisher
 SEC : Edwin Campbell
 TRES : Randy O'Neal




CHAPTER LXXXIV
 The Hampton Roads Chapter

84

www.SOTF84.com Hampton Roads, VA



Front left side: Gene Swisher, Brett Patron, Skip Gibson, Ed Campbell, Kevin Woodrum, Nathan Degrood, John Brayshaw, Michael Stout

90

CHAPTER XC

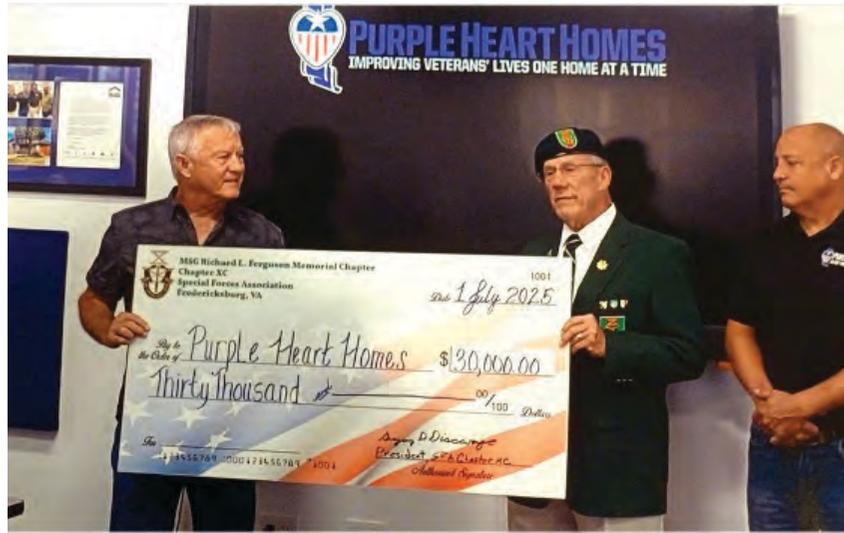
The MSG Richard L. Ferguson Memorial Chapter

Fredericksburg, VA

www.sfach90.org



PRES : Greg Discavage
 VICE : Rick Morris
 SEC : John Cupp
 TRES : Bob Ponzio



Greetings from Chapter XC in Fredericksburg, VA. Our quarterly SF/Ranger breakfast was held in June, with only a few attendees. Twelve of our Ranger / SF brothers in the Shenandoah Valley held an impromptu breakfast in Winchester, VA on June 28. Chapter Secretary attended as a Chap 90 representative. These quarterly breakfast get-togethers are open to all in the SOF community. Check out our website for more details on upcoming events. If you're in the area, we hope to see you there.

On 1 July, Chapter President Greg Discavage travelled to Statesville, NC, and presented a \$30,000 check to Purple Heart Homes (PHH). Our Chapter was the first organization to present PHH, in its formative years, a four-figure check and then in a subsequent year, a five-figure check. The Chapter decided to step-up its game with the presentation of this \$30,000 check to the Executive Director of PHH, Bo McDonald.



Chapter 90 holds our monthly meetings at the local Moose Lodge 2215 in Stafford, VA. The lodge has supported the Chapter over the last two years. In recognition of their support, President Greg Discavage presented a charitable donation of \$1,000.

Because of the success of our Spring Golf Tournament, the Chapter was able to award \$11,500 in scholarships to five deserving dependents of Chapter members. This effort was headed by Jeff Bernard. Jeff has done a great job of coordinating the selection process for determining scholarship awardees, but he has decided to step down and turn over the reins to John Lewis.

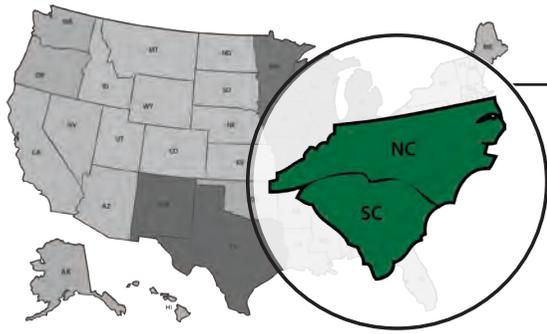
After a slow summer, fall is the time to prepare for the Chapter's remaining events for this year.

First - we're preparing for our quarterly range event at Team Crucible on Aug 16. Of course, this is always popular with Chapter members. After all... a bad day at the range is better than a good day in the office!

Next, Kurt Frulla is hosting his annual pig roast at his house in Fredericksburg on September 20. Membership has been waiting for this all year. He always has great food and the beer is always cold!

We're also getting ready for our 4th Annual Carl Fulmore Fall Classic Golf Tournament. Proceeds from this tournament will be used to support veterans and replenish our scholarship fund. Anyone interested in playing is encouraged to submit a team. Go to the Chapter web site, or contact Joe Wieland at jmw355@comcast.net.

Chapter 90 meets the first Friday of every month at 2000 hours at Moose Lodge 2215, 422 Eskimo Hill Rd, Stafford, VA. As always, the team room is always open to all SF teammates. If you're travelling through the area, reach out through e-mail at SFACH90@gmail.com or visit our website at www.SFACH90.org.



REGION IV

Carolinas Region

(NORTH CAROLINA, SOUTH CAROLINA,
7th, 3rd, SWC, SFC_{MD})



CHAPTERS: I-XVIII (1-18), VI (6), XVII (17), XXXIV (34), LVII (57), LXII (62), LXIII (63), C (100), CCCLXIII (363), Detachment "A"

**Chapters in red did not submit input for this quarter*

PRES : Gary Koenitzer
VICE : Rick Turcotte
SEC : Danny Lumpkins
TRES : John McManus



CHAPTER VI

The Camp Mackall Chapter

6

www.facebook.com/sfacvi/

Camp Mackall, NC

Upon completion of Robin Sage class 340, Chapter 6 President Gary Koenitzer along with other members talked about life in Special Forces. What the Chapters do in support of Families Regiment, and our networking with SF benevolent partners that support us.



Ricky Britton, Mike Strand and Keith Rutledge on the long range



Jim Shaw, Mike Smith, Tom Stafford, Rick Turcotte and Mike Rush on the steel challenge range

The following day we did our Range Shoot. Rick Turcotte set up a range in preparation for our side stage. In support of the Memorial Valor Foundation. Keith Rutledge set up a range to let our members get some long distance shooting in.



Lanny Lucero briefing members in the long house



Members on the pavilion after the meeting

Chapter VI (6) Continued...

Our meeting was conducted on our compound, and we gave out our Scholarships to Chapter members' families. One of \$5000 and three of \$1000. Lanny Lucero briefed the Chapter on memorabilia needed and the way ahead for our Long House.

If you're in our area and want to stop by, our next meeting is on 4 OCT 25 at 1300.

17

CHAPTER XVII

The COL Jerry "Robin" Sage Memorial Chapter

Maggie Valley, NC

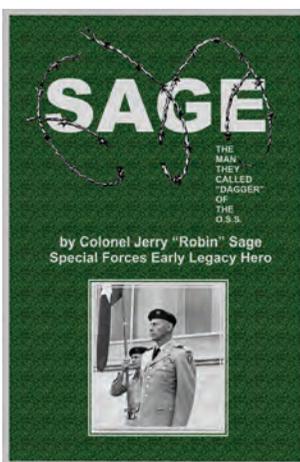
www.sfchapter17.com



PRES : Phil Hanson
 VICE : Mike Cavanaugh
 SEC : Walt Stonez
 TRES : Bill Gunn
 SGT at ARMS : Benny Wyrick



Chapter 17 had its annual picnic at the Davis Treehouse beside the Tuckaseegee River in Webster, NC. Good times were had by all!



Chapter 17 republished the book SAGE by COL Jerry "Robin" Sage. SAGE recounts COL Sage's experiences as a German POW during WWII and was the basis for the movie, The Great Escape

On 19 July a total of 30 people that included members and their wives gathered at the home of Tom and Polly Davis for food, drinks, and fun along the Tuckaseegee River in Webster, North Carolina. No meeting was held, just fun and camaraderie. This event has become an annual tradition for the chapter, and the weather was great for this year's event. Plans are being made for an encore!

Chapter 17 (The Jerry "Robin" Sage Memorial Chapter) has republished the book SAGE, which is the memoir of COL Jerry "Robin" Sage. Sage was an OSS officer who was captured by the Germans during WWII. During his three years of captivity in a German POW camp, Sage helped work on the three-tunnel escape project that helped formed the plot for the movie The Great Escape.

After WWII, he commanded a Regimental Combat Team in the Korean War and commanded 10th SFGA in Europe during the Cold War. He completed his lifetime of public service as "Teacher of the Year" in South Carolina. Check the book's web site at www.oldmp.com/sage to order paperback, hardback, and hardback limited edition. Kindle version link also on the website.

63

CHAPTER LXIII

The Francis "Swamp Fox" Marion Chapter

Charleston, SC



PRES : Chris Fox
 VICE : Kirk Ferguson
 SEC : Tom Doran
 TRES : Ronnie Johnson

The high heat and humidity of our sultry South Carolina Low Country summer along with the accompanying family activities has slowed Chapter 63's activities. However, as Fall approaches, we are busying ourselves with planning our future activities, as well as enjoying opportunities for comradeship when possible.

John Edsall met with and escorted the keynote speaker for the 3rd Annual Edisto Island Memorial Day Service, Medal of Honor awardee MG James Livingston, USMC (Ret). The general was the guiding force behind the creation of the Vietnam Experience at Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum in Charleston, within which Chapter 63 maintains a Special Forces exhibit, created by Chapter 34.



John Edsall and MG Livingston



At the Riverdogs Game

June found the chapter holding two meetings, one on the 14th to celebrate the Army's 250th Birthday, as well as Flag Day. President Chris Fox and Secretary Tom Doran met for an evening meeting earlier in the month with former President and Secretary Gavin McCulley to review activities and plan future events.

In August, the chapter took advantage of the Military Appreciation Day at the Charleston Riverdogs minor league baseball team for a social gathering on a beautiful Low Country evening. Who doesn't like beer, hotdogs, baseball, and flowing stories?

September will feature another informal/ social meeting and our next quarterly business meeting will be held in October.



Low Country Evening

<p>PRES : J.P. Cervantes VICE : Mike Martin SEC : Mark Peters TRES : Kyle & Susana Hiser</p>		<p>CHAPTER C The SSG Robert J. Miller Memorial Chapter</p>	<p>100</p>
		<p>www.sfachapter100.org</p>	<p>Fort Bragg, NC</p>

Since the last issue of the Drop, Chapter 100 has continued its support to the SF community.

The Chapter hosted the 5th Annual SFA Tactical Application Shoot (TAS) on 22 March 2025 at the Oak Grove Training Center in Hoffman, NC.

Additionally, Chapter 100 supported the 3d Bn, 3d SFG(A) barbeque on 22 May 2025. Chapter member Dr. (SGM(R)) Brian Penrod prepared an awesome array of barbequed meats, and other chapter members and officers assisted with setup, preparation and serving.

Chapter C (100) Continued...



Tactical Application Shoot



3/3 SFG BBQ

Chapter 100 continued its support to the SF community with the award of ten \$2000 scholarships to Chapter 100 family members. This year, we received an exceptional number of applications, making the selection process highly competitive. After careful review, the 10 recipients were:

Campbell B.
Lillian D.
Isabella H.
Melody H.
Maximus H.

Courtney H.
Joshua M.
Rayleen O.
Kayleen S.
Paul T.

We couldn't have asked for better weather to host the 23rd Annual Stanley L. Harriman Charity Golf Classic on 21 June 2025 at Gates Four Country Club in Fayetteville. At the beginning of the event, this year's scholarships were awarded to the recipients in attendance. 125 golfers participated in the event. We couldn't have hosted the event without the continued support of the Special Forces Charitable Trust (SFCT), CACI, Oak Grove Technologies, The Donovan & Bank Foundation, The Jedburgh Foundation, David & Maureen VanRassen, the awesome ladies at The Signature Group and JK Premier Market, as well as many other supporters throughout the great Fayetteville/Fort Bragg area. Overall, the revenue from the event will allow the chapter to continue to provide scholarships next year.

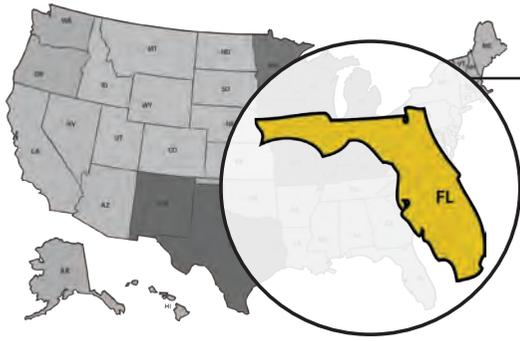


Scholarship Awardee



Stan the Man Charity Golf Classic

As 2025 begins to wane, the Chapter is already knee deep in planning the annual Green Beret Jingle Jog which will take place at Dirt Bag Ale in Fayetteville on 06 December 2025. Additionally, the chapter will assist at the DARA Invitational Tactical 2 Gun Match on 08 November 2025 at The Range Complex (TRC) in Fayetteville.



REGION V

Florida Region

(10 CHAPTERS; FL)



CHAPTERS: 0, VII (7), XXI (21), XL (40), XLIV (44), LX (60), LXXIV (74), LXXVI (76), LXXXV (85), LXXXVIII (88)

**Chapters in red did not submit input for this quarter*

PRES : John Vislosky
VICE : Richard Whitman
SEC : Suzie Gaspard
TRES : Phil Devon
QUARTERMASTER : Susan Micelli



CHAPTER XXI

The Bob Salzman Memorial Chapter

21

specialforceschapter21florida.com

Orlando, FL



(Clockwise L-R) John Erskine, Jim and Sheila Trice, Robert Morris, John Goodyear, Hannah Sink and Robert Nagy



Goldstar Father & Guest Speaker, Craig Gross

The Chapter members enjoyed our Spring 2025 Luncheon and Meeting on 17 May 2025 at the Orange Blossom Hill Country Club, in "The Villages" Florida. The Chapter had 29 people attend which included two Goldstar Fathers: Craig Gross (and one of our guest speakers) and Dean Coleman; Noel Hike (Guest Speaker VA LNO USSOCOM) Noel's wife Laura and in-Laws Jimmy Westervelt and Kim Veley. Others in attendance were Marianne Cherry, Rick Comerford (Florida Chapter 60), Dick and Bonnie Cooper (Florida Chapter 85), Phil and Joette Devon, John and Gayle Erskine, Suzie Gaspard and her guest Angie Young, John Goodyear and Hannah Sink; John Holland, Sue Micelli, Robert Morris, Robert Nagy; Shirley Steele; Jim and Sheila Trice (Florida Chapter 76); John and Betty Vislosky; and Richard "Whit" and Sheila Whitman.



(L-R) Joette Devon; Chapter Treasurer, Phil Devon; Chapter VP, Richard Whitman; and Sheila Whitman



1st SGT (R), VA LNO, & Luncheon Presenter, Noel Hike (who is also a Chapter XXI Honorary Member)

Chapter XXI (21) Continued...

Harlan Erskine, Grandson of Chapter XXI member, Colonel (R) John Erskine was this year's SFA Education Grant recipient. Harlan will be studying Mechanical Engineering at Texas A&M. Amongst his accomplishments, Harlan is an Eagle Scout, and the Captain of his High School's Varsity Swim Team. Congratulations Harlan!

Finally, we have launched our new Chapter XXI Website along with our new Chapter XXI Challenge Coin designed by John Joyce at Excalibur Industries. www.specislforgeschapter21Florida.com

60

CHAPTER LX

The Richard J. Meadows Memorial Chapter

Tampa, FL

www.specialforces.org



PRES : Brian Wilson
VP of Operations : Pat Rizzi
VP of Support : Keith Hanley
SEC : Amy Sitze
TRES : Jim Fagan



July-Chapter LX



Gift presentation to AL Post 139

Chapter LX is super excited to be in the Team House for meetings and events as you can see by the July Chapter LX membership picture seen here.

Chapter LX is extremely proud of one of our own—Jay Collins. Jay was elected to the Florida Senate in 2022 and was recently appointed by Governor Ron DeSantis to become the new Lieutenant Governor. Jay took the position and was sworn in on Tues 12 August in the Team House. Jay continues to serve the members of Chapter LX, the Special Forces Brotherhood, and the people of Florida.



Jay Collins FL LT Gov



Ron DeSantis FL Gov

The most significant event Chapter LX hosted this quarter was the 30th Anniversary of the Richard J. Meadows Scholarship Banquet. Over the last 30 years, Chapter LX has awarded \$250,000 to scholarship recipients. On Sat, 2 August, Chapter LX presented 4 well deserving individuals a \$4000 scholarship each. We congratulate Porter Zilka, Kariss McGarrah, Gabija Davila, and Macey Clay on their accomplishments. And we appreciate COL Charles C. Moores, SOCCENT DCO, who humbled us with his words on Richard J. Meadows. Thank you, COL Moores, for reminding us of what we honor most.

In July, Chapter LX took up a collection. The money donated was presented to American Legion Post 139—a check of \$1500. This gift was to show AL Post 139 just how much Chapter LX appreciated their support over the years by allowing us to host our meetings and events in their facility. The check was presented during the first Veterans Benefit Social held in the Team House. Chapter LX meetings are held every 2nd Thursday of each month at 1730 hours in the Richard J. Meadows Team House. If you are in the area, we do hope you will join us. And if you find yourself visiting the Tampa area, please know you are always invited to join us in the Team House. We look forward to seeing you there. In September we will celebrate a traditional Oktober Fest. And if you are here in November and want to really have fun, you should join us for our annual Sport Clay Shoot Tournament.

We often think of those we have lost over the years. But also know that our hearts and prayers are with all those that are sick/hospitalized, have lost family and friends, and need a helping hand and shoulder to lean on. We are here thinking of you always.

PRES : Pete Marceau
VICE : Richard Deininger
SEC : Bill Sander
TRES : George Bennett



CHAPTER LXXXV
 The Treasure Coast Chapter

85

www.sfachapter85.com

Jensen Beach, FL

Greetings from SFA Chapter 85 (LXXXV) on the Florida Treasure Coast:

On 25 January, over a dozen members of Chapter 85 and several wives attended the annual PURPLE HEART CANE CEREMONY at the US Navy Seal Museum on N Hutchinson Island in Ft. Pierce, Fl. This year, the Purple Heart Cane organization presented over 50 Hand Carved Canes to Purple Heart recipients. The guest speaker was MG(R) Michael S. Repass.



The attached photo shows L to R: SFA member; SM(R) Sylvester Ray, 5th Special Forces Group, B52, Project Delta Vietnam who lives in Melbourne, Fl. with two members of SFA Chapter 85: CSM(R) Mark Duwell and CSM Brian Huston (still on active duty) receiving their canes in the ceremony; the PH canes to be presented and a small section of the huge crowd where organizer Lloyd Lasenby (SFA Chapter 85 member) arranged special seating for SF veterans and their family. It was an outstanding program dedicated to recipients of the Purple Heart. If you live in the area or are on vacation, it is not to be missed. If you have been awarded the Purple Heart, you are eligible to receive a cane. For more information, please contact the Purple Heart Cane Project at: <https://purpleheartcaneproject.org/>.

Chapter LXXXV (85) Continued...



On 26 April, we held a burial at sea for CSM(R) Richard Loehr, the founder of SFA Chapter 85. He had passed away in 2017 but as his wife is in ill health she wanted him honored with a formal burial. Thanks to Chapter 85 member Dave Hill for organizing the burial. Photo attached.

On 27 April we attended the funeral of Maj(R) Robert Beasley, 7th and 5th Groups, a local SFA member who passed away on 6 April. Chapter president Lt Col(R) Pete Marceau delivered a eulogy at his burial at the South Florida Veterans Cemetary in Palm Beach and presented his son Robert Jr. with a Chapter coin. Dick and Bonnie Cooper, and Bill Sander also attended., photo attached. The family was very appreciative.

At our July Chapter meeting we held a raffle drawing for two Limited Edition Whiskeys donated by SFA Member Frank Longrie (Thanks Frank). His donation raised \$480. for the Chapter. Chapter 85 member Ed Boatright was the winner. Also, at the meeting we announced the dates of our annual picnic and annual Christmas party: Picnic at the US Navy Seal Museum, October 25 (our October meeting will be held at the picnic) and our annual Christmas party on December 13 at Carmines Trattoria in Palm Beach

Chapter 85 is active in presenting certificates and medals to JROTCgraduates in St Lucie, Martin and Palm Beach Counties. This year we presented medals and certificates at over 20 high schools in Palm Beach, Martin and St Lucie counties in Florida. It is always satisfying to see the enrolled cadets and their parents who support the program.

If you are a Special Forces veteran and live nearby or or passing through the area, please contact us.

88

CHAPTER LXXXVIII

Northeast Florida Chapter

Jacksonville, FL

www.SFA88.org

PRES : Dewey Walker
 VP OF OPS : David Ware
 SEC : Thomas F. Burke, Sr.
 TRES : Wade D. Carroll
 SGT at ARMS : Thomas Jackson

Chapter 88 continues to be an active and thriving chapter. Our members do an outstanding job of supporting the fellow veterans and their communities.

Golf Tournament

Chapter 88 held its 10th annual Green Beret Charity Golf Tournament on May 16 thanks to the leadership of Tournament Director Wade Carroll and his assistant Steve Meeks. This year 67 golfers rallied at the Golf Club at South Hampton in Saint Augustine to play, shoot golf balls, bid on the silent auction, and enjoy a hearty barbeque dinner. After all the dust settled, the Chapter netted just over \$21,000 to use towards our charity, veteran, JROTC and community support programs. Thanks to all of the chapter members and family members who volunteered their time to help run an awesome tournament.

June Guest Speaker

The Chapter June guest speaker was Tina Pham, the executive director of the Asian Chamber of Commerce of North Florida. Pham shared her family story of escaping from communist Vietnam. Her father, Hi Tan Pham, served as an infantry lieutenant in the South Vietnamese army from 1962-1964. After the war ended on April 30, 1975, the communists tricked the people who served in the military to report to local authorities. Hi Tan was kidnapped and sent to a re-education camp, where he suffered indoctrination, forced labor, beatings and starvation until release in 1979.

After rejoining his family, he destroyed all evidence of his military service, except for 1 small ID tag. In 1986, he secretly escaped first to Cambodia, then by fishing boat to Thailand to a refuge camp, then on to the Philippines. He used his single ID tag as his proof of Vietnamese military service to apply for USA refugee status. In 1988, he arrived in Jacksonville, then he obtained his US citizenship, saved his money, and bought his family out of Vietnam in 1993. Tina was 12 years old when she reunited with her father again. Their story is not just about survival—it's about resilience, legacy and honoring those who gave so much.



Chapter 88's 2025 Green Beret Charity Golf Tournament was a great success at the Golf Club at South Hampton



President Dewey Walker presents Tina Pham with a certificate of appreciation for her June address to the chapter

SF Monument Project

Chapter 88 is spearheading a project to donate a Special Forces Memorial Monument to the Jacksonville National Veterans Cemetery. Project Officer Pat Mulvihill is leading our efforts to raise \$18,000 to cover the costs of creating and installing a craved stone monument. Currently there are 38 interned Army Special Forces veterans in the cemetery. The goal is to unveil and dedicate the monument in conjunction with the Special Forces Branch's 39th anniversary on April 11, 2026. To make a tax-deductible donation scan the QR code or visit our GoFundMe page at www.gofundme.com/f/SFA88-SF-Monument-Fund. Please help support our efforts with a donation.

WWP CF5K

Mark your calendars for Nov. 8, 2025, for the Wounded Warrior Project's Carry Forward 5K in Jacksonville. Chapter 88 is forming a squad again this year to help raise funds for our wounded and injured comrades in arms. Please come and join us. Find us under "SFA Chapter 88" squad on the WWP website: <https://carryforward.woundedwarriorproject.org/> Leaving no one behind.



To make a tax-deductible donation to the SF Monument scan the QR code or visit our page at www.gofundme.com/f/SFA88-SF-Monument-Fund



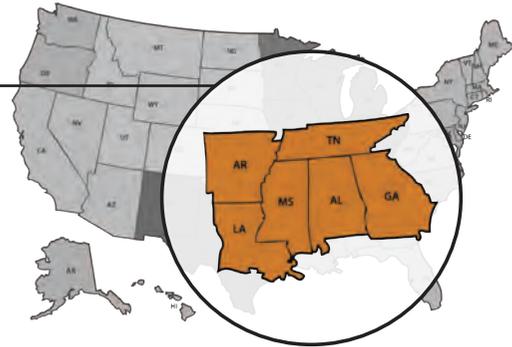
Chapter 88 member Tim Settles carries a 20th SFGA banner in a show of support during the 2024 Wounded Warrior Project 5K Run. Chapter 88 is fielding a squad again in 2025



REGION VI

Southeast Region

(GEORGIA, ALABAMA, MISSISSIPPI, LOUISIANA, ARKANSAS, TENNESSEE, 20TH SFG)



CHAPTERS: **XXX (30)**, **XXXIII (33)**, **XLIX (49)**, **LIX (59)**, **LXXIX (79)**, **LXXXI (81)**, **XCII (92)**, **CII (102)**, **XCI (111)**

**Chapters in red did not submit input for this quarter*

33

CHAPTER XXXIII

The Larry A. Thorne Memorial Chapter



PRES : Henderson R. Marriott
VICE : Daniel Orange
SEC : Daniel Orange
TRES : Charles James

Knoxville, TN

www.chapterXXXIII.sfsarge.com



President Henderson presenting the Member of the Year award to Dale Betterton



Group Photo



Chuck James displaying the Auction's Surprise package

Our summer meeting was held at the Best Western Plus in Knoxville, TN, on 13-15 June 2025. Ron Bruce was the host.

The Weatherman promised a weekend of rain and thunder in the Knoxville area, but he lost his way somewhere between Alabama and Knoxville. We had a few sprinkles, but nothing more.

A spirited group of three filled the Hospitality Room on Friday afternoon. By 2200 hours, the group had fluctuated between two and three, and then back to two. 2 members closed the Hospitality room at 2200 hours.

Saturday was overcast, but Thor kept his hammer on his belt for the day. The three ladies fled the hotel for their shopping at the local malls.

At 1200 hours sharp, our Vice President, Dan Orange, opened the lunch hour with the benediction. The number of members present had increased to ten, and they did wonders against the food that was laid out on the table.

We had a forum, but just barely. President Marriott spoke briefly about the low attendance at the meetings. He mentioned that most members live in Tennessee, with many residing in the Knoxville area. The Vice-President gave his report, as did the Secretary and Treasurer. These were approved and seconded.



Lunch in the Hospitality Room

Our auction was once again conducted by Vice President/Secretary Dan Orange. The auction table only held a few items, but our Auctioneer cajoled the attendees into parting with their hard-earned money. One member, not to be named, really squeezed the cash from his bulging wallet to pay for his purchases.

Dave Hensley won the raffle drawing. They stayed one night at the motel, so the Treasurer wrote Dave a check for his one-night stay.

And then came Sunday. We gathered in the breakfast area to say our goodbyes. Sunshine flooded the land, so hopefully, the trips home would be non-eventful.

Our next meeting is scheduled for 24-26 October 2025 at the Best Western Plus in Knoxville, Tennessee. Ron Bruce will host this event. More information will be posted on the Chapter's Bulletin Board, <http://www.chapterxxxiii.sfsarge.com/>.

As always, Chapter XXXIII welcomes any member of the SFA family to join us at our meetings. We only ask that the guest introduce himself to Henderson Marriott, our President.

PRES : Bobby Nixon
VICE : Lonnie Williamson
SEC : Richard Green
TRES : Ken Smith
SGT AT ARMS : Ray Beuscher



CHAPTER XLIX
 The Richard J. Webber Memorial Chapter

49

Little Rock, AR

Greetings from Chapter 49.



Chapter XLIX (49) Continued...

At our last meeting, Chapter 49, decided to donate \$2000 dollars to Samaritans Purse and those funds have been dispersed as voted on. Our next auction/fund raiser will be held at our annual X-mas party at the Comfort Inn off Nash Street in Hot Springs on December 5, 6, leaving on the 7th.

Since the next DROP will be too late for notification, we are sending this out now. Dates have just been confirmed so you can make reservations at your convenience- 501 624-3800 and hope to see some new faces at the event if you're in Little Rock at that time frame, you'll have a good time. All food and drinks are provided with the auction taking place on Saturday so if in town, come on down!

We have been trying to find new members within the State so we will be traveling again to find some potential members as the ranks are shrinking with the elders not attending anymore. We are always trying to find those SF folks in the shadows to join but at the present, they are doing a good job hiding in the open.

59

CHAPTER LIX

The Joe C. Alderman Memorial Chapter




PRES : Sam Seetin
VICE : Bill Carty
SEC : George Sommerfield
TRES : VACANT (PRES ACTING)

Georgia, USA

www.SFALIX.org



A revered rifle salute by the SF honor guard to MG James Guest at his interment in Hartwell, GA



Sam Seetin & McKenzie Norrington

The June Chapter Meeting was held at VFW in conjunction with the Army's Birthday Celebration at Fort Benning. During this event, we proudly presented a \$1,000 scholarship to Ms. McKenzie Northington. In August, we hosted a potluck meeting at the Army Helicopter Flying Museum Hangar in Hampton, Georgia, where attendees enjoyed popular rides in a Huey Helicopter.

We successfully registered SFA Chapter 59 as a non-profit entity for three years with the Georgia Secretary of State. In remembrance of our fallen leaders, we attended the funeral of the legendary SF General Officer, MG James Guest, in Hartwell, Georgia.

Honorary Chapter Member Anh Nguyen traveled to Vietnam in July with a humanitarian team using ground-penetrating radar to recover the remains of CIDG and NVA soldiers at SF battle sites, aiming to bring closure to bereaved families.

To support our scholarship and ROTC awards, we are planning a raffle featuring exciting prizes, including an AR-15 rifle, a Glock ACP .45 caliber pistol, and the First SF Knife of Choice— the Randall Knife.



Chapter members gathered for meeting at VFW in Columbus, Ga ICW with the Army's Birthday at Fort Benning

We are actively participating in regular NBO Zoom meetings to maintain situational awareness and share updates with our members. Looking ahead, we plan to attend the 5th SFGA reunion at Fort Campbell in September, along with the ongoing construction of the 5th Group memorial to honor MSG McNatt's service.

Marking calendars for our next Chapter meeting on October 18 at the Octoberfest, Fort Benning Georgia before the joint MOAA/SFA Christmas Party December 6, 2025 at the Garden Hilton Hotel, Columbus, GA.

PRES : John McGregor
VICE : Mitch Sivas
SEC : Dean Dory
TRES/MASTER OF ARMS : Bob Reynolds



CHAPTER CII

The SGM Billy Waugh Chapter

102

Evans, GA



SFA Chapter 102 "The SGM Billy Waugh" chapter is now an approved SFA Chapter and SFA's newest Chapter.

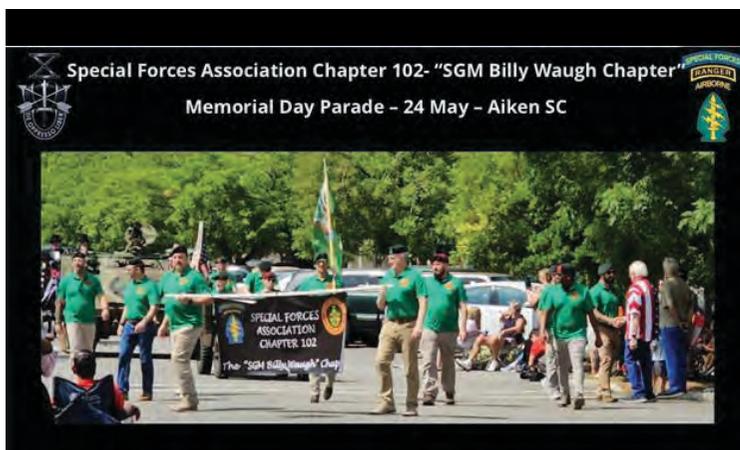
Our Chapter is proud to honor legendary SF NCO, SGM Billy Waugh, two of our Chapter members Jerry Smelts and Bob Willis served with Billy at MACVSOG nominated him and the chapter unanimously voted to name the chapter after Billy.

Our membership is strong, growing and includes multiple eras of Green Berets representing all Special Forces units/groups and team type, areas of operation, wars and conflicts. Our members are from the Central Savannah River Area (CSRA) of Georgia and South Carolina. SFA Chapter

Meetings are open to SFA Members, wives and guests. We also welcome members of other SFA Chapters, and anyone who is not SFA but is qualified to join SFA (Special Forces Qualified and Special Forces Enablers) in the CSRA to attend our meetings.

Our meetings are held every 1st Saturday from 1130 to 1300 at the Rally Point Grille; 4446 Washington Road Evans, Georgia, 30809 in our SF Team Room. We use our SFA Meetings to keep the SF brotherhood informed, offer venues to reunite and strengthen camaraderie.

Chapter CII (102) Continued...



The Chapter marched in the Memorial Day Parade on 24 May in Aiken South Carolina along w other Veterans Groups from the CSRA; this was an important event to remember our fallen, inspire support for the military and patriotism in the community. SFA Chapter member Lowell Koppert (who is also president of the Aiken Veterans Council) organized the entire event. Great turnout and mission- accomplished.

At each meeting we execute Cross-Briefs; these are short vignettes on Special Forces Operations that are used to exchange information and educate each other while sharing our Special Forces History. Our June Meeting cross-brief presented by Mitch Sivas who led an MTT to Lebanon discussed 10th SFG (A) Operations in Lebanon during the early 1980s. The July cross-brief is focused on DET-A Cold War operations in Berlin and East Germany; this will be presented by Bob Willis who served at DET-A and his son who also conducted clandestine operations in Berlin and East Germany.

Our Chapter celebrated the President's decision to rename nearby Fort Gordon GA after Special Forces MSG Gary Gordon; posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for heroic actions as an SMU member during the 1993 battle of Mogadishu Somalia. The name change is already effective but a formal renaming ceremony will take place in 2025, but the exact date is not yet available; we'll represent SFA as a chapter to honor MSG Gordon's SF roots with 10th SFG.

We are pursuing other initiatives as a chapter to support the Special Forces Community-to support, strengthen and inspire the youth who seek to join Special Forces; partnering with local recruiters, JROTC or other venues (i.e. 18Ds in training at Fort Gordon GA) we'll continue to implement these.

Look forward to seeing all of you at a future monthly meeting each 1st Saturday 1130-1300 at the Rally Point in Evans GA. Contact Chapter President John McGregor 706-836-1474; or Chapter Vice President Mitch Sivas 678-591-9508 and Dean Dory Chapter Secretary 412-716-5515 or Email: sfa.chapter.102@gmail.com

DOL

111

CHAPTER CXI
Blue Ridge Mountains Region

Mountain City, TN



PRES : Drue Loiselle
VICE : Bob Bean
SEC : Joe Bath
TRES : Steven Owens
Sgt At Arms : Doug Wisnioski

We have had a busy and productive start to our summer,

Doug Wisnioski, our SAA for Chapter 111 hosted our July meeting at his beautiful cabin estate. He cooked a delicious pulled pork lunch with all the traditional sides. He could not have done this without the assistance of his wife, Corinne. Doug had set up an archery, axe throwing, pistol, and rifle range for chapter members to compete against each other for prizes. Members got three tries at each station with the highest total being the victor.



Chapter family enjoying Doug's and Corrine's delicious lunch



Chapter members group photo

Our president, Drue Loisell took first place winning a bottle of Blantons. Second and third were decided by a coin toss with Steve Owens beating Joe Bath for third. A great time was had by all who attended. Thanks again Doug and Corrine.



Bob Bean, Kevin Harry, Doug Wisnoski, Joe Bath, Drue Loisell, Brian Penrod pallbearers for Louis Loisell

We are really starting to work hard on organizing our third annual Gala, this year on 11 October at the Carnegie Hall in Johnson City, TN. This is open to any active SFA member and their guests. A flyer will be posted soon on the SFA website for the details or contact any chapter officer for information. Dinner, music, guest speaker, and silent action will be order of the day. Adult beverages are rumored to be available for purchased also.

It is with a great deal of sorrow that we announce one of our Chapter's great associates passing. Louis Loisell, father of our president passed suddenly on 21 June. Louis was a Navy Vietnam veteran and a fantastic person to talk and have a beverage with. He was laid to rest at Mountain Home VA cemetery, Johnson City, TN. Chapter members were given the honor to provide the pallbearers. Fair Winds and Following Seas Louis.



Joe Bath competing in the shooting Competition



REGION VII

Tex-Mex Region

(TEXAS, NEW MEXICO, OKLAHOMA)



CHAPTERS: IX (9), XV (15), **XXXI (31)**, XXXII-L (32-50), XXXIX (39), XLI (41), LVI (56), LXXVII (77), LXXX (80), **XCIII (93)**, XCV (95)

*Chapters in red did not submit input for this quarter

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CHAPTER IX

The Isaac Camacho Chapter



PRES : Steve Franzoni
VICE : Sean Bratton
SEC : Bill Snider
TRES : Brian Kanof
CHAPLAIN : Jesus "Chuy" Zamora

El Paso, TX

www.sfchapterix.blogspot.com

Greetings from the men of Chapter 9.

The chapter is holding all meetings in the team house right behind VFW 812 in McKelligon Canyon. Meetings 1300 every third Saturday of the month, this September on the 13th due to Golf Tournament.



SORB Recruit Training



USASMA Awards

Sick Call: Chaplain Chuy Zamora had a stroke and had hip surgery. Wayne Johnson recovered from neck surgery. Rudy Reyes SFA 80, long-time friend of SFA 9 passed away: Some of our members attended the funeral. Rudy was Team Sergeant for President Steve in the early 80s on SFODA 221.

New Members/Guests: New Members Luis Barraza & Doug D'Jang; Guests - Randy Thomas (12th/5th SFGA and Air Force). Tony Arias & Eric Norway gave a 30-minute presentation about SF Major Chester Garrett who was murdered at Fort Bliss in 1977. Highly decorated SF MAJ Garrett got a Mess Hall at McGregor Range named after him and received DMOR Honors. Books were given out at the meeting explaining the tragedy.

J/ROTC SFA Award for Excellence Presentations: Tom Melgares, Jerry Campos, Brian Kanof, Ike Camacho, David Frankel, Pete Peral, Sean Bratton and Steve Franzoni presented the awards in the region this year. We made 21 presentations this year.

USASMA Awards: Our past Secretary, Randy Austin, (next to Randy on his left is SMA Weimer) gave out awards from Chapter 9 to three students who received physical fitness awards for achieving scores of 600 or higher. Additionally, an award was presented for excellence in the contemporary operating environment (computer literacy). A total of 618 students graduated.

SORB Potential Recruit Training: The FT Bliss SORB invited our membership to assist in mentoring recruits. Steve Franzoni, Pete Peral, Brian Kanof and Joe Lebron spoke to the recruits about SF as a career during this multi day event.

Benavidez-Patterson All Airborne Chapter of 82nd held their 40th Anniversary on Saturday 9 August: Many of our Members have also served with the BP Chapter. This Legacy Event highlighted their many successful Airborne Members, lots of which were SF.

18th Annual Jerry Rainey Scholarship - followed the August 16th Meeting: Greg Brown Chair. There were 3 x 1500 Scholarships presented. The guest speaker was CSM (R) Gerardo Gonzalez (Retired in 2024 as FT Bliss Garrison CSM), Director of for White Sands National Park & Chamizal Park. Jerry Rainey was an SF Medic in Vietnam who served as SFA 9 President for several years.

19th Annual CSM (R) John Mclaughlin Golf Tournament - 20 September 25: We are selling Sponsorships and signing-up Teams. This recurring tournament is in remembrance of Past Chapter President John Mclaughlin.

29th Annual Ralph Dominguez/Jerry Montoya Food Drive - 17 December pack date: We donate up to 80 food boxes for needy families each year. Ralph and Jerry began the food drive and after Ralph passed away in 2008, we named it after the founders.

Christmas Party - date 20th of December: Omar Gaytan is the Chair & VFW is reserved again.



12th SFGA Reunion



Scholarship Presentations

<p>PRES : Jeffrey D. Dahlby VICE : Thomas L. Tannahill SEC : Lionel Solis TRES : Merrill G. Hall SGT at ARMS : Raul I. De La Garza</p>	 	<p>CHAPTER XV The Alamo Chapter</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>www.sfa-xv.org</p>		<p>San Antonio, TX</p>	

Greetings from SFA Alamo Chapter XV,

As we close on the 250th anniversary of our great nation, be thankful for the country you live in and to have served our nation so honorably as a Green Beret whose traditions are rich in history and accomplishments.

Our June and July meetings were marked by commemorations of the Army Birthday, Flag Day, Independence Day and former Chapter President Ron Burkett's birthday. Of note, Special Forces celebrated its 73rd Birthday on 18 June 2025, the formation of the predecessor to modern U.S. Army Special Forces, the First Special Service Force established at Fort William Henry Harrison, Montana on 5 July 1942 and the disbanding of OSS Detachment 101 in July, which organized thousands of native troops to fight the Japanese in Burma. Detachment 101's unconventional warfare tactics influenced the formation of U.S. Army Special Forces in 1952.

The Chapter awarded two \$3,500 scholarships to Seth London and Mia Vasquez, thanks to Chapter fundraising and a yearly generous donation by nonprofit San Antonio Youth Foundation CEO and Chapter member MG(R) Alfred Valenzuela.

Former Chapter President and nonprofit Flat, Dumb and Happy CEO Bill Smith hosted a celebration of Texas Special Forces Day at LongTab Brewing Co on 28 June. Many Chapter and family members were present to commemorate this auspicious day. Bill recognized his service with U.S. Army Special Forces and San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) and SAPD military veterans present.

Chapter XV (15) Continued...



L-R Eddie Paniagua, Mario Guerra, Pat Moffert, Dave Marshall, Tim Powell, Jeff Dahlby, Sergio Venegas, Pat Connolly (behind Bill) and Bill Smith



Scholarship recipient Mia Vasquez (center) with mother Jackie Vasquez and Grandfather Arnulfo Vasquez

Our 2nd Annual SFA Chapter XV Golf tournament fundraiser will be held on Sep 15, 2025, from 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM at the Olympia Hills Golf & Conference Center, Universal City, TX and we would be honored to have you join us for this exciting event! A no host mixer will be held at LongTab Brewing Co on Sep 14, 2025, from 2:00 - 7:00 PM. Please come out and support the event as golfers, sponsors, or helping run the tournament. <https://events.golfstatus.com/event/2nd-annual-special-forces-association-alamo-chapter-xv-golf-tournament/packages?view=sponsor>



Scholarship recipient Seth London (center) with Rhonda & Dave Marshall and Ruth Carreon



Sherry Lynn Neuiszer, May 18, 1954 - June 1, 2025, may she rest in eternal peace among the others who have served our great nation

Chapter XV continues to suffer from health issues of members and family due to aging, the physical demands of our military profession and the exposure they endured while serving our country. Please keep all of them in your prayers.

32-50

CHAPTER XXXII-L
The Indian Nations Chapter

Oklahoma City, OK

www.sfachapter32-50.org



PRES : Russ Higbie
VICE : Charlie Watts
SEC : Pat Carr
TRES : Jerry Cooper

At Chapter 32-50 July Meeting, past Presidents of the Chapter were presented with a plaque commemorating their service to the Chapter. This included Jim Selders, Jack Farr, Ray Williams accompanied by his Commander in Chief, Wife Shirley Williams, and Roger "Rock" Taylor. The presentations were done by current President, Russ Higbie. A fifth plaque was mailed to Marcus Whitt.

Roger Taylor's son, Chaplain (MAJ, Ret) Andy Taylor, a certified Baptist preacher, gave a talk on faith and how he became chaplain. Andy served in the 12th SFGA as a 05B Commo and 11B weapons with a combat tour in Iraq.



Jim Selders and Russ Higbie



Jack Farr and Russ Higbie

His military experience led him to dedicate his life to God, and after getting out of the Army, he attended seminary. Andy returned to the service as a chaplain. He completed Ranger School as a 36 year old chaplain. He served several overseas deployments including a combat tour with the 82nd ABN. Andy relayed a story how his father, Roger "Rock" Taylor, at the time assigned to a Special Forces Group, attended Andy's graduation from jump school. Roger got permission to jump with Andy, and they both led sticks out opposite jump doors.



Ray Williams, Shirley Williams and Russ Higbie



Roger Taylor and Russ Higbie

<p>PRES : Tommy Austin VICE : Dean McBride SEC : Daniel Denham TRES : Daniel Denham</p>		<p>CHAPTER XXXIX The MSG Roy Benavidez Chapter</p>	<p>39</p>
<p>www.sfchapter32-50.org</p>		<p>Houston, TX</p>	



L to R: Aryeh Ohayon, Israel Hilyer, Doc Heintzleman, SF captain, Coy "Pee Wee" Reese, Jon McCay, son of captain, Eddie Eskola, sergeant Garcia, Tom Bridgewater, Denny Smith, and Dan Denham. Seated out of picture, Steve Sherman and Robert Vandergriff

Chapter XXXIX (39) Continued...

Chapter 39 has had a slow summer.

The Chapter was well represented at the annual Memorial Day observance at Houston National Cemetery on Monday 26 May 2025. Nine Chapter members "marched" in formation past the crowd and reviewing stand. Two members remained seated in the viewing area due to physical constraints. Also observing were three wives, a daughter, and two sons. We also invited an SF captain and sons, and Sergeant Garcia, an original Vietnam tunnel rat to join us.

Afterwards, eight members, family and friend met for brunch at Nate's Diner about a mile and a half north of the cemetery on Veterans Memorial Drive.



Gathering before the ceremony L to R: Doc Heintzleman, Pee Wee Reese, Dan Denham, Jon McCay, Robert "Van" Vandergrift, Izzy Hilyer, Denny Smith, and Eddie Eskola. Present but not shown: Tom Bridgwater, Steve Sherman

80

CHAPTER LXXX

The Chili Chapter



PRES : Robert Medina
 VICE : Benjamin Balderama
 SEC : Richard Lutz
 TRES : Daniel Ansbach

Las Cruces, NM

At our June monthly Chapter meeting, members reported on the successful completion of our 2025 JROTC Awards Program at 5 local area high Schools. Following, on the 4th of July, members joined local Las Cruces veterans at Veterans Memorial Park to raise a Garrison Flag to mark the occasion.

Again, on 27 July, Chapter 80 members returned to Veterans Memorial Park to commemorate the 72nd Korean War Veterans Armistice Day by raising a US Garrison Flag. Three Korean War veterans were present including Critt Coburn, a Chapter 80 member, photo attached.



June 2025 Chapter Meeting



Las Cruces and Chapter 80 Vets gather to raise Garrison Flag

Chapter 80 was a principal part of the group of veterans that designed, supervised the fabrication and installed the Korean War Memorial in Veterans Park. The reverse side of the Memorial contains the names and hometown of all New Mexicans who made the ultimate sacrifice during this war as well as a quote often used by Gen Patton: "Thank God that such men have lived".



Raising Garrison Flag



Chapter 80 KW Vet Critt Coburb and wife Vicky

Embedded in the base of the memorial are two challenge coins, one face up, and the other face down, honoring Medal of Honor Awardee Army Chaplain Emil J. Kapaun who sacrificed his life in service to his fellow KW POWs. Chaplain Kapaun was also a WWII vet having served in the China Burma India Theater. He is on a path to being declared a Saint by the Catholic Church which recently raised his status to "Venerable".

DOL

<p>PRES : David Heard VICE : Terry Hall SEC : David Heard TRES : Terry Hall</p>		<p>CHAPTER XCV The Llano Estacado Chapter</p>	<p>95</p>
<p>Amarillo, TX</p>			

Greetings from Amarillo, Texas, also known as Bomb City!

We started the year out with the normal chapter meeting. Everyone seemed to have survived the Christmas holidays.

Chapter XCV (95) Continued...

We had our annual 12th SFG(A) reunion at Ruidoso, NM, in late April. This was after the fires & floods of last year. However, the flooding continued after we left. Fortunately, our safe house motel survived all. The range was open & all had a really good time. The food was great, as always!



We had to cancel our annual Fire Fight because of rain.

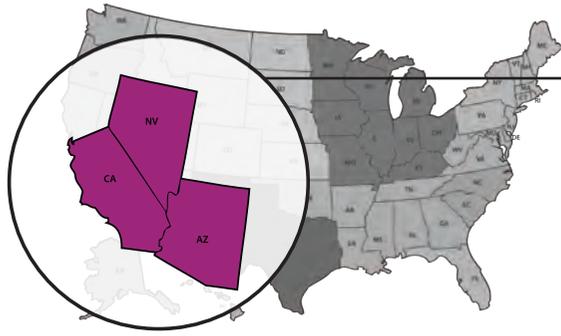
In mid May, the mobile traveling VN war memorial made a stop in Amarillo; Terry Hall & myself were able to attend. I must say that it was very humbling experience. One of our Honor Members, Cindy, lost her first husband, Charles Newton, on a SF led LLRP recon mission in VN & was MIA until the early 2000's. I was able to find his name on the wall.



Of course, the heat has been pretty oppressive again, but we're dealing with it.

Hope all are holding the line with all that is going on-we've been through worse! Stay frosty & check 6. Take care & keep in touch.

Chapter 95



REGION VIII

Southwest Region

(SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, NEVADA, ARIZONA)



CHAPTERS: *XII (12)*, *XIV (14)*, *XXII (22)*, *LI (51)*, *LXXV (75)*, *LXXVIII (78)*, *CIII (103)*

**Chapters in red did not submit input for this quarter*

PRES : Howard "Skip" Anders
VICE : VACANT
SEC : Michael Babb
TRES : Dan DuRocher (Acting)
QUARTERMASTER : Charlie Sands



CHAPTER XXII

The Sgt. Walter B. Foote Memorial Chapter

22

www.sfa22arizona.org

Greater Arizona



Bruce Foote's Sister at Gravesite

Memorial Day weekend, several members traveled to Safford Arizona for our annual Memorial Day ceremony at the gravesite of our Chapter Namesake, SGT Walter Bruce Foote, the first Green Beret from Arizona KIA in Vietnam. The local American Legion Post provided support for the ceremony with their Honor Guard.

In July, a few members traveled to Alpine Arizona for our annual Summer Getaway. The weather was great and the area is beautiful. Unfortunately, the ongoing extreme drought conditions and Stage 2 Fire Restrictions meant we could not have any shooting activities. A few attendees did take advantage of the weather and area to get in some hiking, as well as trying out a couple local restaurants.

We still have a few big events to finish up the year. First is our Fall meeting September 13th at the Scottsdale VFW. One of the agenda items will be a call for nominations for Chapter Officer positions. Hopefully we can get a few members to step up and volunteer to serve.

Next is our Veterans Day Picnic November 8th, 1-5 PM at the Wren Ramada, Red Mountain Park in Mesa. Chapter will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, chips and beverages, and Ladies Auxiliary will coordinate side dishes and desserts. If members haven't been to a Chapter activity in a while, this is a great opportunity to meet fellow members and swap stories.



Doing a terrain exercise



Chapter President Skip Anders giving remarks at Foote Memorial

Chapter XXII (22) Continued...



Enjoying the food at the Bear Wallow

And finally, we have our Christmas Dinner/Party December 6th. Always the highlight of the year! Great food – buffet dinner with short ribs and chicken, LOTS of raffles (to include a handgun, 1911 .45), and great camaraderie.

Anyone looking for more information on our Chapter, activities, and schedule, is welcome to visit our website at www.sfa22arizona.org.

51

CHAPTER LI

The Colonel Sully de Fontaine Chapter

Las Vegas, NV

<https://www.sfa51vegas.com>



PRES : Hal Wheeler
 VICE : Tom Sholtis
 SEC : Richard Doeseckle
 TRES : Steve Warner



Chapter Breakfast

Chapter 51 holds a weekly breakfast every Wednesday morning at the 50s Diner and Omelet House in Las Vegas. Recently, the son and daughter in law of COL Dubovick were in town and treated the Chapter members to breakfast. We also had a former Coast Guard/Retired Federal LEO join us.

COL Dubovick 's SF Career was highlighted in the 2nd QTR 2024 Drop. We often get visiting SFA Members from other Chapters, so if you are ever visiting the Las Vegas area, please join us.

Its a little early (0700) but always a great time. This years SOG/SFA Convention will be held in Las Vegas this year at the Orleans.

So, if you can make it to our breakfast, we're sure you will enjoy the company!



Funeral for COL Dubovick



Funeral for Robert Clark

PRES : Marty Keef
VICE : Lee Jacobs
SEC : Charlie Inot
TRES : Mike Cates



CHAPTER LXXV
The COL Roger H.C. Donlon MOH Chapter

75

San Diego, CA

Greetings from sunny San Diego, to all our brothers and sisters in the SFA. The chapter held it's annual post 4th of July party on July 13th. It was a well attended affair by members, family and friends.

Kudos to Dr. Gary Clark, formerly a 5th SFG(A) Vietnam medic, who participated this year in the Tough Ruck charity event in Concord, MA, raising \$5,000 in donations which placed him in the top 1% of individual contributors. The following day he ran the 26.2 Boston Marathon.



Norma Donlon is the recipient of the "Medal of Honor and Certificate" awarded by the D.A.R.



L to R: Pat Trussel, Robert Donlon, Chris Heiser

This past March, Mitch Utterback traveled to Norway and linked up with S.O.E. Expeditions to honor the historic WWII mission - Operation Rype, the only combat mission conducted by the O.S.S and Norwegian Resistance fighters during the war. Their target was the Nordland Railway system. The expedition retraced the mission route.

Sadly, we lost two valued members SGM Raul Garcia, age 90, to Complications of dementia and cancer and SGT Randy Miller, age 81. Raul served for 9 years in the USMC commencing in 1953. He served with the 3rd and 1st Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company (ANGLICO). He joined the US Army Special Forces Reserve in 1964, where he served for 30 years. Raul was a draftsman in civilian life. Randy enlisted in the US Army in 1964 and served one tour with the 8th SFG(A) at Fort Gillick, Panama as an 18E. A Mechanical Engineer by trade, Randy worked for the Naval Electronics Laboratory Center in San Diego, where he retired as head of their Prototype Engineering Division . They will be missed.



L to R: Father Mike Ortiz and Jim Rymut



L to R: Dave Malone, Dave DeSoucy, Raphael Liberatore

Chapter 75 will be well represented at the 2025 SFACON in Las Vegas. Look forward to the festivities, seeing friends and making new friends.

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CHAPTER LXXVIII

The LTC Frank J. Dallas Chapter



PRES : Aaron Brandenburg
 VICE : James McLanahan
 SEC : Gary Macnamara
 TRES : Richard Simonian

Southern California

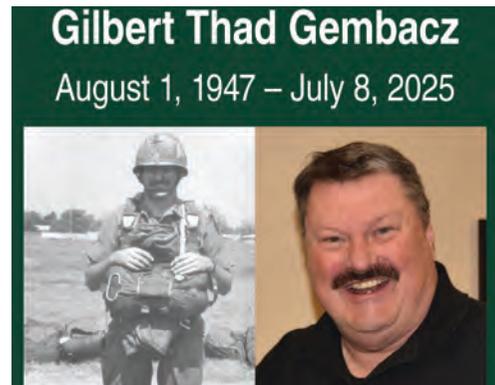
www.specialforces78.com

May was a planning meeting where we discussed topics centered around growing the chapter, finding new ways to obtain funding, how to make the meetings more interesting, and more. One immediate result was having the meeting at Iron Mikes Guns in July.

At the June meeting, Aaron "Maximum" Maben, former teammate of VP James McLanahan, gave a two-part presentation. In the first part, he shared his personal story of a period in which he battled with symptoms including constant fatigue, emotional withdrawal, irritability, and brain fog. He recounted how reading the first line of Chris Frueh, PhD's book Operator Syndrome sparked an "awakening," leading him to realize he wasn't alone and to seek treatment. His journey led him to the Honor Foundation, and Aaron shared lessons he learned there about the process of telling one's story with intention—a process that supports healing and leaves a legacy. The second part of his talk, "KISS: Keep It Simple Security," walked the group through practical ways to protect personal identity online. His clear, hands on approach — including live checks during the slideshow and suggestions for available tools— showed how simple security can be. Chapter members are still talking about it!



Aaron "Maximum" Maben, former teammate of VP James McLanahan, receives Ch78 Challenge coin from James. And Aaron, our July speaker with his wife



We lost a long time and valuable chapter member, "Thad" Gembacz in July



Some of the chapter members who attended in July and Shot at Iron Mile's Guns

Bad news came on July 8th when long time chapter member Thad Gembacz passed away. He was always a positive influence and very helpful. You can see more in the August Sentinel.

Our July meeting was held at Iron Mike's Guns in Yorba Linda. Michael Healey III, Grandson of "Iron" Mike Healey, 20-month Commander of 5th SFG (A) in Vietnam, among other things, invited us to shoot after our meeting at his high tech gun range and all level training venue that showcases Iron Mike and is undoubtedly heavily influenced by his son, Green Beret Mike Healey Junior.



From Left: Mike Healey III, Front of Iron Mike's Guns, Iron Mike Healey, former CDR of 5th SFG (A) in Vietnam as part of his five RVN tours, Reception area and available gun display at Iron Mikes

Mike (III) proudly calls his place a Home Defense Store, because it has the training and materials that are needed by families or individuals that have virtually no familiarity with weapons to become confident and capable. Coupling that with the amazingly wide range of top notch guns and rifles he has available, there is something here for practically anyone.

PRES : Brady Hines
 VICE : Ken Snyder
 SEC : Mike Black
 TRES : Steve Estep



CHAPTER CIII
 The Battle Born Chapter

103

Reno, NV



Chapter meeting Aug. 9th branding iron cafe

Greetings from Northern Nevada and the Biggest Little City in the World.

Memorial Day, May 26-2025 at the Northern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Fernley Nevada. Six members of Chapter 103 gathered at the "All Airborne" memorial to celebrate Memorial Day with the Nevada Department of Veteran Services and the Nevada Veterans Coalition, they were Don Meredith, Ray Gonzales, Brad Hines, Gary Utterback, Steve Estep and Ken Snyder, we also met Wes Fowler's son Chris.

After the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag, there was a short welcome speech from Nevada Governor Joe Lombardo, the National anthem was played. The Keynote Address speaker was Executive Director of the local VA in Reno NV, Thomas Talamonte. His message was to remember what Memorial Day is all about, that is remembering those who died for their country. He also picked up the microphone from the pulpit and walked out with it to the grass and read the names on the head stones, some not all, to drive the point home. our group then moved up to the Columbarium where we placed coins with our members who were there and fondly remembered Rudy Calderon, Joe Mc Clusky and Rich Iori.

June 14th 2025 the United States Army celebrated its 250th Birthday A few of our members gathered at the VFW hall or "the Bunker" in Reno NV. Not having enough members for a quorum, we decided to raise a glass and toast the U.S. Army a very happy birthday, and raised a glass. And happy 249th birthday to the U.S.A. on July 4th !

Wed. July 9th A board of Directors meeting at the Blue Coyote bar and grill in Truckee, CA. A locals place in a tourist town. We started with a discussion on Article X, section I of the Association Constitution. Anyone can attend the BOD meeting, But only the Officers can participate.



Memorial Day , L to R Don Meredith, Ray Gonzales, Brad Hines, Gary Utterback, Steve Estep and Ken Snyder



BOD meeting Brady Hines, Wes Fowler, Steve, Johnson, Brian Beetham

Among the subjects discussed was maybe changing our meetings to an odd month, at least for our winter party it would be easier to find a venue in November rather than December.

We also discussed electing officers for the next two years, all positions must be filled by someone, and using the VFW "bunker" for meetings or gatherings, or as a backup plan to the Bonanza Casino.

Sat. August 9th ,2025 At a meeting at the Bonanza Casino we discussed having or Christmas party in or around a hotel for the ones who want or need to stay the night. We decided to make it on the 1st or 2nd week in November, and we may have a raffle. Our chapter has money if we chose to take on some project or take over the "All Airborne" memorial ourselves. In attendance were, Gloria Calderone ,Steve Johnson, Brian Beetham, Ken Snyder, Brad Smalley, Brad Hines, Don Meredith, Wes Fowler, Steve Estep, Gary Utterback, Ray Gonzales.



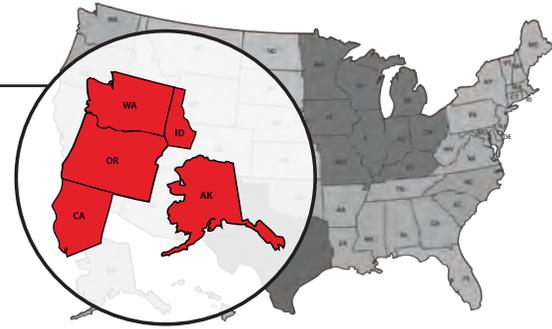
REGION IX

Northwest Region

(WASHINGTON, OREGON, NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, NORTHERN IDAHO)

CHAPTERS: XVI (16), XXIII (23), XXV (25), XLIII (43), XLVII (47), LXXXIX (89)

*Chapters in red did not submit input for this quarter



43

CHAPTER XLIII

The SGM Bradley Conner Chapter

Coeur d'Alene, ID

<https://www.sfa43.org/>



PRES : Stephen Durfee
VICE : Patrick Kensey
SEC : David Erickson
TRES : Mike Backhaus



North Idaho Stand Down Marc & Patrick



John Goldsmith (Gold Star father) High Speed

Chapter XLIII: Community engagements and commemorative events.

North Idaho Veterans Stand Down: On May 17th, Chapter XLIII actively participated in the North Idaho Veterans Stand Down, an event dedicated to providing essential services to veterans and their families. This Stand Down facilitated access to crucial resources including VA medical assistance, counseling, and legal aid. The event demonstrated a strong community commitment to supporting those who served, with 580 veterans attending and 107 service providers present. Chapter members Marc Norman and Patrick Kensey volunteered their time and expertise, contributing to the success of this important initiative.



Coeur d'Alene parade - Military Hero of the year - Stephen Durfee



Post Falls parade - Honoring Fallen, Brenda, Bruce, Lori & Alan

A Gold Star Father's High-Speed Experience: John Goldsmith, our Chapter Gold Star father, recently enjoyed a thrilling high-speed experience at Qlispe' Raceway Park in Airway Heights, WA. He was treated to a ride in a 2019 Porsche 911, reaching speeds of 150 MPH, courtesy of Adam Harris. Mr. Harris, a firearm enthusiast and owner of Gun Fighters, Inc., has demonstrated his generosity through donations to the annual DASCs fundraiser. Additional information about Gun Fighters, Inc. can be found at <https://gunfightersinc.com>.

Prominent Presence of the 4th of July Parades: Chapter XLIII maintained a strong presence in North Idaho's 4th of July parades, showcasing its commitment to community and service. In the Coeur d'Alene parade, Chapter President Stephen Durfee was honored as the *Military Hero of the Year*, a testament to his dedication and service. Chapter members David Erickson and Jason Legler proudly led the parade as part of the Honor Guard, displaying flags in proper, professional formation.

The Post Falls parade featured a poignant tribute to Fallen Heroes. Banners provided by the *Washington State Fallen Heroes Project*, featuring names, ranks, and photographs of local fallen heroes, were carried by Chapter members Brenda Day, Bruce Lombard, Lori Goldsmith, and Alan White, specifically in memory of Fallen Green Berets.

Upcoming event: The 3rd Annual Dustin Ard Commemorative Steel Competition is scheduled for August 24, 2025. This event honors SFC Dustin Ard and serves as a vital fundraiser for the Ard family and North Idaho Veterans. Registration and donation opportunities are available at www.sfa43.org It will be a banner event with 88 participants registered to compete. Only 12 spots left.

PRES : Stephen J. Walker
 VICE : Danny Dietz
 SEC : Mike Ward
 TRES : Weldon T. Burton
 SGT at ARMS : Geno Williams



CHAPTER XLVII
 The Lewis and Clark/Norman A. Doney Chapter

47

Oregon & SW Washington



Charley Klein - First Solo Flight

May 17, 2025 - Chapter 47 approved \$3,500.00 in scholarships. Scholarship recipients include Marguerite and Charley Klein, daughters of Chapter 47 member Andrew Klein. Marguerite completed the last class of her paramedic program and has been hired as a Firefighter - EMT with the Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue. She also serves as an Army Blackhawk Crew Chief with 1-189 Aviation Medevac BN with the Oregon Army National Guard.

Charley Klein is earning an Associate's degree in Aviation Science from Central Oregon Community College to pursue a dream of becoming a commercial airline pilot. She is using the Post 911 GI Bill transferred from her father to help pay for the program. She earned her private pilot license in March of 2025.

Chapter XLVII (47) Continued...



(L to R) Andrew Klein, Marguerite Klein, Jeanne Klein



Marguerite Klein in flight kit

The third scholarship recipient is Andrew Herrick, grandson of Chapter 47 member Geno Williams. Andrew is studying in the Fire Science Program at Bakersfield College in California.

May 29, 2025 - Dennis Klein with assistance from Bill Crist, USAR Ambassador, presented the SFA Achievement Award to Cadet Jackson Callahan and the MG Frederick Award on behalf of SFA Chapter 28 to Cadet Evan Holland at the University of Oregon ROTC Awards Ceremony.



(L to R) Jackson Callahan, Evan Holland, Dennis Klein, Bill Crist

89

CHAPTER LXXXIX

The SFC Allen C. Johnson Memorial Chapter



PRES : Kevin Knapp
 VICE : Kevin Knapp
 SEC : Kevin Knapp
 TRES : Kevin Knapp

Northern California

Photo 1: Members of SFA Chapter 89 actively participated in multiple Memorial Day events within their AO.

On the left: Chapter Members visited the gravesites of SGT Max Heping in Corning, CA and our Chapter Namesake SFC Allen C. Johnson in Los Molinos, CA.

Center left: A Flag and SFA Chapter Wreath was placed by known gravesites of those who served in Special Forces, here, MAJ (Ret) John Cleckner.



Photo 1

Center right: Kevin Knapp, Scott Masterson, and our Master Piper Bob Skinner at the Northern California Veterans Cemetery in Igo. Right: Kevin Knapp and Scott Masterson with members of the Jefferson Pipe Band place the SFA Wreath at the Living Sculpture Memorial in Weed, CA.



Photo 2



Photo 3

Photo 2: SFA Ch 89 Members Sid Crane and Kevin Knapp place the Chapter 89 SFA Wreath at the Moving Wall as it came through Chico, CA honoring all who made the ultimate sacrifice during the Viet Nam War.

Photo 3: Celebrating the Army's 250th Birthday SFA Ch 89 President Kevin Knapp, dressed as a Virginia Colonial Soldier, was the keynote speaker for residents of the California Veterans Home in Redding and presented an Army Birthday message at the Redding Elks Club.



Photo 4

On June 14, 1775 the Second Continental Congress called for a standing Army asking George Washington to be it's first Commander. Since that time, American's have answered the call. This We'll Defend!

Photo 4: While on the coast the weekend of July 18th - 20th- 3.5 hours west of our home, but still within Special Forces Association Chapter 89's sixty thousand + square mile boundaries - Judy and I stopped by and shared lunch with Mike Lee, formerly of 7th Group and the 96th CA Bn. Now retired for the 3rd time Mike is living the life!



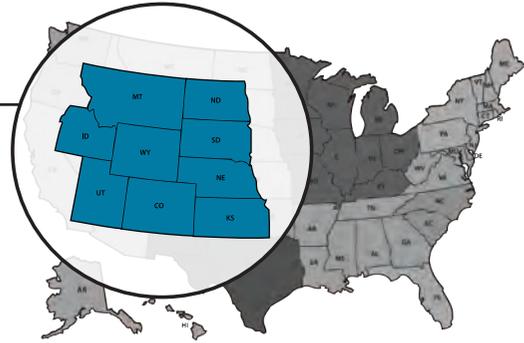
REGION X

Mountain Region

(MONTANA, SOUTHERN IDAHO, WYOMING, UTAH, KANSAS, COLORADO)

CHAPTERS: IV-XXIV (4-24), **XXVIII (28)**, XXIX (29), LXIX (69), LXX (70), LXXI (71)

**Chapters in red did not submit input for this quarter*



4-24

CHAPTER IV-XXIV

Charles Hosking/Al Fontes Rocky Mountain Chapter

Colorado Springs, CO

<http://sfa4-24.org>



PRES : Don Bennett and Howie Massingill

VICE : Tom Wisdom

SEC : Frank Swanson

TRES : Patrick Flynn



Back Row - MG(R) Roberson & Howie Massingill Front Row Randy and Jordyn Blackburn & Kiernan and Larry Born



30th Anniversary of Solider Stone - 4th of July 2025 - Sargents Mesa

As the warm days of summer yield to the crispness of fall and the anticipation of winter, the Rocky Mountain Chapter finds itself reflecting on another season filled with camaraderie, service, and remembrance. We started off in May supporting 5thBN/19thSFG(A) with their Organization/Family Day, leading the way for the Pikes Peak Region Veterans Organizations on Memorial Day.

Following into June with 10th SFG(A) Organization/Family week, July started off with the Fourth of July chapter members celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Soldiers Stone and concluding in with our Annual Picnic at the Lost Dutchman in Florissant.



Chapter 4-24's Plaque Commemorating the 30th Anniversary

The chapter's summer began in earnest with support for the 5/19th SFG(A) during their Organization/Family Day. Members traveled to Watkins, not only to celebrate but to stand in solidarity during a departure ceremony for one of the unit's ODAs. In a dramatic turn, attendees witnessed two tornadoes touching down on the plains of eastern Colorado.

Memorial Day had the Chapter hosting twenty different Pikes Peak Veterans organizations laying wreathes throughout Memorial Park.

June had the chapter members busy again. Kicking off with the 10th SFG(A)'s annual Alumni Night on the 12th of June. This is the night the active-duty soldiers of 10th SFG(A) get to mingle with all the Grey Beards from 10th SFG(A).

We got a tour of the Group Compound and swapped a few stories with the youngsters. As always it was a great evening, since Alumni Night brings out old friends.



Chapter's Annual Picnic - Lost Dutchman, Florissant

This was followed with the next day family day picnic was the very next day with a huge turnout. Our success was a result of good planning and preparation, but it was our volunteers on the day of the picnic who pulled it all together.

We served over 850 hamburgers and 715 hot dogs, not to mention over 500 ice cream sandwiches. Along with celebrating with the Group, the Chapter had five recipients of the CSM Frank Socha Educational Grant. In partnership with the Special Forces Trust (SFT), a total of \$10,000 in grants was awarded, with MG(R) Roberson from the SFT presenting two of the awards.

July's activities were anchored by the 30th Anniversary of the Soldier Stone—a unique memorial located on Sargents Mesa near Saguache, Colorado. Built in 1995 by members of the Colorado Special Forces, 10th SFG(A), and 5/19th SFG(A), Soldier Stone honors all who served in Southeast Asian wars. Designed as a tribute meant only for a select few, the memorial has remained a well-kept secret for nearly two decades, nestled in isolation yet resonant with meaning.

The month concluded with the annual chapter picnic at the Lost Dutchman in Florissant, bringing members together in a spirit of fellowship and gratitude.

Here's to many more seasons of adventure, remembrance, and camaraderie in the Rockies.

PRES : Terry Buckler
VICE : Mike Neer
SEC : Andy Lohman
TRES : Roy Williams
VICE PRES OPERATIONS : Frank Goss



www.sfa29.org

CHAPTER XXIX

The COL Arthur D. "Bull" Simon Memorial Chapter

29

Shawnee, KS



LTC Mark Nutsch, the SOF Ball's guest speaker, provided his view on the past, present, and future contributions SOF makes towards our national security

The highlight of the spring was the annual SOF Ball organized by the Chapter together with the Special Operations Forces Directorate at Fort Leavenworth.

The event was well attended by both the stalwart chapter members as well as SOF faculty and students from the Command and General Staff College.

The invited speaker of the event was Chapter 29's own LTC Mark Nutsch, who described the long and distinguished history of Chapter 29 and its members' contributions from World War II to the present day. While highlighting the past, his really inspirational message was to the SOF CGSC students and JROTC members in attendance, commending them for their service and dedication to the country, and calling on them to continue the proud legacy and tradition of the SOF warriors, and their families, who preceded them.

Chapter XXIX (29) Continued...



Chapter President Terry Buckler presents a gift to Mark Nutsch for his inspiring comments. The gift was donated by Mrs Norma Donlon



Chapter President Terry Buckler speaks to the new SOF students at CGSC at the Fort Leavenworth Hunt Lodge, welcoming their families and highlighting upcoming chapter events for the year

The Leavenworth JROTC Color Guard, as always, performed exceptionally well in posting and retiring the Colors. Following his remarks, Chapter President Terry Buckler presented Mark with a small token of appreciation, donated by Mrs. Norma Donlon, for his continued service and inspiring words. We wish the graduated SOF students well in their follow on assignments.

The Chapter also supported the Icebreaker Welcome Picnic for the new SOF students who arrived at CGSC this summer.

Terry welcomed the students and their families on behalf of the chapter, noted several upcoming chapter events to which the students are always welcome, and presented a copy of his book, *Who Will Go?* to the youngest SOF Soldier in attendance. Terry's book, as a reminder, is about the planning and conduct of the Son Tay raid, of which he was the youngest member.

The chapter, as always, has a busy schedule of events in the weeks and months to come.

In late September the chapter will host its annual Oktoberfest at its informal team house, The Suburban restaurant, will resume its monthly meetings at Ross Whorley's to plan its participation in the Leavenworth Veterans Day parade, and its support for Wreaths Across America in December.

69

CHAPTER LXIX

The Bernie Fisher Chapter

Boise, ID



PRES : Frank Metayer
 VICE : Devin Hagar
 TRES : Anne Reeve



Dave Cotter engaging targets at the 1st 3-gun shoot

Greetings from the Gem State.

The chapter hosts several shooting events throughout the year. All shoots take place at our private range on the property of a member and former president of our chapter.

The chapter has a new, official mailing address:
 SFA Chapter 69,
 1213 N Jacob Alcott Way
 #169
 Nampa, ID 83687



Sam Linville targeting silhouettes at the 1st 3-gun shoot



Frank Metayer beginning the course of fire during the 2nd 3-gun shoot

The first shooting event was a Long Range Shoot on 31 May in Council, Idaho on the property of Jim Tsarnas. Targets ranged from 290 to 740 yards. There were 10 shooters, 2 safety officers and several spectators. All had a good time and are looking forward to making this an annual event.

The first 3-gun shoot on 14 June had 25 shooters. Phil Lewis took 1st place, Jason Thach took 2nd place, and Devin Hagar took 3rd place.

The second 3-gun shoot occurred on 12 July with 14 shooters. Phil Lewis took 1st place, Jason Thach took 2nd place, and Darren Havens took 3rd place.

The final 3-gun shoot happened on 9 August with 17 shooters. Jason Thach took 1st place, Phil Lewis took 2nd place, and Darren Havens took 3rd place. All competitors got to shoot one round from a .50 cal BMG rifle at a target at 100 yards. Chapter president Frank Metayer provided the rifle and ammunition.

Upcoming events are the 7th Annual Aaron Butler Memorial Purple Heart Run on 16 August taking place in Eagle, Idaho and the chapter family picnic combined with the Vietnam Shoot on 6 September.

If your travels bring you to the Treasure Valley (Boise, Nampa, Caldwell) of southern Idaho, call or message one of the chapter officers. Better yet, the chapter meets the first Tuesday of each month at 1830 hours at Fiesta Guadalajara Mexican Restaurant in Nampa.



Phil Lewis firing the .50 cal rifle at the last 3-gun shoot

70

CHAPTER LXX

The CSM Don DeVere Memorial Chapter

Salt Lake City, UT



PRES : John Wester
VICE : Arlo Johnson
SEC : Mike Seamon
TRES : Brent Tomlin



Here at Chapter LXX, we have been holding our regular monthly meetings at the VFW in Layton, Utah and the Fort Douglas Military Museum.



Of special note, we held our annual chapter BBQ at the home of Col. (Ret) Frank Matheson in Oakley, Utah. This was the largest turnout to a BB! Since the pandemic. We had over 57 members and quests.

We will be holding our August meeting at the HQ of the 19th SFGA located at Camp Williams. We are looking forward to the rest of the year.

On a sad note, we lost two of our great members, CSM (RET) Gene Ottesen and SM (Ret) Lee Smith.

We hope that everyone in the SFA has had a wonderful summer break with families and friends.



REGION XI

Overseas Region

(OKINAWA, THAILAND, HAWAII, SOUTH KOREA, GUAM/
PHILIPPINES, AUSTRALIA, AFGHANISTAN, GERMANY, BELGIUM)



CHAPTERS: II (2), III (3), V (5), VIII (8), XIII (13), XLVI(46), LII (52), LXV (65), LXXXVI (86), XCI-CI (91-101)

**Chapters in red did not submit input for this quarter*

PRES : Chris North
VICE : Phil Crowley
Q: Kathleen Crowley
Ukraine Cell (FWD): Patrick Christian



CHAPTER XCI-CI

The Combat Chapters

91-101

Iraq & Afghanistan



Cal Wimbish



SFA 101 established AUG 2012

In the Spring DROP we highlighted three nominees. MG (Ret) Bill Moore is now an SFA Honorary member; and remains nominated as HMOR (annual board to be held in the Fall). At SFACON 2025 we will award the St. Philip Neri Gold Award to chapter member (and SFA-91 past president) MSG (Ret) Phil Hudicourt; and the Silver Award to the family of SGM (Ret, deceased) Ron Brockelman.



Jim Walker



Tora Bora Café: Smith & Davis

Chapter XCI-CI (91-101) Continued...

This quarter is SFA-101's 13th anniversary--we remember the plankholders. (L-R): Kneeling Row: Chris North, COL Cal Wimbish (President), SSG Tim Rogers; Row 2: MAJ Nate Grotzke, COL Bill Aquino, LTC Marc Roche, Gary Laing; Row 3: Tom Tutt, Jim McDougal (Treasurer), Doug Sims, Tommy Smith (VP), SFC (name withheld) Slovakia 5th Special Forces Regt; Back Row: COL Pete Connelly (Hon VP), Dave Hansen, Dean Taylor (Sgt-at-Arms), Ken York, Waddy Davis (Secretary). Missing the photo are Jim Walker & Mark Lumpkin.

Cal Wimbish was the driving force getting the chapter established and was elected the first president. Cal was a member of SFA 91 (Iraq) in 2006 and 2010-11 when he was the CENTCOM USFI J35 Director, Intel Threat Finance Cell, in Baghdad. 2011-2012 he shifted to CENTCOM USFI J35 Director Intel Threat Finance Cell, in Kabul; and 2013-2015 was a DynCorp Contractor for Afghan HUMINT Training. Today, Cal works for the VA in Orlando, FL.

Dirt Smith was the second 101 president, 2013-2014. Background: 10 SFG, USASWC Demolitions Instructor, SFOD, UAE Special Operations Command CTR, Baghdad Triple Canopy Embassy security, SFA-91 VP, Kabul Triple Canopy TFBSO, Baghdad Strategic Social Embassy Fuel. Now retired, he's making up for lost family time in NY.

Waddy Davis was the first secretary. Spent 2 1/2 years as a Senior Advisor at the Afghan Ministry of Defense. We farewelled him at the Tora Bora Cafe, 10 Oct 12: (L-R): Chuck Rawlings, Waddy Davis, Jim McDougal, (Back): Doug Sims, Chris North, Ken York, Dean Taylor, Pres Dirt Smith. Waddy currently pursues politics.

Jim Walker spent a year in Iraq, eight years in Afghanistan, and retired in 2013 as the Linc Country Manager. Jim's oldest son is now an O-5, and his youngest was a squad leader during Blackhawk Down. After years of care giving, Jim lost his beloved wife and is transitioning to what is next.

Henry Wooster is the new Charge d'Affaires at U.S. Embassy Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

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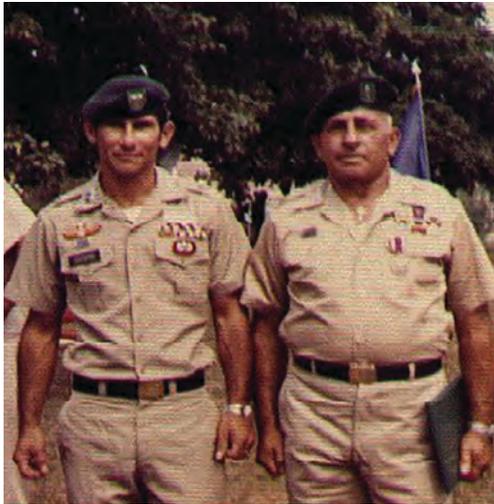
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TWO GENERATIONS OF SPECIAL FORCES SOLDIERS A LEGACY OF SERVICE



Pictured James Castagno (L) with his Father Amadeo Castagno.

Not often in our history do a father and Son serve in the US Army Special Forces at the same time. Both were stationed in Vietnam in 1968 and later served together with the 10th SFG at Ft. Devens.

Amadeo Castagno, Born 19 Dec 1918, Belmont MA. Entered military service in May 1940, retired at Ft. Devens, 10th Special Forces Group on 1 Sept, 1971 as a CWO4.

Upon completion of Jump school, in 1942 he was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment.

He remained with the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment through its regimental training and its assignment to the 82nd Airborne Division in Sep, 1942.

He sailed to North Africa in May 1943 with B Company, 1st Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment and remained with them throughout World War II. He participated in the airborne invasion of Sicily, jumping into Sicily on 10 July, 1943, the airborne invasion of Italy, jumping into Italy just south of Salerno on 13 Sept, 1943, and the airborne invasion of Holland, near Nijmegen, on 17 Sept 1944. During the invasion of Italy much of the fighting took place a short distance from the town where his family was located. Because of his fluency in the dialect spoken by Italians in this area he was tasked with the responsibility of being the company translator, and seeking out the assistance of Italian partisans. He was able to provide the B Company and the 1st Battalion with

information from captured Italian soldiers and civilians during operations in Sicily and Italy.

He was wounded during the Battle of the Bulge, medevac'd to France, and later returned to duty with B Company. In May 1945 Germany surrendered and the 504 Parachute Infantry Regiment served as part of the occupation force in the American Sector of Berlin.

In 1947 – 1948 he served with E Company, 188 Parachute Infantry, 11th Airborne Division during their occupation of Japan. In late 1947 my mother and I were allowed to join my father in Japan. We lived in dependent housing at the 11th Airborne Division Camp Shimmelpfenning near the Northern Honshu city of Sendi. My mother and I returned to the United States, sailing out of Yokohama on 24 Aug 1948, and arriving in Seattle on 7 Sept 1948.

In 1951 he became a Warrant Officer JG, (WO1), Company Administrative Officer, in the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment.

In Korea he served with the 57th Field Artillery Battalion, 7th Infantry Division.

He was assigned to the newly formed 10th Special

Forces Group on 8 Sept, 1952, being the second Administrative Warrant Officer, (Personal Officer) assigned to Special Forces.

In March 1955 he was assigned to the 77th Special Forces Group.

In 1958 he was assigned to the 10th Special Forces Group in Bad Tolz, Germany. The family joined him and lived in off base quarters. A few of our neighbors were company grade officers named Faistenhammer, (Col Ludwig Faistenhammer), Grange, (LTG David E. Grange, Jr), Healey, (MG Mike Healey). At that time, the 10th Special Forces Group had an ice hockey team that played in the local German league. Then Captain Faistenhammer arranged for Captain Grange's son David L, (Later MG David L. Grange), and CWO Castagno's son James to play ice hockey for a local German school team.

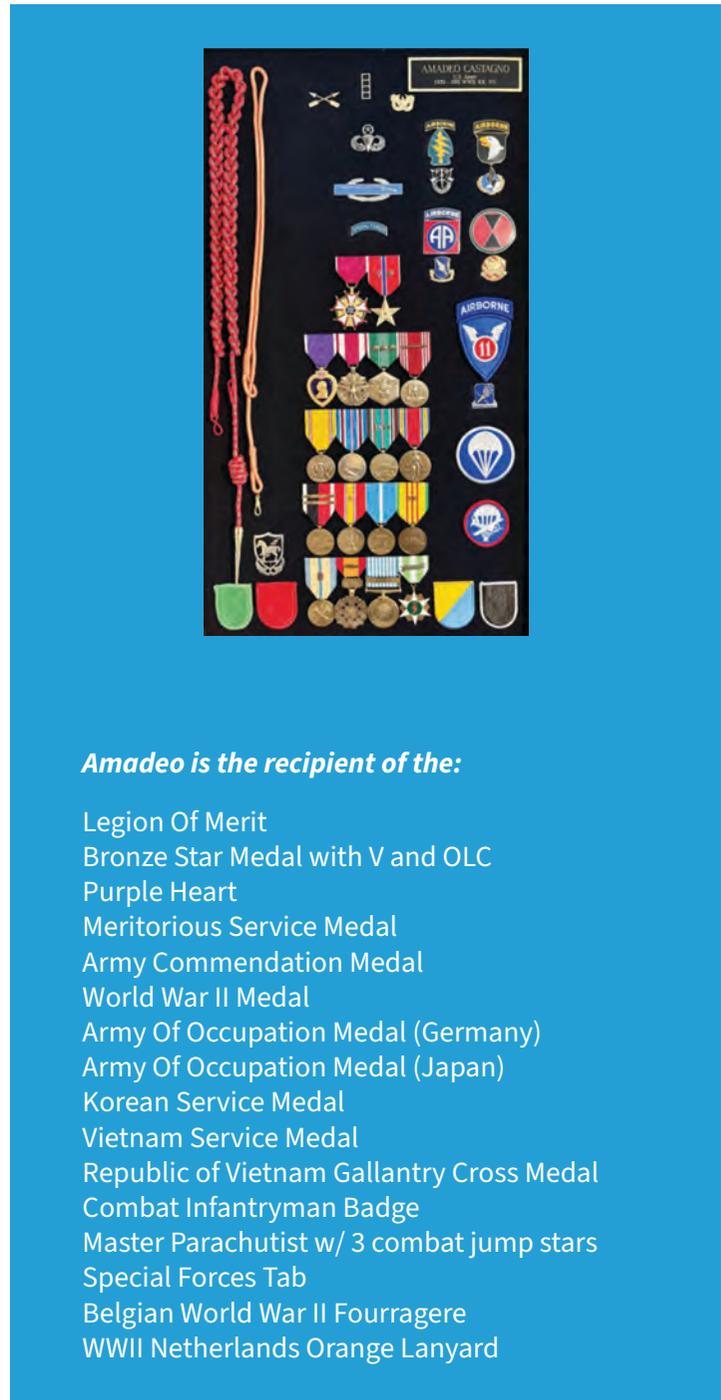
In 1961 he was assigned to the 5th Special Forces Group.

In 1963 he was assigned to the 8th Special Forces Group in Panama.

In 1968 he was assigned to the 10th Special Forces Group at Ft Devens, MA. With the exception of a year in Vietnam with the 101st ABN Div and the 1st Log Command he remained with the 10th Special Forces Group until his retirement 1 Sep 1971. During this time, he and I served together in the 10th Group on two occasions between 1968 and 1971.

Both Amadeo and James Vietnam at the same time. He arrived in the country approximately 6 months after I did. We met in Saigon for two days when I was rotating back to the 10th Special Forces Group at Ft Devens. He left Vietnam and was assigned as the Personnel Officer of the 10th Special Forces Group.

CWO4 Amadeo Castagno began his Special Forces career with the 10th Special Forces Group in 1952, and ended it with retirement while serving with the 10th Special Forces Group in 1971.



Amadeo is the recipient of the:

Legion Of Merit
 Bronze Star Medal with V and OLC
 Purple Heart
 Meritorious Service Medal
 Army Commendation Medal
 World War II Medal
 Army Of Occupation Medal (Germany)
 Army Of Occupation Medal (Japan)
 Korean Service Medal
 Vietnam Service Medal
 Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal
 Combat Infantryman Badge
 Master Parachutist w/ 3 combat jump stars
 Special Forces Tab
 Belgian World War II Fourragere
 WWII Netherlands Orange Lanyard

James A. Castagno. Apr 1946. He was sworn in to the US Army by his father Aug 1966, and left the service at Ft. Bragg, Camp MacKall in Sep 1975.

As the son of a member of the US Army, many years were spent traveling to different military bases. Surprisingly the first trip was in 1947, as a one-year-old, to Sendi, Japan where his father was serving with the 11th Airborne Division

as occupation forces. Most of the following years were spent around Special Forces beginning in 1952.

James entered the army as an infantryman, he attended Artillery OCS in Ft Sill, OK, graduating in Aug 1967. Upon graduation he attended Jump School at Ft. Benning GA. From Ft Benning he was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division, and deployed to Vietnam in November 1967.

After a short period with the 101st Airborne Division, he transferred to the Military Assistance Command and served as an advisor in the Mekong Delta to the Hoa Hao 834 Regional Forces Company in Sadec Province. For action during a reconnaissance-in-force operation at Duc Thinh, Vietnam, he was awarded the Bronze Star with V for heroism in Duc Thinh on 26 September 1968.

Upon returning from Vietnam, he was assigned to the 10th Special Forces Group at Ft. Devens, MA. He branch-transferred from artillery to Infantry, completed the Special Forces Officers Course in early 1969, and served as an A Detachment Commander. His Father, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Amadeo Castagno joined the 10th Special Forces Group as the Personnel Officer in mid-1969 and they served together until May 1970.

In May 1970 he attended Thai language school in Washington DC and was assigned to a MAAG Advisory Team with the mission of advising and assisting Thai Army operations in the Southern Provinces down to the Malaysian border.

Early 1971 he left Thailand, and returned to the 10th Special Forces Group to again serve with his father. During this assignment he completed HALO School, and commanded the Special Atomic Demolition Munition, SADM, Committee responsible for training and ensuring the proficiency of the 10th Special Forces Group SADM teams. The end of August 1971 his father retired.

In Aug 1972 James returned to Thailand for a tour with the 46th Special Forces Company, which had been redesignated United States Army Special Forces Thailand. He assumed the command of an A Detachment and the Counterinsurgency Training Camp at Nam Phung Dam in Sakon Nakhon Province, Northeast Thailand. The camp provided assistance to the Royal Thai Army Special Forces and a second A Detachment assisted the 4802nd Joint Liaison Detachments CIA-led Operation Momentum, which trained and equipped General Vang Pao's Hmong fighters who were conducting combat operations in Laos.

James's final assignment was at the Special Forces School in Camp Mckall, NC.

James left the service in 1975, finished his Bachelor of Science Degree and completed the Federal Criminal Investigators Course when hired by the United States Marshals Service in 1978. He served as a Deputy United States Marshal, and in 1983 was promoted to Inspector and assigned to the United States Marshals Service Witness Security Program. James remained an Inspector,

Witness Security Specialist, and a Witness Security Program Training Instructor until his retirement in 1999.

Since retiring, he has written six feature length screenplays. He authored eight books, converting the screenplays to novellas and writing two other novellas. Three of his screenplays won Best Feature Length Screenplay, Best Feature Length Fantasy Screenplay, Best Feature Length Screenplay Narrative, in national and international competition. He authored Dance Of The Red Panel, a historical fiction novella about his father's experiences with B Company, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division during the World War II airborne invasions of Sicily and Italy.

His novellas are available on Amazon.

He is a dual citizen of the United States and Italy. Much of his family is in Italy, and he has traveled extensively throughout the country. He resides in Florida with his wife, Paula, three papillons, and a Ragdoll cat named Teddy. 

His military decorations include the;

Bronze Star with V and OLC
 Meritorious Service Medal
 Army Commendation Medal
 Combat Infantryman Badge
 Special Forces Tab
 Senior Parachutist Badge
 Military Freefall Parachutist Badge
 Thai Army Parachute Wings
 Thai Army Border Patrol Police Parachute Wings



I served with then Captain Castagno as a Junior Medic on ODA-38 46th SFC at the Counterinsurgency Training Camp Nam Phung Dam in Northeast Thailand from August 1972 to March 1973.

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D-10868	Guenther	Christopher J.	7
D-10846	Guion	Jeffrey T.	66
D-10850	Knotts	David M.	92
D-10863	McDavid	Steven	7
D-10856	Miller	Brian	60
D-10845	Mogil	Arthur	66
D-10851	Nakazono	Garett H.	100
D-10857	Patterson	John B.	60
D-10854	Quesnel	Eric	60
D-10870	Register	Michael J.	59
D-10853	Santos	Christopher N.	38
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D-10852	Steuck	Kenneth W.	47
D-10864	Thompson	William S.	15
D-10855	Tilton, Ph.D.	Paul A.	11
D-10859	Wolfer	Matthew H.	25

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M-16187	Chlebina	Spencer J.	3
M-16211	Chipps	Wade	84
M-16204	D'Jang	Doug R.	9
M-16196	Ezell	Joseph C.	60
M-16201	Fielding	David	72
M-16207	Hallberg	Budd	

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M-16213	Irvine	Christian	38
M-16151	Jacobs	Nicolas	54
M-16200	Liu	Chengjie	
M-16185	MacCarelli	Joseph G.	11
M-16150	Manning Jr.	Walter S.	
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M-16189	Robinson	Christopher D.	63
M-16144	Schneider	Isaac	100
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M-16184	Solano	Raymond P.	118
M-16208	Stewart	Joel P.	43

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M-16210	Colon	Shane A.	85
D-3787	Crum	Eric S.	
D-10834	Cullinane	Michael P.	105
M-16183	Curran	James W.	
M-16194	Duwel	Mark B.	85
M-16193	Donoghue	Richard G.	88
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M-16199	Richards	Gregory	75
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