

THE **d**ROOP

SUMMER 2025



COLONEL PARIS DAVIS

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TO THE SPECIAL FORCES*



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SUMMER 2025

Special Forces Association

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UPDATES FROM HEADQUARTERS



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Chris Wilkerson

SFA Members,

We, the National Board of Officers (NBO), have had a busy spring. We've had representation at Chapter events in Colorado, Kentucky, New Hampshire, Florida, and Washington, D.C. We also attended an SFQC Graduation and had a presence during SOF Week. The summer will be just as busy leading up to SFACON 2025.

The constitutional amendment vote that began in March resulted in less than 1000 responses, requiring 10,000 ballots to be USPS mailed (as of the writing of this message, the results of the mailed ballots are not complete). We've gained a good understanding of an abundance of incorrect email addresses, limited Teamhouse usage, and with the USPS ballot expect a lot of return-to-sender responses. Bottom line - The historic lack of voter involvement in amendments and elections wastes money that could be better spent elsewhere. This is a major issue that needs to be addressed. Two possible remedies are being considered with a polling opportunity on the SFA website.

1. Last summer, we conducted a proxy vote on proposed amendments in which 47 Chapter Presidents submitted responses, later deemed unconstitutional. Using Chapter officers as the voice of their Chapter members has the potential to increase discussion about the decisions the NBO is considering, while reducing the required voting quorum to a set number of Chapters, differing from the membership as a whole quorum currently in place. This would apply to Constitutional amendments and other NBO decisions requiring membership input but will not apply to National Board elections.
2. Establish an "Inactive" category for assignment of members who have no contact with the National HQ or their assigned Chapter, have no participation in votes or Chapter events, or desire to be on a "do not contact" list.

Both of these possible solutions have pros and cons but both are intended to maximize participation while reducing expenses. I urge all members reading this message to visit the SFA Website, discuss the proposals and leave your poll feedback. This is a poll, not a vote so open back-and-forth conversation is encouraged.

Between travels, the NBO is working to update the outdated constitution, evolving it into the current time to address the current issues. The Membership and Finance Committees have identified gaps and potential ways to improve the SFA and its constitution.

I used the last 10-year Strategy written by Ronnie McCann in 2009 and updated it to apply to the next 10 years. The intent is to provide goals for the NBO and underlying committees to accomplish.

Vision for the SFA for 2025-2035

- Increase membership by 50 percent to nearly 20,000 members.
- Improve communications with the membership and Chapters to better disseminate information and coordinate SFA programs and affairs, through the website, emails and a quarterly Chapter President's response.
- Increase revenues in the Association to an amount over two million dollars a year by 2035.
- Increase revenues through a program of Corporate Sponsorship and fundraising activities to support our three main expenditures:
 - Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief (HA/DR) Fund
 - Patriot Fund
 - Scholarship Fund
- Increase annual scholarship awards fund to more than \$100,000
- Significantly increase the capabilities of the Patriot Fund to aid:
 - SF active duty and National Guard forces
 - Widows of KIA or unexpected loss of SFA members
- Prepare and provide HA/DR relief to SFA members and their communities
- Raise sufficient funds and build an SFA Banquet Hall on or near the SFA National Memorial Grounds capable of hosting events consisting of 500+ persons.
- Increase the ability of the National Board of Officers and staff to support our chapters in recruiting, fundraising, and support to our SF active duty and National Guard forces, retirees, and veterans.
- Increase Chapter involvement in recruitment, fund raising, SFA National objectives, and support to the SF active duty and National Guard Forces, retirees and veterans.
- Educate the public on the United States Army Special Forces' vital role in national security.

THE DIRECTOR'S CUT Mike Goodrich

Numbers:

As of 17 May, 2025, there are 11,113 members. The breakdown is: 4,809 (Decade), 4,966 (General), 1,388 (Associate), 34 (Honorary).

Constitution Change:

The window for voting on the proposed changes to the SFA Constitution is fast closing. Members have until 30 June 2025 to return their ballot to HQs. I strongly encourage every member to be involved and take the time to vote on these important changes.

continued on next page...

THE DIRECTOR'S CUT Continued

Final Formation:

In addition to the TAPs notification that I publish in The Drop, there is also a Final Formation listing that can be found on our website under the Documents tab. I encourage all our members to visit and utilize this valuable source of information.

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 members' 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 339 for a BBQ and social at the National Grounds. A good time was had by all that attended. A special shout out again to Mission BBQ for their excellent work in making the student picnics truly a gastronomic delight.

Steve Sherman (RADIX Press) and Vietnam Veterans for Factual History are pleased to offer the complete series, "Indochina in the Year of..." Series by VVFH



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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.

FILL THIS FORM OUT AND MAIL WITH PAYMENT TO:

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Fayetteville, NC 28309-1436

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Person placing the order:

Name: _____

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Contact #: _____

Address: _____

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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.*



CHARLES ANDERSEN, JR

D-4589



Charles Andersen, Jr., 90 of Orland Park, Illinois passed away on March 3rd, 2025. Charles enlisted in the U.S. Army and upon completion of Airborne training was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division. He was honorably discharged from active duty and joined the 12th SFG(A) in 1976. Charles was awarded his qualification as a Special Forces Engineer Sergeant in 1983. Charles was the president of Andersen Builders Inc. a company he started in 1963.

A visitation with the family was held at the Thompson & Kuenster Funeral Home in Oak Lawn, Illinois on March 9th, 2025. A private interment was held on March 10th, 2025.

FRED BALDERRAMA

M-8678



Fred Balderrama, 86 of La Coste, Texas passed away on May 8th, 2025. Among Fred's duty assignments in his 32-year military career were the 173rd RCT, the 7th SFG(A), the JFKENMA, and the JFK Institute for Military Assistance. He is survived by his sons (Fred, Steven) and daughters (Connie, Melissa, Esmeralda). A Mass of Christian Burial was held at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church in La Coste. Interment is at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Cemetery.



ROBERT BEASLEY

D-3586



Robert Beasley, 81 of Port St. Lucie, Florida passed away on April 16th, 2025.

Bob enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1960 and was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division. Returning from Vietnam, Bob was selected to attend Officer Candidate School. As a 2nd Lieutenant Bob volunteered for Special Forces duty, completed SFOC and was assigned to the 7th SFG(A) in 1976. In 1978 he was reassigned to HHC of the 5th SFG(A). Bob retired from active duty in 1981. Among his awards and decorations are The Bronze Star (w/V, 3 OLC), the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry (w/ Palm), the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Special

Forces TAB, the Scuba Badge, and the Senior Parachutist's Badge. In retirement, Bob continued to serve as a Junior ROTC instructor in North Carolina, Texas, and Florida.

A graveside service was held at the South Florida VA National Cemetery in Lake Worth, Florida on April 28th, 2025.

ROBERT BRAGG

D-5195



CSM(R) Robert Bragg, 88 of Milton, West Virginia passed away on April 8th, 2025.

Bob joined the 16th SFG(A) ARNG in 1962. He later transferred to the 19th SFG(A) in 1985.

Bob is survived by his wife (Kay) and daughter (Carmen). A funeral service was held at the Wallace Funeral Home in Milton, West Virginia on April 15th, 2025. Interment is at the Forest Memorial Park in Milton.



HORACE BROWN

D-2862



Horace Brown, 84 of Falkville, Alabama passed away on February 21st, 2025.

Horace enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1961 and volunteered for Special Forces duty and was assigned to the 7th SFG(A). He received his Special Forces qualification in 1964 just prior to deployment to Vietnam. In 1965, Horace was reassigned to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam (A-101). Returning stateside he was honorably discharged from active duty. Horace joined the 20th SFG(A) in 1971. He returned to active duty a year later and was assigned to the 5th SFG(A). After a tour at the Defense Language Institute, Horace was again assigned to the 7th SFG(A). Retiring from active duty, Horace worked as a defense contractor before retiring for good at the age of 70.

He is survived by his wife (Martha), son (Horace), and daughters (Terri, Rebecca). A graveside service was held at the Mt. Zion Cemetery in Cullman, Alabama on March 5th, 2025.



JOHN BRYAN

M-9475



John Bryan, 77 of New Braunfels, Texas passed away at his home on February 26th, 2025.

John volunteered for Special Forces duty and was assigned to the 7th SFG(A) in 1968. In 1971, he was reassigned to the 10th, SFG(A) at Ft. Devens, Massachusetts.

John was discharged from active duty in 1973.

He is survived by his wife (Latesa) and sons (Josh, Jarrod). A graveside service was held at the Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio, Texas on March 24th, 2025.



ERNEST BRYANT

D-1446



Ernest Bryant, 83 of Carthage, North Carolina passed away at the VA Community Living Center in Fayetteville, North Carolina on March 23rd, 2025.

Ernest volunteered for Special Forces duty upon completion of Airborne training in 1965. Graduating from Training Group in December of 1965, he was assigned to the 7th SFG(A) as a Communications Sergeant. In 1966, Ernest was reassigned to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam. Upon completion of his tour, Ernest again returned to the 7th SFG(A). In 1968, his next assignment took him to Thailand and the 46th SF Company. Ernest completed his military career with the 1st SFG(A) in Okinawa, Japan. Among his awards and decorations are the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal (1 OLC), the Presidential Unit Citation, the Meritorious Unit Commendation, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry (w/Palm), the Vietnam Campaign Medal (w/Device 60), the Philippine Unit Citation, and the Parachutist's Badge.

Ernest is survived by his sisters (Sally, Vivian). A funeral service was held at the Jernigan-Warren Funeral Home in Fayetteville, North Carolina on April 28th, 2025. Interment is at the Sandhills State Veterans Cemetery in Spring Lake, North Carolina.



RODNEY BURNS

M-1086



COL(R) Rodney Burns, 78 of Huntsville, Alabama passed away on March 14th, 2025.

Rodney served his country with distinction for 27 years. He completed SFOC in 1968 and was assigned to the 7th SFG(A). Rodney served subsequent assignments with the 5th SFG(A) (MACV-SOG), 10th SFG(A), and Det "A". Among his awards and decorations are The Silver Star, the Bronze Star, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry (w/Bronze Star), the Superior Unit Award, and the Parachutist's Badge. Upon retiring from active duty, Rodney worked as a Timber Coordinator for the Amish Lumber Company and a Project Manager for an oil company in Thailand. He was a valued member of SFA Chapter 21.

Rodney is survived by his wife (Karen), son (Clif), and daughters (Michaelle, Kira). A memorial service was held on March 31st, 2025. Interment is at the Chattanooga National Cemetery in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

GERALD CASEY JR.

D-7741



Gerald "Jerry" Casey Jr., 70 of Washington, New York passed away at the Northport, New York VA Hospital on April 10th, 2025.

Jerry volunteered for Special Forces duty in 1980 and, upon the successful completion of SFOC, was assigned to the 10th SFG(A). In 1983 he was reassigned to SOCCENT. Jerry would serve tours with SOCKOR and USASFO(A) before retiring from active duty.

Among his awards and decorations are the Bronze Star, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (1 OLC), the Army Commendation Medal (2 OLC), the Joint Service Achievement Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Special Forces TAB, and the Parachutist's Badge.

Jerry's remains were cremated and interred at the Clark Veterans Cemetery in the Philippines.



RANDOLFO CESANI

M-721



Randolfo "Randy" Cesani, 85 of Weatherford, Texas passed away on January 31st, 2025.

Randy enlisted in the U.S. Army and after completing Airborne training he was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division. In 1964, he was reassigned to the 173rd Airborne Battle Group in Vietnam. Returning stateside, Randy volunteered for Special Forces duty and was awarded his Special Forces qualification in 1967. He returned to Vietnam with the 5th SFG(A) and in 1968 he was reassigned to the 46th SF Company in Thailand.

In 1969 he returned to the 5th SFG(A) for his third combat tour in Vietnam. After another tour with the 46th SF Company, he returned stateside to the JFK Special Warfare Center. Randy's final assignment was with the 101st Airborne Division. Among his awards and decorations are the Bronze Star (w/V, 6 OLC), the Air Medal (w/V), the Purple Heart (1 OLC), the Meritorious Service Medal (2 OLC), the Army Commendation Medal, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Special Forces TAB, and the Master Parachutist's Badge.

Randy is survived by his daughter (Elle). A funeral service was held at Greenwood's Live Oak Chapel in Ft. Worth, Texas on February 24th, 2025. Interment is at the DFW National Cemetery.



WILLIAM CONWAY, JR.

M-11318



William Conway, Jr., 79 of Bridgeton, New Jersey passed away on April 5th, 2025.

Bill joined the 11th SFG(A) (USAR) in 1980 and, upon deactivation of the 11th in 1994, he transferred to the 20th SFG(A) where he served until 2000. In civilian life, Bill worked as a sales representative for Coca-Cola, Lance Snacks, and BCB Wholesale.

He is survived by his wife (Sue) and daughters (Kristie, Gail). A memorial service was held at the Freitag Funeral Home in Bridgeton on May 10th, 2025.

**RICHARD CUNNINGHAM**

M-13617



Richard (Dick) Cunningham, 82 of Jacksonville, Florida passed away at McGraw Hospice on January 15th, 2025.

Dick enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve upon graduation from high school. Finishing his enlistment, Dick reenlisted in the U.S. Army where he was assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division Pathfinder Company. Dick was inducted into the Pathfinder Hall of Fame for his team's night jump combat jump to establish LZ Moon during the 1st Cavalry's Airmobile operation in the Ia-Drang Valley. Returning stateside, Dick was honorably discharged from active duty and began a 40-year career as a Marine Insurance Underwriter. Dick joined the 11th SFG(A) in 1971 and served on SFODA-314. In 1980 he was severely injured in a night airborne operation that resulted in the amputation of his right leg above the knee. Dick was medically discharged in 1981. Among his awards and decorations are the Army Commendation Medal (1 OLC), the Air Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Parachutist's Badge.

He is survived by his son (Brian) and daughters (Cecilia, Shannon). A memorial service was held at the Quinn Shalz Funeral Home in Jacksonville on February 8th, 2025.

RICHARD DOBSON

M-6473



Richard Dobson, 90 of Dupont, Washington passed away on February 2nd, 2025.

Richard was assigned to the 5th SFG(A) in 1962 as a Medical Service Officer and in 1965 he was reassigned to the 8th SFG(A). In 1991 he was recalled to active duty in support of Operation Desert Shield/Storm. Among his awards and decorations are the Bronze Star, the Army Commendation Medal (2 OLC), the Meritorious Unit Citation, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry (w/Palm), the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the Combat Medical Badge, and the Master Parachutist's Badge.

Richard is survived by his son (Todd) and daughters (Sherri, Michele). A Celebration of Life was held on June 13th, 2025. Interment is at the Tahoma National Cemetery in Kent, Washington.

FAYETTE DOMM

D-6152



Fayette "Fay" Domm, 88 of Prattsburgh, New York passed away at the Elderwood Nursing Facility in North Hornell, New York on March 22nd, 2025

Fay enlisted in the U.S. Army upon graduation from high school in 1954. In 1963 he volunteered for Special Forces duty and was assigned to the 3rd SFG(A). Fay was reassigned to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam in 1965. He returned to the 3rd SFG(A) upon completion of his combat tour. Fay was reassigned to the 7th SFG(A) in 1973 and again in 1979. He was retired from active duty in 1983.

Among his awards and decorations are the Bronze Star (1 OLC), The Purple Heart, The Legion of Merit, the Air Medal, the Army Commendation Medal (1 OLC), the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry (w/Palm), the Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Master Parachutist's Badge.

Fay is survived by his wife (Laura) and daughters (Mona, Ginny, Lisa). A private service is planned for a later date.



RICHARD DUBOVICK

M-7180



Richard Dubovick, 91 of Las Vegas, Nevada passed away on April 13th, 2025.

Richard was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant upon graduation from the Pennsylvania Military Academy in 1954. In 1962 he was assigned to the Special Warfare School where he completed SFQC before being reassigned to the 5th SFG(A) in 1964. Returning stateside, Richard served as an ROTC Instructor at UCLA until his return to Vietnam as the Commander of A-502 in 1968. In 1969 he assumed command of the 4th Mobile Strike Force. Richard retired from active duty in 1976. He then began a new career as a Clark County Building Inspector.

A memorial service was held at the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Las Vegas, Nevada on April 13th, 2025. Interment is at the Boulder City Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Boulder City, Nevada.



WARREN EICHELBERGER, SR.

M-8145



CSM(R) Warren 'Ike' Eichelberger, Sr., 93 of Greencastle, Pennsylvania passed away on April 27th, 2025.

Ike enlisted in the U.S. Army at the age of 17 for Airborne Infantry. He ended his remarkable career almost 27 years later. Ike completed SFQC in 1963 and, although not much is known about his Special Forces time, the rest of his career reads like an adventure novel. He served overseas tours in Korea, the Dominican Republic, and Vietnam. Ike was retired from active duty in 1974.

Among his many awards and decorations are the Silver Star (1 OLC), the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star (3 OLC), the Meritorious Service Medal (1 OLC), the Army Commendation Medal (4 OLC), the Valorous Unit Award, the Presidential Unit Citation, the Air Medal, Combat Infantryman's Badge (w/Star), the Special Forces TAB, and the Master Parachutist's Badge.

Ike is survived by son (Warren), daughters (June, Judy, Janet), and fiancé (Carolyn). A funeral service was held at the Miller-Bowersox Funeral Home in Greencastle, Pennsylvania on May 16th, 2025. Interment to be at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.



KENNETH ELMER

M-10274



Kenneth Elmer, 79 of Boise, Idaho passed away on April 4th, 2025. Ken enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1966 and volunteered for Special Forces duty. In 1967 he was assigned to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam. Returning stateside, Ken was honorably discharged from active duty. Following his military service, Ken worked for Honeywell for 15 years before founding Elmer Family Enterprises. He was a valued member of SFA Chapter 69.

Ken is survived by his wife (Toni), son (Mike), and daughter (Kenna). A graveside service was held at the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery on May 1st, 2025.



EDWARD FLINT

D-1688



Edward Flint, 87 of Cary, North Carolina passed away at UNC Rex Hospital on March 13th, 2025.

Ed began a four- year enlistment in the U.S. Army in 1954 and, after a break in service, reenlisted in 1960. He volunteered for Special Forces duty in 1966 and was assigned to the 6th SFG(A). In 1968 Ed was reassigned to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam. Following completion of his combat tour, Ed was assigned to the 10th SFG(A). He served a tour as an advisor to the 19th SFG(A) before returning to the 10th SFG(A) in 1976.

One of his greatest accomplishments was leading a team of swimmers (SFOD-A 9) on a swim across the English Channel in 1977. Among his awards and decorations are the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal (1 OLC), the Army Commendation Medal, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry (w/Palm), the Vietnam Campaign Medal (4 Campaign Stars), the Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Master Parachutist's Badge. Ed was retired from active duty in 1981 and began a new career with the U.S. Postal Service where he retired again in 2000.

He is survived by his wife (Helene), son (Edward), and daughters (Joyce, Julie, Jeannette, Kathy). A graveside service was held at the Lumber Bridge Presbyterian Church Cemetery in Lumber Bridge, North Carolina on May 3rd, 2025 .



FRANCISCO FLORES

D-574



Francisco Flores, 90 of Las Vegas, Nevada passed away on February 28th, 2025.

Frank volunteered for Special Forces duty in 1962. He graduated from SFQC in 1963 and was assigned to the 7th SFG(A). During his over 26-year military career, Frank served with the 5th, 3rd, and 10th SFG(A), 46th SF Company, and JCRC.

Among his awards and decorations are the Bronze Star (1 OLC), the Army Commendation Medal (1 OLC), the Purple Heart, the Air Medal (2 OLC), the Presidential Unit Citation, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry (w/Palm), the Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Master Parachutist's Badge.

Frank is survived by his wife (Delores), four sons, and three daughters. Frank was interred at the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Boulder City, Nevada on May 5th, 2025.



JOHN GARNER

M-1579



John Garner, 73 of Chesnee, South Carolina passed away on February 21st, 2025. John volunteered for Special Forces duty, graduated SFQC in 1971 and was assigned to 1st Bn, 7th SFG(A). In 1973 he was reassigned to 3rd Bn, 7th SFG(A) in Panama. Returning stateside John served in both the 5th and 10th SFG(A). He retired from active duty in 1986.

After his time in the military, John found success in a range of professional endeavors which included woodworking and information technology. He retired for the final time from the Connecticut Department of Corrections Tactical Operations Unit in 2014.

John is survived by his wife (Karen), son (Jacob), and daughter (JoAnna) as well as step-children (Ken, Sarah). A memorial service was held at the American Legion Post 48 in Chesnee, South Carolina on March 1st, 2025.



DONALD GAUNTNER

D-5843

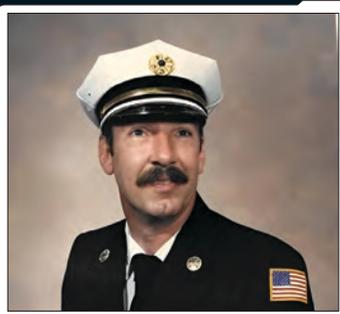


COL(R) Donald Gauntner, 89 of Seven Valleys, Pennsylvania passed away on March 25th, 2025.

Don was awarded his Special Forces qualification in 1964 and assigned to the 5th SFG(A). He deployed to Vietnam with the 5th SFG(A) in November of 1964 where he served as the Detachment Commander of SFODA-106. Among his awards and decorations are the Legion of Merit, the Purple Heart, the Meritorious Service Medal (2 OLC), the Air Medal (1 OLC), the Army Commendation Medal (1 OLC), the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry (w/Palm), the Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Master Parachutist's Badge. Retiring from active duty, Don worked for the AAI Corporation in Baltimore, Maryland and later served as president of its engineering support division. As a member of the

American Wine Society, he was the owner of the La Rue Vineyard in Seven Valleys, Pennsylvania and was recognized as the #1 Amateur Wine Maker in the United States for five years.

Don is survived by his wife (Sue), son (Don), and daughter (Danna). A funeral service was held at Kuhner Associates Funeral Directors, Inc. in York, Pennsylvania on April 12th, 2025.



CLIFFORD GIBBS

M-10042



Clifford "Cliff" Gibbs, 77 of Independence Township, New Jersey passed away on April 27th, 2025. Cliff volunteered for Special Forces duty in 1968 and was awarded his qualification as a Special Forces Communications Sergeant later that same year. He was first assigned to the 6th SFG(A) and in 1969 he was reassigned to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam (Tra Bong). Cliff was honorably discharged from active duty upon his return stateside.

Among his awards and decorations are the Bronze Star (w/V), the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, and the Parachutist's Badge. In civilian life, Cliff continued service to his community by helping establish a local rescue squad and serving as Chief of the volunteer fire department while working as a dispatcher for the Morris County Sheriff's Department.

He is survived by his wife (Ruth), and daughters (Heather, Sarah, Jolene). A funeral service was held at the Cochran Funeral Home in Hackettstown, New Jersey on May 1st, 2025. Interment is at the Tranquility Cemetery.



ROBERT GILSTRAP

D-5750



Robert Gilstrap, 94 of Fayetteville, North Carolina passed away on March 31st, 2025. Bob enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1948 and was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division. During the Korean War Bob was reassigned to the 187th RCT. In 1963, Bob volunteered for Special Forces duty and was assigned to the 7th SFG(A). In 1966 he was reassigned to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam where he served an extended tour before returning stateside in 1969 to retire from active duty. Among his awards and decorations are the Air Medal, the Korean Service Medal, the Occupation Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Combat Infantryman's Badge (2nd Award), and the Parachutist's Badge.

Bob is survived by his wife (Margie) and daughters (Theresa, Deborah). A memorial service was held at the Rogers and Breece Funeral Home in Fayetteville on April 11th, 2025. Interment is at the Sandhills State Veterans Cemetery in Spring Lake, North Carolina.



DANNY GOLDMAN

D-2615



Danny Goldman, 81 of San Antonio, Texas passed away on February 9th, 2025.

Danny's Special Forces career began with his assignment to the 400th SOD (Okinawa) in 1966 and he was awarded his "S" in 1968 while serving with the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam. Returning stateside in 1969, Danny was assigned to the 10th SFG(A).

In 1974 he was reassigned to the SF Detachment (Europe) and in 1976 he was reassigned to Det-A. Danny retired from active duty in 1992 after 31 years of service.

Among his awards and decorations are the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Special Forces TAB, and the Master Parachutist's Badge.

Danny is survived by his wife (Inge) and sons (Gene, Axel). A funeral service was held at the Chapel Hill Funeral Home in San Antonio, Texas on February 26th, 2025. Interment is at the Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery.



JOHN HANCOCK

M-11082



John Hancock, 76 of Jacksonville, Alabama passed away on March 15th, 2025.

John enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1968 and immediately volunteered for Special Forces duty. He graduated from SFQC in 1969 and was assigned to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam.

Returning stateside in he was reassigned to the USAJFKCENMA before being honorably discharged from active duty in 1971.

Among his awards and decorations are the Bronze Star, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Combat Infantryman's Badge and the Parachutist's Badge.

In 1973, John moved to Anniston, Alabama to work in the family business while nurturing his artistic talents. He became a skilled sculptor and some of his pieces are on permanent display at the Anniston Museum of Natural History.

A celebration of life was held at the Lagarde Family Farm in Piedmont, Alabama on June 14th, 2025.



CHARLES HARRELL

D-377



Charles Harrell, 86 of Fayetteville, North Carolina passed away on May 11th, 2025.

Charles began his military career the 120th Infantry Regiment (National Guard) in Wilmington, North Carolina. In 1956 he transitioned to active duty. Charles was assigned to the 77th SFG(A) in 1957.

He was reassigned to the 10th SFG(A) in 1958 and rotated between the 77th and 10th SFG(A) until 1962 when he was reassigned to the 5th SFG(A). After a 4-year tour at the JFKSWCS, Charles retired after 26 years of active duty.

Among his awards and decorations are the Bronze Star (w/V, 2 OLC), the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Master Parachutist's Badge. After retirement Charles began a new career with the Department of Defense. He retired for a second time in 1988.

Charles is survived by his wife (Sylvia) and daughter (Julia). A graveside service was held at the Williams Family Cemetery in Wilmington, North Carolina on May 22nd, 2025.



BRUCE HAYNES

D-2912



Bruce Haynes, 75 of Mechanicsville, Virginia passed away on February 16th, 2025. Bruce was awarded his Special Forces qualification in 1969 and assigned to the 3rd SFG(A). Later that year he was reassigned to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam. Returning stateside, Bruce was reassigned to the 10th SFG(A) at Ft. Devens, Massachusetts until his honorable discharge from active duty in 1970. After moving home to Virginia, Bruce joined the 11th SFG(A). Bruce earned degrees in history and public administration from Virginia Commonwealth University and worked for the State of Virginia until his retirement. A Celebration of Life was held at the Woody Funeral Home, Atlee Chapel in Mechanicsville, Virginia on February 22nd, 2025.



ROBERT HUCKABEE

D-2594



Robert Huckabee, 79 of Greenville, South Carolina passed away on March 25th, 2025. Bob was commissioned into the U.S. Army upon graduation from Furman University and was assigned to the 173rd Airborne Brigade in Vietnam. Returning stateside, Bob was assigned to the USAJFKIMA to attend the PSYOPS Course. He was discharged from active duty and in 1978, joined the 20th SFG(A).

Bob is survived by his sons (Gavin, Derek). Services are planned at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.



KENNETH HURST

M-8738



COL(R) Kenneth Hurst, 62 of Indianapolis, Indiana passed away on April 12th, 2025. Ken began his Special Forces career with the 5th SFG(A) as a Detachment Commander. In 1996 he was reassigned to the 1st SFG(A) as a Battalion Executive Officer. His final posting was with USSOCOM as Chief of Plans. Ken retired from active duty in 2011 after 26 years of service. Among his awards and decorations are the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Joint Service Achievement Medal, the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, the Special Forces TAB, the Ranger TAB, and the Master Parachutist's Badge. Ken is survived by his wife (Darla) and son (Jay). A funeral service was held at the Erlewein

Mortuary and Crematory in Greenfield, Indiana on May 10th, 2025. Interment is at the New Palestine Cemetery in New Palestine, Indiana.



ROBERT HYATT

M-2357



Robert Hyatt, 78 of Lenoir City, Tennessee passed away on May 8th, 2025. Bob volunteered for Special Forces duty and was assigned to the 6th SFG(A) in 1967. In 1969 he was reassigned to A Company, 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam. Returning stateside in 1970, Bob was discharged from active duty and settled in Knoxville, Tennessee where he started a career as a barber.

Bob is survived by his wife (Cathy), son (Matt), and daughters (Rachel, Mandy, Liz). A funeral service was held at the Farragut Church of Christ in Lenoir City on May 14th, 2025.



DAVID KNIGHT

M-9359



David Knight, 72 of Plainfield, Indiana passed away on March 14th, 2025. David earned his qualification as Special Forces Engineer Sergeant in 1980 and assigned to the 10th SFG(A). He was honorably discharged from active duty in 1983. After his military service, David became a master craftsman known for his skill as a carpenter.

David is survived by his son (Aaron) and daughters (Nicole, Lindsey, Lillian, Kaleigh). A celebration of life was held at the G.H. Herrmann Greenwood Funeral Home and Cremation Center in Plainfield, Indiana on March 23rd, 2025.



THOMAS LOUK

D-2596



Thomas Louk, 85 of Fayetteville, North Carolina passed away at the Valley Hospice House on April 27th, 2025. Tom enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1957 and in 1965, volunteered for Special Forces duty. After completing SFQC, he was assigned to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam. Tom served three tours of duty with the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam (MACV-SOG, CCC, FOB-1) and one tour each with the 3rd, 10th SFG(A), and USAJFKCENMA. He was honorably retired from active duty in 1977 after 20-years of service. In retirement, Tom continued his commitment to service as a personnel manager with the VA Hospital in Dallas, Texas.

He is survived by his wife (Helen) and daughter (Teri). A Celebration of Life was held at the Jernigan-Warren Funeral Home in Fayetteville, North Carolina on May 28th, 2025. Interment is at the Sandhills State Veterans Cemetery in Spring Lake, North Carolina.

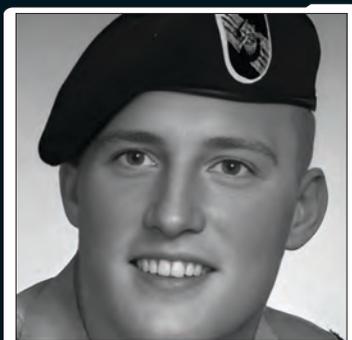
BERNARD MAGELKY

M-907



Bernard Magelky, 92 of Salida, California passed away on March 26th, 2025. Bernard enlisted as a private in the U.S. Army in 1952. Upon completion of his initial enlistment, Bernard completed his education and returned to the U.S. Army as a commissioned officer in 1960. He was awarded his Special Forces qualification in 1970 and assigned to JUSMAG, Thailand. Returning stateside, Bernard was assigned to the USAJFKCENMA and later to the Institute for Military Assistance. After his retirement from active duty, Bernard lived a quiet life buying and restoring houses.

He is survived by a half-brother and three step-children. No services are planned at this time.



JOSEPH MCLEAN

M-13183



Joseph McLean, 80 of Lewiston, Maine passed away on March 26th, 2025. Joe enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1965, volunteered for Special Forces duty and was assigned to the 7th SFG(A) in 1966. In 1967 he was reassigned to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam. Joe returned stateside to the 10th SFG(A) in 1969 before volunteering to return to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam. Joe was honorably discharged from active duty in 1975.

Among his awards and decorations are the Bronze Star (w/V, 2 OLC), the Presidential Unit Citation,
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JOSEPH MCLEAN

CONTINUED



the Meritorious Unit Citation, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry (w/Palm), the Vietnam Campaign Medal (w/60 device), the Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Parachutist's Badge.

He is survived by his son (Joseph) and daughter (Kathrine). A memorial service was held at the Fortin & Group in Lewiston on April 2nd, 2025. Joe's ashes are committed to the Maine Veterans Cemetery in Augusta, Maine.



MICHAEL MOCCALDI

D-8822

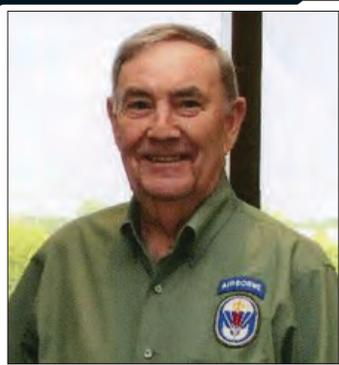


Michael Moccaldi, 53 of Fountain, Colorado passed away on January 2nd, 2025.

He enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1992 and transitioned to the U.S. Army in 1999. Mike volunteered for Special Forces duty in 2002 and, upon graduation from SFQC, was assigned to the 10th SFG(A) as an Engineer Sergeant (18C).

Among his many awards and decorations are the Bronze Star (w/V), the Bronze Star (5 OLC), the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal, the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, the Valorous Unit Award, the Meritorious Unit Commendation, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Special Forces TAB, the Military Freefall Badge, and the Master Parachutist's Badge. He was a valued member of SFA Chapter 52.

Mike is survived by his sons (Nick, McKenna) and daughter (Isabella). A Celebration of Life was held in Mike's honor on April 12th, 2025.



RONALD MONGOLE

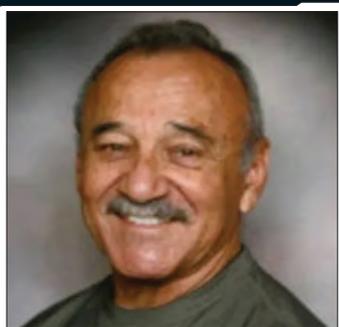
D-7088



Ronald Mongole, 84 of Homestead, Florida passed away on February 28th, 2025.

In 1964, at the age of 25, Ron joined the 11th SFG(A) where he served with distinction. Ron also served as the SOCSOUTH Honorary Civilian Commander at Homestead Reserve Air Base. In this capacity, he played a crucial role in fostering community relations and advising the SOCSOUTH Commander on community affairs in Homestead, Florida. In civilian life, Ron was the owner of Complete Energy Solutions.

He is survived by his son Darryl. A celebration of life will be announced by the family at a later date.



RAMON MONTIJO

D-9594



Ramon "Mojo" Montijo, 83 of Las Cruces, New Mexico passed away on March 7th, 2025.

Ramon enlisted in the U.S. Army immediately upon graduation from high school in 1960. After completion of Airborne training, he was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division. Ramon would later deploy to Vietnam with the Division. Returning stateside, he was discharged from active duty to pursue his passion of becoming a police officer. Still feeling the need to serve his country, Ramon joined the 12th SFG(A) and later the 19th SFG(A).

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RAMON MONTIJO

CONTINUED



Ramon served as a police officer for over 40 years before retiring only to return as the Chief of Police for three separate departments. Ramon is survived by his wife (Anitta), sons (Mark, Michael, Andrew), and daughters (Cynthia, Kymberly). A celebration of life was held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Las Cruces, New Mexico on June 21st, 2025.



PETER G. MORLEY

D-749



Peter "Jerry" Morley, 86 of Eatontown, New Jersey passed away on March 14th, 2025. Jerry enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1956. He volunteered for Special Forces duty in 1959 and was assigned to the 77th SFG(A). During his nearly 13-year Special Forces career Jerry also served with the 1st, 3rd, 5th, and 8th SFG(A) in addition to a tour with the Special Forces Training Group. Jerry retired from active duty in 1977. Among his awards and decorations are the Bronze Star (w/V, 2 OLC), the Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Combat Medical Badge, and the Parachutist's Badge. He is survived by his wife (Pamela), sons (Michael, Eric, Peter), and daughter (Renee). A funeral service was held at the Fiore-Buckely Funeral Home in Oakhurst, New

Jersey on March 22nd, 2025 with interment at the Woodbine Cemetery in Oceanport, New Jersey.



ALFRED PADDOCK, JR.

M-6633



Dr. Alfred Paddock, Jr., 88 of Huntsville, Alabama passed away on March 20th, 2025. Al enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1957 and was selected to attend Officer Candidate School. Upon completion of Airborne training, Al volunteered for Special Forces duty and was assigned to the 77th SFG(A). In 1961, he was reassigned to the 1st SFG(A) in Okinawa, Japan from where he saw duty in Laos (White Star) and Vietnam. He returned to Vietnam in 1967 as the Detachment Commander of B-50 (Project Omega). In addition to three combat tours, Dr. Paddock's distinguished career included command of the 6th PSYOPS Battalion, the 4th Psychological Operations Group, tours as an instructor at the U.S. Army Command and Staff College and the Army War College as well as serving on Secretary of State's Policy

Planning Staff and ultimately the Director of Psychological Operations in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. Among his many awards and decorations are the Bronze Star (w/V, 1 OLC), the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (5 OLC), the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Air Medal (3 OLC), the Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Parachutist's Badge. Al retired from active duty in 1988 to become the Director of the Atlanta, Georgia office of Litigation Sciences. He is survived by his wife (Theresa), son (Alfred), and daughters (Alicia, Terri). A memorial service was held at the Laughlin Funeral Home in Huntsville, Alabama on March 29th, 2025



DANIEL PIERELLI

M-9570



Daniel Pierelli, 78 of Southbury, Connecticut passed away on February 15th, 2025 after a long illness.

Dan enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1967 and volunteered for Special Forces duty. He graduated from Training Group in 1968 and was assigned to the 6th SFG(A). In 1969 he was reassigned to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam. Returning stateside in 1970, Dan was assigned to the 10th SFG(A) at Ft. Devens, Massachusetts until his discharge from active duty later that year.

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DANIEL PIERELLI

CONTINUED



Among his awards and decorations are the Bronze Star (w/V), the Army Commendation Medal (w/V), the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Parachutist's Badge.

He is survived by his sons (Carlo, Anthony). No services are planned at this time.



JIMMY RAY

M-3993



Jimmy Ray, 75 of Wake Forest, North Carolina passed away on May 17th, 2025. Jimmy enlisted in the U.S. Army shortly after graduation from high school. He volunteered for Special Forces duty and was awarded his qualification as an Engineer Sergeant in 1972. He was briefly assigned to the 6th SFG(A) before being reassigned to the 8th SFG(A) in Panama. After his discharge from active duty, Jimmy began a career in restaurant management which led him to open his own businesses in the Wake Forest area. Jimmy was a dedicated civic leader who was a founding member of the Kiwanis Club of Wake Forest and served as the Mayor of Wake Forest for four years.

He is survived by his wife (Alice), sons (Kevin, Tripp), and daughter (Sherry). A memorial service was held at the Bright Funeral Home in Wake Forest, North Carolina on May 21st, 2025.



RODOLFO REYES

D-3146



Rodolfo "Rudy" Reyes, 88 of Las Cruces, New Mexico passed away on March 16th, 2025.

Rudy joined the 9th SFG(A) (USAR) in 1961 and transferred to the 12th SFG(A) after the deactivation of the 9th. In civilian life, Rudy worked as a Shipping Department Manager for Sara Lee Hosiery.

Rudy is survived by his wife (Mary), sons (Rudy, Michael), and daughters (Christina, Cecilia, Julie, Carol). A funeral mass was held at The Basilica of San Albino on March 27th, 2025. Interment is at St. Joseph's Cemetery in Las Cruces, New Mexico.



JAMES ROBERTS

M-4716



James D. Roberts, 78 of Crossville, Tennessee passed away on March 27th, 2025. JD served two combat tours in Vietnam with the 5th SFG(A). He was selected to attend OTC Class 2 of the newly formed 1st SFOD-D where he participated in the American hostage rescue mission in Iran. In 1985, JD was reassigned to the 7th SFG(A) first at Ft. Bragg and later in Panama. Retiring from active duty in 1985, JD began a new career with the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Brunswick, Georgia. Among his many awards and decorations are the Bronze Star (w/V, 3 OLC), the Navy Commendation Medal (w/V), the Army Commendation Medal (w/V), the Purple Heart (1 OLC), the Meritorious Service Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, the Presidential Unit Citation (2nd Award), the Vietnam Service Medal (w/1 service star, 1 bronze service star), the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Ranger TAB, and the Master Parachutist's Badge.

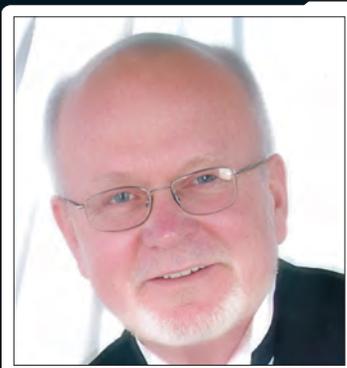
In keeping with his wishes, no service was conducted.

ERNEST RUSSI

D-4503



Ernest Russi, 88 of Alexandria, Louisiana passed away on April 17th, 2025. Ernie was a Communications Sergeant with Detachment A-109 during the 60-day siege of Thuong Duc in May 1970 where he was awarded two Bronze Stars (w/V) and two Purple Hearts. Ernie left no surviving family. No funeral arrangement information available.

**TOMMIE SCOTT**

M-1271



Tommie Scott, 76 of Ruskin, Florida passed away at his home on March 29th, 2025. Tom completed SFOC in 1970 and was assigned to the 8th SFG(A) in Panama. He completed his tour in 1972 and became a member of the United States Army Parachute Team. In 1980, he was reassigned to the Special Forces Detachment Korea (Det-K). Retiring from active duty, Tom served as the Vice-Principal and Principal of Shields Middle School in Ruskin and Principal of Marion Rogers Middle Magnet School in Riverview, Florida. He is survived by his wife (Sheila), son (David), step-sons (Ernesto, Eric), and step-daughter (Chrissy). A funeral service was held at Southern Funeral Care in Riverview on April 8th, 2025. Interment is at the Sarasota National Cemetery.

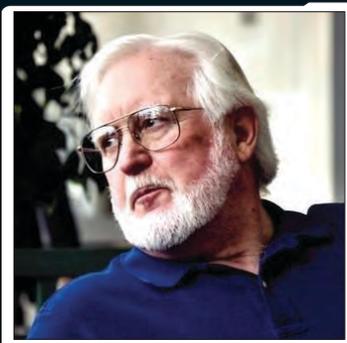
CLYDE SINCERE, JR. DMOR

D-549



Clyde Sincere, Jr., 92 of Green Valley, Arizona passed away on March 27th, 2025. Clyde enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1950 at the age of 17. Clyde volunteered for a new unit that was being formed in 1952 and thus became an original member of the 10th SFG(A). During his almost 15-year Special Forces career, Clyde served as enlisted and commissioned officer in the 10th, 77th, 1st, 5th SFG(A) as well as Detachment A Berlin. Clyde retired from active duty in 1971 after a truly remarkable career. He is the recipient of many awards and decorations but none are more illustrative of his courage and professionalism than the Distinguished Service Cross and the two Purple Hearts for extraordinary heroism for military operations in Vietnam in 1966. After retiring from active duty, Clyde found work with the Vinnell Corporation in Saudi Arabia, California, and northern Virginia. In 1996, Clyde retired once again. Wanting to maintain the bonds that were forged in combat, in 1977 he became a plank holder of the newly organized Special Operations Association where he served for 37 consecutive years in leadership, advocacy, and outreach positions. Clyde was a life member of the Special Forces Association as well as the SOA where he was named SOA President Emeritus. In 2018, Clyde was inducted as a Distinguished Member of the Special Forces Regiment, a truly fitting honor for a man of his stature.

Clyde is survived by his wife (Mary) and sons (Jim, John, Andre). A Celebration of Life was held at Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church in Green Valley, Arizona on April 28th, 2025. Interment will be at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

**HAROLD SKAMSER**

M-10863



Harold 'Pete' Skamser, 88 of Boise, Idaho passed away on February 4th, 2025.

Pete enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1959. He volunteered for Special Forces duty in 1962 and was assigned to the 5th SFG(A). In 1963 he was reassigned to the 3rd SFG(A) at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. Pete joined the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam in 1964. He served a tour with the 46th SF Company in Thailand before his reassignment to the 5th SFG(A) in 1969. Pete was discharged from active duty in 1974.

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HAROLD SKAMSER

CONTINUED



Among his awards and decorations are the Bronze Star (w/V, 3 OLC), the Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal (10 OLC), the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Ranger TAB, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Master Parachutist's Badge. Following his discharge from active duty, Pete earned a Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Idaho. He practiced family law for a short time before becoming the Executive Director of the National Federation of Business-Idaho.

He is survived by his wife (Kesler) and daughters (Aislyn, Beth). A graveside service was held at the Idaho Veterans Cemetery on April 18th, 2025 followed by a celebration of life at the Cloverdale Funeral Home Chapel in Boise.

ESTEBAN SPRINGER

M-13185



Esteban Springer, 50 of Crawfordville, Florida passed away at his home on May 4th, 2025.

Esteban volunteered for Special Forces duty in 2007. He graduated from SFQC in 2008 and was assigned to the 7th SFG(A). He was honorably retired from active duty in 2020. Among his awards and decorations are the Army Commendation Medal (1 OLC), the Army Achievement Medal (2 OLC), the Valorous Unit Award, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Special Forces TAB, the Ranger TAB, the Air Assault Badge, and the Master Parachutist's Badge.

He is survived by his mother (Obdulia). Esteban is interred at the Tallahassee National Cemetery.



CHARLES STALLINGS

M-5557



Charles Stallings, 79 of Foster, Rhode Island passed away on May 9th, 2025.

Charlie joined the 20th SFG(A) in 1974 and earned his Special Forces qualification in 1976. He served as the Headquarters Detachment Intel/Operations Sergeant until his discharge to accept a commission in 1978.

Charlie would retire from the Rhode Island National Guard as a Lieutenant Colonel. He is a past president and a valued member of SFA Chapter 48.

Charlie is survived by his wife (Catherine). No services are planned at this time.



DAVID STEBBINS

D-3830



David Stebbins, 67 of Aurora, Wisconsin passed away on February 19th, 2025 at the Marshfield Medical Center in Marshfield, Wisconsin.

David completed SFQC in 1978 and was assigned to the 5th SFG(A). In 1983, he was reassigned to the 1st SFG(A) in Okinawa, Japan.

David was medically retired from active duty after a devastating accident left him paralyzed. Despite the challenges that he faced, David lived a fulfilling life and became a successful businessman.

He is survived by his wife, Diane. A funeral service was held at the Jacobs Funeral Home in Iron Mountain, Michigan on May 24th, 2025. Interment is at the Aurora Cemetery, Aurora, Wisconsin.



RUSSELL VONA II

D-3463



Russell "Russ" Vona II, 74 of Fayetteville, North Carolina passed away on February 23rd, 2025. Russ was awarded his Special Forces qualification in 1970 and assigned to the 7th SFG(A). During his long special operations career, Russ served with the 1st SFOD-D, 5th SFG(A), and 1st SOCOM. Retiring from active duty, Russ served another 13 years as a valued civil servant.

He is survived by his wife (Diane) and sons (Richie, Cam, Scott, Michael). A funeral service was held at the Jernigan Warren Funeral Home in Fayetteville, North Carolina on March 2nd, 2025. Interment is at the Sandhills State Veterans Cemetery, Spring Lake, North Carolina.

FORREST WALTERS

M-11680



Forrest 'Andy' Walters, 78 of Amarillo, Texas passed away on November 4th, 2024. Andy was awarded his Special Forces qualification as a heavy weapons sergeant in 1967 while assigned to the 12th SFG(A). In civilian life, Andy worked in banking for twenty years before joining the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

He is survived by his wife (Betty) and sons (Michael, Patrick). A memorial service was held at the Westview Christian Church in Amarillo on November 21st, 2024.



DANIEL WALTHER

D-7009



Daniel Walther, 66 of Leesburg, Virginia passed away on March 8th, 2025. Dan was awarded his Special Forces qualification as a Communications Sergeant (18E) in 1990 and assigned to the 5th SFG(A). In 1992 he completed selection and was assigned to the 1st SFOD-D where he served until his retirement from active duty. Among his many awards and decorations are the Meritorious Service Medal (2 OLC), the Army Commendation Medal (1 OLC), the Joint Service Achievement Medal (1 OLC), the Army Achievement Medal (3 OLC), the Valorous Unit Award (1 OLC), the Special Forces TAB, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Military Freefall Badge, and the Master Parachutist's Badge.

Dan is survived by his son (Joshua), and daughters (Cassandra, Alys). A viewing was held at the Colonial Funeral Home in Leesburg, Virginia on March 13th, 2025 and a Celebration of Life is planned for May 2nd, 2025.



DONALD WATSON

D-5415



Donald Watson, 94 of Shelby, North Carolina passed away on March 28th, 2025 at the Wendover Hospice House in Shelby. Don enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1948 and his 20-year military career spanned both the Korean and Vietnam Wars. Don began his Special Forces career in 1961 with an assignment to the U.S. Army Special Warfare Center and served subsequent assignments with the 10th and 6th SFG(A). He retired from active duty in 1968 to begin a second career as a Staff Appraiser with the Shelby Savings Bank, SSB.

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DONALD WATSON

CONTINUED



Don is survived by his son (Michael) and daughter (Donna). A funeral service was held at the Cleveland Funeral Services Chapel in Shelby, North Carolina on April 4th, 2025. Interment is at the Cleveland Memorial Park.



ROBERT WEKELL

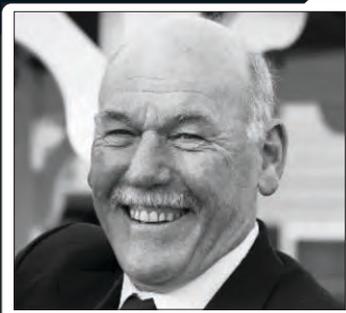
M-4119



Robert "Rob" Wekell, 81 of Tacoma, Washington passed away on March 16th, 2025.

Rob was awarded his Special Forces qualification in 1966 and assigned to the 7th SFG(A). In 1968, he was honorably discharged from active duty and joined the 12th SFG(A) in his hometown of Tacoma, Washington. In civilian life, Rob served as president of the North Star Glove Company where his leadership reflected his deep-seated values of giving back and uplifting others.

Rob is survived by his wife (Connie) and daughters (Matiele, Kelsey). A memorial service was held at the Mountain View Funeral Home Aspen Chapel in Lakewood, Washington on April 12th, 2025.



JAMES WESTBROOK

M-2804



James Westbrook, 77 of Ballston Spa, New York passed away on March 1st, 2025. Rick enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1965 and, after completing Airborne training, was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division. In 1976, Rick volunteered for Special Forces duty, was awarded his qualification in November of that year, and assigned to Det A Berlin Brigade. Rick was retired from active duty in 1988. Among his awards and decorations are the Bronze Star (w/V), the Purple Heart (1 OLC), the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Master Parachutist's Badge.

He is survived by his wife (Patty), sons (Patrick, Sean), and daughters (Kellan, Shannon). A funeral service was held at the Armer Funeral Home on March 4th, 2025. Interment is at the Gerald BH Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery in Schuylerville, New York.



RONALD WHITENER

D-4801

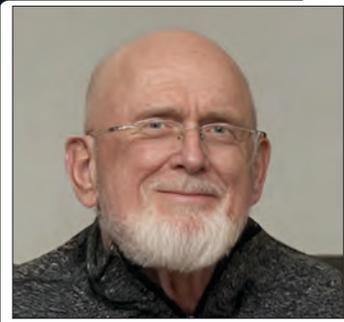


Ronald Whitener, 77 of Morgantown, West Virginia passed away at his home on March 24th, 2025.

Ron completed his Special Medical Training in 1971 and was assigned to MACV-SOG (CCC). He later transferred to MACV-V SOG HQs to serve on the Special Mission Forces (Pleiku). In 1975, Ron returned stateside to the 10th SFG(A).

Retiring from active duty after a 24-year career, Ron worked for the Bureau of Prisons and Preston Memorial Hospital as a Physician's Assistant.

He is survived by his wife (Elvia), and daughters (Jenny, Aylisa). Arrangements were entrusted to the Hastings Funeral Home. No public services are planned.

**GARY WILEY****D-3318**

CSM(R) Gary Wiley, 83 of Marengo, Ohio passed away on May 13th, 2025.

Gary joined the U.S. Army Reserve and served most of his nearly 40-year career in the 11th SFG(A) and the 2nd PSYOPS Group.

He is survived by his wife (Grace), son (Victor), and daughter (Janine).

A memorial service was held at the DeVore Chapel of Snyder Funeral Home on June 6th, 2025.

**EVERETT WILLIAMS, JR.****D-4332**

Everett "Willie" Williams, 87 of Cameron, North Carolina passed away on March 2nd, 2025.

Willie first enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1954 at the age of 16. After completing his enlistment, Willie transferred to the U.S. Army where he served as an infantryman in the 101st Airborne Division. In 1959, he was reassigned to the 287th MP Company in Berlin. Willie graduated from Officer Candidate School in 1964. He completed the Special Forces Officer Course in 1966 and was assigned to the 1st SFG(A). Willie served two tours of duty with the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam (MACV-SOG, 3rd Mobile Strike Force). Returning stateside, he was assigned to the JFK Center for Military Assistance and again the 5th SFG(A) before retiring from active duty in 1975.

Among his awards and decorations are The Silver Star, the Bronze Star, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Parachutist's Badge. In retirement, Willie served as the Assistant Director and Director of the Campbell University Ft. Bragg campus.

He is survived by his wife (Marie), sons (Pete, Michael), and daughter (Ann). A private memorial was conducted with the family.

**CHARLES WRIGHT****M-1333**

Charles Wright, 82 of Riverview, Michigan passed away at the Belle Fountain Health and Rehab Center on March 8th, 2025.

Charles served three combat tours in Vietnam with the 173rd Airborne Brigade and the 5th SFG(A). He retired from active duty in 1982 following a 21-year military career.

Charles is survived by his sons (John, Charles) and daughter (Debbie). A memorial service will be held at the Union Funeral Home at a later date. Interment will be at the Denning Cemetery in Riverview.

OTHER FALLEN COMRADES:

SFA



Robert Baucom.....		September 22nd, 2024
Tim Lynch	M-4921	August 20th, 2024
Larry Austin		December 9th, 2024
Cameron Barr		February 2nd, 2023
William Johnson, Jr.	D-1291	October 1st, 2007
Malcolm McConnell	A-1288	September 26th, 2020
Walter Cribbe	M-3448	June 4th, 2024
Leonard Brossart	MACV-SOG (CCN).....	April 14th, 2025
Deacon "Eddie" Limas, Sr.	M-1493.....	December 20th, 2020
Alfred Thurston.	D-3720	September 18th, 2020
Morton Hurston	M-675	March 27th, 2024
Charles Wodenscheck	D-3768	October 19th, 2013
Michael Giles	M-9125.....	March 25th, 2024

CONDOLENCES

WE RESPECTFULLY SEND OUR CONDOLENCES



Elbert John Nettles III

Condolences to MSG(R) E. John Nettles, Jr, his wife Sally, Daughter, Jacqueline and Granddaughter Riley on the passing of their son, brother and father ISG(R) Elbert John Nettles, III on March 9th, 2025.

SFA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL & CHANGE OF ADDRESS

NOT FOR NEW MEMBERS

Mail to: Special Forces Association
PO Box 41436 - Fayetteville, NC 28309-1436

Dues pay period is from 1 October through 31 January. Any annual members who have not paid their dues by the grace period will be placed in an Inactive roster and will be removed from the mailing list.

I _____ hereby apply for renewal of my
(Print Last Name, First Name, MI) Membership Number

membership in Chapter _____ of the Special Forces Association and submit the following information:

CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING BOXES:

- Annual Dues.** Enclosed is a check or money order for **\$40.00** for a one-year renewal of my membership. Note: Annual renewal is \$40.00 if paid before 30 January of each year.
- Reinstatement.** Enclosed is a check or money order for **\$45.00**, which includes a \$5.00 reinstatement fee along with the \$40.00 annual renewal fee. Note: Annual renewals are \$45.00 after 30 January of each year.
- Life Membership.** Enclosed is a check or money order **\$440.00** for a lifetime membership. The \$440.00 fee applies to members in good standing only.
- Reinstatement for Life Membership.** Enclosed is a check or money order **\$475.00** for reinstatement and lifetime membership of which \$440.00 is the life membership fee and \$35.00 is for reinstatement.
- Life Membership (65 and over). Date of Birth _____.** Enclosed is a check or money order for **\$320.00** for a lifetime membership. The \$320.00 fee applies to members in good standing only.
- Reinstatement for Life Membership (65 and over). Date of Birth _____.** Enclosed is a check or money order for **\$345.00** for reinstatement and a lifetime membership of which \$320.00 is the life membership fee and \$25.00 is for reinstatement.

Current mailing address: _____
Address City State Zip + 4

Home Telephone: (_____) _____ - _____ Work Telephone: (_____) _____ - _____

Email Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Retired Rank/Rank at Separation: _____



SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE 2025

www.specialforcesassociation.org/sfacon-2025/

EARLY WARNING ORDER

- WHEN:** 13-17 OCTOBER 2025
- ELIGIBILITY:** SFA Members in good standing are eligible to register.
- WHERE:** The Orleans Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, NV
Reserve online: <https://bit.ly/3ErdtOi> or by phone 800-675-3267
- RATES:** Sun – Thurs: \$82.48 (includes \$31.48 taxes and fees)
Fri – Sat: \$138.98 (includes \$37.99 taxes and fees)
- SFACON Group code: SFAJ25C
Deadline to reserve a hotel room: 12 September 2025
- REUNION FEES:** Registration for reunion fees will open 1 April 2025.
- FULL – \$285 per person - Includes Hospitality, Luncheon, SFACON Banquet
- OR
- DAILY – \$100 per person per day
Tuesday – Hospitality
Wednesday – Hospitality & Luncheon
Thursday – Hospitality
Friday – Hospitality & SFACON Banquet
- VENDOR TABLES – \$150 each table (must be pre-approved)
- REFUNDS:** All requests for refunds must be submitted to the Registrar.

Updates will be posted on the SFACON 2025 website:

www.specialforcesassociation.org/sfacon-2025/

If you have any questions or need additional information, contact the Registrar.

Bonnie Cooper, SFACON Registrar
561-543-9562
coop553@bellsouth.net

**BE SURE YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS CURRENT AND
CONTACT INFORMATION UPDATED AT THE SFA TEAMHOUSE**



Joint SOA/SFA POW/MIA Committee Update

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

The 2025 Joint SOA/SFA POW/MIA Symposium will be held on Wednesday, October 15th 2025 from 0930-1200 at the Orleans Hotel in Las Vegas, NV.

The symposium will host presenters from DPAA, DIA (Stony Beach), The National League of Families, Mission: POW/MIA and other Non-Government Organizations involved in the POW/MIA mission. As in the past two years there will be a "Case Study" presentation by representatives from DPAA Vietnam War Branch, DPAA-HI, and Stony Beach.

The case study will focus on the recoveries and the ongoing recovery efforts from the Special Forces Camp manned by A-101 at Lang Vie, Vietnam. The preliminary attacks began on 21 January 1968. It was the first official recorded use of PT-76 tanks by the NVA.

On the night of February 1968, at the opening of the Tet Offensive, the Lang Vei Special Forces Camp came under attack from the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) forces. The camp was overrun resulting in heavy casualties on both sides. SGM Kenneth Hanna, MSG Charles W. Lindewald, MSG James W. Holt and SFC Daniel R. Phillips were killed during the attack. Enemy forces captured SFC Harvey Brande, SSG Dennis Thompson and SP4 William McMurry, all who were eventually released during Operation Homecoming in March 1973. Remains received in 1989 from the Vietnamese Government were identified as SFC Holt. SGM Hanna, MSG Lindewald and SFC Moreland's remains have been recovered. There have been six excavations of the REFNO 1040 (Lang Vei) incident. SFC Daniel R. Phillips is still unaccounted for. Investigations continue to determine burial sites or to identify remains.





S. SIDE X SIDE
O. ONE-ON-ONE THERAPY
S. SPONSORED SERVICES

- WHO** SPECIAL FORCES COMMUNITY: SERVICE MEMBER, SPOUSE, AND CHILDREN
- WHAT** BEYOND THE BATTLEFIELD – OPERATIONAL STRESS MANAGEMENT & SUICIDE PREVENTION PLATFORM THAT OFFERS SOLDIERS, SPOUSES AND THEIR CHILDREN AN OPTION TO ANONYMOUSLY EXPLORE AND INVEST IN THEIR MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL WEALTH.
- WHERE** THE PLATFORM LIVES ON THE SFCT WEBSITE AS A LANDING PAGE. WWW.THESFCT.ORG
- WHEN** THE PLATFORM IS LIVE NOW, AND RESOURCES ARE EVER GROWING!
- WHY** THE SFCT UNDERSTANDS THE NEED FOR OPTIONS IN ADDRESSING SUICIDE AND OTHER STRUGGLES FELT BY THE ARMY SF COMMUNITY. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND HOW IMPORTANT ANONYMITY IS TO THE SERVICE MEMBERS AND THE CRITICAL ROLE IT PLAYS IN SEEKING HELP AND UNDERSTANDING. SFCT TAKES THIS VERY SERIOUSLY AND IS OFFERING THIS PLATFORM IN AN EFFORT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIVES! THE PLATFORM IS LIVE NOW!



SIDE X SIDE SMALL GROUP SYNERGY IS A SMALL GROUP EVENT THAT HELPS STOKE THE FIRE WITH PEER TO PEER CONVERSATIONS ABOUT PURPOSE!



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 OR DIAL 988

WWW.THESFCT.ORG



SCAN HERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT BEYOND THE BATTLEFIELD



SFACON 2025

OCTOBER 14-18, 2025



Well, it's that time again, the 2025 SFA Convention is right around the corner. That time of the year when we get to visit with old teammates and friends, time to reminisce about those who are no longer with us and tell tales about the old days when life was hard and so were we. This year we are back on some very dry land and returning to previously reconned territory. The Orleans Hotel is welcoming us again

and promises a good time can and will be had by all. The Special Operations Association (SOA) graciously agreed to co-host, co-coordinate, and cohabitate with us this year, for which I am grateful. Kudos to the diligent and hardworking SOA board and the SFA Convention Committee for keeping things on track and everyone informed.

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SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

Unconventional Warriors, The Legacy Endures

The primary mission of the SOA is to unite fraternally all Veterans or members of a branch of the US Armed Forces Special Operations Community who have conducted Special Operations as an operational combat element or provided direct support to that element within an assigned area of operations.

Our members include combat veterans from all wars including WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Panama Grenada, the Balkans, Somalia, Iraq, Afghanistan, as well as those from our most recent conflicts in the global war on terrorism.

MEMBER BENEFITS

The SOA Reunion is held in October in conjunction with the Annual Membership Meeting.

The reunion, SOAR, fosters an environment for camaraderie and fellowship to strengthen those friendships forged in battle and the opportunity to make new ones.

The 4-day event culminates with the annual banquet celebrating our members and honoring our fallen.



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

Other programs and services include Scholarships, Video History Project, SOA Riders and the POW/MIA Committee working toward a full accounting for missing and unaccounted for personnel.

APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP

Thank you for your interest in applying for membership in the SOA. You can find detailed information on qualifications, documentation requirements, member benefits and the SOA on our website or contact me directly. I look forward to working with you.

Joe Wilson, SOA Membership Chairman
954-448-2981

Membership@SpecialOperations.org

www.specialoperations.org

SYMPOSIA

There are numerous informative symposia, side trips, and diversions this year that hopefully will keep everyone enthralled.

- A trip to a Vegas show on Tuesday evening.
- Bowling night on Wednesday evening.
- A motorcycle ride through the scenic countryside on Thursday.
- A silent auction for some very nice swag Thursday and Friday.

Keep in mind we are still a few months out and some of the symposiums are subject to change based on time and the availability of the presenters

The Orleans Hotel & Casino is a New Orleans-themed resort located just west of the Las Vegas Strip in Paradise, Nevada, offers a blend of classic Vegas excitement with Southern charm, catering to both tourists and locals. The 135,000-square-foot casino floor offers a wide array of gaming options, including slot machines, table games, a poker room, as well as a race and sports books.

DINING

The Orleans has a wide selection of dining venues:

- Alder & Birch – A contemporary steakhouse offering prime cuts and seafood.

- Big Al's Oyster Bar – Specializing in fresh seafood with a Cajun flair.
- Ondori Asian Kitchen – Serving a fusion of Chinese and Japanese cuisines.
- Copper Whisk Café – A casual spot for American comfort food.
- TGI Fridays, Fuddruckers, Subway, and Sbarro – Familiar chain options for quick bites.

ENTERTAINMENT & ACTIVITIES

- Orleans Showroom – An intimate theater featuring live performances. (NO SHOWS ON THE SCHEDULE DURING SFACON)
- Century Orleans 18 – An 18-screen movie theater showcasing the latest films.
- Orleans Bowling Center – A 52-lane bowling alley suitable for all ages.
- Time Out Arcade – An arcade with a variety of video and interactive games.
- Spa & Wellness - Guests can relax and rejuvenate at The Spa Orleans, which offers a range of services including massages, facials, and body treatments. Additional amenities include a fitness center, beauty salon, and barber shop.

RESERVATIONS

Group Rates with taxes and fees included:

Sunday-Thursday

\$82.48

Friday-Saturday:

\$139.98

Call 800-675-3267 and use reference group code **SFAJ25C**

Orleans Hotel & Casino
4500 West Tropicana Avenue
Las Vegas, NV 89103

Use the link on SFA website to make your reservations online (Group Code discount is automatically applied). (if calling, make sure they quote the rates shown left for our group) **Reservations must be made on or before 9/12/2025** to ensure availability and group rate. 



64th REUNION SCHEDULE of EVENTS



20 thru 27 September 2025

SAT 20th	<u>Clay Shooting Competition</u> Cross Creek Clays 3975 Jarman Hollow Palmyra TN 1000-1300	SUN 21st	<u>Legion Bass Tournament</u> Lick Creek Ramp Dover TN 0500-1600
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MON 22nd	TUE 13rd	WED 24th	THU 25th	FRI 26th	SAT 27th
	Registration Country Inn & Suites Clarksville TN 1600-2000	Registration Country Inn & Suites Clarksville TN 1000-1600	Registration Country Inn & Suites Clarksville TN 1000-1600	Registration Country Inn & Suites Clarksville TN 1000-1600	President's Breakfast Chapter Safehouse 10355 Bell Station RD Oak Grove KY 0800-1000
<u>Flag Football Tournament</u> Fryer Stadium FTCKY 0800-1200 Championship Game 1100	<u>THOR3 Competition</u> 5th SFG Turf Field FTCKY 0700-0900	<u>Airborne Operation</u> Bastogne DZ FTCKY 1000-16000	<u>Prayer Breakfast</u> Hall of Heroes FTCKY 0800-1000	<u>Golf Scramble</u> Cole Park GC FTCKY 0700-1700	<u>Reunion Bike Ride</u> Chapter Safehouse Registration 0800-1000 Wheels Up 1000
<u>Softball Competition</u> FTCKY 1200-1600	<u>Softball Finals</u> FTCKY 1200-1600	<u>Chapter 38 Nashville Trip</u> Nashville Area 0900-UTC	<u>Open House</u> 5th SFG Footprint 1000-1430	<u>Catfishing Trip</u> Clarksville Marina 0700-1300	<u>Color Run & 5K</u> 5th SFG Footprint Fort Campbell Ky 0900-1100
	<u>Hospitality Room</u> 1600-2400	<u>Family Picnic</u> Bastogne DZ FTCKY 1000-1600	<u>FRG Tent Sale</u> 5th SFG Footprint 1000-1430	<u>Staff Ride (distillery tour)</u> local area 0800-1630 Departs from Country Inn and Suites	<u>Family Obstacle Course</u> 5th SFG Obstacle Course 0930-UTC
		<u>Old and New Mixer</u> Hall of Heroes FTCKY 1400-1800	<u>Family Shoot</u> Range 70 FTCKY 1000-1430	<u>Reunion Dinner</u> The Silo Event Ctr 110 John Rives RD Hopkinsville KY 1800-2130	<u>Group Picnic</u> Gabriel Field 1600-2130
		<u>Hospitality Room</u> 1600-2400 President's Welcome (1830)	<u>Hospitality Room</u> 1600-2400	<u>Hospitality Room</u> 1600-2400	<u>Hospitality Room</u> 1600-2400



SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION, CHAPTER 38
 &
5TH SPECIAL FORCES GROUP (AIRBORNE)
64th ANNIVERSARY REUNION/LEGION WEEK



20-27 SEPTEMBER 2025

FT. CAMPBELL, KY // CLARKSVILLE, TN

Chapter 38 and 5th Special Forces will be hosting this year's reunion to commemorate the 64th Anniversary of the Unit's activation on 21 September 1961. It will be a mixture of Chapter and Legion supported events throughout the entire week. We invite you to attend, take part in the festivities, reminisce / reconnect with old friends, or create new ones. Please fill out the Registration Form and mail to our address (bottom of form), or visit the Chapter Website (www.sfa38.org). If you plan to participate in an event with no associated costs; please annotate as such, so we can track for transportation purposes. Thank You!!

NAME: _____ Email: _____

GUEST: _____ Nickname(s): _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ Emergency Contact #: _____

<u>EVENT:</u>	<u># Persons</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>Hospitality Room:</u>		
- Entire Week (\$55ea)	_____ x \$55	_____
- Nightly (\$20 ea per night)	_____ x \$20 x _____ Nights	_____
<u>Registration Fee (Coverage for Admin Cost):</u>	_____ x \$5	_____
<u>Reunion Dinner:</u>	_____ x \$30	_____
<u>Golf Scramble:</u>	_____ x \$80	_____
<u>Picnic:</u>	_____ x \$10	_____
<u>Skeet Shoot:</u>	_____ x \$0	_____
<u>Catfishing Trip: (register by 1 Sept)</u>	_____ x \$0	_____
<u>Nashville Day Trip:</u> (Lunch Included)	_____ x \$0	_____
<u>Distillery / Brewery Day Trip: (Staff ride)</u> (Lunch Included)	_____ x \$0	_____
<u>Prayer Breakfast:</u>	_____ x \$0	_____
<u>Airborne Operation:</u>	_____ x \$0	_____
<u>Unit Range Day / Open House:</u>	_____ x \$0	_____
<u>Chapter President's Breakfast and or Bike Ride:</u> _____ x \$0 <small>Hosted by Chapter President (Joel Pruitt) at Chapter's Safehouse</small>		_____
	TOTAL:	_____

Mail Registration along with Payment (Payable To)

SFA, Chapter 38

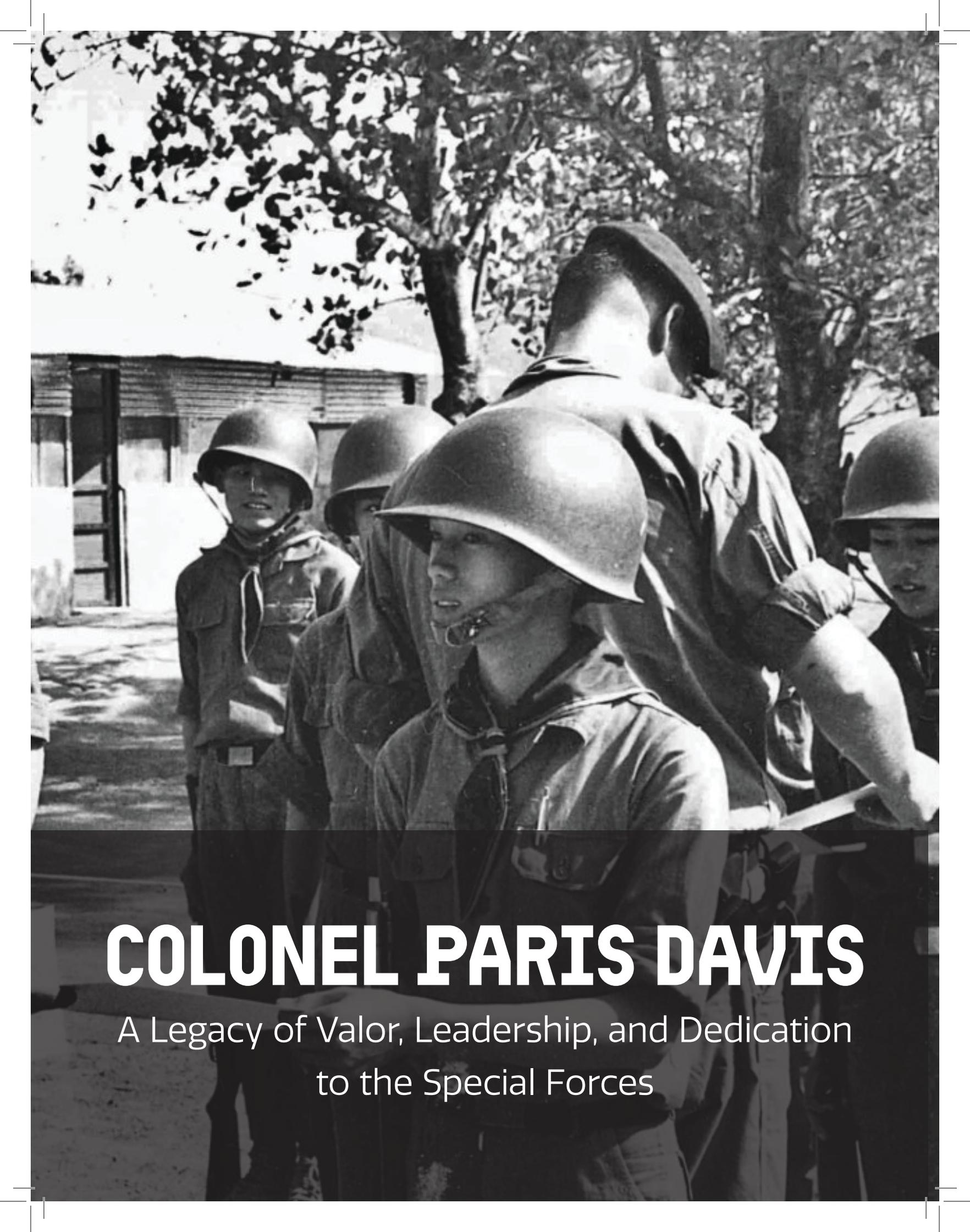
PO Box # 223, Ft. Campbell, KY 42223

***Payments Received After 10 September 2025 'Will Not' be Refundable
w/o Prior Notification***





Davis congratulates trainees on completion of training in Vietnam.
(Credit: Ron Deis via The Paris Davis Interactive MOH Story)

A black and white photograph of several soldiers in military uniforms and helmets. They are standing outdoors, possibly in a camp or training area, with trees and a building in the background. The soldiers are looking in various directions, some towards the camera. The image has a slightly grainy texture and high contrast.

COLONEL PARIS DAVIS

A Legacy of Valor, Leadership, and Dedication
to the Special Forces

INTRODUCTION

Colonel Paris Davis's military career is a story of resilience and courage in the face of adversity. As one of the first African American officers in the U.S. Army Special Forces, Davis not only broke racial barriers but also set the standard for leadership and excellence. His distinguished service spans decades, culminating in his recognition with the Medal of Honor for his actions during the Vietnam War. This article aims to explore the various facets of Davis's military career, highlighting his leadership roles and the broader significance of his contributions to the U.S. Special Operations community.

EARLY MILITARY CAREER AND ENTRY INTO SPECIAL FORCES

Paris Davis was born on May 6, 1939, in Cleveland, Ohio. He grew up in a segregated America, but his early experiences shaped a determination that would serve him well in his military career. Davis enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1959, and by the early 1960s, he had earned his commission as an officer and completed the rigorous Special Forces Qualification Course, becoming one of the first African American officers in the U.S. Army Special Forces.

Joining the Special Forces at a time when racial barriers were still deeply entrenched in American society, Davis faced numerous challenges. However, his dedication, exceptional tactical skills, and commitment to his soldiers quickly earned him respect. He was assigned to the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) and deployed to Vietnam during one of the most intense periods of the conflict.

HEROISM IN VIETNAM: THE MEDAL OF HONOR ACTION

It was during Davis's deployment to Vietnam that he demonstrated extraordinary heroism in battle. On June 17-18, 1965, Captain Paris Davis led a Special Forces team alongside a company of South Vietnamese soldiers in an operation near Bong Son. The mission quickly escalated into a fierce and prolonged battle with North Vietnamese forces.

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Paris



Official Portrait of Colonel Paris Davis. (Credit: U.S. Army)



Davis being presented with his interim Silver Star.
(Credit: Stars and Stripes via The Paris Davis Interactive MOH Story)

HEROISM IN VIETNAM: THE MEDAL OF HONOR ACTION (CONTINUED)

Despite being wounded multiple times, Davis refused to leave his men behind. For nearly 19 hours, he fought relentlessly, rescuing multiple soldiers under heavy enemy fire. His courage and selflessness were extraordinary. At one point, Davis carried an injured comrade through enemy lines to safety while engaging the enemy with one hand and holding his weapon with the other. His refusal to abandon the wounded, even at great personal risk, became a defining moment in his military career.

For his actions that day, Davis was nominated for the Medal of Honor. However, due to bureaucratic delays and possible racial bias, the paperwork was lost. It wasn't until 2021 that his case was reviewed at the direction of another retired Special Forces Colonel, then acting Secretary of Defense Chris Miller, setting in motion the sequence of events that would ultimately lead to the long-overdue award of the Medal of Honor in 2023 by President Joe Biden.

POST-VIETNAM SERVICE AND COMMAND OF THE 10TH SPECIAL FORCES GROUP (AIRBORNE)

Following his service in Vietnam, Davis continued to rise through the ranks. His leadership capabilities and operational experience made him a natural fit for increasingly critical command roles. In 1981, Davis was appointed commander of the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne).

Under Davis's leadership, the 10th Special Forces Group focused on unconventional warfare, counterinsurgency, and readiness for operations in Europe. Davis prioritized the development of cultural awareness, language training, and advanced operational tactics, ensuring that his unit was prepared to respond to Cold War-era threats in Europe and beyond. His tenure as commander was marked by an emphasis on innovation and adaptability, traits that would become hallmarks of modern Special Forces operations.

Davis's time at 10th Group also reflected his commitment to fostering cohesion and resilience within the unit. He emphasized the importance of mentorship, particularly for young officers and non-commissioned officers, and worked tirelessly to build a team-oriented culture that placed the mission and the welfare of soldiers above all else. Colonel Davis retired in 1985.

LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SPECIAL FORCES COMMUNITY

Throughout his career, Davis was known for his steadfast commitment to the values of honor, courage, and service. His leadership style was characterized by humility, empathy, and an unyielding focus on the mission. He was deeply respected by his peers and subordinates, many of whom credit him with shaping their own careers.

Davis's post-military career was equally impactful. He remained an active supporter of veterans' causes, mentoring young soldiers and advocating for the recognition of overlooked heroes. His story, particularly the decades-long fight for his Medal of Honor, became a symbol of perseverance and justice. In recognition of his awesome contributions, the Office of Strategic Services Society awarded



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Colonel Paris Davis congratulated on his award by President Joe Biden. (Credit: White House)

CONCLUSION: A LIFE OF SERVICE AND SACRIFICE

Colonel Davis the Major General Victor J. Hugo Jr. Award at their annual gala in October 2024.

Colonel Paris Davis's life is a testament to the power of courage, resilience, and dedication to duty. From his groundbreaking service in the Special Forces to his heroic actions in Vietnam and his later command roles, Davis exemplified what it means to be a leader.

His long-overdue recognition with the Medal of Honor is not just a tribute to his bravery but also a reminder of the enduring contributions of the many unsung heroes in our nation's history.

As we reflect on Davis's career, it is clear that his legacy will continue to inspire future generations of soldiers and leaders. His story is not just about individual achievement but about the broader ideals of service, sacrifice, and the pursuit of justice.



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 also 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. 



SFA REGIONAL INFO

- CHAPTER INDEX
- POINTS OF CONTACT

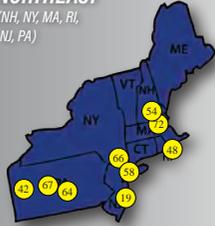


REGION 1

REGIONAL REP: *Denzil Drewry (Ch. 54)*

pg. 50

NORTHEAST (NH, NY, MA, RI, NJ, PA)



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Kevin Paicos
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Chapter LVIII (58)

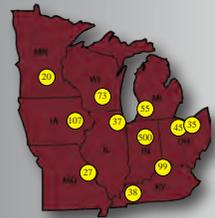
305 W 50th St. PH E.
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pg. 55

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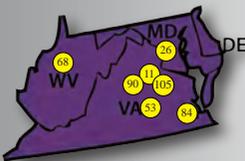
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pg. 64

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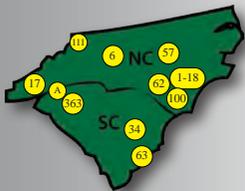
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pg. 67

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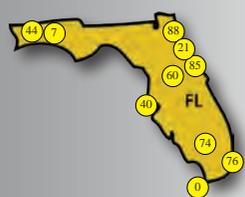
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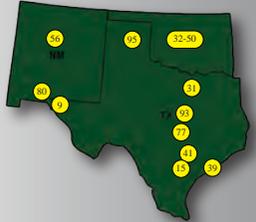
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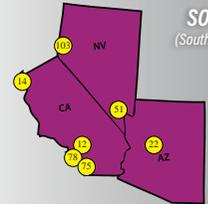
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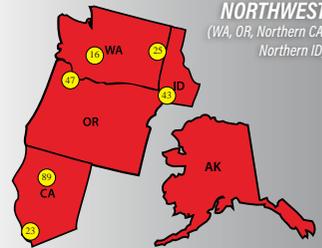
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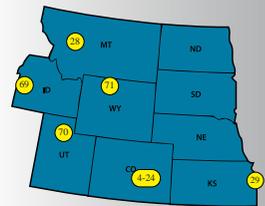
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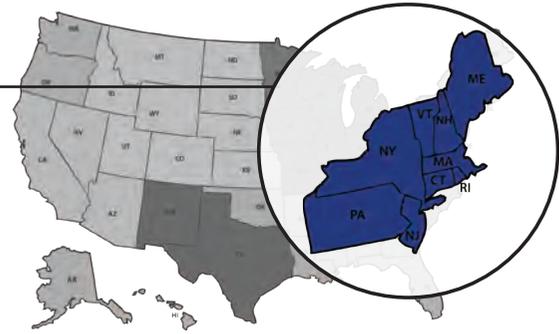
REGION I

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 Capiello
VICE : John Wilson
SEC : Lou Hernandez
TRES : Bob Leicht

SFA Award

Air Force JROTC Cadet Major Grayce Washington of Jackson Memorial HS, Jackson, NJ, was presented the Award of Excellence for her leadership and dedication at their Military Ball.

Chapter President Myles Capiello, Chapter Vice-President John Wilson and past President Lawrence Taylor Sr. presented the award.



Leadership Dinner



SFA Leadership Award Jackson Memorial HS

Leadership Dinner

On April 30th, Chapter 19 members attended the AUSA's Leadership Dinner and presented the SFA Cadet of Excellence Medal to Rutgers University's Army ROTC Cadet Ethen Voloshchuk and Seton Hall University's ROTC Cadet Olivia Adamson.

Also in attendance was AUSA's officers, LTC Sarah Bernal, Charles Seal, Meagan Solomon and Brigadier General Yvonne Mays, the New Jersey Adjutant General.

Jewish War Veterans Breakfast

On Sunday, May 4, 2025, Chapter members attended the Jewish War Veterans 43rd Annual Legislative Breakfast in Toms River, NJ. Senator Andy Kim (D-NJ) was to be awarded the JWV Legislator of the Year award, but 3 weeks prior to the award ceremony, Kim voted in the Senate not to fund Israel because of the situation in Gaza. The JWV decided to withdraw his award due to Kim's non-support of Israel, and no award was presented.

However, the breakfast, was attended by Veteran Groups of the VFW, American Legion, SFA and others turned out to be a fantastic networking event for the organizations.



Jewish War Veterans Breakfast (Photo by: Ed Hornecker, former US Army Combat Cameraman, MOS 841.10 1958-1960)

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




CHAPTER XLVIII
 The Rhode Island Chapter

48

www.48sfa.net **Rhode Island**

Chapter 48 members participated in a couple of tours this reporting period. Thanks to a friend of SF, Frank Moody who is a retired Providence Police Officer and a technical representative for Colt Firearms, arranged a tour of their manufacturing facility located in West Hartford, CT. It was amazing the number of hand manufactured parts that are required to produce a finished firearm. It was equally amazing to see the pallets of boxed weapons awaiting shipment to the Ukraine.

Our next tour was of the museum located at the historic Varnum Armory, East Greenwich, RI. The museum has edged weapons, firearms, canon, flags and uniforms and other artifacts from pre-Revolutionary War up to the Global War on Terror. The museum curator, Patrick Donovan, was informative and knowledgeable.

On an extremely cold and windy April 5th, we attended the committal service at the RI Veterans Cemetery to our brother CSM Robert Lachance. Those green blazers aren't much protection from the elements. But, the warmth of the expression of gratitude for our attendance expressed by Bob's beloved wife Milly took the chill out of the air. May was a busy month. The SFA Award of Excellence was presented to Junior ROTC cadets from Cranston East High School, Central High School, Providence, RI and Rogers High School, Newport, RI. Brother CSM (R) Mo Moniz coordinated the presentation in his usual outstanding manner. The presentations were made by President Al Tolleson and Larry Pezza.

We also conducted our Spring Shootout hosted by our friends at the Tri-Town Rod and Gun Club located in Foster, RI. Much thanks to Larry Pezza, Vito Pezzillo and Rich Stewart who made it happen.

We were asked to participate in the RI National Guard's Birthday celebration with a history of RI SF and Chapter 48 displayed in



Chapter 48 members at tour of Colt Firearms Manufacturing facility



Charlie Stallings from the days we were all young



RI Guard Birthday Celebration
 L-R: Walter May, WO Severn, Al Tolleson, Steve Kelley, Maj Chris Heath, Cdr, A/2/19SFAG, Tom Duffney, Ken Benoit and all the way up from FL, Larry Scott

Chapter XLVIII (48) Continued...

photos and an extensive collection of memorabilia maintained by Ken Benoit. The event was conducted at the Joint Force HQ on May 14, 2025.

Our Memorial Day Ceremony was conducted at our Special Forces Monument located in the Rhode Island Veterans Cemetery. Our Roll Call of Remembrance is ever expanding.



Varnum Armory Museum Tour
(L-R) Ken Benoit, Walt May, Charlie Knowles, Steve Kelley, Al Tolleson, Patrick Donovan (Curator), Ed Cullen, Jay Tucker, John Hardman

The most recent name added to our Roll Call of Remembrance is that of brother LTC(R) Charles J. Stallings. Charlie passed on May 9, 2025. He was 79 years of age. He had a long career with the RIARNG. He enlisted in 1965 and served with the 43d Engr Gp, 118th MP Bn, 103d FA Gp and HHD, 6th SF Bn, 20th SFGA. He became SF qualified in 1976. He attained the rank of Master Sergeant before he attended OCS. He held a number of staff positions as an officer. He retired as the Director of Surface Maintenance. Some of his awards included the MSM w/olc, the Senior Parachutist Badge, German Parachutist Badge and the SF Tab. He retired in 1999. He was a charter and life member of Chapter 48. He was also a past president and a member of the Board of Directors.

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



Soviet and Warsaw Pact berets and military hats that Vin Pestilli recently contributed to the Museum of Military History



PRC and NVA helmets, magazine pouches, AK-47 bayonet, and AK-47 drum magazine donated by Vin Pestilli

Chapter 54 conducted its annual meeting on February 8, 2025 when the officers and members approved the 2025 budget and calendar of events for the year, approved the award of a \$3,000 academic scholarship, and approved scheduling visits to the USS Constitution during May, a June fishing trip on Cape Cod, the annual Lobster/Steak cookout during July, and the annual Christmas party in December. Several additional events are tentatively planned. Meeting participants later enjoyed an Italian lunch at Supino's Restaurant in Danvers, MA.

For several years Chapter 54 has provided financial support that helped an Afghan interpreter and his family survive in that country before moving to the United States. "Malik" (pseudonym) worked as a DoD contract driver / interpreter for SF Counterinsurgency Advisors in Afghanistan. In 2019 he applied for a Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) that required time-consuming vetting. In July 2021, he contacted a Chapter 54 member to help leave Afghanistan. Unfortunately, the effort to evacuate him from Kabul airport the next month failed. Malik and his family immediately went into hiding to avoid Taliban reprisals. They finally were relocated in late 2024 via the State Department Enduring Welcome program.



Soviet, Warsaw Pact, and Vietcong military equipment recently donated by Vin Pestilli

After Malik’s family arrived in New England in mid-January, Chapter 54 and other organizations provided financial support that allowed them to purchase furniture and kitchen appliances for their two-bedroom apartment. Malik now works full-time, his wife is enrolled in English-language classes, and their four children attend school. They have applied for Lawful Permanent Resident status and look forward to their new life in the United States.

Chapter member MSG (Ret.) Vin Pestilli has been our most stalwart supporter for the past decade - contributing weapons that each year we have used to raise funds for the chapter via raffles. Vin recently donated a large amount of valuable military equipment and accessories from his private collection to the Museum of Military History in Kissimmee, FL in the name of our chapter.

These donations include Soviet, Warsaw Pact, Chinese, and Vietnamese military headgear, ammunition pouches, combat knives, bayonets, and AK-47 accessories. As always, we recognize and thank Vin for his generous support of the SFA and especially Chapter 54. We invite our SF brothers to visit the museum when they are in the Kissimmee area to enjoy their amazing collection.

PRES : Ronny Diz
VICE : Fred Bradbury
SEC : Lance Finick
SGT AT ARMS : Tom Fedele



CHAPTER LXVI
 The Kedenburg-Bucca Memorial Chapter

66

West Point, NY



Sig 2 Shooters with COL Gargus rear center, Chris Wilkerson to his right, SGM Pouillard front left



After-party at Telly's Restaurant in Epping, NH

Chapter 66 conducted its second annual Sig Sauer Shoot on 17 May at the Sig Sauer Academy in Epping, NH. This year we had the honor to have as a guest speaker COL (R) John Gargus, USAF who was on the planning team and lead navigator for the Son Tay Raid. COL Gargus is 91 yrs old and continues to give briefings about the raid.

Also joining us was SFA President Chris Wilkerson, Bob Hoaglund from chapter 48, Chris Lanman from Wounded Warriors Project,

Chapter LXVI (66) Continued...



VP Fred Bradbury & Bob Hoaglund present plaque to Chris Lanman from WWP



VP Fred Bradbury presents a plaque to COL Gargus

and SGM (R) Oliver Pouillard from the French SF. Oliver & Bob Hoaglund served together in Afghanistan.

Other recent events included conducting a "Final Toast" ceremony for John Garner former 5th, 7th, & 10th Grps in Meriden, CT and MSG Ron Bucca Jr's retirement ceremony at the World Trade Center Museum in NYC.

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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 summer picnic is tentatively scheduled for Saturday August 16th, location TBD. Please continue to check your email for updates as both the date and location are subject to change based on venue availability.

Rich Giero (Chapter President) presented SFA Award of Excellence Medals to ROTC cadets at Norwich University and the University of New Hampshire. Pictured below is Cadet Jake Peterson of Norwich University.

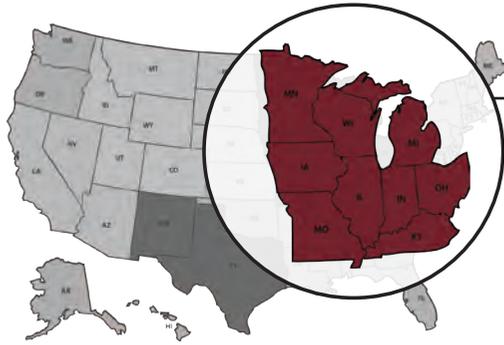
We are eagerly looking forward to supporting the annual "Green Beret with a Mission Challenge" (GBWMC). The GBWMC is the philanthropic arm of Camp Resilience of which both organizations are headed up by our Chapter member Kurt Webber.

The "Challenge" which is held the last weekend in June also serves as the Chapter's annual fundraiser with several members volunteering as walkers, point sitters and G-chiefs. Please check out the spring edition of the Drop (p. 33) for our Sig 1911 pistol raffle.

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.



From Left: Jerry Lee, Leon Bly, Ken Ross, Bill Picknell, Bob Charest, Gary Hart, Phil Jobert, Mike Nelson



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



Shawn Alderman, Dan Kaiser, Mike McEliney, Mark Nutsch



SFA and DAV members

We attended the 100th anniversary of the foundation of DAV. It was founded in Minnesota in 1925. Its mission is to aid disabled veterans and provide assistance to any veteran needing help.

The keynote speaker was Mark Nutsch who led ODA 595, "The Horse Soldiers" and was the first SF team deployed to Afghanistan. What a wonderful man and exciting presentation.

Mark and colleagues have established a company that produces Horse Soldier Bourbon and it was enjoyed immensely by the crowd of over 200. It should be available in your area, and if not ask to have it distributed.

Awards for service to SF and DAV were presented to Dr. Shawn Alderman (5th SFGA Group Surgeon and Executive of Magnus Veterans Foundation, Dan Kaiser Chapter XX SFA Secretary, Mike McEliney (ODA 574 S. Afghanistan) Veterans' service officer and State Veterans Affairs and Mark Nutsch (ODA 595 N. Afghanistan). Both Mike and



Dan Kaiser receiving his award

Chapter XX (20) Continued...

Mark were in Afghanistan about the same time.

Our next chapter event will be the Memorial Day gathering at Ft. Snelling National Cemetery. Chapter members and SE Asian and Afghan interpreters gather for a parade before the podium and bands. A good time is had by all-even if it rains again!

Our summer event will be to gather at the Heritage Days parade in Two Harbors MN the first full weekend after the 4th of July. We have been doing this for nearly 25 years and Keith (CCN-RT Indigo) and Jean Larson provide their house, property and hospitality for us.

35 **CHAPTER XXXV**
 The Christian Girard/Daniel West Memorial Chapter
 Northern Ohio www.sfchapter35.org

PRES : Paul Collins
VICE : JP Guidry
SEC : Leone DiCesare
TRES : David Pritash
CHAPLAIN : Buck Wolford



Photo of Roland Nookie (L), Johnny Trailor (25th Infantry Division LLRP attached to B-36) and Bobby Koch taken at FOB Rang Rang in War Zone D on Dec.16, 1969



Pictured L-R, Bottom to Top: Stall, Leone, DiCesare, Stefano, Ms. Ryan, Meisner, Koussa, Karttunen, Collins, Grow, Koch, O'Grady, Brulia, Pritash, Taylor, Balint & Gudry



Bobby has been nominated for an upgrade to the MOH and is being supported by Chapter XXXV. At the Chapter May meeting Bobby expressed his gratitude to the Chapter on his behalf



Greetings to our SF Brothers from NE Ohio Chapter XXXV. Chapter XXXV held our May Meeting at the Warren Team House. This was a most special meeting, welcoming two new members, Col. (R) Balint and SSG (R) Robert Koch. Col. Balint was not present and is moving to a new residence in Las Vegas.

Not-with-standing a brief but heavy rainshower a good time was had by all:

SSG (R) Robert "Bobby" Koch and I served on ODA-21 in the 46th SF Co. (Abn.) in Lop Buri in 1972 after Bobby returned from several tours with the 5th SF Group (Abn.) in the Republic of Vietnam.

After Training Group Bobby served with the 3rd SF Group (Abn.) at Bragg, then with the 1st SF Group (Abn.) in Okinawa where he earned both Scuba and HALO qualifications.

Bobby was involved in many combat actions while serving with Detachment B-36, Commanded by Col. Ola Lee Mise. On 11 August 1970 Bobby was awarded the DSC for extraordinary heroism in action on 16 December 1969. Bobby has been nominated for an upgrade to the MOH and is being supported by Chapter XXXV. At the Chapter May meeting Bobby expressed his gratitude to the Chapter on his behalf.

<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>37</p>
<p>www.sfa37.org</p>		<p>Chicago, IL</p>	

Greetings to all our SF Brothers from Chicagoland Chapter XXXVII.

On the 26APR25, Chapter XXXVII held its 28 Annual Military Ball at the Fountain Blue Banquets and Conference Center in Des Plaines, Illinois. This year marked the 40th Anniversary of our Chapter as well as the 250th Anniversary of the United States Army. Each of those milestones were acknowledged by an updated Chapter Logo and the minting of a new Chapter coin with



Scholarship Awarded to Cadet Cover



Loyola University ROTC Color Guard

the invaluable assistance from John Joyce of Excalibur Industries, both were debuted at our Military Ball. A tip of the Beret and sincere Thanks to John! Our Chapter had over eighty guests in attendance and thanks to the Loyola University Rambler ROTC Battalion Chicago, provided the Color Guard. Cadet Cover from Loyola University received a Scholarship from our Chapter and was presented the SFA Award of Excellence at Loyola University on the April 17, 2025. Chapter XXXVII also made other donations to "Library of Viet Nam" and our Guest Speaker Patti Gruber of Operation Wild Horse, a local Illinois organization that aids Veterans using wild Mustangs to help Veterans overcome challenges from the effects of Military service.

Chapter XXXVII (37) Continued...

We also had a successful Silent Auction which all proceeds go to further the ongoing mission of The Special Forces Association and its charitable works. Overall, a memorable evening for all our Guests. A huge thanks goes out to everyone behind the scenes for all their help in making this event possible! Without all the assistance from far too many people to name here, this could not have been possible. Thank You! We have included a small number of pictures from the evening in this submission. Check out our website at www.sfa37.us for the rest. Photos courtesy of Larry Zabinski.

Our next event will be our Family Picnic on June 22, 2025, please see our website for upcoming events and our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/SFAch37> for details.



CSM Roudebush presenting Marsha Krzyzak MB Coordinator a gift of Gratitude for her work



Silent Auction winner of DWI Chute & Excalibur Coin Box

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

Best wishes to all from Middle Tennessee, South Central Kentucky and Ft Campbell. We hope that each of you had a great spring! It is hard to believe just how quickly time goes by. The Chapter continues to be busy taking care of one another and the members of the 5th Special Forces Group.



Legion Sniper Challenge



Eggstravaganza 2025



American Citizen

Once again, the Easter Bunny along with approximately 400 members of the Legion Family showed up for the Unit's annual "Eggstravaganza" at the Chapter Safehouse in early April. Games, bouncy houses and egg hunting provided something for everyone. There was even an adult egg hunt with prizes that sure wasn't candy. Hunt Bother's Pizza provided the food for lunch. Thank you to the Chapter volunteers and the Soldiers who showed up to make this a great day for all even the worn-out Easter Bunny.

Chapter 38 was blessed to be able to award \$50,000 in scholarship money thanks to our generous donors from the "Legion Fund" and the "Journey Home Project. This year we received 27 applications for our Legion Scholarship directed towards those who have exhausted scholarship opportunities. This year's applications were some of the best since the inception of the Chapter Scholarship Program. Thank you to all that applied. Whether you received an award or not please apply again. The 2026 scholarship announcement and requirements will be posted on our website in February 2026.

The Legion Sniper Challenge was held May 2-4, 2025 with all proceeds being donated to the Chapter. We want to thank Chapter member Matt Masterson for running this event and his family who instrumental in its success. There were over 90 competitors from around the country representing civilian, military, and law enforcement activities. Special thanks Cedar Creek Precision, Hopkinsville Kentucky, for hosting this. Excellent range complex if you are ever in the area. Also, a big thank you to Peter Roth who organized the Chapter members who cooked hotdogs and hamburgers during the event and his Salesman of the Year performance.



Gabriel Field Gold Star 2025 Preparation

We want to congratulate longtime Clarksville businessman, friend of the Legion and husband of Mikyong (Davis) Shin, Tonu Un Shin on becoming a naturalized American citizen on May 15, 2025. Unfortunately, the Vietnam Memorial portion of the Gabriel Field Project wasn't installed prior to the annual May Gold Star Ceremony. Extensive rain in March and April caused some issues with the memorial base causing the delay. Hopefully by the time you received this edition it has been installed and received by the Unit. Thanks to all that have donated towards this worthy project.

Planning is still ongoing for the 64th Annual Reunion/Legion Week 20-27 September 2025. For more information see our website at sfa38.org.

Strength and Honor.

<p>PRES : Mark Arnold VICE : Patrick Enlow SEC : Andy Schneider TRES : Chadd Kuhn</p>		<p>CHAPTER XLV The Buckeye Chapter</p>	<p>45</p>
<p>www.sfa45.org</p>		<p>Central Ohio</p>	



Don Austin with his wife Marybeth and family members

Greetings from the Buckeye Chapter.

Chapter 45 holds two or more fundraising events annually through our charitable 501c3 subsidiary, the Ohio Green Beret Support Group. Most of our fundraising supports the members and families of Ohio's only SF unit, B Company, 2nd Battalion, 19th SFG(A). Their next event we will support is their annual SFC Daniel Crabtree memorial family day picnic and kids' amusement items such as bounce house rental. We also have an endowed scholarship program managed by The Columbus Foundation. Chapter members, their family members, and grandchildren are eligible for two to three scholarships of \$3000 each.

Fundraising is based on our events, but it is hard individual work to recruit sponsors. Sponsors donate about 90% of our annual fundraising. Chapter member Rick LaValley is our anchorman this year with sponsor recruitment. Rick has already landed \$40,000 in donations from his network of American Legion Posts and Districts

Chapter XLV (45) Continued...

and business owners local to him. Rick is generous with his personal treasure as well as his time and energy; he donated \$1,000 himself – a gift he makes annually during the past seven years. Rick’s example of leadership and salesmanship is one other chapter members are encouraged to follow, because many of us are also members of American Legion and AMVETS Posts. These organizations are compelled by IRS regulations to make charitable donations once their revenue reaches certain thresholds.

Chapter 45 celebrated Chapter Member Don Austin’s induction into the Ohio Military Hall of Fame for Valor on 2 May 2025. Don was among six living awardees of valor awards inducted this year. Don’s courageous actions in Vietnam while assigned to the U.S. Army 503rd Airborne, 173rd Airborne Brigade resulted in Don saving the lives of several soldiers on 21 March 1968. He was awarded the Bronze Star with V-device. While on patrol, Don moved to aid a wounded member of his squad even after Don was wounded, in the



Don Austin joined by Chapter 45 members at the induction ceremony for the Ohio Military Hall of Fame for Valor.



Rick LaValley with Thank You plaques for sponsors he recruited for The Ohio Green Beret Support Group

head. He returned fire onto enemy positions and directed the fires of his main element while also destroying six enemy himself. Don then carried his wounded teammate on his shoulders to his platoon and company.

Five weeks later, on 28 April 1968, Don’s unit came under intense direct enemy fire, and Don responded by assaulting several enemy bunkers and eliminating five enemy. The induction ceremony is held annually at the Ohio Statehouse, and it is always standing room only in the large atrium area. Chapter 45 members made an awesome turnout to join Don and his family during this event and its follow-on reception at the National Veterans Memorial and Museum in Columbus, Ohio.

Chapter member Ted Mosure is the Chairman of the Ohio Military Hall of Fame for Valor. Ted is also a combat veteran of the Vietnam War.

- Chapter events planned for this summer include:
- Ride 22 in 22 to support prevention of veteran suicide 23 May
 - B Company’s memorial family day and picnic 7 June.
 - Freedom Ride fundraiser 9 August.
 - Chapter family day luncheon 16 August
 - 3 Gun Shoot fundraiser 6 September.

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.



Chapter 45 member, Don Austin is inducted into the Ohio Military Hall of Fame for Valor 2 May 2025

PRES : Doug Sherd
VICE : Mike Jaciuk
SEC : Chris Mize
TRES : Doug Morgan



CHAPTER LV
The Michael May Memorial Chapter

55

www.sfchap55.org

Michigan

Michigan Chapter 55 held a spring meeting in April at the Memphis, MI Merrick-Potter-Scribner American Legion Post 556 hosted by member Vince Messina. For such an out-of-the-way place, we had a very good turnout of 19 members. Unfortunately, our Chapter President was unable to attend because of health issues, but he is recovering - just slowly. In his absence, the meeting was very ably run by our VP Mike Jaciuk - that's his job!



Group shot at April meeting



L-R: Bill Matthews, Brian LeMessurier, host Vince Messina, Mike Reyes

Up until this meeting, most of us had never heard of Memphis and had to find out where it is and how to drive there. It's a sleepy little town in Michigan's thumb area. Since our host for this meeting lives nearby, he very generously offered to host our summer campout as well, and welcomed some of the guys to visit after the meeting for a quick recon.



Discussion before the meeting



Doug Morgan, Treasurer giving his report

We enjoyed seeing a couple new members: Josh Morton, a member for a little over a year; and, Lee Silvers, who was attending his first meeting. It was a sincere pleasure to meet and visit with these new members. We have added a few other new members but have yet to meet them.

The summer campout in early August is a great venue for a new member to show up since it's nice and casual and runs from Friday afternoon thru Sunday noon or so. Of course, our November winter meeting/dinner dance is a perfect time for new members to appear and meet many of our members and their significant partners.

Reminder: on the first Saturday of every month at 11:30, a Ranger/Special Forces lunch gathering occurs at the Beale Street Smokehouse BBQ located in Fenton, MI.

73

CHAPTER LXXII
The Great Lakes Chapter



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

Wilwaukee, WI

<http://sfachapter73.com>

Greetings from Wisconsin. Chapter 73 held our business meeting and annual dining out 15 February 2025 at Mackinaw's Bar and Grill, Green Bay, WI. The chapter will move to 3 meetings a year instead of the current schedule of 4 meetings. The February meeting will remain as our dining out event, a summer meeting will take place in the Madison, WI area, and the fall meeting will be our annual picnic at Ft. McCoy, WI.



The Ladies of Chapter 73

Many thanks to chapter member John Nowak and his wife Yun Kyung for coordinating the chapter business meeting and dining out. The dinner and service at Mackinaw's Bar and Grill was excellent. Mackinaw's provided Chapter 73 with a private meeting room and a private dining room. After dinner Chapter 73 presented outgoing chapter president Dan Wilke with a plaque thanking him for his many years of service as chapter president. Outgoing chapter vice president, Jerry Smith, was presented with a certificate of appreciation for his service to the chapter.

Our guest speaker for the evening was Ben Niedzwiecki who was injured in 2007 by an IED while serving in Iraq. Ben described his journey with the US Army medical system and after his medical discharge, the VA medical system. Thanks Ben, you presented a fascinating story of courage and perseverance.

Our guest speaker for the evening was Ben Niedzwiecki who was injured in 2007 by an IED while serving in Iraq. Ben described his journey with the US Army medical system and after his medical discharge, the VA medical system. Thanks Ben, you presented a fascinating story of courage and perseverance.

On 25 April 2025 chapter member Jim Fridl traveled to Marquette University located in Milwaukee, WI to present the "Special Forces Association Superior Performance Medal" to Cadet Ruby Nunnery. The medal's backside reads "For academics, leadership and helping others." Marquette cadre selects the top cadet who exhibits exceptional performance during training. Cadet Nunnery will be commissioned in May of 2025. Thanks Jim.

Chapter 73 will conduct a business meeting 19 July 2025 in Madison, WI at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. The meeting coordinator is chapter secretary Greg Smith. Beginning at 1100 a behind the scenes tour will be given to the chapter, with the business meeting to follow at 1200. Lunch will be after the business meeting at Restaurant Sass.



Ben Niedzwiecki, wife Stephanie and John Nowak



Chapter member Jim Fridl, Cadet Nunnery and Lt Col Joshua Mayer



Chapter member John Nowak and wife Yun Kyung

PRES : Mike Elmeel
VICE : Jerry Jochem
SEC : Mike Woods
TRES : Jordan Conrad



CHAPTER CVII
The Galen Kittleson Chapter

107

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

Cedar Rapids, IA

This quarter, Chapter 107 presented SFA certificates of achievement and medals to several ROTC cadets. Dave Hansen is the chairman of the ROTC committee and does an excellent job representing the SFA and Chapter 107. The awards are given to cadets for exceptional performance as identified by instructional staff. Pictured below:



Chapter VP Jerry Jochem presents the certificate and medal to University of Northern Iowa ROTC Cadet Jackson Whitney



Chapter VP Jerry Jochem presents the certificate and medal to University of Dubuque ROTC Cadet Dylan McCall



Chapter member Dave Hansen presents the award and medal to Iowa State University Cadet Lyons

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



CHAPTER D
The Hoosier Chapter

500

www.specialforcesac500.org

Indianapolis, IN

This was a difficult quarter for Chapter 500 as we lost a few members unexpectedly. David Knight passed away on March 14th after a vehicular accident and our Vice President, Ken Hurst, passed away unexpectedly on April 12th while on vacation in Europe. Our Chapter was struck by the news both times, but we rallied around the families to support in any way we could and a number of us were able to attend the funerals and memorial ceremonies.

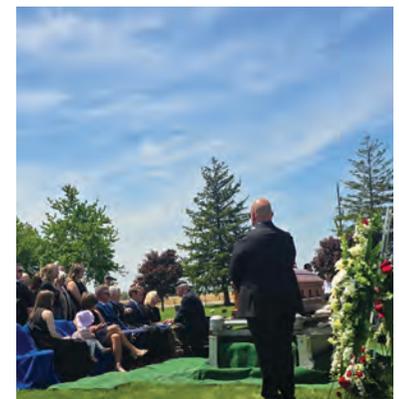
Both David and Ken were active members of the Chapter, so it was a great loss for our brethren, the State of Indiana, the Regiment, and the Nation. Their respective service to the nation and the United States Military and the Special Forces Regiment spanned decades all over the globe. They will be greatly missed, but not forgotten. De Oppresso Liber!



Meetup with Chapter members to remember David Knight's life with family and friends



Chapter members in attendance at Ken Hurst's memorial ceremony



Ken Hurst being laid to rest



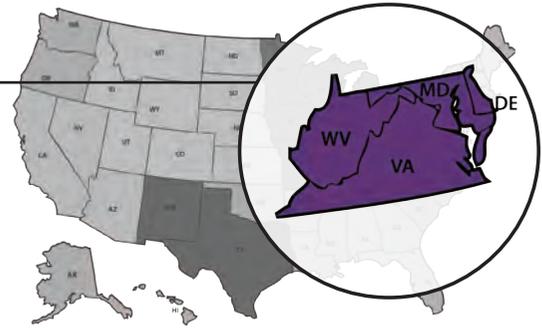
REGION III

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.sfall.org



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

The Chapter is keeping a busy summer, even with the suspension of our monthly meetings at the Olive Garden until September.

In April, we toured the NRA's National Firearms Museum following the APR Ranger-SF Breakfast. Our tour guide was our friend, McKim Symington. McKim showed us the nearly 700-year history of firearms with a special emphasis on firearms, freedom, and the American experience.

Each gallery represents a different era in American history, from the stockade fort at Jamestown to the gun factories of New England. Life-sized dioramas include a nineteenth-century rifle maker's shop, a trench on the Western Front in WWI, and a shelled-out town square in Normandy in WWII. The firearms tell stories of how they were used to provide security and sustenance to the early colonists, how they were used to secure our freedom and independence and have been used ever since to maintain and preserve those liberties.

We will continue celebrating Memorial Day at CPT Rocky Versace Memorial Plaza, Alexandria, VA, by reading the names of the 68 Alexandrians who were KIA or MIA in Vietnam. On 6 June, we will celebrate the 81st Anniversary of Operation Overlord at the French Ambassador's Residence and tour a diorama of the Rangers at Ponte de Hoc and a film on the OSS operations supporting Operation Overlord, Chapter Secretary Emerita, Dr. Virginia "Ginny" Norton, will host another great Chapter XI Pool Party at her home in July. Summer activities will end with a Chapter trip to Fort Myer to watch the 3rd Infantry (The Old Guard) perform the U.S. Army's Twilight Tattoo on July 23. As usual, we continued to host the monthly RANGER-SF Breakfasts at the American Legion Post 176, Springfield, VA on the second Saturday of each month.

Chapter XI tries to represent the Regiment at every Special Forces Soldier's funeral at Arlington National Cemetery and to assist the family and friends of our comrades-in-arms. Since February, we have been honored to celebrate the lives of CAPT Richard "Rick" Smethers, USN [SEAL]; SGM Michael L Adams [5th SFGA, 10th SFGA]; Sgt James R. "Woody" Woodbury, USAF Air Commando [20th SOS - VN]; MSG Hugh L. "Sam" Beasley [10 & 5th SFGA MACV-SOG]; LTC(R) Robert L. Leites [5th & 10th SFGAs]; Mark Richard Esola [4th BN 502nd IN - Berlin BDE; 1st BN 325th PIR, 82nd ABN DIV; 1st10th SFGA; 1st SWTG; 96th CA BN]. Please let Chapter XI know of any



The US Army Color Guard and Fife and Drum Corps of the 3rd Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) Posting the Colors at the 2025 SF Regimental Birthday Ball at the Army Navy Country Club in Arlington, Virginia



BG Alison Martin & COL Joe Martin with the French Deputy Defense Attache' for Joint Operations COL Flavien Laet and Madame Agatha Lanet at the SF Regimental Birthday Ball

upcoming SF funerals in Arlington or in the DC area so we can reach out to the next of kin and support them. You never know if the family will be alone at the ceremony of their Green Beret. Chapter XI works hard to prevent that!

Save the Date for the 2026 SF Regimental Birthday Ball! We'll hold it on Friday, May 8, 2026, at the Army Navy Country Club, Arlington, VA. It will be a night to come, enjoy, and remember! Join us and enjoy a great night of camaraderie!



MG Moore was the Director of Operations, Readiness, and Mobilization, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans, United States Army Staff (DAMO-OD), 1983-1987. He led all US Army senior-level oversight for all Army Special Operations Forces (SOF) and Special Mission Units (SMU), including all Service-based funding, training, logistical support, and manning requirements for those entities, he successfully re-energized, re-vitalized, and modernized, after years of neglect, Army SOF and SMU capabilities and sustainment. This included the resurrection of 1st and 3rd SFGAs and the establishment of the Special Forces Branch. He is recognized as the "Godfather of SOF Modernization."



CW4 Chris Wilkerson, the National President of the Special Forces Association presenting an Honorary Membership into the Special Forces Association to MG William "Bill" Moore at the SF Regimental Birthday Ball for his massive support as the "Godfather of SOF Modernization"

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. Unfortunately we had to cancel our SF/Ranger breakfast this quarter. These quarterly breakfast get-togethers are open to all in the SOF community. We continue to promote comradery and support for all special operations personnel in our area. Check out our website for more details on upcoming events. If you're in the area, we hope to see you there.

On April 28, SFA Chapter 90 Vice President Rick Morris and Brad Herzog traveled to Virginia Military Institute (VMI) to present the Chapter's MG Frederick Leadership Award. This is an annual award the Chapter provides to VMI's outstanding ROTC Cadet Graduate. This year's recipient was Cadet Jonas Jurak from Manassas, VA. He will soon be off to attend the Infantry Basic Officer Leadership Course. He wishes to be assigned the 82nd Airborne Division and hopes to be accepted to the Ranger Course.

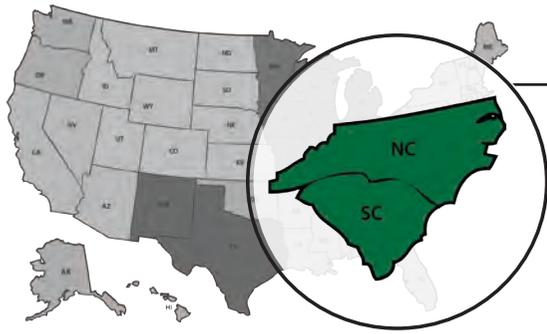
May 5th Chapter members attended Mark Richard Esola's funeral at Arlington cemetery. Mark - a longtime member of the Chapter passed in August 2024 but because of Arlington's backlog, his interment wasn't until May this year. It was a humbling ceremony for one of the Chapter's own.

On May 16th the Chapter held its annual Spring Charity golf tournament at the Gauntlet Golf Course in Fredericksburg, VA. This year we had 123 players sign up. This year's winning team came from Moose Lodge 2215 in Stafford, Virginia. Congratulations for a round well played.

We would also like to thank our many sponsors - large and small - who helped us generate approximately \$45,000 for distribution to the Chapter's scholarship fund and other well deserving charities. The principle charity this year was Purple Heart Homes. Through their donations and an incredibly large raffle event, we were able to donate nearly \$20,000 to this worthy organization.

Chapter 90 meets the first Friday of every month at 2000 hours at Moose Lodge 2215, 422 Eskimo Hill Rd, Stafford, VA. They are great hosts with an affordable bar! As always, the team room is always open to all SF teammates. If you're traveling 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



President Gary Koenitzer and Vice President Rick Turcotte presenting a check to Gold Star Teen Adventures Kent Solheim



Winning Golf Team, Rick Turcotte, Roger Bartlett, Jason Britt, Al Aycock

Chapter 6 was busy this last quarter. Members talked to students from SFQC Class 339 at the Rowe Training Facility (CMK) upon the completion of Robin Sage and attended the graduation a couple of weeks later.

We held our annual golf fundraiser in support of Gold Star Teen Adventures and Jack Tobin Scholarship fund. A great turnout at Deer Croft country club. We were able to give Gold Star Teen Adventures for \$5000. Members also support their Deer/Turkey hunts and Kayak outings.

Earl Howell conducted Shotgun activities for members at the John Lentz Hunter Safety ED Complex the morning of our Spring Meeting. Skeet training as well as some members shot their rifles!!

We memorialized MSG (R) Joe Epley on the Memorial Wall on our compound prior to Spring meeting. Turn out at the meeting was great and food was catered from CSM (R) Brian Penrod - Budweiser BBQ.

The following day Rick Turcotte did a Steel Challenge Clinic and Match at Gryphon Group. This also raised funds for the Memorial Valor Foundation.

Chapter VI (6) Continued...



Shot Gun Activities



Memorial Wall Memorialization

17 **CHAPTER XVII**
 The COL Jerry "Robin" Sage Memorial Chapter
 Maggie Valley, NC www.sfchapter17.com

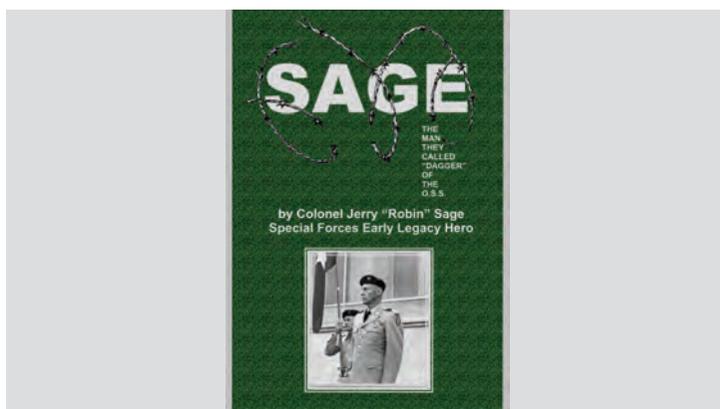


PRES : Phil Hanson
VICE : Mike Cavanaugh
SEC : Walt Stonez
TRES : Bill Gunn
SGT at ARMS : Benny Wyrick

Chapter 17 (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 ATeacher 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 web site.



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

62 **CHAPTER LXII**
 The MSG Lowell Stevens Memorial Chapter
 Southern Pines, NC www.sfa62.org



PRES : Vic Allen
VICE : Tom Galbicsek
SEC : Gary Smith
TRES : Mark Carey

Greetings from Southern Pines in the Sandhills of North Carolina.

In March, Chapter supported the yearly world-wide Sniper Competition held at Range 37 at Ft. Bragg. There were 21 teams represented (14 from the USA and 7 International) and, again this year the competition was fierce and these elite snipers truly showed the reason they were participants.



Awards Table: Each certificate is for either a rifle or pistol for the winning team member



The Sniper Competition Banquet held at Village Pine Venue in Caphage, NC



Tom Quinn presenting Chapter President Vic Allen with Certificate of Appreciation from the 18F Committee

The Top 5 winning teams were:

- 1st Place: 75th Rangers
- 2nd Place: 3rd SFG(A)
- 3rd Place: Netherlands KCT
- 4th Place: 20th SFG (A)
- 5th Place: USASOC

See photo below for prizes won by these experts.

Chapter 62 has taken on the honor of speaking at the 18F graduation and presenting the Honor Graduate with a Spartan Blades knife and the #2 student with a 1-year SFA membership. Chapter 62 President, Vic Allen, was the speaker at the latest graduation. At the chapter meeting on May 3, 2025, Tom Quinn, NCOIC of the 18F Committee presented Vic with a Certificate of Appreciation from the 18F Committee (See photo below). Tom also presented Mark Carey of Spartan Blades with a Certificate of Appreciation. As always, anyone in the neighborhood is invited to stop in for one of our monthly meetings on the 1st Saturday of each month at 1800 hrs at the VFW at 615 South Page Street in Southern Pines, NC.



Tom Quinn presenting Mark Carey of Spartan Blades with Certificate of Appreciation from the 18F Committee

De Oppresso Liber

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



CHAPTER LXIII
 The Francis "Swamp Fox" Marion Chapter

63

Charleston, SC

Chapter 63 met for our quarterly business meeting in January for the purpose of electing new chapter officers, who are as follows: Chris Fox, president; Kirk Ferguson, vice president; Ronnie Johnson, treasurer; and Tom Doran, secretary.

In February, Bob Welsh, Jerry Estenson, and Tom Doran attended the annual memorial ceremony for General Francis "Swamp Fox" Marion, our chapter's namesake.

Our March informal/social meeting was held at the home of chapter member Mike Holzer during his annual "Bourbon and Bacon" event. Those not there missed a good time! Also that month, Chris Fox presented our chapter's award to a Citadel cadet at that institution's award ceremony.

Two meetings will be held in June, one on a weekday evening and another on June 14th, to celebrate Flag Day and the 250th birthday of the U.S. Army.



Chris Fox presents Chapter 63's "Swamp Fox" award to the chosen graduating Citadel cadet

363

CHAPTER CCCLXIII

MG James A. Guest - "The Special Forces Soldiers Chapter"



PRES : Pat Fensom
 VICE : Kevin Berry
 SEC : Ralph Longello
 TRES : John Kelly
 SGT at ARMS : Jake Dunn

Greenville, SC

Greetings from Greenville, SC, where Chapter 363 continues to grow and positively impact the Upstate AOR. During our January meeting, we shared the 2025 plan for events. Our February meeting included a guest speaker who recently left 3d SFG(A). Phil Carter shared his experiences as a Detachment Commander with pictures from various trips. Our March gathering consisted of a day at the range, where members and guests enjoyed plenty of trigger time. We had a business meeting in April and a Spring Picnic for our May meeting.



Clemson 8



Picnic

We gave two presentations to the Clemson ROTC Cadets during their history class in April. The presentations titled, Special Forces in Vietnam and Special Forces during the Global War on Terror continue to receive positive reviews from the cadets and cadre. Chapter members provide a historical overview and "boots on the ground" vignettes from members who served in the respective theaters. These engagements have led to several cadets requesting one-on-one meetings with select chapter members to gain further insight into service in SF/SOF.



Chapter Range



ROTC Clemson

Chapter 363 supports three universities in our AOR throughout the school year. Clemson University, Furman University, and Wofford College closed out their 2024-2025 academic year and invited CH 363 to participate in their annual ROTC awards ceremony in April. Chapter members recognized the top students from the three schools with plaques, certificates, and medals.

Additionally, MSG (R) Scott Fagan presented the JROTC awards to two cadets at Hart County High School, where he serves as a JROTC instructor.

We've had a busy start to the year and are looking to continue the momentum into the summer with social gatherings and business meetings.

DOL

Host/POC: Bob Charest
 Email : snakecharest@gmail.com




Detachment "A"
 Berlin Brigade 1956-1984

<https://detachment-a.org>

Major General James A. Guest, our great supporter of Detachment "A" Berlin Brigade passed away on Thursday 3 April 2025. Jim had a long, stellar, and distinguished career in Special Forces. He was an honorary member of Detachment "A", and was guest speaker on several occasions, having attended many of our Detachment "A" functions. A short video is posted on the Detachment "A" website along with his bio.

Our next Detachment "A" Berlin Brigade function will be held from 11-14 September 2025 same location in Greenville, SC, same hotel, spread the word. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Chris "Vinnie" Feudo, former Detachment "A" member, Team 5 Leader, and later the S-3. Vinnie served from 1978-1981.

Check out the following on the Detachment "A" website and YouTube which includes:

The Detachment "A" final film titled "The Ghost Units that DID exist" has been published. This film is being dedicated to the history and legacy of all our Detachment "A" folks past and present, and the DET-A/SOG connection of those DET-A folks who served in both classified units. The film will be shown at our September 2025 function in Greenville, SC.

Former Detachment "A" Berlin member Peter Kelley's speech from our last function in September 2024 in Greenville, SC. Pete served in Detachment "A" from 1975 to 1979; an exceptionally significant and consequential period in Detachment "A" Berlin's History/Legacy 1956-1984.

Iconic photo of Team 4 in April of 1980 while at Special Operations Urban Commando Training at the Mott Lake facility located on Fort Bragg along with the full details about the photo.



Major General James A. Guest



Detachment "A" Team 4, Special Operations Urban Commando Training Mott Lake, Fort Bragg



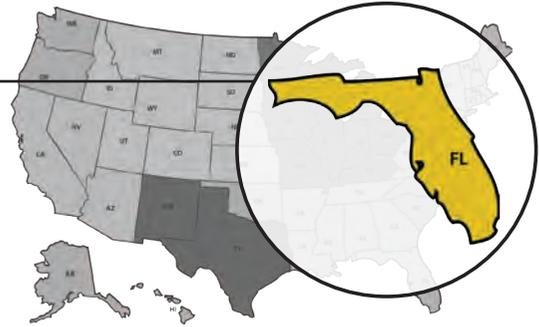
REGION V

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*



21

CHAPTER XXI

The Bob Salzman Memorial Chapter

Orlando, FL

specialforceschapter21florida.weebly.com



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

The Chapter members are looking forward to our Spring 2025 Luncheon and Meeting on 17 May 2025 at the Orange Blossom Hill Country Club, in "The Villages" Florida.

We plan to host two honored speakers at the meeting VA Representative, Noel Hike (An honorary Chapter XXI member) to present updates about the VA under the new VA leadership and Administration.



CSM Mark Duwel presenting JROTC Cadet Jeremy Casey with SFA Chapter 85 Certificate and Medal

Also presenting will be Craig Gross, a Goldstar Father of Corporal Frankie Gross who was KIA in Afghanistan on 16 July 2011. Craig will provide an overview of his newly published book, *This Side of Their Sacrifice*. This highly acclaimed book is a series of personal vignettes about the soldiers, sailors and airmen, and their Goldstar families and the ultimate sacrifice made in defense of our County. Anyone interested in attending should contact Chapter 21 President, John Vislosky.

Chapter XXI JROTC Presentation: On 11 April SGM (R) Richard "Whit" Whitman, Chapter 21 VP, represented Chapter XXI at the JROTC Ceremony at the Sebastian River High School in Sebastian FL. Whit along with CSM Mark Duwel from Chapter 85 presented the honor graduates with both SFA, Chapter XXI Certificates and Medals.



SGM Richard Whitman presenting JROTC Cadet Kali Taylor with SFA Chapter XXI Certificate and Medal

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



CHAPTER LX

The Richard J. Meadows Memorial Chapter

60

www.specialforces.org

Tampa, FL

Chapter LX is excited to announce that the Tampa Team House is now OPEN!!!

This quarter has been busy making the final touches on the Team House getting it ready for the Grand Opening. And the Chapter LX membership Grand Opening was an exciting one. On average we have approximately 40-50 members attend the monthly meetings, but for May, which is when the membership was invited to come see the Team House for the first time, it was quite a



May meeting

showing. Close to 80 members were in attendance. For all who had anxiously waited for the first meeting in the Team House, it was quite the event. What an exciting night for the membership!!

The formal Grand Opening for the media and VIPs will be held on Friday 6 June. We will have pictures to share from that evening in the next issue.

And for those of you that come to visit the area, be sure to stop by the Team House. It will be open for all members of the Regiment and Brotherhood Thursday through Sunday. Come by, take a tour, enjoy a beverage, and see old or make new friends during your visit.

Chapter LX meetings are held every 2nd Thursday of each month at 1730 hours in the Richard J. Meadows Team House on Dale Mabry. 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. We look forward to seeing you there.



The Underground Tavern



May meeting



Dick Meadows standing proud

Chapter LX (60) Continued...

We often think of those we have lost over the years, especially as we approach Memorial Day. 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.

74

CHAPTER LXXIV

The CPT Bob May Memorial Chapter

Central Florida

www.ch74sfa.com



PRES : Kevin McKeown
VICE : John Nettles
VICE : Ed Parker
SEC : Bobby Coburn
TRES : Allen Bryant



Chapter 74 Members SJ Ray, Bill Morrissey, Evelyn Sapp, Joel Sapp, Larry Sapp, Jeanne

Chapter 74 Annual Rendezvous will be held 07-08-09 Nov 2025 at the Ocala Conservation and Youth Center, 7325 NE 170th Ave, Silver Springs, FL 34488. Any SF individuals and spouses who desire to attend are welcome to come and join the festivities. It is a family oriented get together. Please RSVP to John or Ed so we can ensure food for everyone.

We will have bonfire and social time on Friday Night, our meeting, a memorial service, BBQ lunch and range firing on Saturday followed by a bonfire Saturday night.

Our Quarterly meeting was held at the Deland Stockyard Steakhouse in Deland, FL on 03 May 2025 with a start time of 1130. Turnout was good and we updated members on upcoming Convention activities as well as Chapter 74 projects. The manager (Samantha) and our server ensured everyone had plenty to eat and drink. The steak and fish sandwiches were excellent and the space provided was perfect for our group.

Our next Quarterly meeting will be held at the Clermont Oyster Bar in Clermont, FL on 16 Aug 2025 with a start time of 1130. We hope to have a good turnout as we will be planning our November Rendezvous.



Chapter 74 Members Lee Agnew, Ray Watson, Barb Sella, Landy Sella, Scott White



Chapter 74 President Kevin McKeown presenting Certificate of Appreciation to DeLand Stockyard assistant Manager Samantha



Chapter 74 President Kevin McKeown presenting a Chapter 74 coin to Samantha while VP John Nettles presents one to Melanie who provided great service

If any at large members in the central Florida area are interested in joining our chapter or attending any meetings or activities, please contact any of the officers and we will let you know our schedule.

PRES : Ed Pijuan
VICE : Roger Kidder
SEC : Al Hernandez
SEC : Jason Psaltides
TRES : Jim Trice



CHAPTER LXXVI
The Pan-American Chapter

76

www.sfach76.blogspot.com

Miami, FL

Greetings from Chapter 76 in South Florida! We trust this update finds you in good health.

Our meeting attendance has been exceptional this quarter, and it's heartening to witness three generations of SF brothers



Some of our 7th Groupers that attended our last Chapter 76 Gathering. From left to right: William Yeider, Eric Beckdol Sr, Scott Kramer, Kevin Staley, Marco Arboleda, Charlie Gates and John Gillo



Chapter 76's Secretary, Al Hernandez recently attended his son's basic training graduation. Anthony Hernandez has since completed AIT and is assigned to a SOF (ABN) Civil Affairs unit thus he will be attending Jump School soon too.



At Bass Pro's Islamorada Fish Restaurant enjoying catching up on strategic issues

maintaining deep mutual respect for each other. It is with deep sadness that we inform you of the passing of one of our members, Ron Mongole.

If you are visiting South Florida, please feel free to reach out to us for any assistance you may need.

Stay safe, vigilant, and always watch your six.



Left to right and around two tables: John Gillo, Eric Beckdol Sr., Dave May, Pat McLennan, Steve Malvita, Ron Carlson, a guest, Fred Jaca, Scott Kramer, and Marco Arboleda with black hat and OD green tee shirt

PRES : Dewey Walker
VICE : John Page
SEC : Tom Burke
TRES : Wade Carroll
SGT at ARMS : Ernest Moreland



CHAPTER LXXXVIII
The Green Berets Northeast Florida Chapter

88

www.sfachapter88.org

Jacksonville, FL

Chapter 88 continues to be active and our members do an outstanding job of supporting the chapter and their communities.

On Feb. 3, our member Padraic E. "Pat" Mulvihill was a 2025 honoree of the Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation's Legion of Honor Bronze Medallion. The medallion is the second highest award, only six are awarded annually, granted by the FCMF for extraordinary contributions to the well-being of others at the state, regional or national level. Mulvihill, an Army National Guard Captain, was honored for his service-above-self and his volunteer work with veterans and his community.

On March 1, our guest speaker was retired U.S. Navy Capt. Dale V. Raebel, 86, who spoke about his experiences as a Prisoner of War (POW) during the Vietnam War. Raebel was a Lt. Cmdr. and a rated A-7 Corsair II pilot with attack squadron VA-37 (Bulls) on the aircraft carrier USS Saratoga (CVA-60) in 1972. On Aug. 17 during a combat mission over North Vietnam, his aircraft was hit by shrapnel and

Chapter LXXXVIII (88) Continued...



On April 4, member John Arnold presented JROTC Cadet Capt. Justin Soto, left, with the SFA Award of Excellence and a scholarship to graduating Cadet Gabriel Butler at William Raines High School



President Dewey Walker, right, presents a chapter coin and certificate of appreciation to guest speaker retired Navy Capt. Dale Raebel

he was forced to eject and was taken prisoner. He experienced harsh treatment, enduring and surviving 225 days in captivity until his release during Operation Homecoming on March 29, 1973. Raebel's presentation was well received by all in attendance.

During April and May, we supported about two dozen local high school JROTC programs with the presentation of the Special Forces Association Award of Excellence medal sets to outstanding cadets. Chapter 88 supports 26 greater Jacksonville area JROTC schools and awards 8 scholarships annually. Members John Page and Scott Eder lead the chapter JROTC programs. On April 28, our chapter participated in the 50th anniversary of end of the Vietnam War. The Vietnamese Community of Jacksonville joined with city officials, civic organizations, military associations, war veterans and the public to commemorate April 30, 1975. Our members John Page, Pat Mulvihill and John Arnold helped as event organizers. Arnold was also one of the honored speakers during the ceremony. The Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) was an event sponsor and provided a memorial wreath to remember all American service members who gave their lives in Vietnam. The event was well attended by area veterans, including other Chapter 88 members.

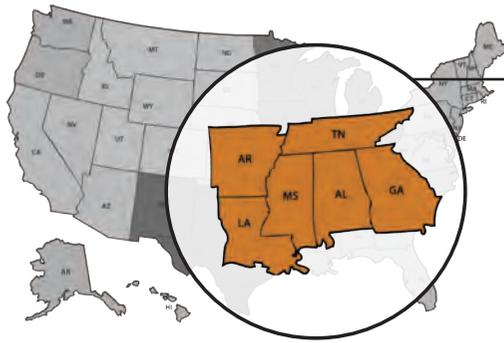
Mark your calendars for Nov. 8, 2025 for the Wounded Warrior Project's Carry Forward 5K in Jacksonville. We are forming a squad again this year and you can join us. Find us under "SFA Chapter 88" squad on the WWP website: <https://carryforward.woundedwarriorproject.org>.



Award presenter Rev. Patrick Archuleta stands with honoree Pat and Mrs. Mati Mulvihill, and Chaplain Lt. Col. Derek Boucher



John Page, right, helps fellow veteran Tony Mann to carry a VVA wreath representing all fallen American servicemembers who lost their lives in Vietnam. (Courtesy photo Suit and Tie Photography of Jacksonville)



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)**, **CXI (111)**

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

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



CHAPTER XXXIII
The Larry A. Thorne Memorial Chapter

33

www.chapterXXXIII.sfsarge.com

Knoxville, TN



Group photo. New members, first row, left, Terry Shelton, Marcus Whitt, and Jeff Kent. Chuck Hinson is behind Terry and Marcus.

Our Spring meeting was held at the Best Western Plus, Knoxville, TN, on 12-14 February 2025. Ron Bruce was the host.

Unlike our Winter meeting in Ellijay, Georgia, the Weatherman kept his promise with the forecast. The sky opened wide, and the landscape was drenched in cascading liquid. It's nothing like the Forty Days and Forty Nights incident a few years back, but enough of a deluge to attempt it.

A spirited group filled the Hospitality Room on Friday afternoon. Three new members were included in the chapter: Marcus Whitt, Jeff Kent, and Terry Shelton. Also in attendance was a long-lost member, Chuck Hinson, with his wife, Jocasta. I think the last time I saw Chuck was sometime in the late 80s or early 90s.

Despite the continuing Forty Days and Forty Nights deluge, Saturday was a shopping day for the ladies. They donned their wet-weather gear and evacuated the motel for more desirable, albeit wet, locations.

High Noon in the Hospitality Room was lunchtime. It was supposed to end when President Marriott called the meeting to order at 1330 hours. However, folks were still making 2nd and 3rd trips to the lunch table.

For the first time in many meetings, we had a forum of humans. The Secretary and Treasurer gave their reports, which were approved and seconded. The Chapter logos for our shirts and hats were on the agenda. This discussion was mainly for the new members. Cathy Shank will do the sewing and she does not want to be compensated for this.

The food tray problem is solved. The meeting host will purchase two food trays. One laid out for lunch, the other held in reserve in the refrigerator. If it is not needed, it will be auctioned off.

Our auction was conducted by Dan Orange, our Secretary/Vice President. He conducted a very active auction auctioning off the many items. He even sold a list of goods to our President, Marriott Henderson.

The second food tray was auctioned off for \$40. I think the Chapter made about \$5 on the sale.

Chapter XXXIII (33) Continued...



Does Terry always say "good-bye" this way?



Mike DeGraw can't believe what Marcus and Terry are discussing.



Auctioneer Dan Orange pushing a painting of Special Forces Activities.

Our Treasurer, Chuck James, won the raffle drawing. Some members questioned the legality of the drawing, but since an innocent bystander drew the winning ticket, Chuck was found not guilty of fixing the outcome.

And then came Sunday. We gathered in the breakfast area to bid our goodbyes. The rain had passed to the East, so the trips home would hopefully be non-eventful.

Our next meeting will be on 13-15 June 2025 at the Best Western Plus, Knoxville, Tennessee. Ron Bruce will host this meeting. 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.

49

CHAPTER XLIX

The Richard J. Webber Memorial Chapter



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

Little Rock, AR

Greetings from Chapter 49. Chapter 49 held its last spring outing at Lake Catherine in Hot Springs Arkansas and we had a great time catching up as you would expect but our numbers are dwindling. For that reason, we've decided to go to other parts of the State to entice others in the Chapter to participate in our annual events providing we are in a closer A.O. to them.

The picture below is our last April event at Lake Catherine. From L. to R. Johnny Martin, Ken Smith, Ray Beuscher, Lonnie Williamson, Trent Garner, Nixon, James Mosely, and Richard Green. MIA Craig Hunter....



Chapter 49 has been researching spots to donate funds that help those in need. After much deliberation, Ken Smith, (Treasurer) sent \$2000 dollars to the Samaritans Purse organization which was transmitted and received in their coffer. Their website, in case others want to research or follow suit, is as follows: Disaster Relief Organization | Samaritan's Purse (<https://samaritanspurse.org/our-ministry/disaster-relief-landing-page/>)



Johnny Martin is awarding Cadet Myah Wright a Certificate of Excellence from Chapter 49 for having a 3.5 GPA and an AFPT score of 579!

Cadet Wright is an Air Assault graduate and is a Certified Personal Trainer. Cadet Wright has also participated in the Arkansas Ranger Challenge for two years and plans to branch into Medical Services before attending Physical Therapy School.

Also hot off the press, Chapter 49 congratulates 1Lt. Trent Garner, our new JAG lawyer assigned at Camp Robinson to handle legal affairs for the Guard.

Lastly, the Chapter would like to recognize Ray Roth, our Patriarch of the Chapter who just turned 92! Ray was in the Korean War we missed him at Lake Catherine this year due to health reasons.

We wish you the Best Ray!

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



CHAPTER LIX

The Joe C. Alderman Memorial Chapter

59

www.SFALIX.org

Georgia, USA

Our Georgia chapter conducted an informative meeting including a delicious potluck lunch. Community highlights reported included presentation during May of SFA Certificates, medallions, challenge coins and one \$250 to worthy ROTC cadets at three Universities and one high school. Our chapter also awarded \$1,000 scholarship to Cleo Tucker graduating from high school with a 4.7 GPA.

Our guest speaker was Mr Anh Nguyen honoree member of Chapter-59. At the age of About 12, and one of 10 kids, living in Hue, Vietnam, the TET Offensive brought the war to his home. He was adopted by an American family and wound up retiring from Coca Cola as a product manager in Atlanta.

Today he is helping the efforts to find and identify the remains of US MIA, and both VN and NVA remains so more families can rest in peace. My unit was directly involved as part of the freeing of HUE of the enemy as TET ended. Healing takes time, and this is over 55 years ago. God's hand is on this effort.

A raffle is planned the proceeds of which will go to our scholarship fund. We are offering, M-16 rifle, 45 Cal Glock pistol and Randal knife at the drawing for first, second and third place.



Some Attendees

Chapter LIX (59) Continued...



Anh Nguyen who shared his journey to freedom and the American dream



Col (ret) Biff Hadden presenting Columbus State University to Cadet an SFA ROTC



Biff Hadden , Cloe Tucker and Sam Seetin

92

CHAPTER XCII

COL(R) Ola Lee Mize/CPT(R) Gary Michael Rose MOH Chapter

Madison, AL

www.chapter92sfa.com



PRES : Ken Garcy
 VICE : Lloyd Carpenter
 SEC : Tommy Smith
 TRES : Archie Baker



4/09/25 Tommy Smith presents Cadet Matthew D. Bacon, University of North Alabama, Florence



4/22/25 Archie Baker presents Cadet Stephen O'Neal, Alabama A&M University



4/24/25 Paul Thorn presents Cadet William Watkins, University of Alabama Birmingham

In February Chapter 92 met once again at Surin of Thailand in Huntsville, Al. Visitors to the meeting included Col Matthew Bray, DCO, 20th SFG, and CSM (R) Martin Trammell. They provided insight and an invitation to chapter members to attend the 20th SFG in Birmingham, Al. Ken Garcy attended the event and recruited several new members to Chapter 92.

The March meeting of Chapter 92 was held at the IHOP in Madison, Al. Plans for presentation of ROTC awards at each of the Junior ROTC and Senior ROTC schools were finalized and presenters were identified to attend award ceremonies at each. The Chapter is supporting 19 High Schools and 8 Colleges for FY 2025. We continue to seek volunteers to support this Chapter endeavor and community involvement.

In April we once again met at IHOP in Madison, Al. In addition to confirming assignments for ROTC awards one of the primary points of interest was where to hold our monthly meetings in the future since both of our previous



4/17/25 Ed Cancell & Robert Rollins presents Cadet Samuel Duncan, Jacksonville State University

sites did not have "private" meeting rooms and thus made it difficult to conduct chapter business without disturbing other patrons in the dining area. The decision was made to have the next meeting at VFW Post 2702 in Huntsville, AL. Several of the current Chapter 92 members are also members of this post and felt it would be a much better place to conduct business.

Our May meeting was held at the VFW Post 2702 and went well. All those present agreed this would be our "normal" meeting place going forward. Several of the ROTC awards have been presented already with the remainder to be given out this month as schools plan for end of semester and graduation. The SF medals, certificates of achievement, and the Chapter 92 coin specifically designed for the ROTC recipients have been well received.

The June meeting will be held in Rainbow City, AL, at the Western Sizzlin Steak House @ 209 W Grand Ave, Rainbow City, AL 35906-3240. Following the meeting we will have a police escort to the cemetery and burial site of Col Ola Lee Mize, MOH, to perform our annual tribute to him.

PRES : Drue Loiselld
VICE : Bob Bean
SEC : VACANT
TRES : Steven Owens
SGT AT ARMS : Doug Wisnioski



CHAPTER CXI
 Blue Ridge Mountains Region

111

Mountain City, TN



President Loiselld presenting first Chap 111 ROTC Award in Ashe County



Monthly meeting at President Drue's house

Greetings from the Blue Ridge Mountains. Spring is here and the area has many things to offer the outdoor enthusiast. We have some of the best fly fishing in the country as well as hiking, climbing, biking and more. April brings NASCAR racing to the Bristol Motor Speedway in April. So come out and see us. You're always welcome.

Chapter 111 hosted a free outdoor BBQ on 10 May 2025 for Chapter members and families and any current SFA Members and families. Approximately 45 people attended to enjoy great food, music, and friendship at Doe Valley Farm, 313 Stagecoach Loop, Mountain City, TN.

The event was catered by the Daniel Boone Inn and local music was provided. A Sig 326X was raffled off with Lee Collette from Nightline winning the pistol but donating it back to the Chapter. Good on ya Lee!!!



Chapter members at May BBQ at Doe Valley Farms

Planning is underway for our 3RD Annual Fall Gala at the Carnegie Hotel in Johnson, TN on October 10th. Last year was a great success with over 150 attendees who enjoyed great food, drink and a silent auction. Music was provided by East Tennessee State University's Bluegrass Band. Keep an eye out for this year's flyer to be posted on the SFA website.

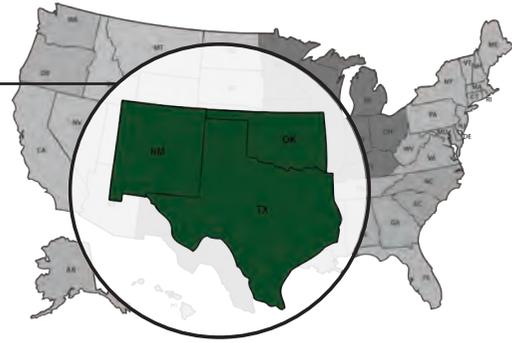
Lastly, our membership is growing and we want to keep growing. Numerous retired/former SF soldiers live in our Chapter's area. Be on the lookout for a letter with an invitation to join us. Our monthly meetings alternate between NC and TN locations. Come on out and join us.



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

9

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. September meeting on the 13th due to golf tournament on the 20th.

We made several recent donations to include \$2,500 in mattresses for needy children via Sleep in Heavenly Peace, \$2,000 to Echo Hills Gold Star Camp, and \$1,500 for the Special Olympics Tigers Basketball Team.



Nick Talley Going Away

New Members/Guests: Guests - Rodney Washington TX Veterans Land Board, discussed benefits available to our members. Patrick LaRocque, 5th SFGA and Pete White, 7th & 20th SFGA joined the chapter. Honorary Memberships were presented for: Ranger Wayne Johnson, Veteran & Attorney Brian Kennedy, Chair of BP 82nd Airborne Paul Albright.

Nick Talley going away - 2 March 2025: We held an event for former Treasurer Nick and his wife Gabby who got accepted to Medical School in Washington.

SOG Expo April 23-24, 2025: Chair Steve Franzoni. The SOG Expo was a resounding success, we maxed out our allotted tables of 126 plus we had 7 outdoor spaces. I would like to thank the SORB for assisting. Thanks to Greg Brown and Naipo Robertson in marking the zones for electricity and Thomas Melgares' continued support in designing all the vendor badges. The Range Day had a lot of moving pieces, but Sean Bratton kept the day moving along. The Expo is truly a team event from the setup, Vendor Appreciation Dinner, Expo and Range Day.

J/ROTC SFA Award for Excellence Presentations: We have made numerous presentations to UTEP ROTC and five local Independent School District JROTCs. Presenters were Thomas Melgares, Jerry Campos, David Frankel, Steve Franzoni, Ike Camacho, Brian Kanof, Sean Bratton and Pete Peral.

18th Annual Jerry Rainey Scholarship Presentations - August 16th Meeting: Greg Brown Chair. There will be 3 x \$1,500 Scholarships this year. 15 applications have been sent out already and must be returned by 15 June.

19th Anniversary CSM (R) John McLaughlin Golf Tournament - 20 September 25: Chair Greg Brown. The committee is working the rest of the details for the next tourney. We have an additional Sponsorship this year - \$500 Hole in One Sponsor and one of our own members Ken Wimmer stepped up to the plate!



SOG Expo Registration Desk



President Pete Award Presentation

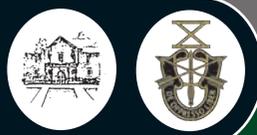
21st B-2-12 SFGA Reunion - Ruidoso, April 24-27: There was a great itinerary at the reunion, with winery tour, time at the range, great catered meals and great camaraderie.

VFW 812 Auxiliary Thank You Certificate: Ramon "Moose" Saiz, Cesar Parra & Pete Peral received a certificate for all their assistance to the VFW. It was read to the membership at our meeting.



SOG Expo Range Day

PRES : Jeffrey D. Dahlby
VICE : Thomas L. Tannahill
SEC : Lionel Solis
TRES : Merrill G. Hall
SGT at ARMS : Raul I. De La Garza



www.sfa-xv.org

CHAPTER XV
The Alamo Chapter

15

San Antonio, TX

Greetings from SFA Alamo Chapter XV,

The Chapter continues to grow in membership and participation as Green Berets settle in the San Antonio area and join seeking fellowship with their extended family.

February was a month of remembrance as two Chapter XV members: 1SG (R) Rudolph "Rudy" Johnson and SGM (R) Danny Lawrence Goldman were laid to rest along with the father of Chapter XV member Paul Coleman, Air Force MSG(R) Robert Michael "Mike" Coleman, and the brother of SFA/SOA member Ivan Davis and uncle of Brent Davis, Air Force MSG (R) Darrel Edward Davis. May they all rest in eternal peace...mission complete.

Chapter XV (15) Continued...



11th Street Cowboy Bar, Bandera, TX Happy Hour during annual picnic. L-R Monica & Jeff Dahlby, Susan & Fred Solis, Arlene & Pat Connolly, Marlys & Ron Burkett, Buddy & Sharon Gee, Patty & Steve Schoenicke, Dave & Rhonda Marshall, Ted Heckerman, Merrill Hall, Suzanne & John Armezzani, Joy Gibson, and Brendan Walsh.

In March Chapter members attended the Cotulla Wild Hog Cookoff. Albeit not as many as last year, the tradition continues.

A special thanks to our Treasurer Merrill Hall and past President/current newsletter editor/JROTC chairman John Lopez, his wife Amy and the others who attended or helped coordinate for keeping the tradition alive.

April was another busy month with our annual Chapter XV Memorial Ceremony held at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. Special thanks to John Lopez for coordinating and holding the ceremony as I was out of town on business and to Merrill Hall for ringing the bell...which can be somewhat of a precarious task.

The Chapter truly appreciates all members and spouses in attendance and your assistance in placing roses on the graves sites to honor our former members and spouses following the ceremony.

In May, the Chapter held its annual Jack Hogue picnic in Bandera, TX. The weekend was filled with activities to include a cornhole tournament; karaoke; range fire; shopping at local cowboy, western and leather venues; lunch at the Old Santa Fe Trail restaurant; happy hour at the 11th Street Cowboy Bar; and a shrimp boil.

Thanks to all of those who attended, cooked and helped clean up throughout the weekend. A special thanks to Ossie Pockrus for donating the shrimp and to our cooks, Dante Seymore, Steve Schoenicke, John Armezzani and Jeff Dahlby. Also, to Merrill Hall for working behind the scenes to set up the picnic and activities. We look forward to more attendees next year as we solidify Bandera as our Chapter replacement for Canyon Lake.



SFA Chapter XV members Santiago Sanchez and Harold McBride attending the annual memorial and afterwards placing roses on the graves to honor our deceased.



Cotulla Wild Hog Cook Off March 2025 L-R Eric Bornschlegl, Pat Connolly, Raul De la Garza, Delia & Dion Popoy, Jay Popoy, John & Amy Lopez, Art Campbell and Margie Lopez (Not pictured Merrill Hall).

Seth Landon, stepson of Dave Marshall, who will be attending Sam Houston State University of Medicine and Mia Chanel Vasquez, granddaughter of Arnulfo Vasquez, who will be attending Our Lady of the Lake University were selected to receive the Chapter scholarships for 2025.

Chapter XV meetings are held the second Saturday of most months (except March, May, and December at 1300 hours, lunch at noon) at VFW Post 8541, located at 2222 Austin Highway, San Antonio, TX, 78218.

For more information, contact SFA CH XV president at: president@sfa-xv.org.



SFA Chapter XV member ISG (R) Rudolph "Rudy" Johnson's funeral at Comfort Baptist Church on 22 February 2025. L-R Ovi & Lily Dorca (caregivers), Steven Rindahl, Joe Cavallero, Buddy Gee, Richard Harvey, Jeff Dahlby, Renny Johnson (Rudy's daughter), and Joel Ornelas.

Please take a look at our newly refurbished website at <https://www.sfa-xv.org/> and sign up for our newsletter at the bottom of the home page.

<p>PRES : Roger Taylor VICE : Charlie Watts SEC : Pat Carr TRES : Jerry Cooper</p>	 	<p>CHAPTER XXXII-L The Indian Nations Chapter</p>	<p>32-50</p>
<p>www.sfachapter32-50.org</p>		<p>Oklahoma City, OK</p>	



Opening Day



Cabanatuan Commemoration

At our May Chapter Meeting, Chapter Member COL (RET) Bill Coultrup gave a presentation of his recent trip to the Philippines. He participated in a Commemoration celebrating the most successful Ranger mission in history, where, in 1945, Rangers liberated over 500 POWs from the Cabanatuan POW Camp run by the Japanese.

Opening day for Little League baseball at the Bud Williams Ball Park. Field named in honor of the late CSM Glen Williams. Throwing out the first pitch is his great grandson Riggins Williams with the assistance of his dad Patrick Williams, Glen Williams' grandson. Pictured is CSM (RET) Ray Williams, Glen's brother and COL (RET) Jim Selders.

Several Special Forces Awards of Excellence were presented to a number of ROTC and JROTC programs in Oklahoma. These presentations were made by Chapter Members Rick Cacini, Jim Selders, Pat Carr, Doug Warren and Russ Higbie.

Chapter XXXII-L (32-50) Continued...

Pictured is Butch Graham making a presentation at Cameron University to Cadet Tryston Thompson attended by Jari Askins, Interim President of Cameron University and former Lt. Governor of Oklahoma. And George Tabor presenting to Cadet Sunshine Lor, Tulsa East Central High School.



Cameron University



Tulsa East Central HS

39

CHAPTER XXXIX

The MSG Roy Benavidez Chapter



PRES : Tommy Austin
 VICE : Dean McBride
 SEC : Daniel Denham
 TRES : Daniel Denham

Houston, TX

SFA Chapter 39 met at the VFW Post #2427 in Tomball, Texas, <https://vfw2427.org/>, on Saturday 19 April 2025 for a social lunch and meeting afterwards. Eleven men and six ladies attended. President Tommy Austin called the meeting to order at 1200 and led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, a moment of silence for fallen brothers in arms, and singing of The Ballad of the Green Berets with Barry Sadler's music-video. Reports and discussion topics included finances, personnel, upcoming meetings, the 2025 National Convention, and roundtable items.

In April and May 2025, SFA Chapter 39 members presented SFA Awards of Excellence (AOE) to several Houston Independent School District (HISD) JROTC cadets at two separate events.



SFA Chapter 39 members with Stephen F. Austin JROTC Cadre and SFA AOE Awardee L to R: Dan Denham, Gary Austin, JROTC Cadet First Sergeant Angel Ramirez, First Sergeant Yusef Brantley, Major Zerwycki, Dean McBride.



VP Dino McBride (L) and President Tommy Austin (R) with Stephen F. Austin High School JROTC Cadet First Sergeant Angel Ramirez.

On Saturday April 26, 2025, SFA Chapter 39 President Tommy Austin, Vice President Dino McBride, Secretary-Treasurer Dan Denham, and Quartermaster Tom Bridgwater attended the HISD all-district JROTC awards ceremony and presented SFA AOE certificates and ribbon-medal sets to the Top 6 cadets in the school district.

The Chapter 39 members also met new JROTC cadre, LTC Phil Charity and First Sergeant Sam Spiller, who replaced those who retired after several years.

On Wednesday May 7, SFA Chapter 39 members Tommy Austin, Dino McBride, and Dan Denham attended Houston High School Stephen F. Austin, and awarded the outstanding JROTC cadet with an SFA AOE certificate and ribbon-medal set. The high school's cadre Major Zerwycki and First Sergeant Brantley were also very appreciative of the Chapter's participation in this event.

Chapter 39 will again participate in the Memorial Day remembrance ceremony at Houston National Cemetery on 26 May. A number of former SF and SFA Chapter members are buried there. Chapter and family members will gather after the ceremony for brunch at Nate's Diner.



Top Six HISD Awardees with SFA Chapter 39 members. Front L to R - 1st Bde Cadet Col Bethany Andrade (HSLJ), 2nd Bde Cadet Col Elizabeth Rigney (Sam Houston HS), 5th Bde Cadet Col Zachary Foust (Bellaire HS), Corps Cdr Kaylin Vasquez (Heights HS), 4th Bde Cadet Col Ciena Flores; Rear - Tom Bridgwater, Dan Denham, Dean McBride, Gary Austin, 3rd Bde Scottie Miller (Northside HS).



President Tommy Austin presents the SFA AOE award to Corps Commander, Cadet Colonel Kaylin Vasquez (Houston Heights HS)

<p>PRES : Dave Carley VICE : Chris Jay SEC : Brian Greaata TRES : Tom Mead SGT at ARMS : Greg Phillips</p>		<p>CHAPTER XLI The Lone Star Chapter</p>	<p>41</p>
<p>www.sfa41.org</p>		<p>Austin, TX</p>	

As this report is being written, it's been a relatively quiet quarter for the chapter.

Things are starting to heat up for the summer, and for those with kids school is winding down. We've also had no major events, so as a result we've got little to report this time.

In March the chapter met at the Elgin VFW, and enjoyed some generously donated barbecue. We appreciated the kind use of the VFW's facilities to carry out chapter business and socialize in a room set aside solely for the chapter.

For April, instead of a meeting we had a social event at The Good Lot, a local outdoor biergarten and food truck lot. We had prospective new members as well as old hands to just hang out and enjoy some good brews and good food without the formality of a meeting.

On that note, we continue to run across people who've served in Special Forces around Austin. If you're in the area and interested in connecting with other SF veterans - even if you don't want to switch chapter affiliation - reach out to us at info@sfa41.org to let us know who you are, and to get added to our distro list. We'll keep you updated on local chapter activities.

De Oppresso Liber, Chapter XLI (41)

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CHAPTER LXXX

The Chili Chapter



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

Las Cruces, NM



Bataan March Participants WSMR 22 Mar.

During this reporting period Chapter 80 mourned the passing of longtime chapter member and Past President Rudy Reyes. Rudy was one of the “corner stones” of our chapter and will be deeply missed. For the past 20 plus years Chapter 80 has operated a water point along the rugged desert 26.2-mile course of the Annual Bataan Memorial Death March held at White Sands Missile Range NM. On 22 March Chapter 80 did so again. A remarkable 4,603 marchers and runners from all over the US participated in this year’s event. The Bataan March honors the approximately 75,000 U.S. and Filipino service members who became prisoners of war in the Philippines during World War II, serving as a tribute to their enduring memory.



Chapter Water Point Bataan Memorial March

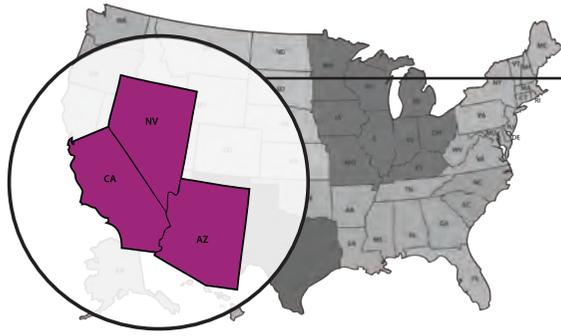
On 29 March, Chapter 80 participated in the “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day” at Veterans Memorial Park in Las Cruces. White Sands Missile Range Command Sgt. Maj. Michael S. Cordery, Las Cruces Mayor Eric Enriquez, and New Mexico Department of Veterans’ Services leadership attended the event. The day opened with the raising of the Garrison flag and the reading of the 398 New Mexicans who fell in the war. Closing out this reporting period, chapter members participated in JROTC awards programs conducted at local high schools.



Rudy Reyes 3 Jul 36-16 Mar 25 RIP



Welcome Home Vietnam Vets 29 Mar.



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



Spring Fling 2025



Exploring the old Silver Mine under Tombstone

April 12th, chapter members headed to Tucson for our annual Spring Fling. This year we returned to the beautiful Chuck Ford Park in Tucson. Those that attended were rewarded with great weather, good food, and good company.

The day after the Spring Fling picnic, a few members elected to head over to Tombstone for an enjoyable day taking in the sights and exploring the area. Members toured the old silver mine located under the streets of Tombstone, and of course, washed down the trail dust with a few adult beverages at Big Nose Kate's Saloon.

Spring is also awards season, and our chapter presented the SFA JROTC Awards to high school programs across the valley. It's always a pleasure to recognize these young Cadets for their achievements, and talking to the award recipients is encouraging, knowing that these young patriots represent the future of our country.



Big Nose Kate's Saloon



Mike Babb with SFA JROTC Award recipient

Chapter XXII (22) Continued...

By the time this edition arrives, we will also have made our annual trip to Safford for Memorial Day weekend and conducted a gravesite ceremony for our Chapter namesake, Walter Bruce Foote. July 11-13 we will have our Summer Getaway. This year we will be returning to Alpine AZ, located in the White Mountains of eastern Arizona. It's always a great way to spend an Arizona summer weekend away from the valley heat.

The rest of our calendar includes our annual business meeting in Scottsdale September 20th, our Veterans Day picnic at Red Mountain Park November 8th, and our Christmas Party in December. Stay tuned for more details.

Anyone looking for more information on our Chapter, activities, and photos from events, 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 51 holds a weekly breakfast every Wednesday morning at the 50s Diner and Omelet House in Las Vegas. We often get visiting SFA Members from other Chapters. So if you are ever visiting the Las Vegas Area, please join us. It's a little early (0700) but always a great time. This year's 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.



Chapter Breakfast

We lost two of our Chapter members this past quarter. Fransisco Flores and Richard Dubovick. Both were regulars at the Chapter Breakfasts every Wednesday and are a loss to the Regiment.

Member highlight. James Croft was born in Pasadena, TX. After high school, James attended a junior college and then joined the Army in February 1965, attending basic training at Fort Polk, LA then onto Ft Sill as an Artillery Surveyor then Airborne School at Ft Benning. James was recruited for Special Forces training in Demolitions. James was initially assigned to 1st Group which was in Okinawa. James was initially assigned to A Company, Team A131 under Captain Hanke. Running classified missions and setting up demolition ambushes along the Ho Chi Minh Trail, many of which were compromised.

James left the service in January of 1968, entered a four year college, graduated in 1971 and then married in 1972. James then went to work for the Southern Pacific Railroad and later the Denver Rio Grande Railroad. James and his family returned to TX and worked for Motorola.



Funeral for Francisco Flores



James Croft

In 2011, his family moved to Boulder City, NV to be closer to family members. Agent Orange has affected James (and many other Special Forces members) which he found he had in 2016. James is married to his wife Cheryl since 1972 and they have 2 grown children and several grandchildren.

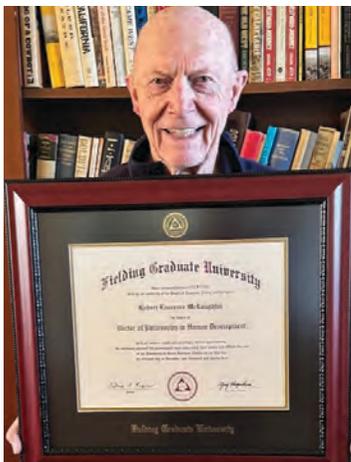
PRES : Marty Keef
VICE : Lee Jacobs
SEC : Charlie Inot
TRES : Mike Cates



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

75

San Diego, CA



Bob McLaughlin receives his PhD in Philosophy



Dr. Gary Clark, SF medic in Vietnam, finishes 129th Boston Marathon



C75 members Lee Jacobs, Charlie Inot, Mitch Utterback, Dave DeSoucy remember Clyde Sincere, DMOR.

Greetings from sunny San Diego. Chapter 75 held our annual post Holiday Party at Fire Base Inot with 34 members and associates attendance. Other than the effects of party gluttony, no casualties to report.

Sadly, we have lost two members John Williams, who served with A-109 at Thuong Duc SF/CIDG camp during the Vietnam War and Randy Miller, a Vietnam Era vet who was assigned to the 8th SFG(A) in Panama.

The chapter continues to slowly grow with new members Tony Vinca and Andrew Jones transitioning from their military retirements into civilian careers.

Chapter LXXV (75) Continued...

Kudos go to chapter member Pat Russell and Susan Inot for being honored by the San Diego County Bar Association for their hard work as mentors for the San Diego Veterans Treatment Court. Kudos also for Sam Lien Le, the then interpreter for then CPT Ray Striler at Tan Rai Camp, A-232, for authoring the book *Unlikely Friendship*, about his experiences as a combat interpreter for the SF camp located in the Central Highlands during the Vietnam War.

The chapter is looking forward to our post 4th of July Summer Family Potluck Picnic. It is always a well attended affair by members, family and friends. We are also looking forward to the 2025 SFACON in Las Vegas, NV. Several of our members will be attending the convention in October.

Best regards to all and *De Oppresso Liber*.



Chapter meeting, L to R: Dave DeSoucy, John Boaz, Mike Weinrick, Pat Russell.

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CHAPTER LXXVIII

The LTC Frank J. Dallas Chapter

Southern California

www.specialforces78.com



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

Our February chapter meeting was a planning session for the then upcoming 2nd Annual Valor Lunch and other activities.

Rahjee Hajj, joined us. He received his lifetime SFA membership in October 2023, becoming a member of Chapter 78 when he graduated from SF Q-Course. We were all so very pleased to meet him.

He is the first of the graduates, who were gifted lifetime SFA memberships, to attend one of our regular chapter meetings.

The memberships were given with the hope that, when the time is right, they would help build another generation of SFA regulars.

In March we had two speakers. Retired CPT James Tolley talked about the Peacemaker Coalition and how they leverage the power of storytelling through media to "explore and enhance the dynamic of human interaction". This includes film making and other media.

Chapter member Jim Cragg gave an update on his personal ordeal in the Pacific Palisades Fire, and how he and his American Legion Post are bringing hope to the neighborhood by hosting the disaster relief organizations such as FEMA, the National Guard, and the Small Business Administration, to name a few.

The highlight of this quarter was our 2nd annual Valor Lunch fundraiser on 27 April. USMC CW04 (Ret.) Anthony L. Viggiani, recipient of the Navy Cross for Valor, second only to the Medal of Honor, was our keynote speaker.

He kept us riveted as he helped us understand his motivation and actions on that fateful day in Afghanistan.



March meeting speakers, l-r, CPT (R) James Tolley talking about the Peacemaker Coalition, and chapter member LTC (R) Jim Cragg talking about The Pacific Palisades Fire and the resurgence of hope.

There were two beneficiaries of the event, the Sandhurst academy, some of whose cadets were the color guard, with a singer and bugler, as well as helping out elsewhere. The other recipients were the two Afghan-partner refugee communities sponsored by ACL.

The very successful event was emceed by LTC Johann Hindert, recently retired, along with words from Chapter President Aaron Brandenburg. Our VP James McLanahan's wife Melanie was again the amazing main organizer behind the event.

Following the auction, Cadet Navarro from Sunburst Youth Academy spoke next, offering insight into the life-changing, six-month voluntary program for at-risk youth. Their next graduation is scheduled for June 20, 2025. Updates will be posted at specialforces78.com.

Niamatullah Aslami, Project Manager for Refugee Housing, provided an update on the continued successes of the Affordable Community Living (ACL) program for Afghan refugees. Our heartfelt thanks go out to all the generous donors at the Valor Lunch.



Valor Lunch, l-r, Emcee LTC (R) Johann Hindert, Pres. Aaron Brandenburg, VP James McLanahan, and his wife Mel, who was instrumental in making the Valor lunches successful.



Keynote speaker USMC CW04 (Ret.) Anthony L. Viggiani, recipient of the Navy Cross for Valor, and Sandhurst Academy Cadet Navarro



A sample of the many wonderful donors at the Valor Lunch.

103 **CHAPTER CIII**
The Battle Born Chapter

Reno, NV



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

Greetings from Northern Nevada and the biggest little city in the world.

Sat. May 22-25, Members of Chapter 103 "the Battle Born" chapter gathered at the Branding Iron Cafe at the Bonanza Casino. Breakfast was at 9am and the meeting followed at 10 am we started our meeting with the saluting of the flag and a Prayer by member Brad Smalley. First on the agenda was the chapter Holiday gathering and it was decided that we widen our search for a venue. Next time maybe somewhere that has rooms in it, so no one has to drive after the party.

There was a mention that "National" was struggling with the Constitution again. There was some discussion on donating money to Chapter 16 in Washington State or starting our own Scholarship fund like for the ROYC of Washoe County. Art Glass suggested that we may send some "Roll Players" to the Special Forces Exercises near by a couple of times a year. Brad Smalley suggested we send " Care Packages" TO active Duty Special Forces at the Holidays.

We also welcomed a new member, Joel Tolbirt, and gave him a Chapter coin. Russ Mann is doing much better now and is getting around. On May 10th we will be nominating Officers for the next two years, except for President. Those in attendance were Steve Johnson, Ken Snyder, Gary Utterback, Brad Smalley, Ray Gonzales, Joel Tolbirt, Brian Beetham, Don Meredith, Mike Black, Brady Hines, Alan Moloff, Brad Hines, Art Glass.

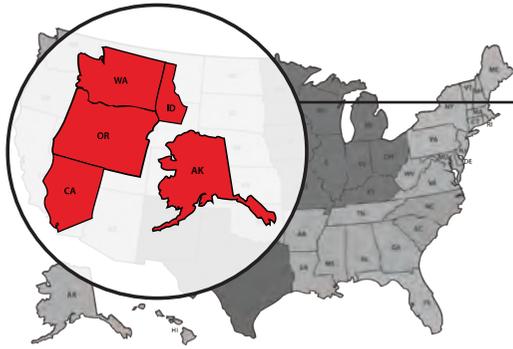
Fri. April 11-25 7 members of Chapter 103 came together at David's Grill at the Red Hawk golf course in Sparks Nevada, on North Wingfield Parkway. Good food, Good prices, \$10 breakfast can't beat that. Good conversation, and good Company, not much Chapter business.

Tues, April 22-25 A few of us gathered at the Cracker Box, a breakfast place in Carson City, the State Capital. There was plenty of food and conversation. We talked about how to keep your knife sharp. You do have a knife. Don't you? In attendance was Brad Smalley, Ken Snyder, Russ Mann, and Ray Gonzales.

SAT. 10-25 Chapter 103 got together at the Branding Iron Cafe in Reno NV. to nominate officers for the positions of Secretary, Treasurer, and Vice President. Mike Black was nominated for Secretary, Brian Beetham was nominated for Treasurer and Steve Johnson was nominated for Vice President.

Sat. June 14-25 It's the 250th birthday of the US Army. Happy Birthday. It's also Flag Day.





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*

PRES : Bob Head
VICE : Scott Miller
SEC : Mike Barkstrom
TRES : Jim Beisley



CHAPTER XVI

The William R. Card Memorial Chapter

16

www.sfa-chapter-16.org

Ft. Lewis, WA

Greetings from the very green Pacific Northwest!

While it's been a relatively quiet and uneventful winter and early spring for Chapter XVI, our well attended monthly breakfast and business meetings continued to provide great venues for the gathering and fellowship of our chapter members and guests.



Chapter XVI members at a recent Breakfast Meeting

Over the course of the winter/spring, the chapter provided support to several 1st Group events in the Regimental Mess Facility, to include the retirement of MSG Bob Hanley on 21 March and presentations by several guest SMEs. A number of chapter members also provided a presence at the memorial service of retired Green Beret and long-standing Tacoma resident Rob Wekell.

With the 1st SFG(A) Organization Week now scheduled for late June, President Bob Head and VP Scott Miller have been participating in the Group's IPRs. As it does each year, Chapter XVI will provide refreshments for the event (including adult beverages from the much acclaimed Chapter XVI Beer Wagon...which, along with some chapter members, is reported to have been part of Lewis and Clarke's Corps of Discovery).

The chapter has also been involved in the support of the upcoming "Annual JBLM SOF Benefit Golf Tournament" to be held on 15 May, proceeds from which will be donated to the benevolent organizations supporting 1st SFG(A) and 4/160th SOAB, including the 1st SFG(A) Scholarship Fund, the First in Asia Association and Chapter XVI.

With all that reported, the members of Chapter XVI wish our Brothers and Sisters good health and cheer as we welcome the summer... De Oppresso Liber...First in Asia!

23

CHAPTER XXIII

The Golden Gate Chapter; In memory of SGM Jon Cavaiani MOH

San Francisco, CA

Find us on Teamhouse.



PRES : Jim Ayre
 VICE : Jim Shields
 SEC : Bill Lynch
 TRES : Jean Lavaud

Chapter 23 recently had a lunch gathering at the Monarch Bar and Grill on the golf course in Rio Vista California. Dialogue and remembrances were lively and stories and tales told were factual (for the most part) with just enough enhancement to keep the chatter interesting.

Whether or not the exchanges were spot on or not, the time together is what is meaningful. During and after the lunch, more serious discussion ensued as to how the Chapter could serve its members and their families. A presentation by Bob Butler, American Legion Post 178 Commander, and discussion about veteran benefits and how to access them was included. Future direction, funding opportunities, and member care were topics of interest in the day's discussion.



Chapter 23 Chapter Lunch and meeting March 2025 in Rio Vista, California

Four members of Chapter 23 were among those who attended a Meet the Author presentation hosted by the Marine Memorial Association in San Francisco to hear author Barry Pencek speak about his book Operation Tailwind: Memoirs Of A Secret Battle In A Secret War, published in 2022. Operation Tailwind was a 4-day operation organized by the CIA in Laos in September 1970 and implemented by a Hatchet Force of Studies and Observation Group (SOG) Green Berets and Montagnards based in Kontum in the Central Highlands of Vietnam. The four were pleased to note that their brothers, especially Michael Rose and John "Doc" Padgett (among others) were esteemed in the presentation.

Find us on Teamhouse:
https://teamhouse.specialforcesassociation.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=404269&module_id=549765



Walt Chen, Sher Singh, Mike Evers, and Michael Winslow at the Marine Memorial Club in San Francisco on March 4, 2025 for a book presentation on Operation Tailwind.

43

CHAPTER XLIII

The SGM Bradley Conner Chapter

Coeur d' Alene, ID

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



PRES : Stephen Durfee
 VICE : Jarad Balch
 SEC : David Erickson
 TRES : Mike Backhaus

Chapter 43 will be hosting the 3rd annual *SFC Dustin Ard Commemorative Steel Competition* on Sunday, August 24th. This annual event is our main fundraiser for the year. Not only do we honor & remember Dustin. We also raise money to assist & care for our local veteran community.

Idaho native, Sergeant First Class Dustin Ard died August 29, 2019, during a combat operation in Zabul province, Afghanistan. He was on a joint operation with an Afghan commando unit.

Ard enlisted in the Army in Hyde Park, Utah in 2011, as a Special Forces candidate through the 18X program. He was assigned to Fort Bragg, North Carolina and attended Special Forces Assessment and Selection, graduating from the Special Forces Qualification Course in 2015. Ard was then assigned to 2nd Battalion, 1st SFG (A) at Joint Base Lewis McChord, Washington, as a Special Forces Communications Sergeant. He also served as a JTAC on his SFODA.



Chapter 43 SFC Dustin Ard



Chapter 43 Dustin Ard Steel Competition



Chapter 43 Chapter T-Shirt & Swag

Dustin deployed twice to Afghanistan in support of Resolute Support Mission and participated in multiple Joint Combined Exchange Training exercises in Indonesia. Dustin leaves behind his wife, Mary & two young children (daughter & son).

At last year's competition, a few of Dustin's teammates from 1st SFG competed. It was utterly amazing to see them shoot & to hear their personal stories about Dustin. We are hoping that Dustin's wife & children will be able to attend this year's event.

See the event flyer & get registered! The prize table will be loaded with amazing items; you do not want to miss it.

Chapter Shirts & Swag: We are happy to highlight our Chapter shirts & swag. Our logo was designed by one of our Chapter members, Stephen. Folks can go to the online store to order T-shirts, polos, hats, mugs, etc. Choose your size, color, design at: <https://sfa.checkoutstores.com/>

Monthly meeting: We have a wonderful group of members that faithfully attend the monthly meetings (in person & via zoom). It is important to stay engaged. We encourage members to stay connected with their Brothers & Gold Star Families. Even a simple meet-up for coffee can make a world of difference.

The Chapter 43 website: Check out our website. You can register for the *Dustin Ard Steel Competition*. Or just stay connected with events, activities & our Chapter goals. <https://www.sfa43.org/>



Chapter 43 April Monthly meeting

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CHAPTER XLVII

The Lewis and Clark/Norman A. Doney Chapter



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

Oregon & SW Washington

www.sfa47.org



(L to R) Lee Reese, Mike Ward, Joe Smith, Weldon Burton, Steve Cornacchia, LTC John Scott, Jerry Powell, Danny Deitz, Steve Walker, Steve Summers, Tony Tycer

March 15, 2025

LTC Scott presented and led a discussion at the monthly Chapter 47 meeting on the status of Army recruiting.

His command includes Oregon, SW Washington and the Pacific including Hawaii, Guam, Japan, South Korea and American Samoa.

The battalion consists of five recruiting companies: Eugene, Vancouver, Mt. Hood, Honolulu and Guam. He currently has 163 recruiters with many of them having the 79R Recruiter MOS.

LTC Scott discussed the challenges of today's recruiting but also the successes especially in American Samoa with the high recruiting and enlistments rates.

March 25, 2025

Members of Chapter 47 continue the tradition of remembering Medal of Honor Day.

Members honored MOH recipients at the Vancouver Barracks National Cemetery, Willamette National Cemetery, City View Cemetery in Salem, Oregon, Crystal Lake Masonic Cemetery in Corvallis, Oregon and Pioneer Cemetery in Eugene, Oregon.

Attending the remembrance in Salem were twenty-five family members of MOH recipient SGT Henry Shauer. They included Bruce and his wife Juanice Cartwright and their children, and extended family including two other stepdaughters, grandchildren and great grandchildren.



Chapter 47 Members - Danny Deitz, Dennis Klein, Steve Walker and family members of MOH Recipient SGT Henry Shauer



(L to R) John Steinbaugh, Jerry Powell, Hono Yacapin, Bill Gritzbaugh

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



CHAPTER LXXXIX

The SFC Allen C. Johnson Memorial Chapter

89

Northern California

As our AO covers 60k+ square mile area many of our link ups and check ins become "drive by meetings". While close to SGM (Ret) Jensen's hootch, SFA Ch 89 President stopped by and shared a delicious BBQ Lunch with Ernie and his wife Joan.

Members of the Northern California Veterans Historical Association, led by SFA Ch 89 President Kevin Knapp, placed flags at the memorial site honoring the Service of eight U.S. soldiers who died at, or as a result of, injuries sustained at the Battle at the Infernal Caverns.

We are also working with a representative of the Hammawi Band of Pit River Tribe to ensure the First Nation people who fought and died here are appropriately recognized.



Unfortunately, we do not have any Junior or Senior ROTC programs in our 60k+ square mile AO. We do, however, have a Division of the US Naval Sea Cadet program here in Shasta County. Celebrating the leadership, dedication, and achievement of one of their Cadets, SFA Ch 89 President Kevin Knapp presents the Special Forces Association Award for Leadership and Excellence to: Petty Officer 2nd Class Paul Rogan, which was accepted on his behalf by his father, Instructor Adrian Rogan.

Members of SFA Ch 89 and the Northern California Veterans Historical Association host an ALL Veterans, Ranger/SF Breakfast every Friday morning at Becca's Café in Anderson, California from 0730-0900 every Friday morning. Stop by and say hello if you're in or near our AO.





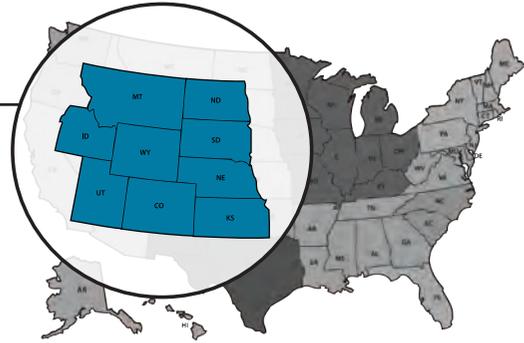
REGION X

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

Grüß Gott from the Rocky Mountain Chapter! The last quarter has been bustling with activities and achievements, similar to our past engagements. Our co-president, Howie Massingill, has achieved a significant milestone by being sworn in as a member of the National Board of the NRA. This is a momentous achievement, and we extend our heartfelt congratulations to Howie. He expresses his deepest gratitude to all the SF members of the NRA who supported him, making him the third highest vote-getter in the nationwide election.

Our Vice President, Tom Wisdom, has once again demonstrated exemplary dedication by planning and executing our SFA JROTC awards presentations across the front range and Rocky Mountain region. His efforts ensured that the awards season ran smoothly and successfully. The chapter supported 29 High Schools, one College, and we had nine awesome Chapter Volunteers presenting these awards throughout Colorado and Wyoming. A big thank you to all who contributed their time and effort during the award season.

The chapter also proudly fielded a team of marchers for the Bataan Death March Memorial Marathon held at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico. This event serves as a humbling reminder of the historical horrors that the marchers endured years ago. Undeterred by the challenge, we eagerly anticipate fielding another team of marchers in 2026. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Chapter 80 from Las Cruces for manning a much-appreciated water and refreshment point along the marathon route.

Our chapter continues to support both the 5th BN/19th and 10th Groups in all their events. We have the honor of leading the Colorado Springs Memorial Day celebration, and we look forward to sharing the pictures in the next Drop.

Looking ahead, we are excited about our annual 4th of July celebration, which will be held high in the Colorado Rockies at the Soldier's Stone Memorial atop Sargent's Mesa in Saguache County. This event is always a treasured occasion as we pay homage to our Founding Fathers, celebrate our great country, and look forward to our future. This year's celebration is particularly special, as it marks the 30th anniversary of the memorial's dedication in 1995. There is no doubt that it will be a magnificent event, shared with many Great Americans as we celebrate our Day of Independence.



Chapter 4-24 Bataan Death March Team '25



Cadet Grace Ronco & Tom Wisdom



Cadet Troy Goss & Edgar Dyer

Beyond these noteworthy accomplishments, the Rocky Mountain Chapter remains committed to fostering a sense of community and patriotism through our various activities. The dedication of our members and volunteers ensures that every event is a success and that we continue to uphold the values of service, honor, and respect. As we reflect on the past quarter, we are filled with pride and gratitude for the collective efforts that have brought us together and strengthened our bonds.

Thank you to everyone who has been part of our journey this past quarter. Your support, participation, and enthusiasm have made all the difference. Together, we will continue to forge ahead, celebrating our achievements and embracing new opportunities with unwavering patriotism and pride.



Purple Heart Quilt - John Bartlett, Howie Massingill, & Garry Melchi

PRES : Frank Metayer
 TRES : Anne Reeve
 VP Communications: Devin Hagar



CHAPTER LXIX
 The Bernie Fisher Chapter

69

Boise, ID



Young Ken Elmer as a new Green Beret.



Chapter 69's new Vice President Devin Hagar.

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.

We start with the sad news of fallen long-time chapter member **Ken Elmer**. He passed away April 14, 2025. Please see his obituary in this issue of the DROP. The graveside service and follow-on celebration of life were well attended by family, friends and chapter members. Ken served Chapter 69 early on as its Treasurer for many years. He will be missed dearly.

The chapter has two new officers: **Devin Hagar** accepted the role of Vice President, replacing **Mike Tomlin**. **Anne Reeve** was officially voted in as Treasurer in March, replacing **Eric Middlebrook**. Thank you, Mike and Eric, for your service to the chapter and congratulations to Devin and Anne.

Anne Reeve is the owner and operator of Chris Reeve Knives, manufacturer of high-quality folding and fixed-blade knives to include the Yarbrough knife (serial numbered) and the Green Beret knife. Check out the website at <https://chrisreeve.com>. Anne has been a long-time supporter, friend and honorary member of Chapter 69 and the Special Forces community.

The chapter hosted Emergency Medical Training at the Team House on the range 15 March. Dave Cotter provided the excellent training.

Chapter members gathered on the range for a day of range maintenance and construction work on 26 April in preparation for a full schedule of shooting events beginning in June.

Chapter LXIX (69) Continued...



Chapter 69's new Treasurer Anne Reeve.



Two senior members of the chapter: Vahan Sipantzi and Ron Baron at the WWII shoot.

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.

70

CHAPTER LXX

The CSM Don DeVere Memorial Chapter

Salt Lake City, UT



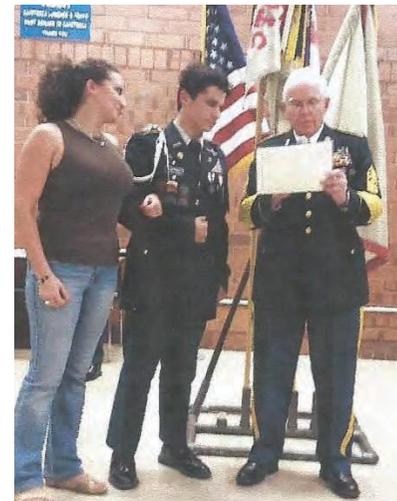
PRES : John Wester
 VICE : Arlo Johnson
 SEC : Mike Seamon
 TRES : Brent Tomlin

As a chapter, we are seeing more of our chapter members returning to our monthly meetings, after a drop in attendance during the COVID 19 outbreak. We hold our meetings at the VFW, Layton, Utah and the Fort Douglas Military Museum in Salt Lake City.

We continue to discuss burn pits issues and the need for each member to make sure their names are registered on the Burn Pits list.

We are getting ready to hold our summer BBQ for the chapter in July. August's meeting will be with the 19th SFGA during their drill time, with the goal to recruit new members from the younger men and women of the group.

For the third year, the chapter has supported Taylorsville High School's Junior ROTC. During the first part of May, our Assistant Treasurer, SCM (RET.) David Allen and his wife Susie represented the Chapter during their annual rewards night. Dave presented cadet Lt. Col. Martinez the special SF award for leadership. His mother pinned the award on her son. Over forty cadets and their families were in attendance. Seeing the quality of the young students gives us great hope for our future soldiers. The Senior Army Instructor Col. (Ret) Jeff Bruce has done an excellent job working with his cadets.





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 : Peter (Pete) Tingstrom
VICE : Lynn Mariano
SEC : Weston Amaya
TRES : Jeff Strawder



CHAPTER VIII

The MSG Earl Kalani Memorial Chapter

8

www.sfa8.org

Honolulu, Hawaii



Monthly Meeting



Pau Hana

2025 has been a busy year with monthly meetings, pau hana's, and the annual National Vietnam Veterans Parade and Ceremonies. One of our members, COL Sean Berg retired from active duty after 30 years of service, his ceremony was officiated by another one of our members LTG Josh Rudd.



Retirement Ceremony



Vietnam Veterans Ceremony

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



CHAPTER XCI-CI

The Combat Chapters

91-101

Iraq & Afghanistan

We remember: COL John Ringler won silver stars commanding an H/511 PIR platoon on Leyte and B/511 PIR on the Los Banos raid, in the Philippines, 1945 (and 3x bronze stars to his Master Parachutist Wings). Combat veteran of Korea and Vietnam as well.

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



COL John Ringler, SF.



MAJ Byers & MSG Gloyer.

We interviewed him in 1981 to glean lessons learned from one of the most successful POW liberation raids in history--at that time, we did not realize he also completed his 30-year career with Special Forces: Student Officer, JFKSWS; Chief Special Warfare Branch, G3, U.S. Army Pacific; Director, MATA Department, Special Warfare School; Director of Instruction, Special Warfare School; CO, Institute Brigade, U.S. Army Institute for Military Assistance, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Retired 1970, deceased 2008.

MAJ Andrew Byers and MSG Ryan Gloyer were KIA in an intense firefight at Boz Qandahari Village, Kunduz Province, Afghanistan, 2 NOV 2016. Please read the full story of their heroic actions at https://www.army.mil/article/181848/until_dawn_surviving_the_battle_of_boz_qandahari The 10-man 2/10 SFG team earned 3x Silver Stars, 3x Bronze Stars, 4x ARCOMs w Valor, and 6x Purple Hearts that night. COL Manny Diemer, SF, commanded the Counterinsurgency Center for Excellence (COIN-CFE), Taji, Iraq, 2006-7. A number of the staff were ex-SF contractors.

In Houston, Abdul Rahman Waziri was shot and killed in a senseless dispute. A former member of the NMRG, he survived one of the most dangerous jobs in Afghanistan, working side by side with Green Berets, clearing explosive devices buried to kill Americans. The chapter donated to the 1208 Foundation in support of the family.

UKR Cell update. Patrick Christian works as a volunteer part time supporting the Ministry of Defense Psychological Warfare Program in Kyiv. Ukrainians, Latvians, Lithuanians, Estonians, Poles, and the Nordic Countries believe Europe will only be safe upon the dissolution of Moscow's Empire. A campaign objective envisions returning the ~65 million ethnic Russians from the Caucasus, Siberian Republics/Oblasts/Krais/Okrugs to their natural and historic state of Muscovy.

Jim Walker made a road trip to visit Rich Giero in Maine. Chris North is now a 3-year trustee for Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8616 (Diamond Head). He continues to track Replicator initiatives with INDOPACOM J7 Force Development.

Phil and Tyler Crowley finished a Swiftwater Rescue Level IV course in Colorado for Veteran Excursions, supporting our Special Operations Veterans. Home - Veteran Excursions | Helping Veterans Through Outdoor Recreation (<https://veteranexcursions.org/>). The Veteran Excursions mission is to provide off-grid, multi-day, whitewater rafting trips for Special Operations Veterans on the road to recovery, in need of a reset, or finding purpose. Trigger plans to represent the chapter at SFACON25.



COL Diemer & North, COIN-CFE Iraq.



Crowley Excursions.



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UKRAINE'S LONG-RANGE SPECIAL OPERATIONS: LESSONS FROM DESERT PIONEERS

by Doug Livermore

The tools have evolved, but the warrior's calculus—audacity multiplied by precision equals strategic effect—remains timeless.

The thunderous crack of explosions across Russian airfields on the night of June 1, 2025, marked not merely another escalation in Ukraine's defensive war, but a masterclass in the enduring principles of deep special operations. Ukraine's Security Service (SSU) executed "Operation Spiderweb" (Pavutyna), simultaneously striking four Russian airfields across

thousands of kilometers, reportedly destroying over 40 strategic bombers. Combined with the audacious attack on a Russian marine base near Vladivostok earlier this week—some 6,800 kilometers from Ukrainian territory—these operations demonstrate how small, determined forces can achieve strategic effects through audacity, innovation, and meticulous planning.

Yet these modern exploits are not revolutionary in concept. Rather, they represent the sophisticated evolution of operational principles first codified in

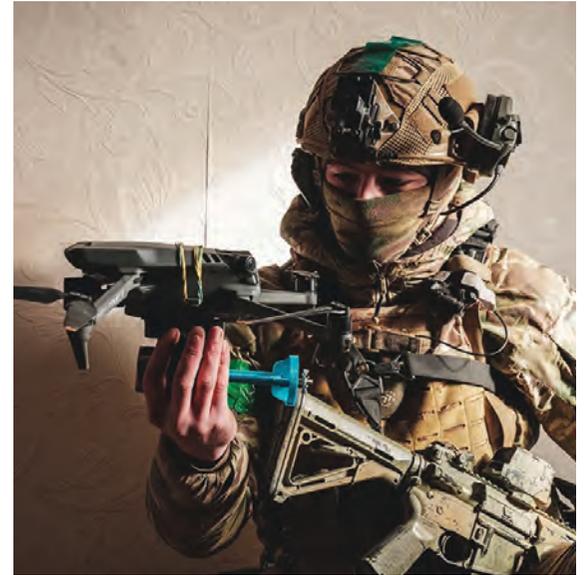
the burning aircraft wreckage scattered across German airfields in North Africa during World War II, when a young Scots Guards officer named David Stirling led the newly-established Special Air Service (SAS) in proving that small units striking with surprise could have larger strategic effects than entire armies.

The Desert Laboratory

The parallels between Ukraine's current operations and the Special Air Service's North African campaigns are neither coincidental nor superficial. They reflect fundamental truths about asymmetric warfare that transcend technology and geography. When Major Stirling's raiders (comprised of British SAS and Long Range Desert Group troopers) destroyed 37 Luftwaffe aircraft at Sidi Haneish airfield on July 26, 1942, they established a template that Ukrainian operators are executing with drone technology rather than Lewes bombs, but with identical strategic logic.

The SAS pioneered what we now recognize as the core tenets of deep special operations: the element of surprise achieved through operational security and misdirection; the targeting of high-value, lightly defended assets in the enemy's rear areas; and the psychological impact that far exceeds the tactical damage inflicted. The SAS raiding force demonstrated this principle perfectly when just five men penetrated Agedabia airfield and placed Lewes bombs on dozens of aircraft and an ammunition depot, turning the entire facility into a raging inferno.

The operational methodology bears striking similarities. Both the SAS and Ukrainian operators relied on extensive reconnaissance, detailed planning, and the exploitation of gaps in enemy defensive coverage. The desert raiders used the Long Range Desert Group for intelligence and infiltration; Ukraine's intelligence services employ sophisticated surveillance and open-source



intelligence to identify targets and plan approach routes. Both understood that success depended not merely on reaching the target, but on achieving maximum destructive effect before the enemy could respond.

The Vladivostok Gambit

The May 30 attack on Russia's 155th Marine Brigade near Vladivostok represents perhaps the most audacious long-range special operation since the





SAS raids. Ukrainian Military Intelligence sources confirmed that two explosions struck the deployment area of the 47th Separate Airborne Assault Battalion, affecting both personnel and equipment. The psychological impact of demonstrating reach into Russia's Far East—traditionally considered a secure rear area—parallels the

shock value of early SAS raids that struck German and Italian facilities hundreds of miles behind the supposed front lines.

This operation demonstrates sophisticated intelligence preparation of the battlefield reminiscent of the methodology employed by both the British Special Operations Executive (SOE) and American Office of Strategic Services (OSS). The 155th Marine Brigade was specifically targeted because of its active involvement in operations against Ukraine, including battles in Mariupol, Vuhledar, and Kursk region. This targeting philosophy—striking units directly engaged in operations against friendly forces—mirrors the SOE's practice of targeting specific Wehrmacht units and their supporting infrastructure based on detailed intelligence assessments.

Innovation Through Adversity

The technological evolution from Lewes bombs to precision drones masks deeper continuities in special operations thinking. The SAS developed the Lewes bomb out of necessity—a lightweight, effective incendiary device that could be easily transported and placed by small teams. Ukrainian operators have similarly innovated within constraints by developing, smuggling, and then deploying swarms of drone in close proximity to targets over several thousands of kilometers away, effectively extending their operational reach far beyond what conventional forces could achieve.

The organizational innovation parallels are equally instructive. The SOE was established with Churchill's mandate to "set Europe ablaze" through sabotage and subversion behind enemy lines,



operating outside conventional military structures to achieve strategic effects. Ukrainian intelligence services and special operations forces (SOF) have similarly been given broad operational latitude to conduct deep strikes that conventional forces cannot execute, operating with minimal oversight but maximum strategic impact.

Both organizations understood that success required thinking beyond traditional military boundaries. The OSS's Special Operations branch, modeled on the British SOE, carried out missions "dropping small teams of officers to train and assist resistance fighters, as well as commit acts of sabotage, destruction, and general mayhem". This integration of direct action, intelligence collection, and psychological operations presaged Ukraine's current multi-faceted approach to deep operations.

Strategic Implications for Western SOF

The Ukrainian model offers several critical lessons for Western SOF facing potential peer conflict scenarios. First, the integration of unmanned systems with traditional special operations methodology represents a force multiplier that dramatically extends operational reach while reducing personnel risk. The ability to conduct simultaneous operations across multiple theaters—as demonstrated in Operation Spiderweb—provides a template for distributed operations that could overwhelm enemy defensive planning.

Second, the Ukrainian approach demonstrates the continued relevance of targeting enemy logistics and force generation capabilities in the deep rear. Russian forces have advanced by attacking Ukrainian logistics vehicles and depots up to 30 kilometers behind the front lines, yet Ukraine has responded by striking the infrastructure that generates these forces thousands of kilometers away. This operational logic—attacking the source rather than the symptoms—reflects the strategic thinking that made the SAS so effective against Axis logistics in North Africa.

Third, the psychological dimension remains paramount. The SAS understood that creating uncertainty and forcing the enemy to divert resources to rear area security was often more valuable than the immediate tactical damage inflicted. Rommel nicknamed Stirling the "Phantom Major" and committed considerable resources to stopping the raiders, demonstrating how effectively the SAS had gotten inside the German command's decision cycle. Ukrainian operations have similarly forced Russia to declare "counter-terrorism operation regimes" and divert security resources to protect previously secure facilities.

Operational Lessons for the Future

Western SOF should extract several specific operational lessons from both the historical precedent and contemporary Ukrainian practice. The primacy of intelligence preparation cannot be overstated—both the SAS and Ukrainian operators achieved success



through meticulous target analysis and environmental preparation. SOE and OSS training emphasized clandestine infiltration, organization and employment of guerrilla forces, and acts of sabotage against key enemy infrastructure, but modern operations require equivalent sophistication in electromagnetic warfare, cyber capabilities, and unmanned systems integration.

The question of command and control represents another critical lesson. Both the SAS and Ukrainian operations succeeded because they were granted operational independence within strategic guidance. Micromanagement from higher headquarters would have been fatal to these time-sensitive, opportunity-driven operations. Western SOF planning must account for the communication latencies and decision-making speeds required for effective deep operations in contested electromagnetic environments.

Finally, the sustainability question looms large. The SAS operated with minimal logistics footprint by necessity, but Ukrainian operations demonstrate how largely commercial, off-the-shelf unmanned systems can extend operational endurance while reducing the traditional logistics burden of special operations. With the growing prevalence of 3D printing (or “additive manufacturing”), this shift toward technology-enabled persistence could fundamentally alter how Western SOF approach deep operations planning.

Conclusion

Ukraine’s recent deep strikes against Russian strategic assets represent more than tactical innovation—they embody the evolution of special operations principles pioneered in the crucible of World War II. The SAS proved in the North African desert that small, audacious units could achieve strategic effects through careful planning, technological innovation, and operational audacity. General Eisenhower later credited SOE and OSS special operations with playing “a very considerable part in our complete and final victory“.

The technological leap from Lewis guns and Lewes bombs to precision drones and cyber capabilities is profound, but the underlying operational logic

remains constant: well-trained, properly equipped small units can achieve effects far beyond their size when they operate with intelligence, surprise, and clear strategic purpose. For Western SOF preparing for potential peer conflicts, the Ukrainian model offers both inspiration and instruction. The desert pioneers of 1942 proved the concept; Ukrainian operators are perfecting the practice for the conflicts of tomorrow.

The ghosts of Stirling’s raiders might well recognize the burning aircraft at Belaya airfield. The tools have evolved, but the warrior’s calculus—audacity multiplied by precision equals strategic effect—remains timeless. In an age of great power competition, these lessons from the desert and the steppe may prove the difference between conventional stalemate and decisive victory.

Remember always the motto of the SAS – “Who Dares Wins.”

(Disclaimer: The views expressed are the author’s and do not represent official US government, Department of Defense, or Department of the Army positions.)

Doug Livermore is the Director of Engagements for the Irregular Warfare Initiative, a member of the Atlantic Council’s Counterterrorism Group, the national vice president for the Special Operations Association of America, national director for external communications at the Special Forces Association, and the deputy commander for Special Operations Detachment–Joint Special Operations Command in the North Carolina Army National Guard. 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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Scholarship Fund (<i>Restricted Funds</i>)	IMO/IHO	Amount (\$)
Chapter XXXIII	Carol Shank	200.00

General Fund (<i>Unrestricted Funds</i>)	IMO/IHO	Amount (\$)
Estate of Reba Rosen		54,500.00
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SFA Chapter 33	MSG Kenneth D. Stickney	40.00

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MEMBER #	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	CHAPTER
D-10817	Anderson	Thomas L.	92
D-10841	Boswell	Terry D.	7
D-10833	Brown	James	7
D-10812	Celtrick	Wallace	25
D-10814	Chyler	Peter J.	27
D-10831	Cutter	Scott	21
D-10819	Gutierrez	Marco	60
D-10800	Harris	Michael S.	111
D-10830	Hartsell	Erek	16
d-10832	Hebert	Brandon W.	16
D-10810	Hooker	David W.	56
D-10816	Jones	Christopher M.	16
D-10820	Liddle	Kirk	11
D-10826	McDowell	Jackie D.	15
D-10822	Medley	James J.	76
D-10827	Miller	James G.	60
D-10805	Mourouzis	Michael G.	62
D-10825	Petersen	David	89
D-10821	Ratcliff	Samuel E.	79
D-10808	Rosenthal	Michael G.	73
D-10807	Rouse	Adrian	

GENERAL MEMBERS

MEMBER #	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	CHAPTER
M-16132	Bissell	Jon	69
M-16128	Boyce	Walter L.	16
M-16167	Brady	Tiernan	100
M-16161	Rowan	Chase	424
M-16155	Cobb	John D.	100
M-16164	Dailey	Keet	16
M-16139	Ferrimann	David	45
M-16177	Figura	Matt	
M-16126	Gallagher	Brendan P.	42
M-15615	Gallagher	Ryan	48
M-16157	Harris	Justice G.	38
M-15294	Howk	Luis	7

SFA THE PIT

GENERAL MEMBERS (continued)

MEMBER #	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	CHAPTER
M-16166	Hughes	Austin M	7
M-16134	Jacobs	Jay	45
M-16134	Nicolas	Jacobs	45
M-16146	Jones	Samuel E.	75
M-16160	Jun	Kyebaek	54
M-16153	Koch, DSC	Robert A.	35
M-16162	Leffelman	Noah J	38
M-16185	MacCarelli	Joseph G	11
M-16176	Mattera	Shay C.	11
M-16143	Morton Jr.	James R.	16
M-16168	Murray	Shane	54
M-16159	Quinn	Nicholas	4-24
M-16184	Solano	Raymond P.	118
M-15543	Woltman	Jacob	25
M-16165	Woodman	Christian E.	424
M-16141	Yount	Christian	0

LIFE MEMBERS

MEMBER #	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	CHAPTER
M-13746	Ashley	Robert L.	23
D-10665	Backhaus	Michael	43
D-10813	Baker	Jeff	7
D-9277	Betzko	Clair B.	45
D-6056	Boquist	Brian J.	47
D-7792	Brove	Jay D.	45
D-9303	Busbee	Larry M.	15
M-14419	Cleveland	William N.	363
D-10840	Deterding	Stephen L.	60
M-11862	Devine	Brian K.	16
A-4837	Drummey	Michael	54
M-16178	Einbecker	Mark E.	
D-10811	Emmi	Marc J.	28
D-10828	Espinoza	Cody W.	79
M-14055	Evey	Keith M.	47

LIFE MEMBERS (continued)

MEMBER #	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	CHAPTER
M-16136	Griffin	Richard	16
D-10818	Hamlin	Anders C.	2
D-10824	Jones	David J.	1-18
M-16147	Kampf	Joe	43
M-13437	King	William R.	55
M-16154	Knapp	Aaron M.	16
M-16158	Knecht	Ryan J.	78
M-16169	Lindsay-Oddo	Brandon J.	78
A-4566	Mann	Fitzgerald	38
D-10454	Martino	Christopher	93
M-16148	Mikhalchenko	Maxim	5
M-16130	McNeeley	Dakota I.	38
M-16142	Newton	Alfonso	57
M-16138	O'Connor	Timothy S.	4-24
M-774	Pogge	George W.	
M-16179	Rabren	Carlos L.	92
D-10815	Richardson	Clifford J.	60
D-10823	Sanders	John M.	39
M-16156	Seedorft	Christian E.	78
M-16133	Spencer	Marlin J.	
D-8656	Tennant	James M	29
M-16145	Van Amburgh	Peter C.	
M-12016	Vansaun	Alan E.	58
M-8759	Wiggins	Stephen P.	
M-14896	Williams	Matthew J.	
D-10835	Wittmer	Luke A.	60
M-16175	Wong	Denny	78

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

MEMBER #	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	CHAPTER
A-4834	Ford	Richard J.	43
A-4840	Thomas W	Kerr	84
A-4835	Lear	Mark C.	7
A-4842	Mulhall	John	59
A-4838	Olson	Kenneth M.	
A-4836	Sawvel	William R.	424
A-4833	Schumacher	Sharon A.	
A--4841	Shemenski	Kenneth	
A-4839	White	Peter J.	9



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