

THE **d**ROOP

WINTER 2025



SFA NATIONAL ELECTION

SERGEANT MAJOR BILLY WAUGH:
THE ETERNAL WARRIOR

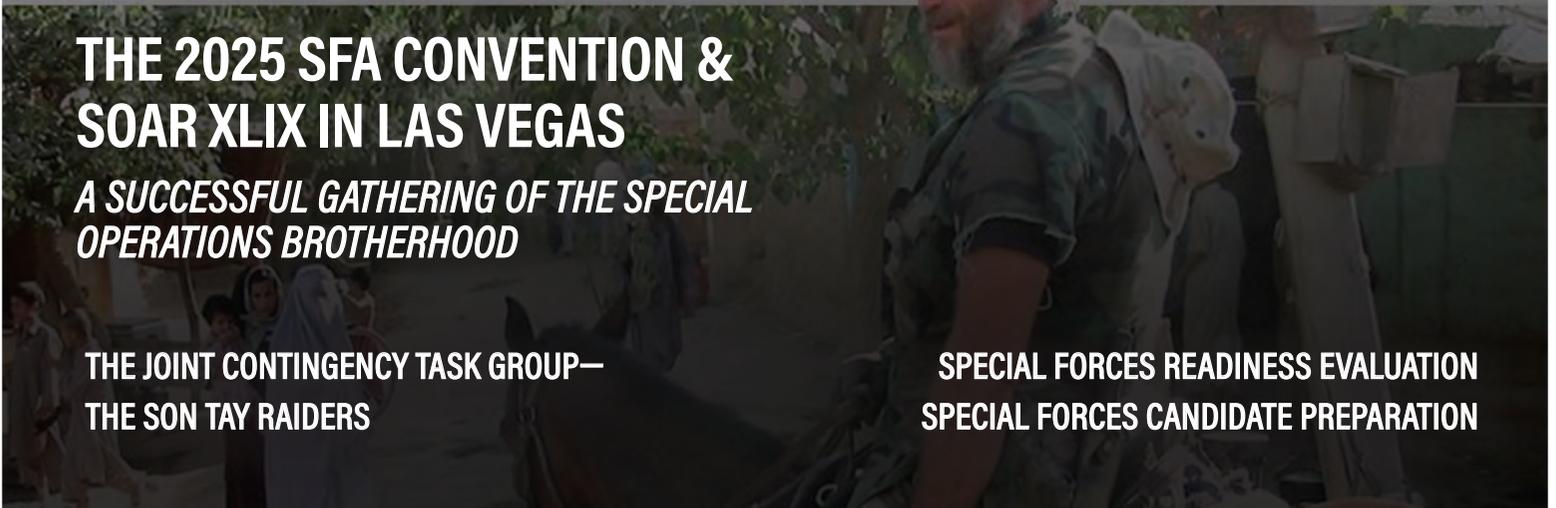


THE 2025 SFA CONVENTION & SOAR XLIX IN LAS VEGAS

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CONTENTS



- 4 | Headquarters Update
- 8 | TAPS
- 28 | Book Review: Those Who Face Death by Mark Grdovic

FEATURES

- 20 | **The Joint Contingency Task Group—The Son Tay Raiders**
- 32 | **SFA National Election**
- 38 | **Sergeant Major Billy Waugh: The Eternal Warrior**
- 98 | **The 2025 SFA Convention & SOAR XLIX in Las Vegas**
- 108 | **Special Forces Readiness Evaluation Special Forces Candidate Preparation**

CHAPTERS

- 50 | Region 1
- 55 | Region 2
- 63 | Region 3
- 65 | Region 4
- 70 | Region 5
- 75 | Region 6
- 78 | Region 7
- 85 | Region 8
- 90 | Region 9
- 93 | Region 10
- 96 | Region 11

WINTER 2025

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UPDATES FROM HEADQUARTERS



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Chris Wilkerson

Dear Members,

I hope your holidays were relaxing and enjoyable! Welcome to 2026, and here's to another prosperous year for the SFA. As we enter the National Board of Officers season, I've spoken with many of you, and I'm pleased to hear that the majority of our membership is happy with the direction and evolution of our organization.

The combined SFACON and SOAR event was a great success, receiving a lot of positive feedback. Our organizations share many membership requirements, and I believe we can benefit from continued collaboration and partnership in future activities.

A big thank you to Doug Godshall and his board of officers for their hard work, as well as to the volunteers who dedicated their time and energy to set up the convention. Special thanks go to the registration team, security personnel, and special event organizers.

Looking ahead, we have exciting plans:

- June 2026: Join us in Destin, FL.
- June 2027: We'll return to Fort Bragg to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Green Beret.

Stay tuned for more updates!

As you may know, this will be the last edition of the Drop in its current format, as the publisher has decided to end our relationship. We are actively pursuing other options to ensure we continue providing valuable information to our members. A special committee is working to create a sustainable version of the Drop that aligns with our members' needs while adapting to changes in postage costs and the decline of paper publications. There may be some compromises, but please know that the membership's best interests are at the forefront of our efforts.

We have several important membership-driven requirements approaching:

- **Election Season:** I encourage everyone to cast their vote to show support or express any concerns regarding current board members running for re-election and new prospective board members.
- **Updated Constitution and National Bylaws Vote:** We will present a vote on an updated Constitution and National Bylaws. The goal is to separate our “who, what, where, and why” into a revised Constitution, mirroring the Articles of Incorporation filed with the State of NC and the IRS. The National Bylaws will detail the “how” of our operations, similar to the US Constitution and Bill of Rights.

The Board proposes that the Constitution remain generally unchanged, requiring a quorum vote for amendments, while the Bylaws can be updated as technology and membership evolve, with amendments voted on by Chapter leaders.

As always, I appreciate the opportunity to serve you all. I look forward to interacting with you and visiting the Chapters. If you have events where you'd like National Officer participation, please let me know!

THE DIRECTOR'S CUT **Mike Goodrich**

Membership: As of 19 November, 2025, there are 11,421 members. The breakdown is: 5,042 (Decade), 5,001 (General), 1,348 (Associate).

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

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

The Drop: A reminder to the membership that this is the last issue of the Drop in its' current form. Our long-time publisher's business model has changed and they have decided to discontinue printing the Drop. We do understand how popular this publication is to you and we are working to produce a new (different) rendition of Drop for our membership. Stand by for more information on this project.

A Tip of the Beret: Chapter 1-18 hosted SFQC Class 341 for a BBQ and social at the Chapter Teamhouse. Congratulations to all of the newly minted Green Berets. Also, a special welcome to the Special Forces Trust who will be funding the Yarborough Knives that are presented to the SFQC honor graduates.

A special shout out again to **Mission BBQ** for their excellent work supporting the SFQC graduation BBQ.

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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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.*

JOSEPH ADELSBERGER

D-4914



Joseph Adelsberger, 72 of Rogersville, Tennessee passed away on October 20th, 2025.

Joe was awarded his Special Forces TAB in 1987 and assigned to the 10th SFG(A). Upon his retirement from active duty, Joe continued to serve his community as a valued and respected member of the Rogersville medical community.

Joe is survived by his son (Joshua) and daughter (Jenny). A celebration of life will be held in the summer of 2026.

RICKIE BRITTAIN

D-4322



CSM(R) Rickie Brittain, 71 of Hickory, North Carolina passed away on October 28th, 2025.

Rickie enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1973 and volunteered for Special Forces duty. He was awarded his Special Forces qualification in 1974 and assigned to the 5th SFG(A). In 1976, Rickie was honorably discharged from active duty and in 1978 he joined the 11th SFG(A). Rickie retired from his distinguished career in 2013 after 39 years of service. Among his many awards and decorations are the Bronze Star, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Special Forces TAB, and the Master Parachutist's

Badge. Rickie earned his Master's Degree in Engineering from Texas Tech and had a long career with AT&T.

He is survived by his son (Richard) and daughter (Mariah). A celebration of life was held at the family's compound on November 15th, 2025.



ROGER CRAFT

M-2080



Roger Craft, 90 of Salinas, California passed away on September 2nd, 2025. Roger entered the U.S. Army in 1951 and was awarded his Special Forces qualification while assigned to the 1st SFG(A) in 1961. In 1964 Roger was assigned briefly to the 10th, SFG(A) in Bad Toelz, Germany before his reassignment to the 5th SFG(A) (MACV-SOG) in Vietnam.

He returned to Vietnam in 1971 as a member of the Special Mission Advisory Group. Roger served three combat tours and was a founding member of the Special Operations Association (SOA).

Interment is at the California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery in Seaside, California.



DONALD CUMMINGS

D-2024



Donald Cummings, 82 of Sturbridge, Massachusetts passed away on October 17th, 2025.

Donald enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1966 and volunteered for Special Forces duty. Upon completion of his training, he was assigned to the 7th SFG(A). He would later be reassigned to the 19th SFG(A). In 1972, Donald was transferred to the 11th SFG(A) at Ft. Devens, Massachusetts.

He was honorably discharged from active duty in 1977. Donald's professional career centered around marketing and sales. He worked at Hyde Tools for 27 years until his retirement in 2006 as the Vice President of Professional Products.

He is survived by his wife (Margaret), sons (Donald, Shawn), and daughters (Tracy, Kelly, Erin, Katie). A Funeral Mass was held on October 24th, 2025 at St. Mary's Church in Southbridge, Massachusetts.



ACKFORD ESLICK

A-3190



Ackford Eslick, 85 of Carroll, Ohio passed away at his home on September 21st, 2025.

Ackford enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served for 26 years as a Seebee. In 1963, he was assigned to Vietnam and Seebee Team 0502 in support of ODA 512 and 734.

He is survived by his wife (Donna), son (Jason), and daughter (Gretchen). In keeping with the family wishes, no services are planned at this time.



JAMES GIBBS

M-8322



James Gibbs, 82 of Smyrna, Delaware passed away on October 26th, 2025.

Jim volunteered for Special Forces duty in 1965. He was awarded his qualification as a Special Forces Communication Sergeant later that year and assigned to the 7th SFG(A). In 1966 he was reassigned to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam. Jim was honorably discharged from active duty in 1970.

Among his awards and decorations are the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Parachutist's Badge.

Jim is survived by his wife (Patricia) and sons (Ellery, Nicholas). Funeral services were held at the First Presbyterian Church in Smyrna, Delaware on November 6th, 2025. Interment is at the Holy Hill Cemetery in Smyrna.



RONALD GIBSON

M-9355



Ronald Gibson, 78 of Fortson, Georgia passed away on August 28th, 2025.

Ron was awarded his Special Forces qualification in 1970 while assigned to the 11th SFG(A).

He was honorably discharged in 1975. After a very successful career in the textile industry, Ron retired to become pastor of the Grace Community Church in Fortson.

Ron is survived by his wife (Dorothy) and daughters (Emily, Melissa, Charlotte). A celebration of life was held at the Striffler-Hamby Mortuary in Columbus, Georgia on September 2nd, 2025.



JERALD GLEASON

D-1162



Jerald Gleason, 87 of East Peoria, Illinois passed away at his home on October 21st, 2025.

Jerry enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1957. His long and successful Special Forces career included assignments with the 77th, 12th, 5th, 3rd, 8th SFG(A), and the 46th SF Company in Thailand.

Among his awards and decorations are The Silver Star, The Bronze Star (w/V, 3 OLC), The Purple Heart (2 OLC), the Air Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (1 OLC), the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry (w/Palm), and the Master Parachutist's Badge.

Jerry is survived by his wife (Margaret), son (Peter), and daughters (Lea Ann, Anissa, Karen). Cremation rites have been afforded according to Jerry's Sioux heritage.



RALPH GRASSER

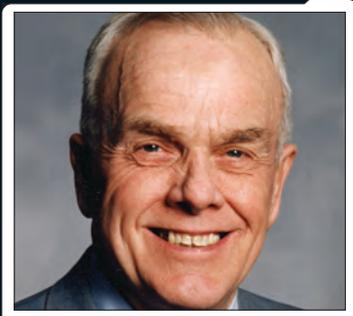
M-5097



Ralph Scott Grasser, 63 of Palm Springs, California passed away at his home on November 5th, 2025.

Scott was a graduate of Western Illinois University and earned his commission as an Army officer through ROTC in 1982. He volunteered for Special Forces duty in 1984 and was assigned to the 5th SFG(A) at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. Scott resigned his commission in 1988 and became a corporate security leader in California before transitioning to international security.

He is survived by his mother (Hetta). A funeral service was held at the Emmaus Lutheran Church in McNabb, Illinois on November 24th, 2025. Interment is at the Friends Cemetery in McNabb.



FRANK HICKS

M-14463



Frank Hicks, 94 of Crestview, Kentucky passed away on September 11th, 2025.

Frank volunteered for Special Forces duty in 1960 and was assigned to the 77th SFG(A). In 1965 he was reassigned to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam. Frank served 21 years of active duty with two tours of duty in Vietnam, a mission in Laos, and Iran.

Among his awards and decorations are the Bronze Star (1 OLC), The Legion of Merit, the Air Medal (3 OLC), the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Ranger TAB, and the Master Parachutist's Badge. After his retirement from active duty, Frank embarked upon a distinguished 40-year career in Real Estate.

He is survived by his wife (Becky), son (Franklin), and daughter (Rebecca). A funeral service was held at the Ft. Mitchell Baptist Church in Ft. Mitchell, Kentucky on September 16th, 2025. Interment is at the Highland Cemetery in Ft. Mitchell.



LOUIE HOUGH

M-7951



Louie Hough, 70 of Hope Mills, North Carolina passed away at his home on October 27th, 2025.

Louie is survived by his daughters (Amanda, Rachael) and grandchildren (Rylan, Ava, Violet). Private services will be held at a later date.



ERIC JONES

A-4625



Eric Jones, 58, of West Jordan, Utah passed away on October 26th, 2025.

Eric served as a Fiscal and Budget Officer for the 19th SFG(A). Eric retired from active duty in 2014.

Among his awards and decorations are the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal (2 OLC), the Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, and the Parachutist's Badge.

He is survived by his wife Leia. A celebration of life was held at the Memorial Estates Mountain View Mortuary in Cottonwood Heights, Utah on November 15th, 2025. Interment is at the Memorial Estates Mountain View Cemetery.



JAMES KILCULLEN

D-5759



James Kilcullen, 87 of Greenwood Lake, New York passed away on September 21st, 2025.

Jim began his Special Forces journey with the 10th SFG(A) in Bad Tolz, Germany in 1958. He returned to the United States to serve with the 303 and 320 Special Forces Detachments, and the 11th SFG(A) before his reassignment to Vietnam and the 5th SFG(A) in 1962. Jim returned stateside to the 16th and 19th SFG(A) in 1965. Following his time in the military, Jim continued to serve through a career in law enforcement.

He is survived by wife (Jennifer) and son (Brian). A Funeral Mass was held at the Church of the Holy Rosary in Greenwood Lake, New York on September 26th, 2025. Interment is at the Warwick Cemetery in Warwick, New York.



PAUL LANG II

D-5318



Paul Lang II, 59, of Portland, Texas passed away on August 18th, 2025 after a difficult battle with cancer.

Paul was awarded his Special Forces TAB in 1990 and served in the 10th SFG(A).

A memorial service was held at Winsteads' Funeral home on September 9th, 2025. Interment is at the Coastal Bend State Veteran's Cemetery in Corpus Christi, Texas.

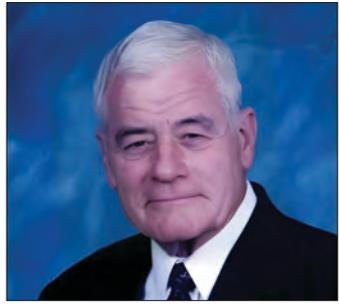
JACK LEBLANC

M-1942



Jack LeBlanc, 81 of Carencro, Louisiana passed away at the Ochsner Lafayette General Medical Center on September 5th, 2025. Jack served with the 20th SFG(A) for six years. In his civilian life, Jack had long career as a skilled bricklayer.

He is survived by son (Eric), daughter (Mona), and Gloria Terrell. A graveside service was held at the St. Bernard Cemetery in Breaux Bridge, Louisiana on September 15th, 2025.



JAMES LEWIS

D-679



James Lewis, 91 of Magnolia, Arkansas passed away at his home on November 12th, 2025.

Jim enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps after graduation from high school. He was discharged upon his return from the Korean War and joined the U.S. Army. Jim volunteered for Special Forces duty in 1961 and was assigned to the 1st SFG(A) in Okinawa. Returning stateside in 1965 he was briefly assigned to the 7th SFG(A) before his reassignment to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam. Upon completion of his combat tour, Jim again returned to the 1st SFG(A) in Okinawa. He began his second combat tour with the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam in 1967. In 1969, Jim began his final tour with the 1st SFG(A) and, in 1971, returned stateside to the 10th SFG(A) in Ft. Devens, Massachusetts.

Jim was retired after 26 years of active duty. Among his awards and decorations are the Bronze Star (2 OLC), the Meritorious Service Medal, the Korean Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, and he Master Parachutist's Badge.

He is survived by his wife (Wilma) and stepchildren (Terry, Tommy, Janet). A funeral service was held at the Macedonia Baptist Church in Magnolia, Arkansas on November 16th, 2025.



FRANK LONGRIE

D-5051



CSM(R) Frank Longrie, 74 of Pearisburg, Virginia passed away at his home on September 28th, 2025.

Frank earned his Green Beret in 1971 and was assigned to the 5th SFG(A). In 1973 he was reassigned to the 46th SF Company in Thailand. Returning stateside in 1974 Frank served in the 5th and 7th SFG(A) until his reassignment to HQs 1st SOCOM in 1988. Frank's last posting was as an ROTC instructor at Virginia Tech. Retiring from active duty after 26 years of service, Frank remained at Virginia Tech as an employee.

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

He is survived by his wife (Joyce) and daughters (Sheila, Angela). A celebration of life was held at the Riverview Baptist Church in Pearisburg, Virginia on October 2nd, 2025. Interment is at the Birchlawn Burial Park.

LESTER LUKOMSKI

D-4590

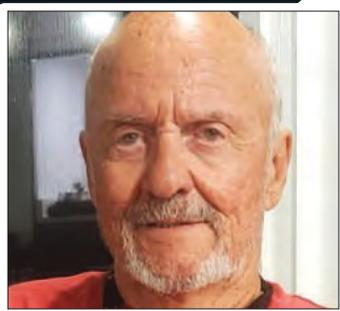


Lester Lukomski, 79 of Dwight, Illinois passed away on September, 1st, 2025.

Lester enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1968. He served a combat tour in Vietnam and was honorably discharged from active duty in 1970. In 1975, Lester joined the U.S. Army Reserve and was assigned to the 12th SFG(A).

Among his awards and decorations are The Purple Heart, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, and the Parachutist's Badge.

Lester is survived by his son (Brian) and daughters (Michelle, Laura). A visitation was held at the UC Davis-Callahan Funeral Home in Morris, Illinois on September 7th, 2025. Interment is at the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, Illinois.



JOHN MAKETA

M-2233



CSM(R) John Maketa, 83 passed away at his home in Peoria, Arizona on April 6th, 2025.

John volunteered for Special Forces duty in 1964 and was assigned to the 7th SFG(A). In 1966 he was reassigned to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam. John returned stateside to the 10th SFG(A) before returning to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam in 1968. He retired from active duty in 1988.

Among his awards and decorations are the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star (1 OLC), The Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal (w/V, 3 OLC), the Valorous Unit Award, the Presidential Unit Citation, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Special Forces TAB, and the Master

Parachutist's Badge. Upon retirement, John established a family construction business in Anchorage, Alaska.

He is survived by his wife (Chrys) and sons (Terry, Johnny).



DAVID MARTIN

D-3323



David "Bear" Martin, 86, of Fayetteville, North Carolina passed away on August 29th, 2025.

Bear began his military career with the U.S. Navy as a submariner in 1956. He was honorably discharged and enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1962 where he served in the 82nd Airborne Division, 187th Battle Group, the 173rd Airborne Brigade and the 503rd Airborne Battalion before volunteering for Special Force duty in 1968. Upon completion of his training, Bear was assigned to the 7th SFG(A). In 1969, he was reassigned to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam (B-55).

Returning stateside in 1970 Bear continued his Special Forces career with assignments at the USAJFKSWC, 5th SFG(A), and 1st SFG(A) before retiring from active duty in 1988.

He is survived by his wife (Irene) and daughters (Stephanie, Sandra). A funeral service was held at Sullivan's Highland Funeral Service and Crematory in Fayetteville, North Carolina on September 6th, 2025. Interment is at the Sandhills State Veteran's Cemetery in Spring Lake, North Carolina.



FRED MONARI

M-3554



Fred Monari, 75 of Lockport, Illinois passed away on November 5th, 2025.

Fred was awarded his Special Forces qualification in 1980 and assigned to the 7th SFG(A) in Panama. He was retired from active duty after 20-years of honorable service and began a new career as a Corrections Officer.

Among his awards and decorations are The Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Air Assault Badge, and the Parachutist's Badge.

Fred is survived by his wife (Diane), son (Alexander), and daughter (Alyssia). A funeral service was held at the Forsythe Gould Funeral Home in Manhattan, Illinois on November 12th, 2025. Interment is at the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, Illinois.



WILLIAM MOSER

M-957



BG William Moser, 74 of Roanoke, Virginia passed away on January 5th, 2024.

BG Moser enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1967 and served three tours of duty in Vietnam with the 5th SFG(A) and MACV-SOG. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for bravery during the battle of Lang Vei in 1969. After his discharge from active duty in 1973, BG Moser completed his doctorate and worked in the private sector until 1989 when he returned to active duty as a Major. He retired from active duty as Commander of the JFK Special Warfare Center SOC and began a new career teaching senior level leadership to the cadets at Virginia Tech. In addition to the Distinguished Service Cross, BG Moser's awards and decorations

include The Silver Star, The Bronze Star (1 OLC), The Purple Heart (3 OLC), the Combat Infantryman's Badge (w/Star), and the Master Parachutist's Badge.

He is survived by his wife (Dinah) and son (Greg). A funeral service was held at the Shenandoah Baptist Church on January 15th, 2024. Interment is at the Blue Ridge Memorial Gardens.



DON MUNSON

M-5044



Don Munson, 87 of Coppell, Texas passed away on November 10th, 2025. Don was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant upon graduation from Tulane University in 1960.

He volunteered for Special Forces duty and was assigned to the 10th SFG(A) in 1964. After a combat tour in Vietnam with the 7th Calvary, Don was reassigned to the 46th SF Company in Thailand. Throughout the remainder of his military career, Don served in various command and staff assignments until his retirement in 1983. Among his awards and decorations are The Silver Star, The Bronze Star (w/V, 1 OLC), the Distinguished Flying Cross, The Purple Heart, the Air Medal (w/ Number 9), the Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Valorous

Unit Award, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Ranger TAB, and the Master Parachutist's Badge. Upon retirement, Don began a second career in real estate development.

He is survived by his son (Mark), brother (George), and sister (Ann). A memorial service was held at the Rolling Oaks Funeral Home in Coppell, Texas on November 19th, 2025. Interment is at the Dallas-Ft. Worth National Cemetery.



EDWIN PARKER

D-8144



Edwin Parker, 81 of Eustis, Florida passed away on May 8th, 2025.

Ed enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1961 upon graduation from high school. After his initial and airborne training, he was assigned to the 7th SFG(A). Ed was honorably discharged from active duty in 1962 and joined the 13th SFG(A). In 1969, Ed transferred to the 11th SFG(A) where he served until 1979. Following his discharge from active duty, Ed earned his degree from the University of Florida and began a very successful career with newspapers. Ed was a plank holder with SFA Chapter 74 and served for many years as a chapter officer.

He is survived by his sons (Richard, Brandon). A Special Forces tribute was held at VFW Post 10137 in Bushnell, Florida. Interment is at the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell.



NELSON PARRISH

D-8721



Nelson Parrish, 84 of North Palm Beach, Florida passed away on September 1st, 2025.

Nelson enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserve and joined the 11th SFG(A) in 1963 and served until 1969. In his civilian life, Nelson worked for decades at RCA.

He is survived by his daughter Paula. A funeral service was held at Dorsey-E. Earl Smith Memory Gardens in Lake Worth, Florida on September 8th, 2025. Interment is at Lake Worth Memory Gardens.

THOMAS RASCON III

D-2921



Thomas Rascon III, 83 of Longs, South Carolina passed away on August 22nd, 2025.

Tom joined the 16th SFG(A) of the West Virginia Army National Guard in 1963 and served for three years until his activation and assignment to the 1st SFG(A) in Okinawa, Japan. In 1969, he was reassigned to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam. Returning stateside in 1970, Tom was assigned to the 6th SFG(A) at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. After a subsequent assignment to the JFK Center for Military Assistance, Tom left active duty and joined the 19th SFG(A). He retired in 1987. Following his military service, Tom continued supporting veterans through his work through the Vietnam Veterans Outreach Centers.

He is survived by his wife (Judith) and son (Thomas). Tom will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.



WAYNE SEARCY

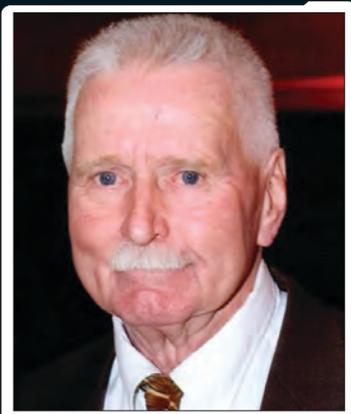
D-3625



CW5(R) Ernest Wayne Searcy, 78 passed away at his home in Fayetteville, North Carolina on October 21st, 2025.

Wayne was awarded his Special Forces qualification in 1971 and assigned to the 6th SFG(A) briefly before his reassignment to the 5th SFG(A). Wayne ended a military career in which he had tours of duty with the 46th SF Company, Detachment A, 7th SFG(A), and the Special Warfare command to just name a few after serving for 39 years.

He is survived by his wife (Anna), sons (Patrick, Kyle), and stepdaughter (Amanda). A celebration of life was held at the Jernigan-Warren Funeral Home in Fayetteville, North Carolina on November 5th, 2025. Interment is at the Sandhills State Veterans Cemetery in Spring Lake, North Carolina.



ROBERT TAYLOR

D-1502



Robert Taylor, 88 of Alstead, New Hampshire passed away on November 1st 2025.

Bob enlisted in the U.S. Army after graduating from high school and was assigned to the 506th Infantry. Following his discharge from active duty in 1958, he joined the 303rd Special Forces Detachment. In 1961, his unit was one of several units that contributed personnel to form the 11th SFG(A). Bob retired in 1997 after serving more than three decades.

As the owner of Taylor's Welding Service, he and his son created much-admired metal sculptures that can be found throughout Chesire County, New Hampshire.

continued on next page...

ROBERT TAYLOR

CONTINUED



Bob is survived by his sons (James, Richard) and daughter (Trudelle). A private graveside service with military honors was held at the Alstead Center Cemetery.



RODOLFO VILLARREAL

D-2792



Rodolfo Villarreal, 88 of San Antonio, Texas passed away at his home on October 17th, 2025.

Rudy enlisted in the U.S. Army upon graduation from high school in 1956 and was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division. He volunteered for Special Forces duty in 1964. He was awarded his qualification as a Special Forces Aidman in 1965 and assigned to the 7th SFG(A). Rudy was reassigned to the 5th SFG(A) in 1967. After completion of his combat tour, Rudy was assigned to the 10th SFG(A) in Bad Tolz, FRG. He returned to Vietnam and the 5th SFG(A) in 1970. Rudy returned to the 10th SFG(A) in Ft. Devens, Massachusetts in 1971. He was retired active duty in 1987 after 31 years of honorable service. Among his awards and decorations are

The Bronze Star (w/V, 3 OLC), The Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal (w/V, 3 OLC), the Army Achievement Medal, the Presidential Unit Award, the Humanitarian Service Medal, the Vietnamese Campaign Medal, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry (w/Bronze Star), the Combat Medical Badge, and the Master Parachutist's Badge.

Rudy is survived by wife (Rachel), son (Rodolfo) and daughters (Esmeralda, Miriam). A Mass of Christian Burial was held at the St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in San Antonio, Texas on November 4th, 2025. Interment is at the Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery.

RANDALL WEISER

D-2109



Randall "Tex" Weiser, 87 of Manhattan, Kansas passed away at the Via Christi Hospital on October 21st, 2025.

Tex enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1957 and began his military career as an artillery forward observer. In 1962, while stationed in Germany, he volunteered for Special Forces duty and was assigned to the 10th SFG(A) in Bad Tolz. Tex was reassigned to the 7th SFG(A). In 1968, Tex began a combat tour with the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam. He returned stateside to the 10th SFG(A) in 1969. Tex was honorably retired from active duty in 1977. Among his awards and decorations are the Bronze Star, the Combat Medical Badge, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry (w/Palm), and the Parachutist's Badge.

He is survived by wife (Ursula) and sons (Sid, Tim). A private service is scheduled for a later date.



EARL WEMPLE III

D-7557



Earl Wemple III, 76 of Riverview, Florida passed away at his home on September 2nd, 2025.

Earl enlisted in the U.S. Army and was selected to attend Officer Candidate School. He was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in 1977. Earl volunteered for Special Forces duty and graduated from the Special Forces Officer Course in 1983.

Among his awards and decorations are The Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry

continued on next page...

EARL WEMPLE III

CONTINUED



(w/Palm), the Special Forces TAB, the Combat Infantryman’s Badge, the Scuba Badge, and the Master Parachutist’s Badge.

Earl is survived by his wife (Laura), son (Earl), and daughters (Allyson, Laura). A funeral service was held at the Sun City Funeral Home on September 12th, 2025.



CHARLES ZINNER, JR.

M-1337



Charles Zinner, Jr., 73 of Safety Harbor, Florida passed away on October 29th, 2025.

Trained as a Military Intelligence Officer, Charles was assigned to the 11th SFG(A) in 1980. Charles earned a M.S. in Agriculture and a PhD in Educational Leadership from the University of Florida. He served for a time as the head educator for the University of Florida Agriculture Extension Office.

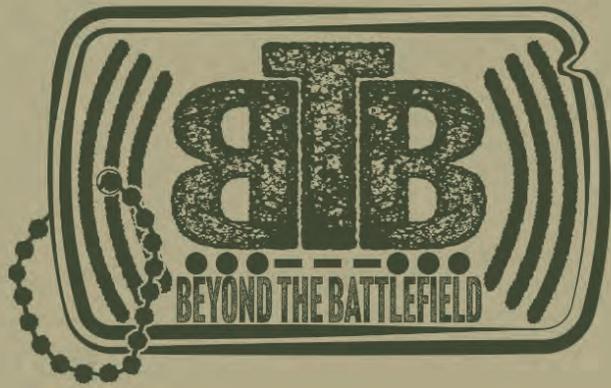
Charles is survived by his daughter (Amy) and stepchildren (Jeff, Tina). A celebration of life was held at the Sylvan Abbey Memorial Park & Funeral Home in Clearwater, Florida on November 9th, 2025.

OTHER FALLEN COMRADES:

SFA



Glenn Bollinger, III	M-9507	September 20th, 2019
William Carcaba	D-5700	June 10th, 2014
John Eleam	M-4152	April 27th, 2013
Henry Frampton	D-2059	June 14th, 2016
George Fussell	D-83	October 23rd, 2011.
Bryan Bogart	D-3055	February 9th, 2014
Richard Bizzarro	D-8235	February 16th, 2023
David Hutto	M-4889	June 27th, 2019
Alexander Henderson	M-13253	September 7th, 2022
Robert Marple	D-440	October 7th, 2012
John Z. Fargo		September 17th, 2025



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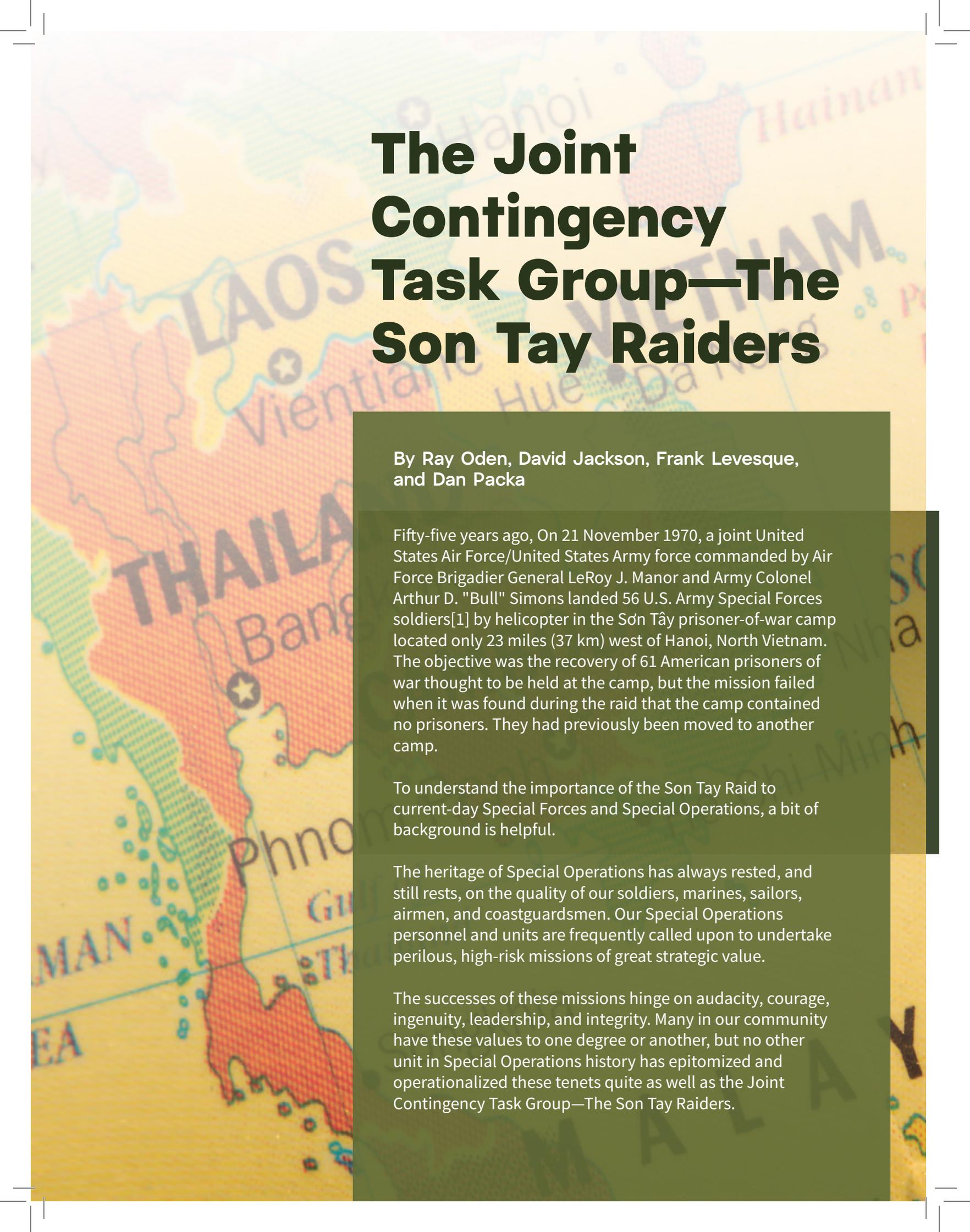
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The Joint Contingency Task Group—The Son Tay Raiders

By Ray Oden, David Jackson, Frank Levesque, and Dan Packa

Fifty-five years ago, On 21 November 1970, a joint United States Air Force/United States Army force commanded by Air Force Brigadier General LeRoy J. Manor and Army Colonel Arthur D. "Bull" Simons landed 56 U.S. Army Special Forces soldiers^[1] by helicopter in the Sơn Tây prisoner-of-war camp located only 23 miles (37 km) west of Hanoi, North Vietnam. The objective was the recovery of 61 American prisoners of war thought to be held at the camp, but the mission failed when it was found during the raid that the camp contained no prisoners. They had previously been moved to another camp.

To understand the importance of the Son Tay Raid to current-day Special Forces and Special Operations, a bit of background is helpful.

The heritage of Special Operations has always rested, and still rests, on the quality of our soldiers, marines, sailors, airmen, and coastguardsmen. Our Special Operations personnel and units are frequently called upon to undertake perilous, high-risk missions of great strategic value.

The successes of these missions hinge on audacity, courage, ingenuity, leadership, and integrity. Many in our community have these values to one degree or another, but no other unit in Special Operations history has epitomized and operationalized these tenets quite as well as the Joint Contingency Task Group—The Son Tay Raiders.

Here's A Thumb-Nail Sketch Of Their Story.

By the spring of 1970, there were more than 450 known American POWs in North Vietnam and another 970 were missing in action. Some of the POWs had been imprisoned over 2,000 days and there were reports of horrid conditions, brutality, torture and even death were being told in intelligence reports.

In May of 1970, reconnaissance photographs revealed the existence of two prison camps west of Hanoi: Son Tay, 23 miles SW from Hanoi, and at the other camp Ap Lo, about 30 miles west of North Vietnam's capital.

At the time Hanoi's antiaircraft defense system was the most formidable antiaircraft defense system in the world—possessing over 1,039 antiaircraft guns at an estimated 298 antiaircraft sites.

On May 9, 1970, after an Air Force intelligence unit's analysis of aerial photography concluded that a compound near Son Tay, did in fact contain American POWs and that at least six were in urgent need of rescue. The CJCS then authorized a compartmented 15-member planning group to study the feasibility of a raid. Operation Polar Circle, the code name for the planning stage of the operation, began on June 10.

The Son Tay prison itself was in the open and surrounded by rice paddies and was close to approximately 12,000 North Vietnamese Army (NVA) troops, an artillery school, a supply depot, and an air defense installation. Five hundred yards south was another compound called the "secondary school", which housed guards. To make matters more difficult, Phuc Yen Air Base was only 20 miles northeast of Son Tay. The Polar Circle study group concluded that Son Tay contained 61-65 POWs and set up parameters for a nighttime raid under clear weather conditions with a quarter moon at 35 degrees above the horizon for optimum visibility during low-level flight, and that the raid must achieve element of surprise and capitalize on shock.

Additionally, once launched, the operation must be one of precision with timing and navigational accuracy, strictly according to plan.

As soon as Polar Circle was complete, Operation Ivory Coast, the organization, planning, training, development, and deployment phase of the raid began on August 8. JCS Chairman, designated Air Force BG Leroy J. Roy Manor as the raid's commander and Army Special Forces Colonel Arthur D. "Bull" Simons as deputy commander of the mission task force known as the Joint Contingency Task Group (JCTG). Eglin Air Force Base, in the Florida Panhandle, was selected as the joint training site for the prospective force. Personnel selection and planning was performed by Special Operations "operators" rather than by the JCS to avoid service parochialism, resulting in a force chosen for mission needs, prioritizing Southeast Asia combat experience and operational specialty skills over rank or branch of service.

BG Manor, a stickler for organization, set up an Air Force training facility at Eglin's Duke Field and brought together a 27-member planning staff that included 11 members who actually flew in support of the raid. Simons chose LTC Elliot "Bud Sydnor to be the Ground Commander and CPT Richard "Dick Meadows to be the Ground Operations Planner and Assault Group Commander. Simons recruited 103 personnel for the ground force after interviewing 500 volunteers, mostly Special Forces personnel from the 6th and 7th Special Forces groups at Fort Bragg, NC. USAF planners selected key Air Force commanders, who then picked personnel for their crews. Helicopter and A-1 Skyraider crews were put together from instructors at Eglin and personnel who had returned from Southeast Asia. The two crews for the C-130E(I) Combat Talons were assembled from squadrons in Germany and North Carolina.



Qty	Aircraft Type	Radio Call Sign	Kingpin Task
1	C-130E(I) Combat Talon	Cherry 01	Lead and navigation aircraft for 6 raid force helicopters, flare drop for target illumination for rescue force and airborne command.
1	HH-3E Jolly Green	Banana	Helicopter for 14 Man Assault Element Blueboy Commanded by CPT Meadow intentionally crash-lands in Son Tay Prison Camp
1	HH-53C Super Jolly	Apple 01	Helicopter for 22 Man Grenade Support Element, Commanded by COL Simon mistakenly lands at South side of the Secondary School
1	HH-53C Super Jolly	Apple 02	Helicopter for 20 Man Redwine Support Element, Commanded by LTC Sydnor overall ground forces commander
1	HH-53C Super Jolly	Apple 03	Destroys the Son Tay Prison guard towers
2	HH-53C Super Jolly	Apple 04 Apple 05	POW extraction Helicopters and spare flare ships
1	C-130E(J) Combat Talon	Cherry 02	A-1 Skyraider lead and navigation aircraft
5	A-1E Skyraider	Peach 01-05	Close air support strike aircraft objective.
10	F-4D Phantom	Falcon 01-05 Falcon 11-15	High altitude target area MIG combat air patrol in two waves of five aircraft per wave
6	F-105G Wild Weasel III	Firebird 01-05	High altitude target area surface-to-air missile suppression
2	HC-130P	Lime 01-02	Aerial refueling tankers
2	KC-135		Command and Control

All were then asked to volunteer for a temporary duty assignment without additional pay and without being told the nature of the mission. 103 Army and 116 Air Force personnel were selected for the project, including ground force members, air crewmen, support members, and planners. The 219-man task force planned, trained, and operated under the title of the "Joint Contingency Task Group" (JCTG).

In the words of Major Dick Meadows:

“ I don’t think the world had ever seen, and maybe still hasn’t seen, so much air-planning and flying expertise gathered under one command, Say what you will about the ground force’s mission, but to me it was the infiltration and exfiltration that was key. If we got in undetected, then surprise would carry the ground forces along for the critical period, and once we got those POWs on board the choppers we didn’t want them going back at any cost ... You get a team like that and that’s what SF is all about.. None of us ever doubted their commitment and ability. ”

- Six rehearsals a day, three of them under night conditions.
- Altogether 173 practice sessions covering all or part of the mission were performed on the mockup by the Special Forces troopers, many with live fire, with 31 practice landings in the mockup's courtyard.
- There were three night, full-scale dress rehearsals conducted: each full rehearsal lasting for five- and one-half hours, including 687 miles of flight for all aircraft, replicating the timing, speeds, altitudes, and turns in the mission plan.
- During these later two rehearsals the HH-3 pilots for the 14 man Blueboy Assault Group volunteered to intentionally crash-land the HH-3 inside the main prison compound to give the 14 man Blueboy Assault Team “every split-second margin to get into the POWs’ cells before the guards could react to the assault.”

From November 10-18 the JCTG moved in separate parts to its staging base at Takhli Royal Thai Air Force Base, (RTAFB) Thailand, using alternating days and times and convoluted routes to avoid tipping off the enemy that a large-scale operation was underway.

Air Force crews and Army personnel spent long hours of intensive joint formation training with helicopters including low-level navigation training at night. There were

BG Manor issued the formal launch afternoon on November 20, & COL Bull Simons briefed the Green Berets. All of them knew they had been preparing for a rescue effort, but they did not know the target location—many had thought the target was in Cuba.



COL Simons comments were very brief:

“ We are going to rescue 70 American prisoners of war, maybe more, from a camp called Son Tay. This is something American prisoners have a right to expect from their fellow soldiers. The target is 23 miles west of Hanoi. ”

Simons had one other thing to say:

“ You are to let nothing, nothing interfere with the operation. Our mission is to rescue prisoners, not take prisoners. And if we walk into a trap, if it turns out that they know we’re coming, don’t dream about walking out of North Vietnam—unless you’ve got wings on your feet. We’ll be 100 miles from Laos; it’s the wrong part of the world for a big retrograde movement. If there’s been a leak, we’ll know it as soon as the second or third chopper sets down; that’s when they’ll cream us. If that happens, I want to keep this force together. We will back up to the Son Con River and, by Christ, let them come across that God damn open ground. We’ll make them pay for every foot across the sonovabitch. ”

Aviation support for the operation comprised some 116 aircraft (59 Navy and 57 Air Force), of which 28 aircraft (crewed by 92 airmen) were assigned direct roles in the target area.

While the Fruit Salad Raid aircraft flew in from Laos— approaching Son Tay from the West-- Navy aircraft had launched from the aircraft carriers USS Oriskany and USS Ranger in the most extensive carrier night operation of the Vietnam War with twenty A-7 Corsairs and A-6 Intruders and Navy Strike Force refuelers of two EKA-3Bs flying off of the aircraft carrier USS Hancock on YANKEE Station in the South China Sea making a diversionary action in the East-over Haiphong and Hanoi --totally confusing the North Vietnamese air defense forces.

As the Navy Strike force in the East diverted North Vietnamese attention, the Raid force flew in undetected from Laos from the west and hit the target at 0219 hours 21 Nov, as planned. But there were some glitches.

As the Blueboy Assault element intentionally crash landed into the prison compound, the Greenleaf Support Group (w/ COL Simons) mistakenly landed at the secondary school (400 meters south of the prison) and was engaged in an 8-minute firefight with hostiles before the helicopter returned to move it to Greenleaf’s actual objective site.

In the meantime, the Redwine Security Group executed the contingency plan for the raid without Greenleaf and then switched back to the regular plan when Greenleaf had landed in the correct place.

Coming back to the Prison area, the HH-3E (BANANA) forced a steeper descent than rehearsed, and the Blueboy assault team successfully crash-landed into the courtyard of Son Tay prison at 02:19 as planned, with all weapons firing. CPT Meadows used a bullhorn to announce their presence to the expected POWs, while the team dispersed in four elements on a rapid and violent assault of the prison, killing guards and methodically searching the five prisoner blocks cell by cell.

Two thorough searches by the Blueboy assault group found that the prison held no POWs. CPT Meadows transmitted the code phrase “Negative Items” to the command group. At 02:29, LTC Sydnor ordered the A-1s to attack the vehicle bridge over the Song Con leading into the area, and three minutes later, called for extraction by the HH-53s. The last aircraft out was cleared to leave its holding area at 02:48. The raid had been executed in only 27 minutes, well within the planned 30-minute optimum time.





Conclusion:

Despite the absence of prisoners, the raid was executed with a high degree of success and precision – only five hours from start to finish, incurring only two wounded casualties and losing just two aircraft: one a helicopter that had been planned to be crash-landed from the beginning, the other an F-105 Wild Weasel (FIREBIRD FIVE).

The fact that no POWs were rescued does not detract from the dedication and bravery demonstrated by the men who were willing to risk their lives to save their fellow countrymen.

Why were the POWs relocated from Son Tay to Dong Hoi? Had the North Vietnamese learned about the rescue attempt?

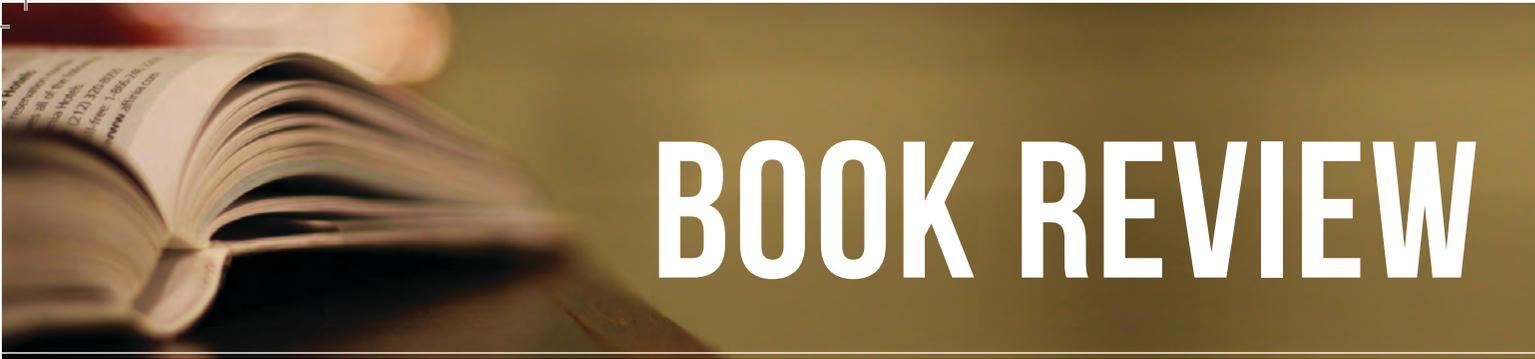
No! The POWs had been moved due to a simple fact of nature; the Song Con River, next to Son Tay had overflowed its banks. Because of the flooding, the POWs had been transported to Dong Hoi.

As a result of the raid, the North Vietnamese consolidated the POWs in Hanoi, which allowed the POWs, many of whom had been held in solitary confinement, to care for and to communicate with each other. POW morale improved significantly.

The Success Of The Raid Inspired:

1. Army leadership to form the :
 - 1st & 2nd Battalions (Ranger), 75th Infantry in 1974 and created the Special Forces Operational Detachment-D (DELTA Force) in 1977.
 - Department of Defense (DOD), the creation of the Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC) in 1980 originated based on the mission and organization of the "Joint Contingency Task Group" (JCTG).
2. Operationally, the Raid provided the blueprint for :
 - Operation EAGLE CLAW (the failed Iran Hostage Rescue attempt) in 1980.
 - The rescue of PFC Jessica Lynch in 2003; and
 - Operation NEPTUNE SPEAR (the Navy SEAL Raid that killed Osama Bin Laden) in 2011.

Although many have tried, to this date, no unit has matched the Speed, Precision, or Audacity of the Joint Contingency Task Group—The Son Tay Raiders! 



BOOK REVIEW

Those Who Face Death

By: Mark Grdovic

Mark Grdovic's *Those Who Face Death* is a compelling and fresh account of a lesser-known but strategically crucial component of the 2003 U.S. invasion of Iraq: the northern-front unconventional warfare campaign in coordination with the Kurdish Peshmerga. In this book, Grdovic draws on his experience as a Special Forces officer to tell the story of how small teams of U.S. Special Forces and CIA operatives entered Northern Iraq ahead of the main assault, partnered with the Kurdish resistance against the Saddam Hussein regime, and helped establish a viable second front that tied down Iraqi Army forces.

From the outset, Grdovic frames the operation as a textbook example of true unconventional warfare (UW): enabling indigenous resistance (in this case the Kurdish militias), coordinating with them, building a “fifth column,” and striking at an adversary from behind. He acknowledges that the task was anything but routine—navigating Kurdish factionalism, Turkish geopolitical concerns, threats from Islamist groups, and the challenge of linking the operation to the main U.S. invasion from the south.

One of the book's great strengths lies in its granular depiction of how Special Forces teams moved forward with the Kurdish partner forces in terrain that was remote, politically complex, and dangerous. Grdovic provides detailed context on how the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), despite historical rivalries and a fragile cease-fire, had to set aside differences to seize the opportunity. He recounts how, prior to even linking up with Peshmerga units, the teams had to address the Turkey factor—since Kurdish advances

risked provoking Turkish incursions—and the threat posed by Islamist groups operating near the Iran-Iraq border.

Beyond the geopolitics, Grdovic excels at describing the human dimension: the hours spent training the Peshmerga, building trust, coordinating intelligence on Iraqi Army strengths, planning infiltration routes, and determining when to strike. The book captures the high stakes: the U.S. conventional invasion depended in part on the northern front drawing off Iraqi forces, yet the Special Forces teams operated with limited immediate conventional support, no guarantee of medical evacuation, no large backup force, and an expectation of self-reliance.

Grdovic also offers insight into how this operation changed the character of UW for the 21st century. He discusses the doctrine, training, and operational culture required to enable indigenous forces, coordinate across agencies, and deliver effect in theatres that sit between covert-ops and full-scale war. According to his website, the book even provides annexes, maps and lessons learned on UW. For the professional Special Forces reader—especially those interested in operational design, partner-force employment, or regional irregular warfare—this makes the book more than simply a narrative: it is a case study in modern Special Forces employment.

In terms of structure, the book is well paced: early chapters establish the historical backdrop of Iraq's Kurdish question, the No-Fly Zone, the internal Kurdish conflicts, and the pre-invasion planning context. Then Grdovic transitions to operational execution: insertion, partnering,

coordinating strikes, advising and leading Peshmerga raids, and the culminating northern campaign that helped fix large swathes of the Iraqi Army. Finally, he offers reflections on lessons learned—what went right, what could have been better, and how this operation should inform future UW campaigns. This structure gives the reader both narrative momentum and analytical value.

There are several parts I found particularly striking. For example, Grdovic's account of how the Peshmerga fighters, some of whom had fought Saddam's regime for decades, viewed the 2003 operation as their chance to throw off long-standing oppression. His description of coordinating Kurdish maneuvers in mountainous terrain, where the Iraqi Army had once suppressed them, offers vivid insight into the interplay of terrain, culture, and unconventional partnerships. Furthermore, his honest admission of the uncertainty and risk—no guarantee of extraction, little air support until the main invasion—underscores the austere conditions under which the teams operated.

Another valuable dimension is the strategic impact. Grdovic contends that the northern front did more than simply divert Iraqi forces: it signaled to the regime that the U.S. coalition could operate from unexpected directions, with partner forces inside Iraq, and that the legacy of the Kurdish resistance could be leveraged as a strategic asset. This is a point that readers in the Special Forces community will appreciate—how unconventional options and strong local allies can create strategic surprise and support conventional operations.

While the book is strong in many respects, there are areas where readers should be aware how the narrative is framed. Because of classification and the nature of these operations, some operational details are necessarily high level or redacted; thus, the reader may not always get full tactical and operational depth for every engagement. Also, while Grdovic acknowledges the political complexity around Kurdish forces, the book does sometimes adopt the U.S./partner perspective, and less frequently delves into the internal Kurdish political trade-offs and implications beyond the immediate mission. For readers looking for deep Kurdish political history post-2003, additional contextual reading may be necessary.

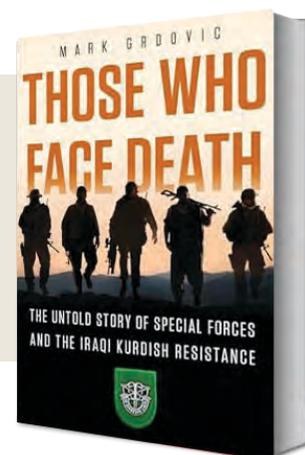
Nevertheless, for a professional audience such as our members, the Regiment, or the broader national security community, this is exactly the kind of book that deserves attention. It speaks directly to the modern Special Forces mission: building partner capacity, operating in denied terrain, integrating across special and conventional domains, and doing so under austere conditions with high operational risk. It reinforces the philosophy of the Special Forces soldier: adaptability, cultural competence, strategic patience, and tactical excellence.

In my view, *Those Who Face Death* should be added to the reading list of all who aspire to understand how unconventional warfare is truly done in the 21st century—not just in theory, but in practice. Grdovic's combination of operational insight, narrative clarity, and professional reflection makes this book an outstanding contribution to special operations literature.

Mark Grdovic has given us a lucid, value-laden account of a highly impactful campaign that previously received little public attention. Through his writing, the professionalism of the Special Forces soldier and the courage of the Kurdish Peshmerga are brought into clear relief. For anyone who wants to understand how a small team of Green Berets worked with indigenous forces to help topple a regime, *Those Who Face Death* is essential reading.

Reviewed by Doug Livermore

AUTHOR: Mark Grdovic
 PUBLISHER: COPPER
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 PAPERBACK: 254 pages



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SFA National Election

14 November 2025

The SFA Nominating Committee met on 13 November 2025. The Committee was comprised of:

Jeff Olson, SFA National Secretary, Committee Chair

MG (R) **Jim Linder**, Member at Large

Tim Howle, Chapter 1-18

Tom Wisdom, Chapter 4-24

Sam Seetin, Chapter 59

Jeff Cook, Legal Advisor, Member at Large

The Nominating Committee determined that the Preliminary Slate of Candidates for the 2026 SFA Election is as follows:

For President, **Chris Wilkerson**

For Vice President, **Nathan Rehl**

For Secretary, **Jeff Olson**

For Treasurer, None

For Director of External

Communications, **Doug Livermore**

For Director of Special Projects,

Garon Strong

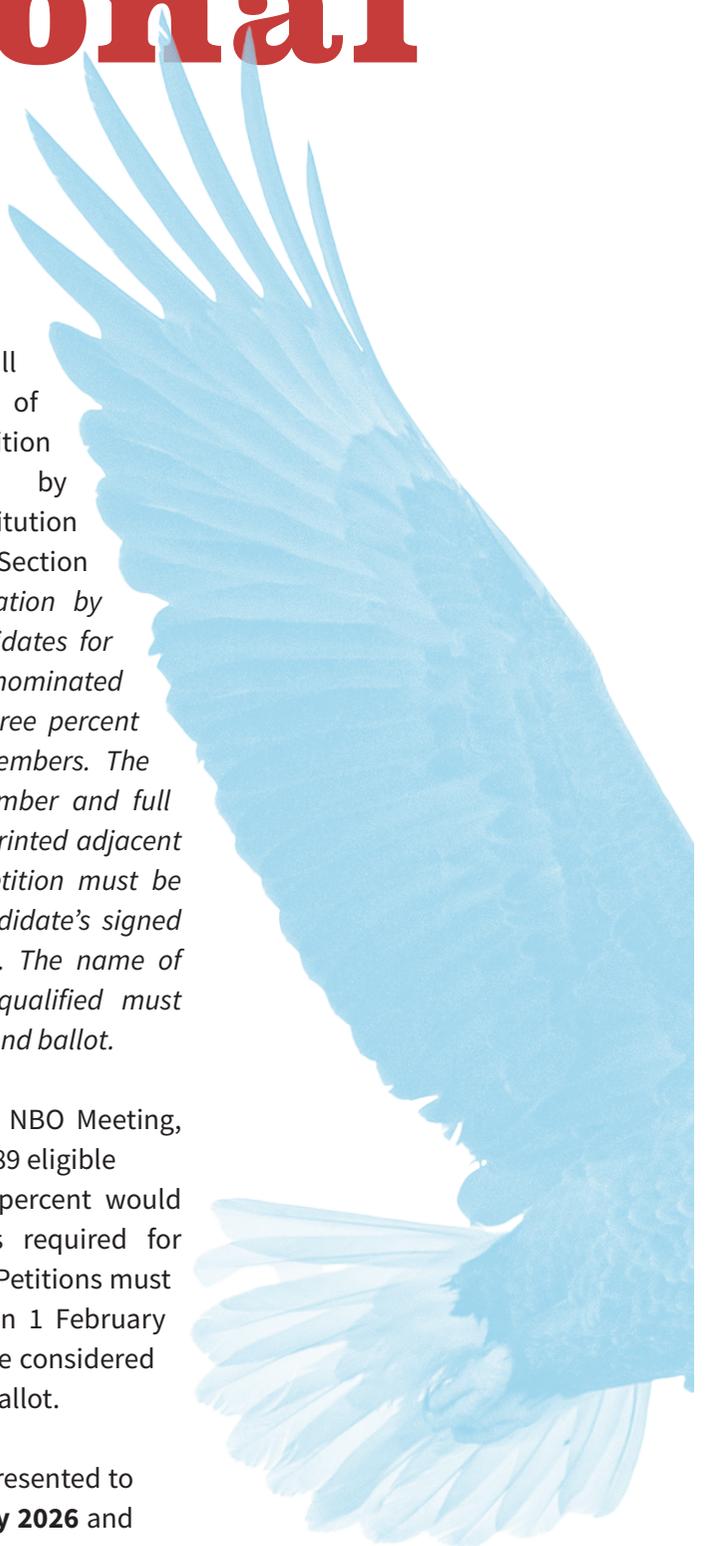
For Adjutant, None

No candidates were nominated for the offices of Treasurer and Adjutant. Unless there is a nomination by petition for these offices, they will be appointed by the elected National Board of Officers (NBO).

SFA Members may still be added to the Slate of Candidates for any position through nomination by petition. The SFA Constitution states in Article VIII, Section 1, Paragraph E: *Nomination by Petition. Additional candidates for any elective office may be nominated by petition of at least three percent of the eligible voting members. The person's membership number and full name must be typed or printed adjacent to the signature. The petition must be accompanied by the candidate's signed statement of acceptance. The name of any candidate who is qualified must appear on the final slate and ballot.*

As of the November 5th NBO Meeting, the Association had 11,389 eligible voting Members. Three percent would represent 342 Members required for Nomination by Petition. Petitions must be received no later than 1 February 2026 for a candidate to be considered for inclusion in the final ballot.

The Final Ballot will be presented to SFA Members in **February 2026** and voting will begin on **1 March 2026**. The full timeline for the election is on page 36.



Chris Wilkerson

President

As the current president of the Special Forces Association (SFA) and a recent retiree from the Army as of November 2025, I am dedicated to continuing my leadership role for the next two years.

Personal Commitment

I find purpose in leading this esteemed organization. Engaging with our chapters and listening to the membership enriches my experience, strengthens our community and ensures I don't sit around too long with nothing to do or something on the calendar to look forward to.

Member Support

Through my conversations with Chapter leaders and members, there is a clear consensus supporting the direction of the current Board. Our proposed projects and ongoing initiatives are well-received, indicating a collective vision for the future.

Attracting Younger Members

We are actively working on initiatives aimed at enticing younger members to join and participate, ensuring the longevity and vitality of our organization. As the first President of the SFA to be active-duty and recently retired, I believe the "old-man club" stigma is being reconsidered to bring in younger members.

Representation of All Eras

It brings me great pleasure to represent all eras of Special Forces. My friend network includes Green Beret wearing men that served in Vietnam, carried nuclear bombs in ruck sacks during the Cold War and guys that I've served with during GWOT. I hope to continue building this network and to foster a sense of unity among our diverse membership. In conclusion, I am excited about the future of the SFA and look forward to leading the SFA through the next two years.

Nathan Rehl

Vice President

I was assigned to the 3rd Special Forces Group from June 1997 until April 2014.

Among the assignments were:

- ★ Served as Senior Communications Sergeant, Detached Intelligence Sergeant (18F), and interim Team Sergeant.
- ★ Deployed to Operation IRAQI FREEDOM (OIF) in 2003 as part of the 3rd Group augmentation for 10th Group.
- ★ Several deployments to Afghanistan in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM (OEF).
- ★ In 2005, joined ODA 393, a Regional Survey Team deployed to various areas of responsibility, including CENTCOM, EUCOM, SOUTHCOM, and AFRICOM.
- ★ Group Headquarters from 2007 to 2009, including deployments to OEF as the NCOIC for the CJSOTF Theater Operational Control Element.
- ★ Operational Detachment Bravo (ODB) 3310 as the Operations Sergeant from 2009 to 2010, deployed to Operation ENDURING FREEDOM (OEF).
- ★ ODA 3321 as the Team Sergeant from 2010 to 2012. During my tenure with ODA 3321, we were deployed for OEF XVII, a one-year assignment.
- ★ ODB 3320 as the Operations Sergeant from 2013 to my retirement in 2014.

Continued on the next page.



SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

Unconventional Warriors, The Legacy Endures

The primary mission of the SOA is to unite fraternally, 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 history of the SOA on our website or contact me directly.

Jeremy Knabenshue

Membership@SpecialOperations.org

www.specialoperations.org/membership

Nathan Rehl

Vice President

Awards include the Special Forces Tab, Ranger Tab, Master Parachutist Wings, Expert Infantry Badge, Combat Infantry Badge, Bronze Star (4th award), Purple Heart Medal, and the Army Commendation Medal with V-device, among others.

I joined NEK as an instructor for the Advanced Special Operations Techniques - Managers Course (ASOTMC), where I worked from 2014 to 2020. I have been a life member of the Special Forces Association (SFA) since 2004. From 2018 to 2020, I was President of SFA Chapter 100.

I initiated a fundraising golf tournament to raise awareness about suicide rates within the SF

community. The Chad Paul Suicide Prevention Tournament succeeded in fundraising efforts and brought the community together, as it was co-hosted by family members of Chad Paul, a 3rd Group Master Sergeant who struggled with the demons that followed him home.

In March 2020, I moved to Washington, DC, for a job opportunity at the State Department, where I work as an Emergency Management Specialist with the Directorate of Operations, Readiness, and Security. Thank you for considering my candidacy. I look forward to the opportunity to serve the SFA in this capacity.



Jeff Olson

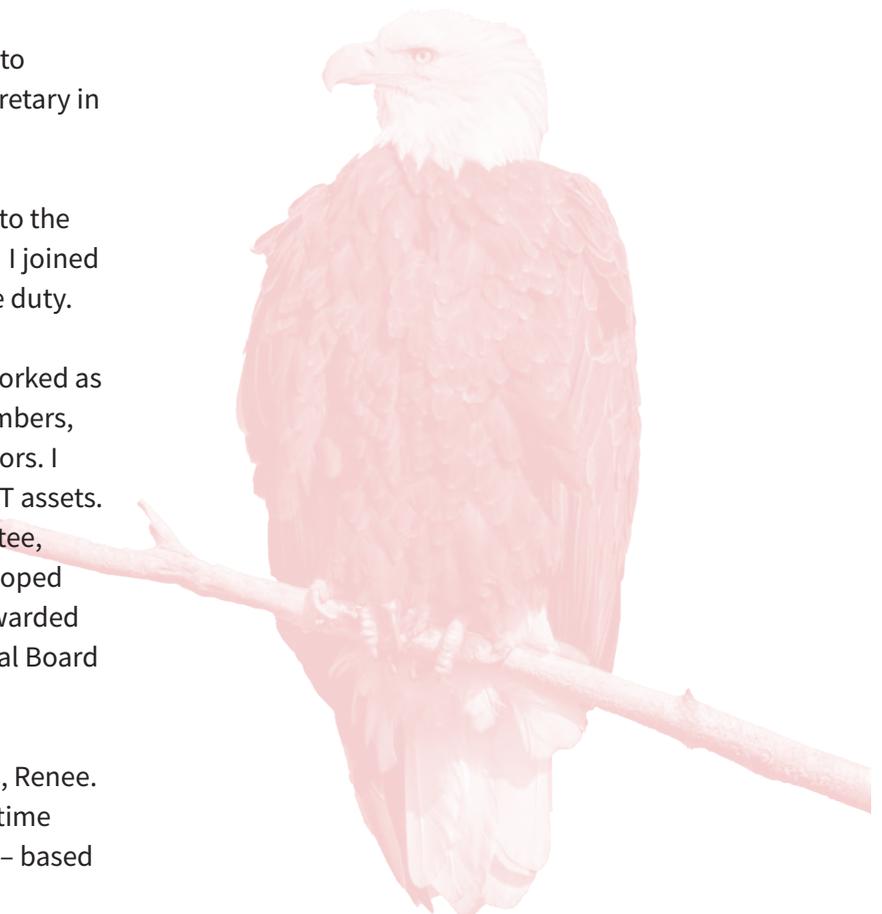
Secretary

As a candidate for Secretary, I would like your support to continue serving the SFA. I was asked to step in as Secretary in February 2025 and have been in the role since then.

I served with 11th Special Forces Group in the 1980s into the 90s. I was an 18B and 18F on an ODA during that time. I joined 11th Group after serving in the 82nd Airborne on active duty.

I joined SFA in 2017 and am a Life Decade Member. I worked as part of the team leading the Teamhouse rollout to members, including training and supporting Chapter Administrators. I developed the initial SFA Security Policy to safeguard IT assets. I have served as Chairman of the Membership Committee, administrator of the Teamhouse News Page, and developed and designed the SFA Heritage Award, which will be awarded annually starting in 2026. I have supported the National Board of Officers, Chapters and Members as Secretary.

I live on a small ranch in Texas with my wife of 46 years, Renee. Our two daughters are grown, and we enjoy spending time with our grandson. I am retired but run an agriculture – based business as a way to support my local community.



Doug Livermore

Director of External Communications



Military Experience

Doug served two tours in Iraq (2005-2007) as an infantry officer in the 10th Mountain Division. While at 3/10 SFG (2009-2014), Doug commanded two detachments and deployed to the Congo, Mali, Central African

Republic, Uganda, and Afghanistan. He left active duty in 2014 and joined the Maryland Army National Guard in 2017 with Special Operations Detachment - NATO. He deployed to Iraq in 2022 as the Deputy Commander of the Special Operations Advisory Group mentoring the Iraqi Counter-Terrorism Service. Doug is the Deputy Commander for Special Operations Detachment – X, having recently served on active-duty orders as the National Capital Region Chief for the Joint Special Operations Command’s Modernization Commander’s Initiative Group.

Civilian Experience

Doug is the Division Chief for the Irregular Warfare Division in the Office of the Under Secretary of War (Intelligence and Security). Previously, he served for three years as the

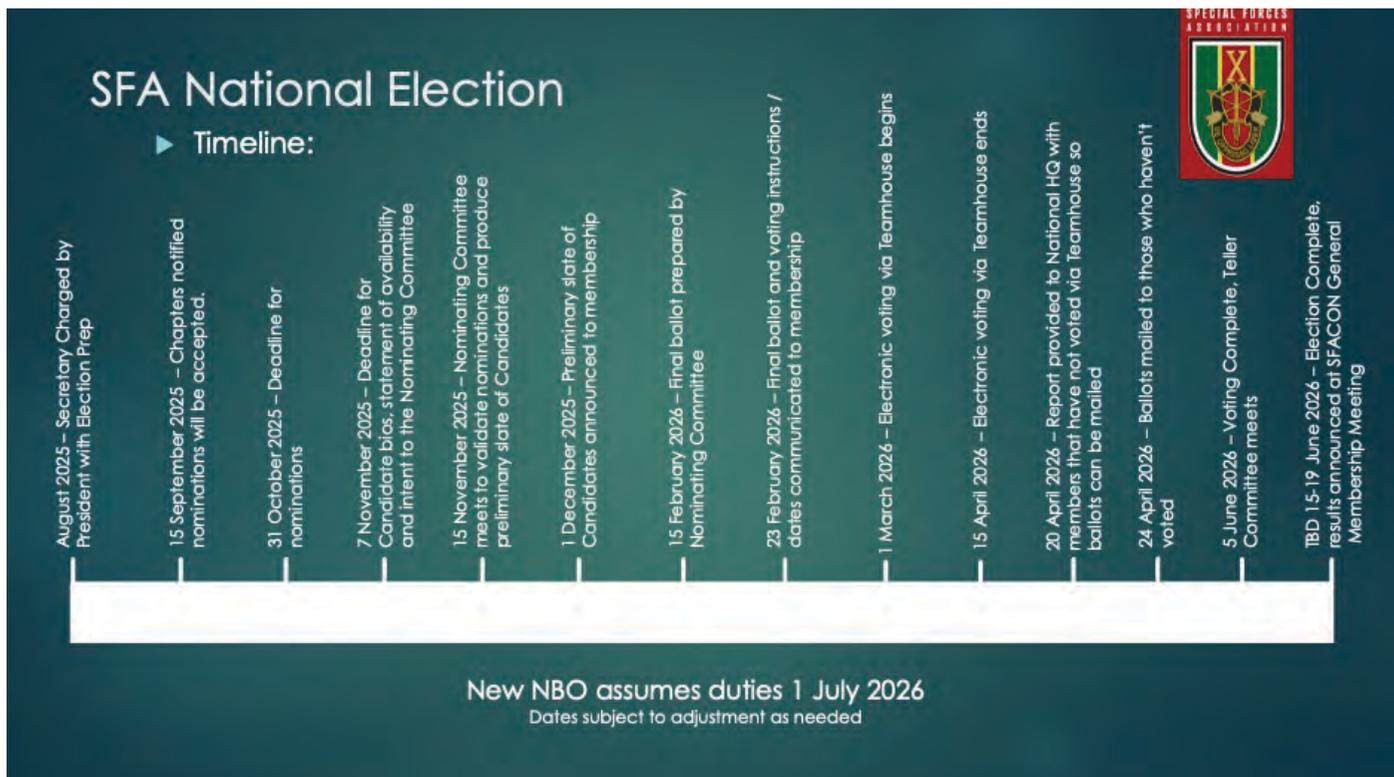
Director of Sensitive Activities, Special Operations, and Irregular Warfare at the Department of the Navy. Doug also served as the sensitive activities advisor to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict. In addition to his many publications and volunteer endeavors, Doug is the Vice President of the Special Operations Association of America, National Director for External Communications for the Special Forces Association, and the Director of Engagements for the Irregular Warfare Initiative. Finally, Doug continues his evacuation and advocacy work for foreign interpreters at No One Left Behind.

Education

Doug graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Military History from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 2004, with a Master of Arts in International Security Studies from Georgetown University in 2018, and with distinction from the Command and General Staff Officer Course in 2021.

Family

Doug resides with his wife and children in northern Virginia.



Garon Strong

Director of Special Projects

I wish to continue to serve the SFA as the National Special Projects Officer for the 2026-2028 election cycle. I am an SFA Decade Member (D-10754) of chap 1-18 in good standing and am available to attend online meetings as well as travel to support SFA activities and events. I am reasonably comfortable using online tools such as email, Microsoft Teams and the SFA Teamhouse. I feel I have performed the duties of Special Projects Officer proficiently for the last 18 months IAW the job description as outlined in the SFA Constitution.



A quick outline of my military service:

09/74 Entered active service

02/75-12/78 82nd ABN Div

12/78-05/81 1st ID FRG

05/81-11/81 SFQC class 3-81

11/81-01/87 B/2/5 SFG

03/87-06/89 SOMTB

06/89-12/90 F Co 1st SWTG FTB (Robin Sage)



02/91-10/94 NCOIC Flight Surgeons Ofc 3/3 SFG

Activities since becoming Special Projects Officer:

1. Upgraded and expanded the scholarship program. Increased recipients/funding.
2. Facilitated demolition and removal of condemned teamhouse at National Grounds.
3. Ongoing effort to gather info for acquisition of future SFA conference center site.
4. Assisted in the acquisition of Rolling Thundermug, portable 10 hole restroom.
5. Oversaw successful 48th annual SFACON 2025 in Las Vegas. 



SERGEANT MAJOR BILLY WAUGH: THE ETERNAL WARRIOR

by Doug Livermore

A Life of Relentless Service

Few names evoke the spirit of the Special Forces Regiment more powerfully than Billy Waugh. His life spanned the entire modern history of American special operations—from the humid triple-canopy jungle to the high, cold passes of the Hindu Kush. Soldier, spy, mentor, and teammate, Waugh embodied the enduring truth of the Green Beret ethos: adaptability, professionalism, and quiet courage are the Regiment’s truest weapons. He was not simply present at history’s hinge points; he helped turn them.

Born December 1, 1929, in Bastrop, Texas, William Dawson Waugh came of age amid the lean discipline of the Great Depression. Like many of his generation, he learned early to work hard, say little, and push through pain. He enlisted in 1948, earned jump wings, and served in airborne formations that prized initiative and fitness. What drew him most, however, was the idea—still new in the U.S. Army—of small, culturally fluent detachments that could raise and lead resistance behind enemy lines. By the mid-1950s he was with the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) in Bad Tölz, West Germany, mastering the arts of guerrilla warfare, sabotage, and clandestine movement that would anchor a lifetime of service.

SGM Billy Waugh across his careers as a Special Forces Sergeant Major, Central Intelligence Agency officer, and in retirement.



Forging the Modern Green Beret

In Europe, Waugh learned the discipline of preparation. The mission sets envisioned for 10th Group were demanding: pre-position caches, establish cut-outs and communications plans, and—should war come—either remain in place as the Soviets advanced or slip across borders to organize and fight with partisans. These “stay-behind” concepts required patient rehearsal, language expertise, and an almost obsessive attention to detail. Waugh thrived on that mix of rigor and improvisation.

SGM Billy Waugh in the Republic of Vietnam, 1964.





During service in the Republic of Vietnam.

He took naturally to demolitions and fieldcraft, but he also absorbed something subtler: the primacy of human relationships. The success of unconventional warfare depends on trust—within the detachment and with the people you ask to risk everything. That lesson would follow him to Southeast Asia and far beyond.

By 1961–1962, as the U.S. presence in Vietnam expanded, Waugh volunteered for 5th Special Forces Group. Early deployments put him in the Central Highlands, where A-camps served both as fire bases and community anchors for Montagnard villages. He learned the languages he needed to be effective, paid attention to local grievances, and—most importantly—shared the risk. He walked point, carried loads, and dug positions the same as everyone else. That was not affectation; it was leadership.

Vietnam: The Crucible of Unconventional Warfare

Vietnam was the provingground of modern Special Forces. Waugh's first tours were classic counterinsurgency—train the CIDG, build patrol capacity, map infiltration routes, and grow local initiative. But by 1965, the war's center of



SGM Billy Waugh prior to a HALO combat jump, 1971.

gravity had shifted to the clandestine struggle along the Ho Chi Minh Trail and across the Laotian and Cambodian sanctuaries. Waugh volunteered for Military Assistance Command Vietnam – Studies and Observations Group (MACV-SOG)—the tiny, secretive headquarters that ran cross-border reconnaissance, raids, and psychological operations under code names like SHINING BRASS, PRAIRIE FIRE, and DANIEL BOONE.

SOG teams were brutally small—often a handful of Americans partnered with indigenous fighters—and their casualty rates were among the highest of the war. The work demanded deep reconnaissance tradecraft: scent discipline, noise discipline, antenna management, and the patience to watch enemy trails without compromise for days. Waugh earned a reputation as a leader who insisted on rehearsals and contingency branches: he would lay out primary and alternate Landing Zones (LZ), time-distance factors for every leg, and emergency break-contact drills using pre-set demolitions and claymore antipersonnel mine fans. He was methodical in planning, aggressive in execution, and unsentimental about realities on the ground.

On June 19, 1965, near Bong Son, that reality caught him in full. Moving through broken terrain, his team made contact with a larger Viet Cong (VC) force supported by automatic weapons. In the initial burst Waugh was hit through the knee and shoulder; moments later a round scored his head. He went down hard, and the fight closed in. Teammates dragged him into a shallow depression

and fought from the perimeter while higher headquarters scrambled medical evacuation (MEDEVAC). The fight lasted hours. When rescue finally came, surgeons had to piece him back together. The sensible path would have been retirement. Waugh ignored sensible. He recovered at Walter Reed, relearned to run, and insisted on returning to the field. He did, and he did not go back as a passenger.

The wounds near Bong Son could have ended Waugh's career. Surgeons repaired the knee as best they could; rehabilitation was slow and punishing. He treated it like a mission—daily goals, incremental wins, relentless repetition. Friends recall him marking progress not with self-congratulation but with questions: "Can I run a mile? Can I carry a man?" When he cleared those self-tests, he set new ones. By the time the paperwork to retire him made its way through official channels, he was already back in a team room, insisting on a slot where he could do the most good. His return sent a message to younger soldiers: resilience is a choice as much as a trait.

When back in Vietnam in 1967, Waugh led a small reconnaissance element inserted along a feeder track

that angled toward a main VC supply route. The brief was simple and lethal: confirm movement patterns, mark crossing points, and stay unseen. The team moved in staggered file with a point man and a battle buddy who carried the radio handset under his blouse to muffle noise. Every halt included a scent check—turning into the wind to ensure no tobacco or oil carried forward—and a micro-rehearsal of break-contact directions. Mid-morning, the point man raised a clenched fist: fresh prints, small and splayed, the gait of men who know they are being hunted. The team went to ground. For hours, they watched VC boots pass within yards of their position while Waugh instructed his men to stay perfectly still. The discipline paid dividends two nights later, when fast movers and a flare ship shredded a truck column at the precise time and grid the team had reported to higher.

Another vignette from 1969 shows the other side of SOG—how quickly reconnaissance could turn into a fight for survival. Inserted by helicopter under a low overcast, the team began moving toward a knoll that offered a view of an east-west spur. A single burst of automatic fire cut the quiet; then grenades exploded

With Recon Team Measure in Cambodia, 1970.



**THE SAHARA LIBYA - 1979
CPT M. bin AGEBY, BILLY W. AND
NOMAD 200 KM SSE OF BENGHAZ
LIBYA**



Waugh with Egyptian partners, 1979.

at odd, irregular intervals, a sign of multiple enemy elements feeling for the flanks. Waugh, then acting as senior adviser for the launch site, had built a rehearsed extraction plan with three alternates. The team triggered claymores, broke contact in bounding pairs, and raced a pursuing force to a secondary LZ where a slick and a gunship pair were already inbound. The pilot's first pass was hot; the second was surgical. The team came out with two wounded and a camera that held the next week's targets.

Across seven combat tours, Waugh worked the Ho Chi Minh Trail system as a reconnaissance leader and mission planner. He supervised sensor emplacements, directed air strikes on truck parks and way stations, and helped refine the use of small teams to trigger outsized effects. He pushed for realistic rehearsals—rappels with full combat loads, extraction under fire with ladder and STABO rigs, and silent breach techniques that would look familiar to today's operators. He was also an early practitioner of High Altitude, Low Opening (HALO) insertions under operational conditions, trusting altitude, darkness, and dispersion to veil small team movements against a saturated air-defense environment. Those jumps were not stunts; they were solutions to a tactical problem: how to get a team into denied areas undetected and untraceable.

However, HALO was never an adrenaline hobby for Waugh; it was a means to solve detection. SOG teams

learned that even at night, conventional helicopter insertions left signatures—sound, rotor wash, a pattern the enemy learned to read. HALO, executed with discipline and tight timings, reduced those signatures to near-zero. Waugh argued for strict equipment prep (antennas taped and stowed; weapons rigged to fall lines without clatter; oxygen drills rehearsed with gloves). Exit count and heading mattered; so did the team's ability to orient to terrain in darkness and move silently to initial hide sites. The method was unforgiving, but when it worked, a five-man team could seem to materialize inside an enemy sanctuary with nothing to betray them but boot prints—if they were careless. And Billy ensured that they were not.

Waugh's decorations from Vietnam tell a story of repeated contact and repeated returns to the fight: the Silver Star, six Bronze Stars with "V" device, and eight Purple Hearts. The citations mention ambushes turned, downed men carried out, and radios kept transmitting under fire. The men who served with him mention something else—the way he talked to his indigenous teammates with respect, learned their jokes, and made sure they were paid and cared for. He was relentless against the enemy and loyal to his own. In the Regiment, that combination is the gold standard.



SGM Waugh in Cairo, Egypt in the late 1990s.



Waugh riding into Afghanistan with the CIA in 2001.

Tactics, Tradecraft, and the SOG Imprint

SOG demanded a fusion of disciplines that has since become the template for modern SOF: reconnaissance that feeds fires, fires that facilitate maneuver, and maneuvers that exploit intelligence collected moments before. Waugh helped normalize that tempo. His teams rehearsed “find-fix-finish” before it had a name: establish eyes on; build pattern-of-life on a North Vietnamese courier net or truck column; call in fast movers or gunships; and, when the opportunity presented, close with a raid to seize maps, code books, or prisoners who could illuminate the next target. He pressed for better maps, better photography, and better debrief cycles—a

cycle of learning that shortened from months to weeks to days as 1968 turned into 1970.

He also absorbed hard lessons about logistics and legitimacy that would shape the rest of his career. Supply lines—fuel, food, munitions—are the sinews of any campaign, and the Trail was an anatomy lesson in how to defend and disguise them. Conversely, local legitimacy—how a village leader felt about the presence of armed foreign men—could open doors or close them forever. Waugh never confused tactical bravery with strategic wisdom. He wanted both.

Rebirth in the Shadows: From Soldier to Spy

When the U.S. scaled back in Southeast Asia, Waugh was at a crossroads. He chose the same path many adaptable Green Berets have taken: he crossed the street and kept serving. The Central Intelligence Agency’s Special Activities Division (now Special Activities Center) sought out operators who could plan quietly, blend in abroad, train partners, and accept long stretches of monotony punctuated by frantic minutes of action. As a retired SF Sergeant Major, Waugh thrived in that world because it valued the same traits he had honed in the Regiment: patience, humility, and attention to detail.

Africa became one of his principal theaters. In North Africa he assisted in building elite security units before coups and counter-coups reshaped the landscape. In the Sahel he helped track arms movements, chart insurgent corridors, and advise governments on how to “harden the seams” between borders. In southern Africa he monitored the collision of Cold War proxy forces and criminal networks moving diamonds, fuel, and munitions. The job was not glamorous, and it was rarely public. It demanded long hours of surveillance from bad positions, unspectacular meetings with sources, and first-rate reporting that put facts ahead of speculation.

What made Waugh stand out in the intelligence role was his ability to connect surveillance to action without breaking either. He trained case officers and



Waugh enters into an Afghan village as part of a CIA/SF unconventional warfare team in 2001.

paramilitary operators to think like small-unit leaders: choose fields of view that also give you fields of fire; pick dead-drops you can defend; plan exfiltration routes with real timing, not map timing. He insisted that tradecraft drills include the messy variables of reality—traffic, power cuts, informants with second thoughts. That insistence produced cleaner reporting and safer teams.

In the 1980s and early 1990s, Waugh’s work intersected two names that would define an era of terrorism. The first was Ilich Ramírez Sánchez—better known as “Carlos the Jackal.” Operating across the Middle East, Europe, and North Africa, Carlos built a franchise of violence that blended ideology and extortion. Waugh’s contribution, documented in open sources and in his memoir, was the unglamorous but indispensable craft of locating, confirming, and documenting the target’s pattern of life. Phones and financiers matter; so do cars, gyms, and safe apartments. Photographs from a distance and a logbook of times can generate the openings that policymakers and partner services need. When Carlos was ultimately captured in Khartoum in 1994 by Sudanese authorities working with the French, years of surveillance reporting—much of it collected by Americans like Waugh—had narrowed the margin for error.

The second name was Osama bin Laden. Before he became the world’s most wanted terrorist, bin Laden was a wealthy Saudi contractor whose money

and zealotry were knitting together militants and charities under the cover of construction projects in Sudan. Waugh helped photograph him, record his routines along Nile Street, and map vehicles and associates. The work was painstaking: position a camera without being seen; hold a tail through a prayer stop; note the license numbers and the habits of drivers; and then, back at a safe house, write it all up with times and landmarks that an analyst could verify against other streams. Those early reports built a body of knowledge that later counterterrorism teams would exploit. If SOG had taught Waugh how to turn reconnaissance into action, Khartoum taught him how to turn patience into leverage.

Beyond Sudan, Waugh’s work helped map the tangled overlap of ideological groups and profit-seeking networks. He noted how arms brokers moved ammunition with cooking oil, how counterfeit documents followed the same couriers who moved people, and how “charities” provided both cover and logistics for violence. He taught partner services to look for the seams—customs posts that did not talk to police, border towns where everyone knew the smugglers’ nicknames, accounting firms that filed the same reports for a half-dozen front companies. The point was not to make junior partners dependent on the United States; it was to make them competent and legitimate in their own right, a requirement if coalitions are to endure longer than a single crisis.

After 9/11: A Warrior in His Seventies

On September 11, 2001, the problem Waugh had been helping to map became an American emergency. He was seventy-one. Most men at that age are writing memoirs or coaching grandkids' ball teams. Waugh put on a rucksack. As part of the CIA's paramilitary teams, he moved into Afghanistan in the first waves, linking up with U.S. Special Forces and Afghan partner forces that would become the Northern Alliance's shock absorbers and spear points. The young operators who met him expected legend and found a teammate—one who could still run, still climb, still shoot, and still brief a plan with ruthless clarity.

One winter reconnaissance west of Jalalabad captures the way old lessons became new doctrine. Terrain and weather grounded aircraft; sensors were blind in blowing snow. A small paramilitary element with Afghan partners moved on foot to a vantage point above a suspected courier route. They dug in with e-tools and ponchos, cycling men on watch to prevent cold injuries. When the courier finally moved—a man on a battered motorcycle

with a canvas rucksack—the team let him pass. The target was not the man but the pattern: who met him, who circled back after dusk, and where the rucksack finally landed. Forty-eight hours later, a raid rolled up the network node, not the messenger. That was classic Waugh: protect patience, strike for effect.

Another Afghan experience highlights Waugh's restraint under pressure. A young operator, keyed up after a long night of movement, had a clean shot at an armed lookout who had not yet seen the team. Waugh's whisper on the radio was simple: "Hold. We need to know who he's watching for." Ten minutes later, two couriers arrived, and the lookout led them to a small compound whose owner turned out to be the financier the task force had been seeking. The difference between a tidy tactical kill and a strategically valuable capture was ten minutes of discipline—learned in jungles, applied in mountains.

His value in those early months in Afghanistan went far beyond symbolic. He understood how to blend clandestine presence with local power, how to set up a safe house that could also serve as an aid station, and how to talk to tribal elders about security in a way that honored their authority. He helped integrate reconnaissance and

Waugh in Afghanistan in late 2001.





SGM Waugh somewhere in Afghanistan in 2002.

fires in rough country where distances and altitudes punished every mistake. He also knew the discipline of restraint: sometimes the smartest move is to watch a courier one more day and catch the network, not the node. Those habits—measured aggression, sustained reconnaissance, partner primacy—became the DNA of America’s early counterterrorism successes.

When the deployments slowed, Waugh did not stop. Through engagements with U.S. and allied units, he mentored a generation raised on different kit but the same problems: how to build trust fast; how to read a village; how to use technical collection to enable, not replace, human intelligence. He reminded young operators that fitness and curiosity are force multipliers—being able to move fast over bad ground, and being interested enough in people to learn their stories and their jokes. He had little patience for theatrics and none for ego.

He contributed to the profession’s written record as well. His memoir, *Hunting the Jackal*, is valuable not for sensationalism but for method: how to build a case, how to keep teammates alive, how to turn persistence into outcomes. Similarly, Annie Jacobsen’s *Surprise, Kill, Vanish* also provides fascinating insights into Waugh’s exploits and philosophy. In talks and interviews, he emphasized that Special Forces are not defined by weapons or uniforms but by intellect, empathy, and moral clarity.

Leadership and the Green Beret Ethos

Waugh’s leadership model was sparse and effective. Set a high standard; live it first; enforce it fairly; and reward quiet excellence. He believed that humility is contagious and that arrogance is corrosive. He counseled young team leaders to seek mentors outside their immediate chain—an intel chief, a host-nation counterpart, a senior noncommissioned officer in another unit—because unconventional warfare is a team of teams. He argued that the Regiment’s center of gravity is not a headquarters but the trust between a twelve-man detachment and the community it serves. When that trust is strong, adversaries find themselves fighting not a unit but a population. When it is weak, no technology can compensate.

Several of Waugh’s lessons are especially relevant as the Regiment faces renewed great-power competition and persisting irregular threats. First, clandestine access will always be at a premium. Teams that can live light, speak well, and move quietly will create options that heavy formations cannot. Second, logistics will decide campaigns. The enemy’s fuel, microchips, optics, and spare parts are strategic targets; so are their information pipelines and financial flows. Third, interagency fusion is not an event but a habit. The units that win will be those that institutionalize daily collaboration with analysts, diplomats, law-enforcement professionals, and industry partners. Finally, character underwrites all other skills. The Regiment must continue to select and promote those who can hold hard lines with soft voices—professionals who are dangerous when necessary and gracious when possible.

The Man Behind the Legend

Those who served with Waugh remember a man who loved to move. Into his eighties he kept a punishing running routine, then knocked out pull-ups while telling a story that usually ended with a lesson and a laugh. He

listened far more than he talked. If you were new to the community, he asked about your team, your language, your last deployment. If you were struggling, he told you about a time he had failed and how he had fixed it. He was generous with credit and stingy with excuses.

He was also meticulous. Packing lists were not suggestions; they were survival. Radios got checked, then checked again. He taught that standard operating procedures are not the enemy of creativity. They are the foundation that frees you to improvise when the ground shifts—because you are not wasting thought on what should already be automatic.

Final Chapter and Enduring Legacy

Billy Waugh passed away on April 4, 2023, at the age of ninety-three. The Regiment lost a warrior; the nation lost a servant; and thousands of teammates lost a friend. Yet his legacy is not a statue or a line in a program. It is the living practice of all those who apply his lessons today—from Special Forces detachments mentoring partners on dangerous borders, to interagency teams mapping illicit networks, to young Green Berets who model humility and readiness

because an old paratrooper once asked them, quietly, “Are you ready for your next mission?”

At the U.S. Army Special Operations Command Memorial Plaza, and in the classrooms of the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School, Waugh’s story frames the study of unconventional warfare not as nostalgia but as a discipline. The problems evolve; the principles endure. Adapt. Integrate. Respect your partners. Keep learning. Stay quiet—and be very, very good at your job.

About the Author

Doug Livermore is a U.S. Army Special Forces officer and the fourth-term elected Director of External Communications for the Special Forces Association. He previously served as Director of Special Operations and Irregular Warfare within the Office of the Secretary of the Navy and as an Advisor to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations/Low-Intensity Conflict. Doug also serves as Director of Engagements for the Irregular Warfare Initiative (IWI) and contributes regularly to the Atlantic Council, Small Wars Journal, and Newsweek, writing on irregular warfare, defense innovation, and allied security cooperation. 

SGM Billy Waugh in retirement.





SFA REGIONAL INFO

- CHAPTER INDEX
- POINTS OF CONTACT

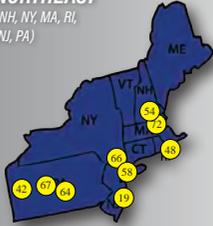


REGION 1

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

pg. 50

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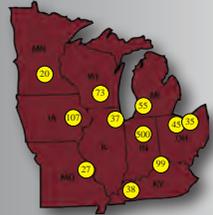
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pg. 55

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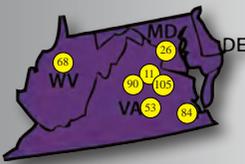
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pg. 63

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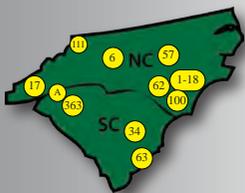
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pg. 65

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(NC, SC, 7th, 3rd, SWC, SFCMD)



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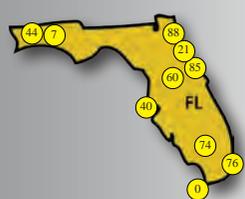
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pg. 70

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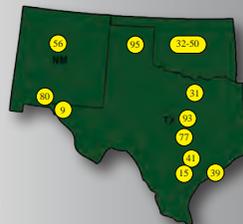
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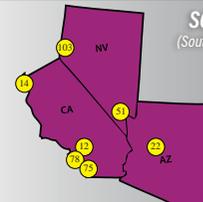
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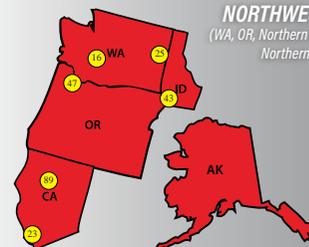
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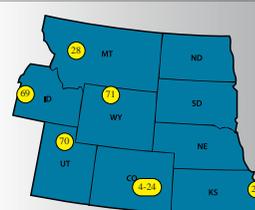
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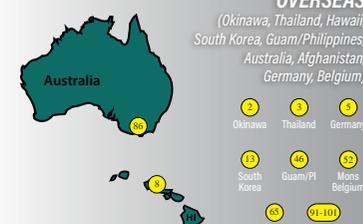
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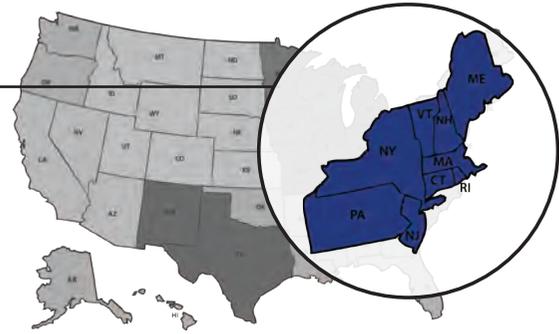
REGION I

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

National Airborne Day is a day designated by the United States Congress to honor the nation's airborne forces of the Armed Forces. It was created in 2002 by George W. Bush. The history of airborne forces began after World War I, when Brigadier General William Mitchell first conceived the idea of parachuting troops into combat.

Eventually, under the leadership of Major William Lee at Fort Benning, Georgia, members of the Parachute Test Platoon pioneered methods of combat jumping in 1940. The New Jersey chapters of the 82nd Airborne Division Association, and the Special Forces Association are coordinated an All Airborne Day ceremony and luncheon in proximity to U.S. Army Parachute Test Platoon Marker in Robbinsville, New Jersey. <https://sfa19.org/all-airborne-day-2025/>

Chapter Picnic Our annual picnic was again held at Woody's Roadside Tavern in Farmingdale, NJ, where the Chapter's meetings are held. A good time was had by all with extended family present in the Beer Garden. <https://sfa19.org/chapter-picnic-2025/>

Norwegian Foot March Chapter 19 of the Special Forces Assn and the NJ chapter of the 82nd Abn Div Assn conducted this year's march on Naval Support Activity Lakehurst beginning at midnight 17 October into 18 October. Participation was Active Duty, Reserve, and Guard members of all military services. A 30 kilometer, timed rucksack march, the successful completion of which resulted in the Norwegian Armed Forces issuing one of three categories of badges dependent on qualified time and number of marches completed (Bronze, Silver, Gold). This is a foreign award which may be worn on Class A uniforms, giving many who do not get the opportunity to obtain a foreign award. <https://sfa19.org/norwegian-foot-march-2025/>



Norwegian Foot March



National Airborne Day



Chapter Picnic

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



Participants in our shootout which was conducted in October



Rendering of Honors as the funeral procession of an SF brother passes our monument at the Rhode Island Veterans Cemetery (Need a SGM to work on our hand salute and the buttoning of blazers)

We conducted our semi-annual shootout at Tri-Town Rod and Gun Club in October. A big tip of the beret to Vito Pezzillo, Rick Stewart and Larry Pezza for their continued effort in making this happen. Also, thanks to Big Al for manning the grill.

We held our Veterans Day ceremony at our monument in the RI Veterans Memorial Cemetery. Our Montana brother, Tom Burke will be scrutinizing the group photo for those miscreants who are not wearing their beret IAW regulations.

When we find out that an SF brother is to be laid to rest in the RI Veterans Cemetery, regardless of whether or not he was a member of the SFA, we send out the call for available members to gather at the SF monument to render honors as the funeral procession passes.

Recently honors were rendered to SGT Reese Monahan, age 25, 10th SFG(A), MSG Gary Bouley, CoA, 2/19 SFG(A) and COL John Waghelstein, former Commander, 7th SFG(A). We will be placing wreaths on the graves of departed SF brothers in December.

In addition to brothers who rest in the RI Veterans Cemetery, we will be placing wreaths on graves located in 18 other cemeteries in RI, CT and MA. We welcome our newest SFA Life member Drew Wallace to Chapter 48. Drew is a member of Rhode Island's own Company A, 2/19 SFG(A).



Veterans Day at our monument in the RI Cemetery Veterans

54

CHAPTER LIV

The LTC William F. Buckley Memorial Chapter

Boston, MA

www.sfob54.org



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

Chapter 54 recently sponsored a weapons shoot at the Burke Brothers quarry in East Conway, NH for 23 members of our chapter and several local police officers participating as our guests. Once again, Chapter 54 member Vin Pestilli let our members use some of his substantial weapons collection. This allowed them to become familiar with approximately 30 weapon systems ranging from a fully-automatic PKM medium machine gun to several assault rifles, shotguns, sniper weapons, and pistols (including the new H&K CC-9)! All participants retired to the grounds at Vin and Lin Pestilli's guest house in Brownville Maine after the shoot for a cook-out of hamburgers, hot dogs, beans, salad, dessert pie, and a surprise: boar sausage that Vin had personally shot in Canada! As always, we give a warm "Thank You" to Vin and Lin Pestilli for a momentous day.



SGM Tom Fry thanking Vin Pestilli (a shooting event sponsor).



Shoot event participants Dan Winschel and Bernie Wilensky.

The day before this event, Chapter 54 member Bill Friberg organized a team of several chapter members who used chain saws, muscle, and a front-end loader to remove several trees blocking a trout stream on Vin's property. Vin generously allows chapter members to fish for brook trout in this stream -- and it's always a guarantee that your frying pan will be filled with tasty fresh trout!

Several members of our chapter participated in a Veterans' Day ceremony in Stoneham honoring LTC William F. Buckley -- the namesake of Chapter 54. LTC Buckley was a Korean war veteran who transferred from the Infantry to Special Forces, served in Vietnam, and was awarded the Silver Star, Soldier's Medal, Bronze Star with "V" device, and two Purple Hearts. LTC Buckley joined the CIA, became the Beirut Station Chief where he was abducted by Hezbollah terrorists in March 1984. LTC Buckley died in captivity after enduring 15 months of interrogation and torture. The CIA awarded him the Distinguished Intelligence Cross (its highest award) and Star 51 on the CIA Memorial Wall for agents killed in the line of duty. Chapter 54 is proud to keep LTC Buckley's memory alive in his hometown by the ceremony we conduct every year in his honor on Veteran's Day.

This summer, chapter member Al Thomsen traveled from his home in Omaha, Nebraska to Washington DC with his brother as part of an Honor Flight.

We are saddened to report the recent passing of chapter member Donald Cummings. Don served with the 7th SFGA after joining the Special Forces in 1966. He ended his military career as a Combat Engineer with Company A, 1st Bn/11th SFGA. We also grieve the loss of our good friend Susie Ingrao, who also recently passed away. For several years, Susie and her husband Carl (the owners of 4 Seasons Firearms in Worcester, MA) have generously sponsored our annual cookout. They also have donated to the burial expenses of deceased Special Forces veterans and assisted several Green Beret families facing financial hardships. Vaya con Dios, Susie and Don.



Chapter 54 members honor LTC William Buckley on Veterans' Day at his memorial in Stoneham, MA.



Chapter member Al Thomsen (far right) visiting the USMC Monument in Washington DC.

PRES : Dave Kochara
VICE : John Peoples
SEC : Mark Fiorito
TRES : Dan Till



CHAPTER LXVII

The William A. Will Memorial Chapter

67

www.sfachapter67.com

Johnstown-Altoona, PA



JWF Facilities Tour Pappy Patchin, guard Mark Fiorito, UNK, John Peoples, Jeff Pounding, Bill Devlin, Dan Yost, Bill Polacek JWF President, Dan Till, Susan Patchin, Tom Marlett, UNK.

Greeting from the lands of Iron Horses and Floods of Epic Proportions. After a long hiatus the Chapter Drop input has been put to paper and we are proud to list some of the activities which have kept members busy. The Chapter was able to participate in the dedication and naming of a bridge on a state road near New Baltimore PA memorializing SSG William A. Will, KIA 1965. A soloist later joined by the Chapter A Capello Choir, singing the Ballad of the Green Beret, entertained those attending the luncheon afterwards.

Highlighting Chapter activity were the efforts spearheaded by Jeff Pounding. Working in conjunction JWF Industries, whose business is construction of up-armored vehicles which have saved numerous SOF operators from death or injury, and protection of active duty personnel. JWF is funding the building of a home to be given to a veteran in need. Jeff Pounding and various members of the Chapter assisted in formulating the selection criteria. These efforts combined with Chapter and other volunteers with businesses, constructed and furnished, within 10 days, the first new home built in that area in over 30 years. JWF, Hossana and numerous businesses efforts have since snowballed and a home in need of care has also been donated and being renovated for another veteran in need. There are plans to continue providing additional homes in the future. JWFs efforts to support active and retired veteran help to confirm that our exertions are appreciated and that America is worth defending. Chapter 67 has continued with its Scholarship program and has awarded two local ROTC cadets with a combined value of \$5,000. Winner were Cadet Autemr Wyett a SF Legacy of Slippery Rock University and Cadet Connor Flaig of St. Francis University IUP.



Bridge Dedication Chapter Singers Merritt Nord, Tom Marlett, Jeff Pounding, Dan Yost, Bill Devlin.

72

CHAPTER LXXII

The Trojan Horse Chapter

New Hampshire



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

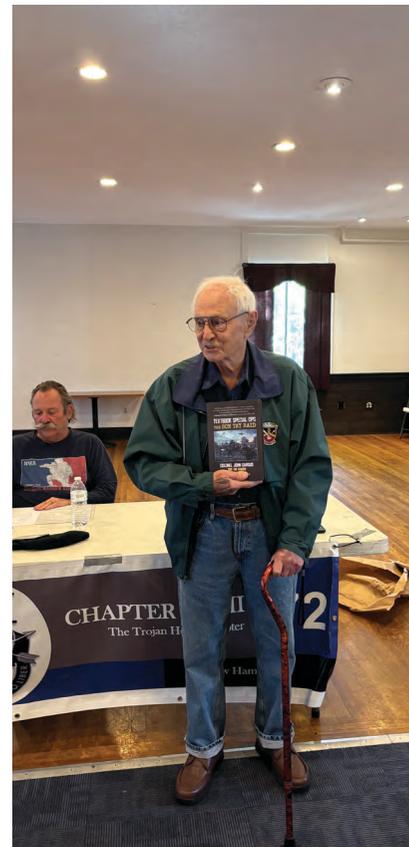
Greetings from the Granite State and the New England Trojan Horse Chapter.

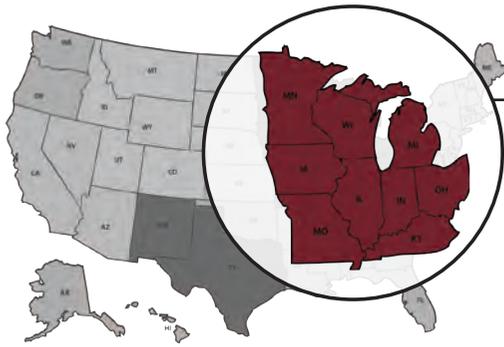
The Chapter's annual picnic was held at the Ayer Gun and Sportsmen Club and was very well attended with members coming from all over New England. In all we had just under 50 members and guests attend. Special thanks to the Club for their efforts and putting on a 1st class BBQ.

John Gargus' book entitled, "Textbook Special Operations-The Son Tay Raid," was recently published and is available for sale if anyone is interested. John is a retired USAF Colonel and Chapter member.

As one of the chief planners of the raid, John takes us behind Oz's curtain as he chronicles every aspect of this historic mission. A must read for all special operators.

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





REGION II

Midwest Region

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



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

*Chapters in red did not submit input for this quarter

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



CHAPTER XX

The Kenneth Worthley Memorial Chapter

20

Minnesota

Greetings from the Midwest. It's been a quiet couple of months. Veterans's Day was commemorated at the Minnesota State Capitol Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Doug Brown and Sevieng "Kimmy" Suparat (Royal Lao Army veteran) attended. We honored all soldiers lost and still missing from the Vietnam War, especially Minnesotans Kenneth Worthley KIA (Our Chapter XX namesake) and Allen "Baby Jesus" Lloyd KIA BNR. Trudell Guerue, Chapter 15 173rd Airborne Association served as the MC. We are looking forward to our Christmas Luncheon on Dec.13th at the Lost Spur Golf Club. It's always nice to see everyone. We hope the weather cooperates! Happy Holidays to you all!



Allen Lloyd



Kenneth Worthley



Trudell Veterans Day 2025

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



CHAPTER XXXVIII

The LTG William P. Yarborough Chapter

38

www.sfa38.us

Fort Campbell, KY

Greetings from Middle Tennessee, South Central Kentucky and Ft Campbell. Chapter 38 remains committed to talking care of one another and the entire Legion Family. We sincerely hope that your 2025 was blessed and 2026 will be even better

The 5th SFG(A) and Chapter held the 64th Annual Reunion/Legion Week in September. There were plenty of events for all to participate in and enjoy including: bass and cat fishing, airborne operation, Unit displays and open house, hospitality room, Nashville and Distillery tours, Dinner, and picnic on Gabriel Field. A good time was had by all.

The highlight of the week was the Old and New Mixer which was attend by well over 200 active-duty soldiers and veterans. As part of the Mixer, the Unit unveiled the Vietnam Monument which recognized the 786 Special Forces Soldiers killed during the Vietnam War. A special thanks goes out to each and ever donor who help make this possible. Chapter Joel Pruitt was awarded the Board of Trustees Military Service Award during the Austin Peay State University Governors Military Hall of Fame and Military Alumni Chapter Scholarship Dinner. Joel was surrounded

Chapter XXXVIII (38) Continued...



Veterans Day Parade



Pruitt Family

by his family and quite a few Chapter members as he received this honor. It was also noted that out of the eight Military Alumni Scholarships available at the university five of them are in honor of former Legionnaires. They include CW3 (R) Scott Schroder, Ms. Joyce Luster, CW4 (R) Joe Shakeenab, CSM (R) Francis McFadden, and BG (R) Scott Brower. Great job Joe! Special thanks to the Special Forces Brotherhood Motorcycle Club and all the Chapter members who participated in the Annual Clarksville Montgomery Count Veterans Day Parade.

As we look forward to 2026, we want to remind all members that this is a Chapter Officer election year. President, Vice President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and Quartermaster are the positions available.

Think about serving or someone whom you would like to see serve. Nominating instructions will come out in January. Wishing all the best to each of you in the new year of 2026. Strength and Honor.



Vietnam Memorial Dedication



64th Reunion Nashville Trip

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



CHAPTER XLV
 The Buckeye Chapter

45

www.sfa45.org

Central Ohio



Group photo of the competitors, Club member volunteers, and chapter 45 volunteers at the Buckeye Chapter's annual 3 Gun Shoot fundraising event.

Greetings from the Buckeye Chapter.

The leadership and members of the Richwood Gun and Game Club in Richwood, Ohio hosted our annual 3 Gun Shoot fundraising event. The course included four stages of sophisticated target arrays including shooting from the back of a van and one stage that concluded with 200 meter targets. The Buckeye Chapter is grateful to Club president Steve Ormeroid and his Club members for managing the entire event.

The 3 Gun Shoot: Thank You to sponsors. The Ohio Green Beret Support Group, a 501c3 charitable organization established to support chapter members and other SF families in Ohio – especially the members of Ohio's only SF unit, B Company, 2nd Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group, headquartered near Columbus, Ohio. Over 80% of the shooters were from American Legion and AMVETS posts that donated \$5000 each. Thanks largely to chapter member Rick LaValley who recruited over \$40,000 in donations from American Legion posts and districts and from one corporation.

We raised another \$8000 from AMVETS posts. We expect to nearly double the total donations during 2026 and prepare to host 50 sponsored shooters from American Legion and AMVETS posts. Several posts and Districts have already expressed their expected support next year. The Ohio Green Beret Support Group 501c3 is financially prepared to support family and SF soldier needs during the unit's upcoming nine month overseas deployment.

And another tip of the beret is to Chapter 45's volunteers who worked tirelessly to support the event as coaches, range set up and tear down. This event, like our annual motorcycle Freedom Ride fundraiser, involves considerable levels of activity which helps to unite the chapter. Our membership grew to over 220 this year with the addition of 28 new Life members from B/2/19 SFG(A). And over 85% of chapter members are Life members. Chapter 45 may have one of the lowest average ages of its members in the SF Association.

The chapter hosted a Saturday luncheon during August managed by Assistant Chapter Vice President, Jim Butler, and chapter member John Shondel. They chose a location between Columbus and Cincinnati to make it convenient for a wider group to attend. Jim generously paid for the catering and event location rental. During the luncheon, Jim Butler spoke of chapter member Eric Smith who passed away



Chapter member Eric Stansifer helped manage the event and competed in the Shoot.



Chapter member Mike Vaulx coaches a competitor during the shoot.

Chapter XLV (45) Continued...

the month prior and of Eric's admirable qualities as a quiet professional and family man. Eric's wife was in attendance as was the wife of another beloved chapter member, Terry Dillon, who passed away in 2021. The bonds among chapter members and their families root and continue even after death. John Shondel presented gifts of bouquets of roses to both Special Forces widows during the luncheon.

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.



Group photo of a special Saturday luncheon with chapter 45 members and spouses on 16 August.

55

CHAPTER LV
The Michael May Memorial Chapter

Michigan

www.sfchap55.org



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



L-R Paul Schwimmer, Eric Boals, Betty Mize



Some of the boys

Michigan Chapter 55 gathered on Saturday, Nov 8, 2025 for the annual "Winter Gathering". We start at noon with lunch and time to greet friends before a business meeting afterwards. The evening begins with a social hour followed by a catered meal with members and guests "dressed up". We used to call it a dinner-dance, but we eat too much, we're getting into serious senior status, and we just love to visit.

At the same time we enjoyed a very fine music selection managed by our own Rudy Wade. Our host, Mike Jaciuk, arranged for a catered Chinese meal that was outstanding! We had about 6 main dishes along with 6 sides and all the usual Chinese sauces, appetizers, and fortune cookies. We had more food than we could eat, it was all delicious, and it cost less than our previous catered dinners! Sign me up for the same meal next year Mike.

After the food service and a short break, we held a raffle that was surprisingly spirited and profitable for the Chapter coffers. Good job everyone!

Unfortunately, a number of regular members who look forward to this day were unable to attend due to illnesses. Our potentially nasty November Michigan weather was pretty good this year with only a quiet Sunday morning 2 inch snow fall - our first measurable snow accumulation of the season.

Vice President Lee Silvers ran his first business meeting and did a fine job. The Chapter has some business to attend to and our biggest effort is recruiting a younger generation of highly trained and experienced Green Berets to whom we can pass the leadership torch. Lee is leading the way in this effort.



Doug Morgan and Lee Silvers



Lee Silvers, wife Marissa, and Lee IV

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



CHAPTER LXXII
The Great Lakes Chapter

73

www.sfa37.org

Milwaukee, WI

Chapter 73 "The Great Lakes Chapter" Celebrates 30 Years of Brotherhood. In 2025, Chapter 73, "The Great Lakes Chapter," commemorated its 30th anniversary. The chapter's roots trace back to the fall of 1994 when CSM (Ret) Ed Prucha organized a meeting in Keewaunee, WI, with 35 attendees, including family members, to explore forming a Special Forces Association chapter in Wisconsin. This initial gathering led to contacting the National Association for guidance, and by April 1, 1995, the requirements for establishing a chapter were distributed to interested individuals.

On July 28, 1995, membership applications were collected. The original charter members included Ed Prucha, Rollin Church, Steve Schofield, Clyde King, Fred Steckenbach, Dennis Bieber, Lewis DelMarcelle, Bill Schafer, Don Kush, Joe Ischi, Bernie Jene, Tim MacGillis, John Nowak, Jim Anderson, John Choren, and Mark Prucha. A weekend meeting followed on August 26, 1995, organized by Bernie Jene and Steve Schofield at "Schofield's Retreat" near Manitowoc, WI, where temporary officers were elected, and the application for a Wisconsin chapter was submitted to the National Association. The temporary officers included President John Choren, VP Lewis DelMarcelle, Secretary Rubin Littmann, and Treasurer Bernie Jene.

Chapter 73 received official recognition and a charter from National in October 1995. The chapter officers held their first official meeting on October 24, 1995, to plan future meetings and elect permanent officers. The first membership meeting took place on February 17, 1996, at the Manchester East Hotel (North Milwaukee), with 35 members and their spouses present. Chapter 73 currently has 70 members.

Chapter 73 held a business meeting and our annual picnic on September 6, 2025, at Pine View Campground near Ft. McCoy, WI. Nine of the original sixteen charter members attended the picnic. We also planned future events, including a winter dining out on February 21,



Members of Chapter 73

Chapter LXXII (73) Continued...

2026, at Mackinaws Grill and Spirits in Green Bay, WI, a summer meeting at the Wisconsin Veteran's Museum on July 18, 2026, and a fall meeting and picnic on September 12, 2026.

The Ft McCoy Recreation Center catered an excellent picnic lunch, supplemented by dishes from chapter members. Afterward, chapter members gathered at the Pine View Campground cabin rental area for a bonfire, where storytelling and camaraderie lasted late into the night. Thanks Rubin for organizing a successful meeting and picnic.

Future events- February 21, 2026, Mackinaws Grill and Spirits, Green Bay, WI, coordinated by John Nowak.



Chapter charter members (l-r) Ed Prucha, John Choren, Steve Leopold, Don Kush, Bill Schafer, Tim MacGillis, Rubin Littmann, Mark Prucha, John Nowak



Chapter members (l-r) Bill Elliot and Steve Leopold



Chapter ladies,(l-r) Sharon Prucha, Brenda Prucha, Ged Wilke, Michelle Chizek, Yun Kyung Lee, Dawn Younts, Cathy Cerruti

99

CHAPTER XCIX

The Bluegrass Chapter

Louisville, KY

www.sfa99.org



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

As we say goodbye to the dog days of summer, I'd like to thank the Bonnycastle Club of Louisville who donated the proceeds from their annual golf shamble to Bluegrass Chapter 99 (to date it is the largest donation we have ever received, I can't thank Mark Blankenbaker and the men of the castle enough, for their very generous contribution! Thank you!

It's that time of year we also need to be contacting local JROTC programs to seek participation in our JROTC scholarship program. The POI has already been distributed, but if you have any questions or need me to forward to a program just let me know.

One of our members mentioned a free cancer screening: just a one-time local blood screening and if they find something you are responsible for airfare to Boston for follow-up appts. Link below: Novel Cancer Screening Test for Veterans Now Being Offered at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute | Dana-Farber Cancer Institute <https://share.google/FQ6hE38K7BSpEc1Bb>

As we head into the holidays, I'd like to wish everyone a safe, happy, and fulfilling holiday season. God bless you and your families, and this great country we have all sacrificed so much for. Not to mention, those men and women who continue to serve and cannot be with their loved ones because they are deployed providing us the freedoms we all enjoy; we Salute you!

Bluegrass Chapter 99 continues to have in person meetings on the second Thursday of even months, at 1800 hrs, watch for the invite to know the location. We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting, and don't forget we still



Ray Block gives his son his first salute.

Chapter XCIX (99) Continued...

have bottles of our Woodford Reserve Personal Selection for sale for \$50 per bottle to members, and \$60 for anyone else; contact John Holevas if you'd like to get one. And finally, we'd like to wish CW4 Anthony Santiago good luck in the upcoming Disney marathon, make us proud.

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



Bonnycastle Club presents BC99 largest donation to date.



October meeting attendees welcome the new guy, Elliot Collins.



COL(Ret) Don Wolfe, PGA Hope Cup at Tee It Up Golf USA; best indoor golf simulator out there.

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




CHAPTER CVII **107**
 The Galen Kittleson Chapter
 Cedar Rapids, IA

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

On November 1-2 2025, Chapter 107 was hosted at Range Tec near Mercer, Missouri for a few days of firearms training, fellowship and fine dining. Range Tec is owned and operated by Special Forces veteran Buzz Mendenhall. Range Tec is an excellent range complex that boasts a moving target range, reactive target handgun ranges and a 900 hundred yard rifle deck.

Range Tec also boasts a bunkhouse with showering facilities and a comfortable team room where a few stories were told over cocktails.

Chapter member Dan Thorsen reunited with former teammates at a reunion at Range Tec the previous weekend.

Chapter member Marion Witte, who served in the 5th SFG(A) during the 70s passed away in Ames, Iowa on August 10th, 2025. Chapter 107 wishes to offer their sincere condolences to Marion's family.



Chapter member Gary Huffman going way out there while Buzz spots.



Marion Witte



Hangin at the Range: Hoot, Chapter President Mike McElmeel, VP Jerry Jochum and Buzz Mendenhall



Reactive Target Pistol Range

500

CHAPTER D

The Hoosier Chapter



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

Indianapolis, IN

www.specialforcesac500.org

Our esteemed Special Projects Board Member and former 7th Grouper Matt Rowe published an article recently in Small Wars Journal. You can read "Rethinking Counterinsurgency: A Police-Centered Approach" here: <https://smallwarsjournal.com/2025/09/17/rethinking-counterinsurgency-a-police-centered-approach/>

In a similar vein, one of our members was able to attend a recent Defense Industry event and award the Secretary of the Navy and fellow Veteran Senator Jim Banks a Chapter Coin. Well done!



Chapter 500 Coin awarded to Secretary of the Navy



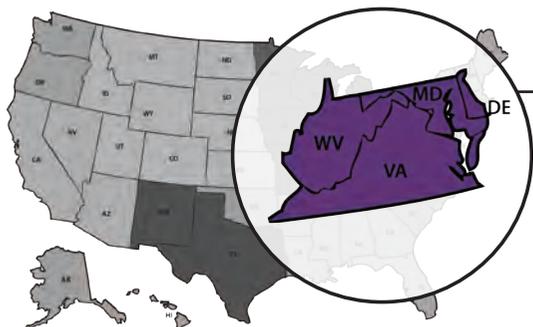
Chapter 500 Coin awarded to Senator Banks

Meanwhile, a number of our members found some time in their schedules to meet up at various places in Indiana to continue growing those relationships and expanding out to more of our Hoosier neighbors.

Chapter 500 has been working on growing our ranks and bringing in some new energy into the Board. If you're interested in jumping into the fray, please reach out to one of our team! We've had a number of small get togethers.



Rethinking Counterinsurgency by Matt Rowe



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*

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



www.sfa11.org

CHAPTER XI

The National Capital Chapter

11

Washington, DC

As a continuing mission, Chapter XI runs the monthly LTC James K. Waters Memorial Ranger-SF Breakfast on the second Saturday of each month at 0800 Hours at the American Legion Post 176, 6520 Amherst Ave, Springfield, VA 22150. Additionally, for those in the Shenandoah Valley, Joe Crane has initiated the Shenandoah Valley Ranger-SF Breakfast, which takes place on the fourth Saturday of each month at 0900 Hours at the Marshall Diner/Strasburg Diner, 119 Hite Lane, Strasburg, VA 22657. If you're in the National Capital Area, join us!

October had us all over the map! David and Marita Jackson and Mike and Chan Eiland were at the SOAR/SFACON2025 in Las Vegas; several members attended the Special Forces Trust (SFT) "An Evening of Tribute: John F. Kennedy" in Arlington; and we teamed up with SFT and sent 38 folks to the OSS Society's Donovan Award Dinner honoring GEN Bryan Fenton at the original headquarters of the OSS-the Ritz-Carlton-Washington, DC!

Then, the SFA Chapter XI's Monthly meeting for October featured our guest speaker, LTC(R) David Eubanks, formerly of 1st SFGA, who discussed his ministry: "The Free Burma Rangers," and its support for tribal guerrillas fighting against the Myanmar Military Junta. The Free Burma Rangers (FBR) is a multi-ethnic humanitarian service movement dedicated to bringing help, hope, and love to people in conflict zones across Burma, Iraq, Kurdistan, Syria, Ukraine, and other areas where they are invited. Working with and through local ethnic pro-democracy groups, FBR trains, supplies, and later coordinates with what become highly mobile multi-purpose relief teams. After training, these teams provide critical emergency medical care, shelter, food, clothing, and human rights documentation in their home regions. For more information, visit: www.freeburmarangers.org.

For November, David Lewis, Joe Visinski, MG George Alexander, Bill Jensen, Dan Moore, Olga Roemer, and Ray Oden supported the Veterans Day Ceremony at the CPT Rocky Versace Plaza in Alexandria, VA by reading the names of Alexandria's 68 dead or MIA from Vietnam. Chapter XI represents the Regiment at every Special Forces Soldier's funeral at Arlington National Cemetery and assists the family and friends of our comrades-in-arms.

Since August, we have honored: Chapter XI's former Chaplain, COL Gene Russell [1st CAV Div & 5th SFGA Viet Nam; CDR, 3/7 SFGA Panama; Past President, William A. Richardson National Capitol Region Chapter of the 1st Cavalry Division Association; and Executive Director, National War College Alumni Association]. If you know of any upcoming SF funerals in Arlington or in the DC area, please let Chapter XI know so we can reach out to the next of kin and support them.

The Chapter is already working on the 2026 SF Regimental Birthday Ball, Friday, May 8, 2026, at the Army Navy Country Club, Arlington, VA. This year, we will honor the Veterans of the U.S. Army Special Forces Korea. It will be a night to come, enjoy, and remember! So, please save the date and join us!



2025 OSS Society Donovan Award Dinner: CW5 Chris Wilkerson, US Army, Retired, National President, Special Forces Association, GEN Bryan Fenton, LTs Skye Avants & Tim Caudile, US Navy



The MISSION of the FREE BURMA RANGERS: To bring help, hope, and love to people of all faiths in conflict areas, to shine a light on the actions of oppressors, to stand with the oppressed and support leaders and organizations committed to liberty, justice, and peace.



Veterans Day Ceremony at the CPT Rocky Versace Plaza in Alexandria, VA. (L-R) MG George Alexander, Dan Moore, Ray Oden, Bill Jensen, Olga Roemer, and David Lewis.



SFA Chapter XI's October meeting with the Free Burma Rangers: (L-R) Ray Oden, Karen Eubanks, Larry Redmon, David Eubanks, Alex Vining, and Jim Diehl.

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 Ponzo



The sacrificial offering at Kurt Frulla's annual pig roast.



Raffle Items & Golf Ball Launcher at the 'Carl Fulmore Fall Golf Tournament', the Gauntlet Golf Course.

Greetings from Chapter XC in Fredericksburg, VA. The holidays are rapidly approaching and our Chapter is closing out the year with these festive events – Kurt Frulla's annual pig roast, our 4th Annual Carl Fulmore Fall Classic Golf Tournament, 4th quarter range day at the 'Crucible' range, and preparations for our annual Christmas holiday party.

On September 20th, Kurt Frulla sponsored his 18th consecutive pig roast. As usual, it was a smashing success. This year Kurt roasted a whole pig and a 'truck load' of chicken. Chapter members brought side dishes – ribs, brisket, salads, beans, etc., - and a respectable amount of adult beverages! A great time was had by all!

On Sunday 5 October, Kurt's wife – Evelyn, walked the Boston Marathon with the 'Dana Farber Foundation' to raise money to fight childhood cancer. Thanks to the generous donations by the Chapter, Evelyn raised just over \$1,500 for this worthy cause.

On October 10th, the Chapter hosted our annual 'Carl Fulmore Fall Classic Fall Golf Tournament.' This year we fielded 22 teams. Combined with our on-site raffle, we made over \$14K for our scholarship fund and other charitable contributions. As usual, the most popular attraction on the links was our AR-15 golf ball launcher hole.

In November, the 'Crucible Training Facility' sponsored another Chapter range day, with 12 Chapter members attending. Over the years, the instructors at 'Crucible' have been great friends and solid supporters of the Chapter. After the range was 'cold,' the 'Crucible' staff treated us to burgers and beer, and a few lies. That's what friends do!

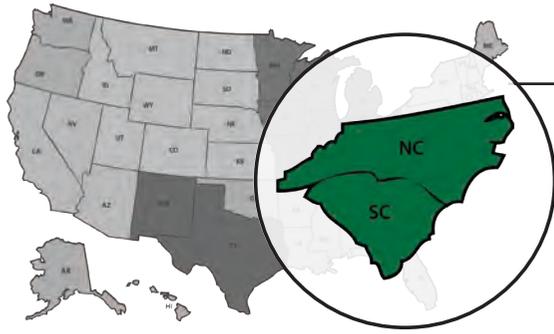
Our next SF/Ranger breakfast gathering is scheduled for Saturday, December 13th, between 0930 -1100 at the Great American Buffet, Central Park, Fredericksburg, VA. Check out our website for more details. If you're in the area, we hope to see you there. Chapter 90 meets the first Friday of every month 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 are travelling through the area, reach out through e-mail at SFACH90@gmail.com or visit our website at www.SFACH90.org.



Crucible Training Facility



The Range is "HOT" at the Crucible Training Facility, west of Fredericksburg, Virginia.



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 : Tim Howle
TRES : John McManus



CHAPTER VI

The Camp Mackall Chapter

6

www.facebook.com/sfacvi/

Camp Mackall, NC

Chapter VI held our fall meeting 4 October 2025. We were glad to welcome SFA National President Chris Wilkerson to our chapter. Chris shared some insight on the things happening at the national level. SFA Chapter VI recently concluded our biggest event of the year in our support of the Memorial Valor Foundation Memorial 3 Gun event held at the Gryphon Group Complex in Maxton NC from 9-12 October 2025. The mission of the Memorial Valor Foundation is to remember, honor and memorialize the bravery and sacrifice of fallen Special Operators by providing unwavering support to their Gold Star families, and the SOF families whose loved one is no longer with us. Each year the foundation honors 10 Gold Star SOF families at the Memorial 3 Gun Event, which has become one of the most sought after shooting events in the nation. This year Chapter VI partnered with the Special Forces Trust as Platinum Event Sponsors. Members of the chapter provided lunch for approximately 60 Range officers on 9 and 10 October. The chapter also ran a side pistol match which competitors really enjoyed. We ran 364 competitors through our side stage, many shooting multiple times which raised an additional \$1820. Chapter members also had many of the Gold Star family members visit the side stage and shoot the course of fire. For more information on this great event and the foundation, visit their website at <https://www.memorialvalor.com/>.

Several chapter members attended the 2025 SFA National Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada. Those attending were Keith Rutledge, Tyrone Adderly, Len Cummings, James Olson, James Woodlief, and Bill French. We look forward to hearing from them at our winter chapter meeting 10 January 2026! The chapter will be participating in a deer hunt in support of Gold Star Teens in December. Planning is underway for our annual Cinco de Mayo celebration to be held 9 May 2026 at our chapter compound out near Camp Mackall. We hope to include the Camp Mackall cadre in this event. The chapter will also sponsor a golf tournament 8 May 2026 to support the Gold Star teen program and our annual Colonel John Tobin Scholarship program. If you are ever in the area, feel free to contact us and we will try to link up and give you a tour of our compound!



Members of Chapter VI: Gary Koenitzer, Tim Howle, John McManus, Rick Turcotte, Lanny Lucero and Jim Shaw with Gold Star family members at the Memorial 3 Gun Event.



Chapter member Keith Rutledge competed in the Memorial 3 Gun event.



Chapter members Mike Rush, Tim Howle, Rick Turcotte, Lanny Lucero, John McManus, Jim Shaw supporting the Memorial Valor Foundation Memorial 3 Gun event.



Chapter Members Tyrone Adderly, Len Cummings, Jeff Olson, Keith Rutledge attending Special Forces Convention 2025.

17

CHAPTER XVII

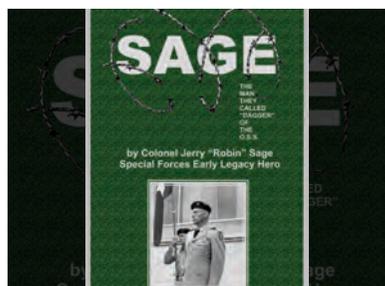
The COL Jerry "Robin" Sage Memorial Chapter

Maggie Valley, NC

www.sfachapter17.com



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



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

Chapter 17 (The Jerry "Robin" Sage Memorial Chapter) has republished the book SAGE, which is the memoir of COL Jerry "Robin" Sage. Sage was an OSS officer who was captured by the Germans during WWII.

During his three years of captivity in a German POW camp, Sage helped work on the three-tunnel escape project that helped formed the plot for the movie *The Great Escape*. After WWII, he commanded a Regimental Combat Team in the Korean War and commanded 10th SFGA in Europe during the Cold War.

He completed his lifetime of public service as "Teacher of the Year" in South Carolina. Check the book's web site at www.oldmp.com/sage to order paperback, hardback, and hardback limited edition. Kindle version link also on the website.

DOL

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.

On August 1, 2025, the 18F graduations was held at at the JFK Auditorium on Ft. Bragg.

SFA Chapter 62 President Vic Allen spoke to the graduates and then presented a Spartans Blade knife to Distinguished Honor graduate SFC David Walton of the 3rd SFG(A) and a 1-year membership in the SFA to SFC Michael Giduck of the 20th SFG(A). (See Photo Right)

Chapter 62 had its annual 9/11 Motorcycle ride and poker run on September 13, 2025. As always, it started at the Southern Pines VFW and toured the local area.

There was a good turnout of riders, great weather and all participants declared it was a great ride upon their return to the VFW.

The riders and guests then enjoyed a great meal and camaraderie at the VFW.

On November 9, 2025, Chapter 62 supported the Annual Chili Cookoff at O'Donnell's Pub in Southern Pines.

Our support consists of transporting tables from the VFW to New Hampshire Street and setting them up for the cookoff entrants to use to serve up their varied concoctions.

There was a great turnout on a beautiful day and it seemed everyone enjoyed the event.

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.

De Opresso Liber



Distinguished Honor Graduate SFC David Walton 3RD SFG(A), SFA Chapter 62 President Vic Allen and Honor Graduate SFC Michael Giduck 20th SFG

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



CHAPTER LXIII
The Francis "Swamp Fox" Marion Chapter

63

Charleston, SC

Fall has fallen here in the Low Country, and Chapter 63 is back at it again. Planning is underway for our Spring "Range Day Fundraiser" at a new location, spearheaded by Chapter Vice President Kirk Ferguson, which was the focus of the November meeting. Chapter President is once again teaching at Citadel Army ROTC, this time the MSIII cadets. We have had some new members join us, as we are still a relatively new chapter.

Three chapter members attended the Fort Gordon ceremony renaming the base for MSG Gary Gordon, MOH. Mike Holzer, Lou Hadley, and John Edsall made the trip to represent Chapter 63, distributing chapter coins to the various groups represented at this event. We thank these very active members for making the trip. Our October Quarterly Business Meeting focused on the upcoming November Spec Ops Shooting Experience of a local veterans' assistance group. Chapter members serve as instructors and lane supervisors, as well as representing the Special Forces contingent of Special Operations. Unfortunately, due to social media refusing to advertise their event featuring firearms, the group has had to cancel the November date and reschedule for a date to be decided. We will still provide support. Our December social meeting will be held on December 13th at the home of Mike Holzer, who is hosting an Army-Navy Game Watch. Chapter 63 will offer support for the Black Knights in the face of his many Navy-related neighbors.



(left to right) Ft Gordon Garrison CSM Daniel Durette, John Edsall, Mike Holzer



Gary Gordon ceremony group photo



(left to right) Lou Hadley, John Edsall, Mike Holzer

PRES : J.P. Cervantes
VICE : Mike Martin
SEC : Mark Peters
TRES : Kyle & Susana Hiser



CHAPTER C
The SSG Robert J. Miller Memorial Chapter

100

www.sfachapter100.org

Fort Bragg, NC

Since the last issue of the Drop, Chapter 100 continues to be active in the community.

The Chapter hosted a member and sponsor get together at Dirt Bag Ales on 12 September 2025 to thank the members and sponsors for their support throughout the year. Approximately 30 people attended the event.

The Chapter participated in a Trunk or Treat at the Hope Mills Fit4Life and the 3d Bn, 3rd SFG(A) Trunk or Treat on 25 October 2025. At each event we handed out 14th Annual Green Beret Jingle Jog flyers and treats to everyone.

Chapter C (100) Continued...

On 8 November 2025, the Chapter attended the DARA Invitational Tactical 2 Gun Match at The Range Complex (TRC) in Fayetteville. Additionally, Chapter 100 participated in the Dirtbag Farmers Market on 9 November 2025.

At the event we handed out Green Beret Jingle Jog flyers, Chapter swag and sold a special Holiday Highlander/ SFA Chapter 100 Jingle Jog beer glass. Additionally, we hung out with our friends from Dirt Bag Ale/Holiday Highlander and Continuing the Mission.

As we head into the final month of 2025, the Chapter is in the final planning stages for the annual Green Beret Jingle Jog which will take place at Dirt Bag Ale in Fayetteville on 06 December 2025. Additionally, we have begun planning for the 6th Annual SFA Tactical Application Shoot (TAS) in March 2026 (Exact date and location TBD), and the 24th Annual Stanley L. Harriman Charity Golf Classic on 20 June 2026 at Gates Four Country Club in Fayetteville.

Over the next few months, the Chapter in concert with the Jedburgh Foundation will be working to support our Chapter Secretary, MSG(R) Mark W. Peters as he begins "The 2198 Hike". Mark will set out in March 2026 to "thru hike" all 2198.4 miles of the Appalachian Trail starting at Springer Mountain, GA and ending at Mount Katahdin, ME.

"The 2198 Hike" will raise funds in support of the Chapter's Stanley L. Harriman Scholarship Fund and the Jedburgh Foundation's efforts to relocate 60 memorial stones at the old 3rd Group Headquarters on Ft Bragg to the new 3rd Group Headquarters at the Yarbrough Complex, restore and refinish the memorial stones, and assist with funding for the Memorial Plaza, Memorial Wall, 3rd Group Mess & 3rd Group Timeline.



Chapter Get Together



Trunk or Treat



DARA Invitational



Dirtbag Farmers Market

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



CHAPTER CCCLXIII

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

363

Greenville, SC



October range day. Will C. provided instruction to a Clemson ROTC student, and Walk-Back competition that closed out the day.

SFA CH 363 conducted a myriad of engagements and events through the Fall of 2025. Presentations at Clemson University ROTC continued, and Furman University invited the chapter to share vignettes and lessons learned with their cadets. The opportunity with Furman was a first for the chapter, and we followed the model used at Clemson of highlighting Special Forces in Vietnam and OEF/OIF. When possible, we brought in combat Veterans to share their stories. Furman University invited CH 363 to participate in their Military Appreciation Day events, which included two of our Vietnam Veterans getting recognized on the field. Furman University recognized CSM(R) Fred Muscara and Mr. Ralph Longello after halftime. The cadets, cadre, and fans honored Fred and Ralph, as well as the men and women who served during the Vietnam War. In October, Chapter 363 held its bi-annual range day, bringing chapter members, their families, and guests to enjoy a day of shooting and stories. Participants worked on marksmanship skills, some received instruction, and we concluded with a Walk-Back competition starting at the 10-yard line. The winner and last man standing was Will C. with a pistol shot at 85 yards. Upcoming for CH 363 are elections for chapter leaders, a Christmas party, and an 8-week course titled "Green Berets in Vietnam" for a lifelong learning institute. Since the Summer, CH 363 has welcomed four new members. Contact us if you're in the area, we'd enjoy linking up with Brothers.



(Top left) SGM(R) Phil Hanson, SFA Ch 17 president, shared his experience from Operation EAGLE CLAW with SFA Ch 363. (Top middle) CSM(R) Fred Muscara and Mr. Ralph Longello were recognized by Furman University during Military Appreciation Day. (Bottom left) COL(R) Charlie Reynolds and MAJ Phil Carter provided branch briefs to the Furman University ROTC cadets. (Bottom right) Presentation at Clemson University ROTC. Ralph Longello and John Kelly shared their experiences of service during the Vietnam War and addressed questions from the cadets.



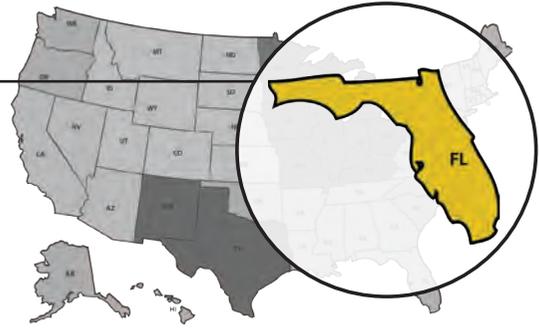
REGION V

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.com



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

CHAPTER 21 at SOAR/SFACON 2025: The combined SOA and SFA Conferences in Las Vegas were fantastic. One of the best moments was seeing all the Chapter 21 members in the Hospitality Room.

In attendance: Phil and Joette Devon, Richard "Whit" Whitman, Jimmy Summerhill, Bill Schulz, John Fryer (with Anna and several other family members), Charles Weeks, Bob Daniels and John Vislosky (Chapter 21 President). Plus, several guests of Chapter 21 events: Ron and Donna Owen, Jim Day, Joe Hastings and Lindsey, Bonnie Cooper, Pete and Alice Marceau (Chapter 85 President). Bill Schulz and Jimmy Summerhill were on a mission at the combined conferences.



Chapter 21's John Fryer addressing over 600 attendees at SOAR 2025 Banquet with Doug Godshall President SOA on the stage hosting the presentations.

They drove from Florida to Las Vegas bringing along a case of the Horse Soldiers Bourbon (each bottle was signed by the Horse Soldier's Team Leader, Mark Nutsch). Plus, Bill graciously donated a Randal Bowie Knife with leather sheath as a raffle item. Bill and Jimmy relentlessly sold the bourbon and raffle tickets for the Randal Bowie Knife every day of the combined conferences. National President Chris Wilkerson chose the winning ticket for the Randal at SFACON 2025 Banquet. As a result, Bill and Jimmy raised a considerable amount of funds for Chapter 21!!!!!!

Our newly launched Chapter 21 Website: Chapter 21's Webmaster, Dave Grose, presented Jason Hendricks from H3Designs (Our Chapter 21 Website designer) a Chapter XXI Certificate of Appreciation and Chapter Coin for his generosity and hard work in designing our new Chapter 21Website (www.specialforceschapter21florida.com).

Both Jason and Dave worked long hours (and donated their time and cost) to create our website. They both continue to improve the site and assist our Chapter. A BIG Thank you to both Jason and Dave for their hard work!



Chapter 21's Webmaster, Dave Grose presenting Jason Hendricks from H3Designs a Chapter 21 Certificate of Appreciation and Chapter Coin



SFA National President Chris Wilkerson did the honors of pulling the winning raffle ticket for the Randal Knife at the SFACON 2025 Banquet. Shown with Jimmy Summerhill and Bill Schulz.



Chapter 21 captured the first table in the Hospitality area to auction off bottles Horse Soldier Bourbon and a Randal Knife.

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 to Mission BBQ Presentation Veteran's Day



Sporting Clay Chapter LX Team

This quarter has been busy with numerous events. Chapter LX hosted its first OktoberFest in the Team House on 25 September. We had all the items needed to make it feel like we were right in the heart of Germany. The food, the music, and the atmosphere made for an enjoyable night of celebration. And why not? It was OktoberFest after all! Chapter LX also hosted its annual Sporting Clay Tournament in November. This is our largest fundraiser each year for our Richard J. Meadows Scholarship Program. We had teams competing against each other for best overall team, best female shooter, and best male shooter. In addition, we raffled off a shotgun, a hand-crafted knife, and multiple



More Chapter LX shooters



The Chapter Ladies

baskets full of goodies. Then all enjoyed lunch catered by Mission BBQ. All in all, whether shooting or there to support the shooters, all had a fantastic time. We aren't slowing down yet. In December, Chapter LX will host Menton Day. This combat dining in is for the Chapter LX members, Canadian military, and to all Green Berets that want to join in on the festivities. And not to worry.... If you don't make it this year, there will be next year. Also, in December, is our annual Christmas Party. This is our final event of the year before everyone rushes off into the holiday bustle. It is a party full of friends and family, lots of laughter, and well wishes for all to have a Very, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. 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. We often think of those we have lost over the years. And as we recently celebrated Veteran's Day, I am sure many of you were thinking of all those past and present that have served. Our hearts and prayers are also with those that are sick/hospitalized, have lost family and friends, and need a helping hand and shoulder to lean on. We are here for you always.

74

CHAPTER LXXIV

The CPT Bob May/MSG Richard Garvey Memorial Chapter

Central Florida

www.ch74sfa.com



PRES : Kevin McKeown
 Vice: John Nettles & Emmitt Purvis
 SEC : Bobby Coburn
 TRES : Allen Bryant

Chapter 74 Annual Rendezvous was held 07-08-09 Nov 2025 at the Ocala Conservation and Youth Center, 7325 NE 170th Ave, Silver Springs, FL 34488. Election of officers for the next two years was held with Emmitt Purvis being elected as Vice President, replacing VP Ed Parker who passed away earlier this year. Ed was a founding member of Chapter 74 and he was committed to the Chapter and its members. He is sorely missed by all of us. We started with a bonfire and social time on Friday Night, our meeting, a memorial service, BBQ lunch and range firing were conducted on Saturday followed by a bonfire Saturday night. Our next Quarterly meeting will be held at the American Muscle Car Museum on 10 Jan 2026 in Melbourne. We will also be conducting a meeting on 02 May 2026 at the Low and Slow BBQ in Lakeland, FL. Our Aug 2026 meeting will be at the Deland Stockyard Steakhouse in Deland FL on 08 Aug 2026. All SFA Members are invited to attend, we just request an RSVP to insure food.



Chapter 74 President receiving Antler Award from John Nettles.



President McKeown receiving Chapter 74 pins from his son - Keven McKeown and Grandson Micheal McKeown.



Chapter 74 President Kevin McKeown presenting Certificate of Appreciation to Evelyn Sapp and her daughter Elizabeth.



President Kevin McKeown presenting a Chapter 74 coin to Gilda Sapp Lindsey, member Joel Sapps sister for contribution to Chapter 74.

76

CHAPTER LXXVI

The Pan-American Chapter

Miami, FL

www.sfach76.blogspot.com



PRES : Ed Pijuan
 VICE : Roger Kidder & Ed Bello
 SEC : Al Hernandez & Jason Psaltides
 TRES : Jim Trice
 SGT at ARMS: Tom House

Greetings from Chapter 76 of South Florida! We hope this chapter update finds you well. Our last quarter was a busy one for reunions. The First Special Service Force (FSSF) Association held their reunion in Helena, Montana, at Fort William Henry Harrison—the historic site where then-Lt. Colonel Robert T. Fredrick trained this unique World War II Army unit. The FSSF was a one-of-a-kind joint Canadian and U.S. commando force, specifically trained for a mission in Norway. Today, only four members of the FSSF survive, with just one having trained in Helena. Unfortunately, none were able to attend the reunion, but their children and grandchildren continue to gather, sharing photos and memories of their fathers' remarkable service. To deepen our understanding of the FSSF, two Chapter 76 members attended the reunion, alongside several retired Special Forces soldiers from other areas. Additionally, our Vice President, Ed Bello, represented Chapter 76 at the joint SFA and SOA reunion in Las Vegas, further strengthening our connections with fellow Special Forces veterans. We also continue to support charities serving the SOF community.

Recently, Chapter 76 made a donation to Chapter 88 to help fund their Special Forces Monument in Jacksonville, FL. If you're ever visiting South Florida, please don't hesitate to reach out—we'd be glad to assist in any way we can. Stay safe, stay vigilant, and always watch your six.



MOH Paris Davis & VP Ed Bello (Chapter 76) at SFACON.



Four retired SF soldiers made the long ride from Florida to Montana for the FSSF conference, including Ch 76 member John Gilio at right rear.



L-R Front row: Fred Jaca, Roger Kidder, Joe Pruett. L-R Back row: David Kinney, Dave May, Bill Eades, Ron Carlson, Jesse Basher.



At the 2025 First Special Service Force Convention, a new monument was dedicated at the Montana State Veterans Cemetery near Fort Harrison, listing on its reverse side the resting places of 21 FSSF members buried there.

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



CHAPTER LXXXVIII
Northeast Florida Chapter

88

www.SFA88.org

Jacksonville, FL

Chapter 88 continues to add new members, thrive and provide support for our fellow area veterans and communities.

Operation Friendship 2025 On Saturday, Sept. 20, Chapter 88 members, family and friends gathered for "Operation Friendship". This year's cookout was held on the shore of Camp Blanding's Kingsley Lake. Beautiful clear skies and temperatures greeted the 4-dozen attendees. David Ware, chapter vice president for operations, planned and executed the event. Also invited were members of the Jacksonville All-Airborne Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Div. Association. The food was provided by Bennett's Catering of Daytona Beach with Tracy McRae (daughter of past member Bruce McRae), her brother Joe and friend Niki, doing set up, cooking and serving. Tracy and Bennett's Catering marked their 20th anniversary of supporting the annual picnic. President Dewey Walker welcomed and provided a chapter update. Before concluding, Walker recognized Tracy McRae with a Presidential Leader's Award for her years of support to the chapter.

Brothers of the Silk In the midst of a Nor'easter running up Florida's Atlantic Coast on Oct. 11, Chapter 88 members attended the Jacksonville

Chapter LXXXVIII (88) Continued...

All-Airborne Chapter of the 82nd Abn. Div. Association's annual picnic at Anastasia Beach State Park. Many Northeast Florida paratroopers, along with their wives, enjoyed a barbeque cookout of burgers and sausage dogs. 82nd member Neal "Snuff" Smith brought in a truck load of food, sodas, potato salad, beans and coleslaw to feed the folks. The Maroon and Green Berets swapped stories about their service and shared experiences as brothers of the silk. It was a great time.

SF Monument Still Needs Funds The Chapter's project to raise money for a Special Forces Monument for the Jacksonville National Cemetery is falling behind. As of Nov. 13, \$8,292.37 (after GoFundMe fees) has been raised (46 percent) towards the \$18,000 goal from 39 donations from 7 organizations (\$2310) and 32 individuals (\$5,982.37). With the funds raised so far, a down payment has started construction on the monument. However, we still need financial supporters. Please encourage others to donate or promote this worthy project. To make a tax-deductible donation visit GoFundMe at www.gofundme.com/f/SFA88-SF-Monument-Fund. Or contact Pat Mulvihill, monument chairman, by email: pem@axisp.com or call (904) 534-0035. Mark Saturday, April 11, 2026 and join us for the dedication. Please Help Honor our Heroes.

A Grand Veterans Day Recognition The City of Jacksonville held its annual Veterans Day Parade on Nov. 11. Each year chapter members participate by being in the parade, watching or in a support role. A special honor was bestowed on our own Capt. Padraic "Pat" Mulvihill. Jacksonville Mayor Donna Deegan named Mulvihill as the Grand Marshal of the 2025 Veterans Day Parade. He was chosen for his service with many non-profit organizations and serving active-duty military families and area veterans. He volunteers at the Jacksonville National Cemetery, the airport military lounge, and the local Rotary health clinic. Grand Marshal Mulvihill led hundreds of veterans and dozens of military units along the 1.1-mile route as thousands of people cheered.



Jacksonville Mayor Donna Deegan designates chapter member Padraic Mulvihill as the city's 2025 Veterans Day Grand Marshal with a medallion during a pre-parade breakfast.



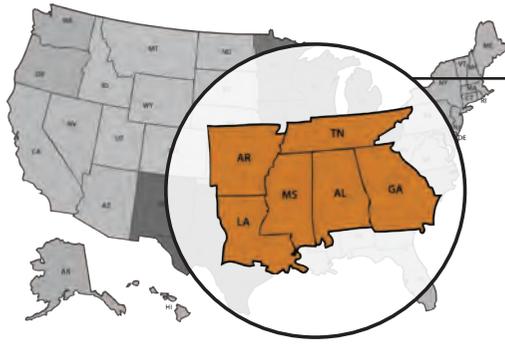
Help Honor our Heroes. Make a tax-deductible donation to the SF Monument Project for the 38 interred Special Forces veterans in the Jacksonville National Cemetery.



Brothers of the parachute silk strike a pose at the All-Airborne Chapter of the 82nd Abn. Div. Association's picnic.



Tracy McRae from Bennett's Catering of Daytona Beach beams with a wide smile upon receiving the Presidential Leader's Award from Chapter President Dewey Walker.



REGION VI

Southeast Region

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



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

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

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



CHAPTER XLIX

The Richard J. Webber Memorial Chapter

49

Little Rock, AR

Greetings from Chapter 49 -

We held our annual March in the Woods event at Lake Catherine, Hot Springs Arkansas in April and decided to change our location for the Spring gathering to various parts of the State. The Chapter has been going there for close to 30 years, but we voted to change locations because of lack of participation over the last few years.

Therefore, spring of 2026 we are having a black powder Turkey Shoot at Bobby Nixon's farm in Mulberry, Arkansas. Prizes will be given out along with a dead turkey! If interested in the details, contact our Chapter and we'll update you as things progress. Hotels are nearby and the exact dates will be determined at our X-mas function.

We wish the Best of 2026 to all members of the Regiment and have a great, prosperous year.

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



SOAR/SFACON- George Sommerfield, Vince Hartmann lovely spouses; Art Tucker and Sam Seetin

Chapter 59 has been busy this fall participating in a myriad of events.

These events include:

- Peachtree City Post Office Named after SFC McClosky, SFC soldier KIA Afghanistan
- 5th SFGA Reunion & Memorial
- Visit SFA Chapter 102 Evans, GA

Chapter LIX (59) Continued...



5th Group Memorial- Biff Hadden

- Resignation of Ft Eisenhower to FT Gordon after MSG Gordon, MOH
- Anh Nugent visits Vietnam to help locate remains of Vietnamese soldiers
- SOAR/SFACON at Las Vegas 13-18 Oct
- Octoberfest Meeting at Ft Benning
- Honoring SGM Courtney's induction into the Georgia Veterans Military Hall of Fame and holding a raffle to build fund to honor ROTC cadets and High School Scholars
- Planning a joint Christmas Party with MOAA

VR, Sam Seetin LTC, SF (Ret) USA
President SFA Chapter 59

79

CHAPTER LXXIX

The SGM Bryan F. McKnight Memorial Chapter



PRES : Michael Turello
VICE : Joel Reynolds
SEC : Ennis "Chip" Bailey
TRES : Ed Tutor

Brandon, MS

Boredom affects us all. How do paratroopers manage the winter of their life cycle? Well, in several ways. One of our chapter members has found a way to regress just a bit. You see, he ran into an old buddy from the 82nd Airborne. I must say the 82nd was a previous life before joining the 20th SF Co C Nat'l Guard in Mississippi. Bruce Hoffman, a Chapter member, seems to be in rogue mode. Bruce at some point since the last "Drop" ended up partaking of "The Phantom Airborne Brigade, Inc." We were wondering how someone with rusty knees, going on eight years of knee steroid shots, would be able to jump more than once. We learned later these guys are a non-profit 501c3 veterans' organization, "putting knees in the breeze again," for over 25 years.

Likewise, Bruce's background is a bit different from most of the Mississippi SF guys. You see, he was a military Brat. His grandfather was an artilleryman in WWII, and his dad was a pilot in WWII and Korea flying most of the Army Air Corp aircraft and stayed with the Air Corp as it transitioned into the Air Force after WWII. Bruce was trained to move every three or four years. So, weeks after Bruce graduated High School. It was not unthinkable that he would join the military. One of his childhood dreams was fulfilled shortly after joining the Army. Bruce spent most of his time with the 82nd Airborne. He later left active duty and moved back to his alma mater, Columbus, Mississippi to be near family and a few of his High School buddies. He got a civil service job on base. In the meantime, Bruce decided a Navy Savage Diver career would provide excitement and quench his thirst for travel. Bruce joined the Navy with a semi-promise of being a Navy Salvage Diver. He got orders for Diving school after swabbing decks and cleaning engine rooms. The diving school would be cut short due to injuries. He separated from the Navy shortly after finding out there would not be a second chance at diving school. He moved back to Columbus, where he regained a civil-service job and was recruited into the Nat'l Guard by Gerry Moore. He quickly got onto the Mississippi parachute team that went to The Rhode Island International Parachute Competition in 1983, where the team finished second place. Afterwards, a summer camp in Italy followed by the next summer in the Panamanian jungle. Bruce got orders for HALO School. Later after two deployments to Afghanistan. Retirement would be close at hand upon the return home. He had to slow down his adventures.



The Phantom Airborne Brigade Inc.

A non-profit 501c3 veterans organization putting knees in the breeze again for over 25 years!

Home DZ: Skydive City, Zephyrhills, FL

- CEO: Marc Arnett, 239.233.2152
- TR/S3: Chris Stephens, 937.573.7222

Info@PhantomAirborne.us
www.phantomairborne.us



PHANTOM AIRBORNE BRIGADE INC
A military trained parachutist veterans group

CEO: Marc Arnett, 239-233-2152 | marnett239@gmail.com
TR/S3: Chris Stephens, 937-573-7222 | chriss.pab@gmail.com

Member: *Water Jump Sals DORA*
Phone: *Sand Jump ZEPHYRHILLS*
Email: *FLA*

Base of Operations: Zephyrhills FL - Skydive City
4241 Sky Dive Lane, Zephyrhills FL 33542

Oh no, he became restless and after running into an acquaintance he had known years before and hearing of "The Phantom Airborne Brigade Inc.," Bruce was off to get the old guy water jumps with a rescue boat assigned to each jumper. The best therapy for the knees. It's a fun time. Airborne!

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



CHAPTER CXI

Blue Ridge Mountains Region

111

Mountain City, TN



Guest Speaker CSM (ret) Brian Penrod



Chapter members



Chapter members and the Manitou group



Chapter Ladies



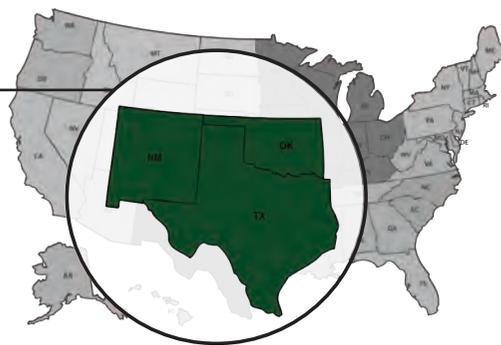
REGION VII

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

El Paso, TX

www.sfachapterix.blogspot.com



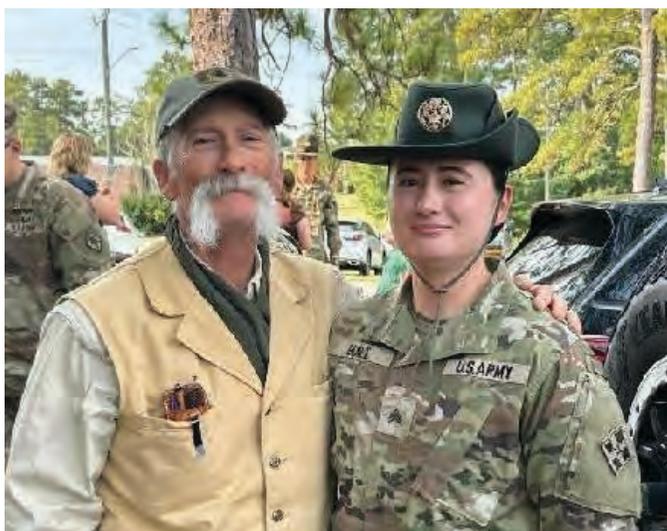
PRES : Steve Franzoni
VICE : Sean Bratton
SEC : Bill Snider
TRES : Brian Kanof
CHAPLAIN : Jesus "Chuy" Zamora

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.

Sick Call: Chris Hernandez's wife, Mary, is slowly recovering at the hospital. Chaplain Chuy Zamora had a stroke but is back at the house in therapy. Joel Ehler recovered from shoulder surgery.

Zoom connection: Our distant Members are now able to attend the monthly meeting via Zoom.

New Members/Guests: Isidro Gonzalez, Jr. put in for membership.



Brad & Daughter New Drill SGT Lisa



Golf Tournament

Completed Events:

A very proud Brad Guile attended his daughter Lisa's graduation from the Drill Sergeant Course.

19th Anniversary CSM (R) John Mclaughlin Golf Tournament - 20 September 25: Greg and the golf committee did an outstanding job, and we did as much as last year even though we had less teams playing, due to the sponsorship fundraising efforts big and small by SFA9 members and others who consistently support this great tournament.

SORB - SSG Mills Memorial Rucksack March: A short fuse decision occurred to support the SSG Mills Memorial Rucksack March, and the event happened on Friday 3 October beginning/ending at the SFA 9 Teamhouse. The chapter provided water, bananas, oranges and apples. The cases of fruit were half cost because Mr. Delgado from Quality Fruits & Vegetables donated half the amount. Members who assisted were Steve Franzoni, Pete Peral, Greg Brown, Michael Anderson, Brian Kanof, Joe Lebron-Camacho and his wife Alex.

Pending Events:

29th Annual Ralph Dominguez/Jerry Montoya Food Drive - 17 December pack date: We are going to pack 90 food boxes this year to support needy families for Christmas. Greg and committee Steve, Pete, Ike, Tony, Turi, Chuy, and Sean. Quality Fruits & Vegetables and Food City will assist again this year with donations and many non-perishable items for cost.

Christmas Party - Date: 20th of December; Omar Gaytan is the Chair & VFW 812 is reserved again. We are going to celebrate a great year. Merry Christmas to all!



SFACON 25 Chapter IX members at the banquet



SSG Mills Memorial Rucksack March

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,

As the year 2025 draws to a close, we encourage everyone to take a moment to appreciate the country in which we reside. Let us also reflect on your distinguished service as a Green Beret—a history and legacy marked by remarkable achievements and held in the highest regard.

As I conclude my two-year tenure as Chapter President, I wish to extend my sincere gratitude to all members of the Chapter and their families for their unwavering support throughout my service. It has been my honor to be entrusted with your confidence and loyalty, which have both fortified the Chapter and enabled me to enact necessary improvements for its future. Your dedication and collective efforts have been instrumental in ensuring the ongoing success and advancement of our organization. Serving alongside such devoted individuals has been a distinct privilege, and I deeply appreciate the camaraderie and shared experiences we have cultivated together.



During our annual golf tournament fundraiser, Chapter Treasurer Fred Solis led participants in the Pledge of Allegiance, setting a respectful and patriotic tone for the event.



Mary Jane Sanchez, wife of Chapter XV member Santiago Sanchez, won the top bowler award at the tournament.

Chapter XV (15) Continued...



The leadership team of Chapter XV includes Treasurer Merrill Hall, President Jeff Dahlby, Vice President Tom Tannahill, and Secretary Fred Solis.



L-R John Armezzani, Bob Walker, Raul de la Garza, Bill Smith, Delbert Hayes, John Lopez, Buddy Gee, and Joel Ornelas in representation of Chapter XV at the funeral service for Rodolfo "Rudy" Villarreal.

Between August and November, our chapter organized meetings which provided an opportunity to support several organizations. These included VFW Post 8541, The Blue Knights, Echo Hills Gold Star Camp, and Warriors on the Way. Additionally, our chapter assisted Chapter VII in their fundraising efforts by presenting their \$3,400 check to Javier Rodriguez Sr. This donation was designated for the purchase of a memorial bench at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in remembrance of his son, Javier "Jaguar" Rodriguez. Javier tragically lost his life on February 8, 2020, due to wounds sustained during combat operations in Nangarhar Province, Afghanistan, while serving with the 7th SFG(A).

Chapter XV was well represented at the 2025 SOA/SFA Convention in Las Vegas. Our delegation was led by Treasurer Merrill Hall and former Chapter President John Lopez, joined by his wife Amy. Other attendees included former Assistant Treasurer Deon Popoy and chapter members Tommy & Bambu Shook, Pat Connolly, Santiago & Mary Jane Sanchez, and Nate Dial. Congratulations to Mary Jane, who won the SOA/SFA bowling tournament.

We pay solemn tribute to the esteemed members of Chapter XV who passed during this period, Donald W. Burton, Rodolfo "Rudy" Villarreal, and Laughlin Jeffrey "Toby" Todd, having devoted their lives to the service and defense of our nation. Their unwavering commitment and selfless sacrifice embody the highest ideals of our chapter and serve as a lasting inspiration to all. As we reflect upon their legacy, we extend our deepest sympathies to their families and reaffirm our support during this period of loss. May we continue to honor their memory and keep all of America's heroes in our thoughts and prayers.

31

CHAPTER XXXI

The Billy M. Smith/George Petrie Memorial Chapter

Fort Worth-Dallas, TX

www.sfa31.org | facebook.com/SFACH31



PRES : Zack Hughes
 VICE : John F. Kennard (JFK)
 SEC : Georgene Moon
 TRES : Don Fleitman

Chapter Activities

1. Salute to America's Veterans - Rotary Club of Dallas

Date: Wednesday, November 5
 Location: Frontiers of Flight Museum, Dallas

Chapter 31 proudly represented the Regiment at the Rotary Club of Dallas' annual *Salute to America's Veterans* event. Members attended in Green Jackets and Berets, standing alongside civic leaders, community organizations, and veterans from every service branch. The keynote address was delivered by David J. Kramer of the Bush Institute.

This remains one of the best-run patriotic gatherings in North Texas, and Chapter 31's presence reinforced our ongoing commitment to bridging Special Forces heritage with local civic leadership.

2. National Medal of Honor Museum Visit - Arlington

Date: Saturday, November 8
 Lead: Phil Stone

The chapter held a formal visit to the new National Medal of Honor Museum in Arlington. Members arrived in SFA uniform—Green Blazers, berets, and appropriate insignia—and received a guided tour highlighting the stories and sacrifices behind the Medal.

The visit was followed by a fellowship lunch nearby and served as a meaningful moment connecting Vietnam-era Green Berets, post-9/11 veterans, and associate members to the lineage of valor that shaped the Regiment.

3. SSG Alex Viola Memorial Car Show - Keller

Date: Sunday, November 9
 Honoring: SSG Alex Viola, 7th SFG(A), KIA 2013

Chapter 31 again supported one of the most respected veteran-honor events in DFW: the annual car show in memory of SSG Alex Viola. The chapter provided a strong presence and an authentic heritage display including replica weapons, vintage equipment, and a Vietnam-era jeep that drew steady crowds throughout the day.

Special recognition goes to **Ed Elder, Danny Malone, and Ted Theis** for maintaining and transporting the display that has become a fixture in Keller each year. Their efforts uphold the memory of SSG Viola while strengthening Chapter 31's footprint in the North Texas community.

4. Passing of Don Munson

This quarter, Chapter 31 mourned the passing of Don Munson, a long-time member of the North Texas Special Forces community. Don was a steady presence within the chapter and a loyal friend to many of our Vietnam-era Green Berets. He supported chapter activities for years and was known for his quiet professionalism, humility, and genuine care for his brothers.

We extend our deepest condolences to his family, friends, and all who served alongside him. His memory stands in the line of those who upheld the values of the Regiment and lived with dignity and devotion to Country.

Special Recognition

Phil Stone is recognized for coordinating the Medal of Honor Museum visit and volunteering this year as Event Chair. His consistency and professionalism ensure Chapter 31 presents a unified, sharp, and reliable presence at every event.

De Oppresso Liber.



Chapter 31 members supporting the SSG Alex Viola Memorial Car Show in Keller, displaying Vietnam-era equipment and heritage gear for the community.



Chapter 31 at the National Medal of Honor Museum in Arlington, gathered under the United States Army emblem during a formal heritage visit.



Chapter 31 representing the Regiment at the Rotary Club of Dallas "Salute to America's Veterans" event at the Frontiers of Flight Museum.



A formal portrait of Don Munson, long-time member of the North Texas Special Forces community, honored this quarter by Chapter 31 upon his passing.

32-50 **CHAPTER XXXII-L**
 The Indian Nations Chapter



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

Oklahoma City, OK

www.sfachapter32-50.org

Oklahoma SFA Chapter 32-50 celebrated Thanksgiving on 08 November 2025, at Bedlam Bar-B-Q, in Oklahoma City. Thirty-eight members and guests turned out to eat turkey and dressing, barbeque and all the fixins. The meal was organized and paid for by SFA member JO Dickey, with some other members chipping in. 2LT Will Watts, the grandson of SFA member Charlie Watts, gave an excellent presentation on US Army Sappers and his recent completion of Sapper School and Best Sapper Competition at Fort Leonard Wood. A good time was had by all.



2nd Lt Will Watts



Thanksgiving Meeting



Following the presentation

39 **CHAPTER XXXIX**
 The MSG Roy Benavidez Chapter



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

Houston, TX

On Saturday 16 August 2025, Special Forces Association Chapter 39 assembled at the Heatherwood Village Club House for its first meeting of the summer. Eighteen were in attendance, which included eleven men and seven women. The attendees socialized and had lunch from Chipotle Mexican Grill prior to the meeting. Much thanks was given to Denise Austin for coordinating and picking up the lunch order. Thanks to all who RSVP'd prior to the meeting so that the food order matched the number of attendees.

Chapter 39 President Tommy Austin called the meeting to order after lunch, and led with the Pledge of Allegiance, a moment of silence for brothers in arms, and singing of the Ballad of the Green Berets accompanied with a video of SF operations.

SFA Chapter 39 has 83 "active" members and 15 "expired" members as listed in the SFA Teamhouse. Dan asked members to check their contact information on the printed sheet from the Teamhouse next to the meeting sign-in sheet. Tommy Austin discussed the Teamhouse and the wealth of information it contains.

On Saturday 25 October 2025, Special Forces Association Chapter 39 assembled at Rudy's BBQ in Jersey Village for the Fall meeting. Twenty-four members and guests attended, which included sixteen men and eight women. The attendees met new Chapter member Chuck Nagel and socialized prior to going through the lunch buffet line.



L to R: Eddie Eskola, Chuck Nagel, Carson Headley, Charles Keane, Dan Denham, Tom Bridgewater, Tommy Austin, Carlos Gutierrez, Steve Sherman, Rick Grenfell, Al Robb, Joe Frankie, Doc Heintzleman, Israel Hilyer, Jeff Ellis, (Denny Smith, not shown)



A&M cadets with Dino McBride

During lunch, Chapter member Al Robb, III gave a one-hour presentation on his personal experience and observation of the growing Islamic insurgency in Mozambique from 2018 to the present day. He discussed various civil wars including the Battle of Palma. He also shared several artifacts from the country, which were related to the socioeconomic and military conditions in the country.

SFA Chapter 39 Vice President Dino McBride, traveled to Texas A&M University on Saturday 4 October, to speak to a group of ROTC cadets about Special Forces, higher education, and life in corporate America. The following is an excerpt from his report:

"The Cadets really enjoyed the presentation and asked a ton of questions. They were one of the best presentation audiences I have spoken to... Very engaging in everything I had to say and asked a ton of questions."



Dino McBride provides a more focused discussion of SF missions and Vietnam operation to ROTC cadets.

After several years of the Chapter participating in the Houston, Texas Veterans' Day Parade, we were unsuccessful in arranging to continue this year. We celebrated and remembered on our own on November 11th.

Tentative plans are to again have the Chapter Christmas party at Palinuro Italian restaurant in Katy, on December 6th.



L to R: Charles Keane, Tom Bridgewater, Janet Keane, Carson Headley, Joe Frankie, Carlos Gutierrez, Karen Frankie, Moi Smith, Dennis Smith, Dan Denham, Marty Reese, Coy Reese, Nguyet Sherman, Steve Sherman, Karl Kumm, April Kumm, Dino McBride

41

CHAPTER XLI

The Lone Star Chapter



PRES : Dave Carley
 VICE : Chris Jay
 SEC : Brian Greata
 TRES : Tom Mead
 SGT at ARMS : Greg Phillips

Austin, TX

www.sfa41.org



Post Officer Dedication Attendees

We missed our submission for the last issue so we have more months to cover than normal. The chapter secretary will be duly disciplined.

Our normal rhythm of chapter meetings took place over the summer, with great turnout - maybe due to one of the cooler summers in recent memory. On a more unfortunate weather-related note, we had to cancel our Memorial Day ceremony due to a strong thunderstorm. We'll be back next year!

One significant summer event that the Chapter supported was the dedication ceremony of the Bastrop Post Office, in honor of SF legend SGM Billy Waugh. Billy was originally from Bastrop, and we'd known that this was in the works. It took some time for the U.S. Postal Service to set a date, but it finally came in June. We were honored to represent the chapter at this event alongside a number of family members and dignitaries, to recognize SGM Waugh and establish a permanent reminder to the local community of the courage and commitment of SGM Waugh and U.S. Army Special Forces.

More recently, we again supported the Red, White and Blue Veterans of Bastrop's Veterans Day banquet. It's a great local event honoring veterans from the area, and always a good time. Chapter XLI again sponsored a table for this annual event that supports a number of veterans-related charities.

Finally, Chapter XLI has embarked on something new for us - an online raffle fundraiser for a chance to win a week in an oceanside villa in Port Aransas, Texas. It's a stunning location with access to golf, beaches, and world-class redfish fishing. If interested, please check out our raffle website at <https://www.sfa41.org/dream-getaway>. Proceeds will benefit Chapter XLI and its events.

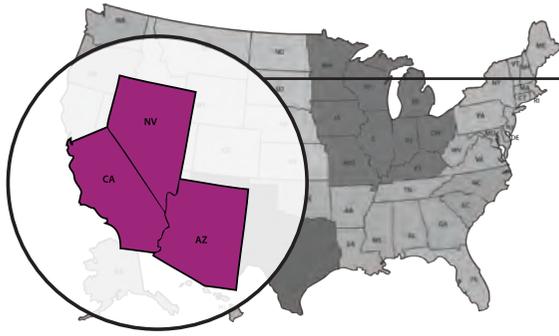
De Oppresso Liber,
 Chapter XLI (41)



Veterans Day Red White and Blue Banquet



Post Office Dedication Plaque



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



A gathering of friends



Chapter 22 at SFA Conference

September 13th, we had our annual business meeting at the VFW in Scottsdale. President Skip Anders went over the calendar for the remainder of 2025, as well as discussing the idea of scholarships for vets. Dan Durocher discussed the recent Summer Getaway at Alpine and went over some initial ideas for Summer Getaway 2026. This is also an election year, and there was a call for nominations for the next slate of officers.

November 8th, chapter members gathered at Red Mountain Park in Mesa for our Veterans Day picnic. The Chapter provided hamburgers, hot dogs, and beverages, and the Ladies Auxiliary provided side dishes and desserts. After our seemingly endless summer, the weather cooperated, and we enjoyed a day of perfect temps, and attendees enjoyed the day and food. Our turnout was much better this year and we welcomed a few new faces and guests, as well as seeing some familiar faces we hadn't seen in a while. Dan DuRocher stood in for Skip Anders and gave a short review of issues discussed at the National SFA Conference.

Our next event will be our Christmas Party at the Mesa DoubleTree Hotel December 6th. It should be a great buffet dinner, and of course some great raffles, to include the "big raffle", a 1911A1 with 14 round mag.

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



Chapter 22 Vet Day Picnic



SFA Conference Banquet

51

CHAPTER LI

The Colonel Sully de Fontaine Chapter

Las Vegas, NV

<https://www.sfa51vegas.com>

PRES : Hal Wheeler
 VICE : Tom Sholtis
 SEC : Kent Helland
 TRES : Steve Warner

Chapter 51 holds a weekly breakfast every Wednesday morning at the 50s Diner and Omelet House in Las Vegas. 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 was held in Las Vegas this year at the Orleans and we had a great turnout, 30 members, 10 of whom were guests from the Convention!



Chapter Breakfast



Excalibur Table at SOASFA 2025

SFA requested Kent Helland to run the joint SOASFA 2025 Motorcycle Ride on Oct 16 in Las Vegas. There were 25 bikes. The ride was 175 miles. LVMPD Motor Officers provided escort to the I-15 Interstate ramp. Several other LVMPD Officers showed up to see what we were all about. Great ride. Nice weather. Three SF Motorcycle Clubs rode: The SFMC, SFBMC and SFRMC. Special thanks to John Joyce at Excalibur for letting us hang out at his table and providing coins for the Metro Officers!



Mike Cameron



SOASFA 2025 Motorcycle Ride

Member highlight: Mike Cameron graduated from training group in 1968 as an Engineer and was assigned to the 6th as an Engineer with a follow on assignment to the 10th at Ft Devens. Mike was selected for the bootstrap program upon graduation from college to become an officer. However, the Bootstrap program had ended, and he did not receive a commission. Now an E-6 and no unit of assignment, Mike was given a commission as a reserve officer not on active duty in the Engineer Corps. The Army, in its wisdom, changed his MOS to 91G (Social Work Tech) as a result of his degree. He got an E6 NCOER and an OER at the same time! So, he became the only 91G4S in the Army. As a 91G, Mike was assigned to the Army's research unit at Aberdeen, MD. The facility was called Human Engineering Laboratory, or HEL for short. While there, Mike conducted brain wave studies on military subjects. He then completed his Master's Degree. SF had downsized and there were no slots available for him. After the HEL tour, Mike returned to the real Army and was assigned to 509th ABCT in Vicenza, Italy (best tour ever!). He also managed to get promoted to Captain in the reserves. Mike received orders for recruiting duty, and not wanting that, he searched for an alternative. Hearing about a program the Navy was offering, and with his qualifications, he did an inter-service transfer to the Navy. Shortly thereafter, he was in a Navy uniform serving another 10 years, including time at sea. Mike retired as a Navy Lieutenant with a medical discharge in 1992.

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



CHAPTER LXXV

The COL Roger H.C. Donlon MOH Chapter

75

San Diego, CA

Greetings from San Diego. Chapter 75 was well represented at the 2025 SFACON in Las Vegas, NV. We had 15 members and spouses in attendance. We're looking forward to the next convention in June, down in Florida.



2025 SFACON Chapter Attendees: L to R: Charlie Inot, Bill Dykes, Susie & Mike Cates, Norma Donlon Robert & Raquel Tellez, Lee Jacobs, Marty & Ruth Keef (Not shown: Jim & Natalie Rymut, Dave DeSoucy, Barbara Birchim, Dave & Irene Hanan.



MSG Bobby Rosalee

With the 80th Anniversary of the end of World War II, being celebrated this year, Chapter 75 is proud to have Bobby "Rose" Rosalee, age 99, a 3-war combat veteran as our oldest living member. During WWII, as a young Marine he participated in numerous island landings throughout the Pacific. When the Korean War erupted in 1950, Rose continued serving in combat with the Marines, earning a Purple Heart. He subsequently enlisted in the U.S. Army and volunteered for Special Forces. He served several combat tours in Vietnam before retiring as a Master Sergeant with 28 years of service. He began a 20 year civilian career as a lineman for a utility company, climbing telephone poles, a career meant for men half his age. Today he reads without glasses and his only complaint in life is not enough gym time due to a hip injury.

All of us here at Chapter 75 wish you and yours a safe and happy Holiday Season. De Oppresso Liber.



2025 SFACON: L to R: Robert Tellez, Jim Rymut, Pat Russell, Lee Jacobs, Mike Cates, Bill Dykes, Marty Keef, Dave DeSoucy and Charlie Inot



Mitch Utterback in Norway: Commemorating the WWII OSS mission OPERATION RYPE

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



CHAPTER LXXVIII

The LTC Frank J. Dallas Chapter

78

Southern California

www.specialforces78.com

Our Guest Speaker for August was Jerry A. Guzzetta, author of *I Walked With Heroes*.

Jerry's book is the true account of his experiences as a Green Beret in MACV-SOG, partly from his bunk being attached to the RON Bar at CCC Kontum, where he heard about many operations and interacted with most of the men at CCC.

Chapter LXXVIII (78) Continued...

As the first chapter of his book focused on his personal story, he began by sharing some of those details with the group. The remainder of the book, as he put it, "is about the people I served with and the stuff that they did— people who did unbelievable things." He spoke about some of those men, many are considered SF legends.

Our September meeting was in Mojave, CA. The meeting was hosted by the ACL Afghan Community in Mojave, CA. The wives prepared us a feast of delicious Afghan dishes. We were able to get to know the families a little better and see more of the Afghan men who worked with SF in country. Some of them had been to chapter meetings before.

Residents are treated to construction job training, English lessons and much more. The community is thriving and the families keep growing with lots of happy kids. ACL is in the process of opening a second community in Needles, NV.



Enjoying the visit to Mojave, member Mark Griffin and his wife Amy



Afghan fighters who worked with SF

Our guest speaker was James "Jim" Shorten, AKA Wild Carrot, who served in the Navy, MACV SOG, Air Force, and Paramedic for the first three Space Shuttle launches and the Mt. St. Helens eruption. Even after an injury ended his military career, Jim kept moving - earning a doctorate in radiology and practicing for 20 years. He's also a dedicated meteorite hunter and has twice returned to Cambodia searching for the Phantom crew his team sought during a 1970 Bright Light mission.

There was no chapter meeting in October. Several members attended the joint SOAR, SFACON 2025 IN Las Vegas. Debra Holm wrote a pictorial article about her experience there for the December Sentinel - specialforces78.com

Aaron Brandenburg announced he will not be available for another term as chapter president. Elections will be at Christmas Party on 13 Dec.

Please visit our facebook and Youtube pages @sfachapter78.



Feast of Afghan food prepared by the fighters' wives



August and September speakers (!) Jerry Guzzetta and Jim Shorten

PRES : Brady Hines
 VICE : Steve Johnson
 SEC : Brian Beetham
 TRES : Steve Johnson



CHAPTER CIII
 The Battle Born Chapter

103

Reno, NV

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

On October 11-2025, members of Chapter 103 the "Battle Born" chapter, gathered at the Branding Iron Cafe in the Bonanza Casino north of downtown Reno NV.

At 10am, after breakfast, we started our meeting with a salute to the Flag and a prayer by acting Chaplain Brad Smalley.

Old business discussion was led by secretary, Brian Beetham, and it started with our up coming winter or Christmas party. It would be a good idea to have it at a hotel or a place that had rooms so we wouldn't have to drive anywhere. Also, we should try for some time in November and leave December for family time. So we decided on the first or second week of November. We may have a Raffle if we can find enough stuff to raffle off. Also, taking over the All Airborne Memorial at the Veterans Memorial Cemetery was brought up, but no conclusion. We were reminded that the regular scheduled meetings would be on the second Saturday of the even months, so save the date. Our Chapter Officers are now President Brady Hines, Vice President Steve Johnson, Treasurer Steve Johnson, and Secretary Brian Beetham.



Chapter 103 at SOAR L to R: Ray Gonzales, Rick Grabianowski, Ken Snyder, Russ Mann, Don Meredith

October 13-18th, Las Vegas, NV. Concurrent reunions of Special Forces Association and Special Operations Associations. At the Orleans Hotel and Casino.

Members of Chapter 103 attended the reunions of SFA and SOA at the Orleans. They were Ken Snyder, Russ Mann, Ray Gonzales at the SOA gathering and Don Meredith and Steve Johnson at the SFA gathering. We also ran into former members of Chapter 103, who have moved away from Nevada. Past President Rick Grabianowski, who moved to Alaska, and David La Morte, who moved to Virginia. It was good to see them. The POW-MIA symposium went into great detail on how they identify the remains of US soldiers, even from one tooth. The guest speaker was Col. Scott White. He told stories of how he always wanted to be a Green Beret, and now he's their Commander.

November 11-2025, Veterans Day. Members of Chapter 103 had three good places to celebrate Veterans Day. Reno had its annual Veterans Day Parade through the middle of town. Sparks, NV had a gathering at the Veterans Memorial at the Sparks Marina, and Washington, CA held its annual Veterans Parade, this time it was a fundraiser for the Washington Veterans Memorial Park. Washington is also the home of Steve Johnson of Chapter 103.



Russ Mann at SOA reunion



Steve Johnson at Veterans day parade Washington CA



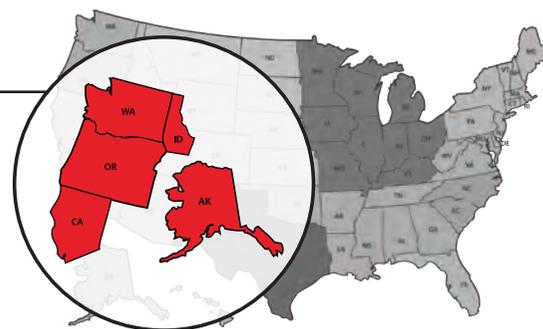
REGION IX

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



16

CHAPTER XVI

The William R. Card Memorial Chapter

Ft. Lewis, WA

www.sfa-chapter-16.org



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



Chapter member Dennis Downey honored by Seahawks



Chapter XVI Parade Team

It's been a very busy, but fun, late summer and fall for Chapter XVI. Our annual picnic in August drew members from not only the greater Puget Sound area but a few from the other side of the mountains as well and a great time was had by our members and their families. During the picnic, the chapter - as one of the three organizations to help stage the highly successful 2nd Annual JBLM SOF Benefit Golf Tournament held in May - was presented a check for \$10,000 by the tournament president, Rich Demaree.

The Seattle Seahawks graciously recognized two of our chapter members during the team's "Salute to Service" events at its home games. Dennis Downey and Rick Thomas were recognized for their volunteer and community service contributions - Rick at the Seahawks home opener in September and Dennis at the Seahawks Monday Night Football game in October.

Everyone seemed to pack on another pound or two following the chapter's terrific Oktoberfest held in the 1st Group RMF on 19 October. A tip of our Tyrolean hats to Chapter VP Scotty Miller, member Mel Goyens and their terrific spouses for again providing an authentic menu including Bratwurst, Weisswurst, Spaetzle, Kartoffelsalat and Beilagaensalat. During the event, the chapter presented a check to Mrs. Betsy Schultz, Gold Star Mother of fallen SF Captain Joseph Schultz, who founded and operates the Captain Joseph House, a Bed and Breakfast respite for Gold Star families; the chapter's donation will sponsor the week-long stay of a Gold Star family at the house.

As it does each year, the chapter had a great time supporting 1st Group's Halloween "Trunk or Treat" on 24 October. There was no shortage of creativity displayed in the terrific trunk displays lining the parking lots -amazingly, Chapter Quartermaster Ali Sanders matched her 'Crazy Cat Lady' costume of last year with a very frightening "Disco Ghoul" costume that almost scared the kids away from her trunk... well, almost.



1st Group Trunk or Treat



Captain Joseph Gold Star Family House display at Oktoberfest

And despite some significant rainfall, the kids turned out in droves - not at all surprising for Pacific Northwest 1st Group kids! Wrapping up the quarter, a chapter team comprised of President Bob Head, VP Scott Miller, Treasurer Jim Beisely and sixteen other intrepid souls marched in the Auburn, Washington Veterans Day Parade - one of the largest Veterans Day parades in the country. The team's participation was favored with a clear blue sky - rare for the Washington fall! With all that reported, the members of Chapter XVI wish our Brothers and Sisters good health and cheer as we welcome holiday season... De Oppresso Liber - first in Asia!

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




CHAPTER XLIII
 The SGM Bradley Conner Chapter

43

Coeur d' Alene, ID



Chapter 43 Summer Picnic



Chapter 43 Dustin Ard Participant Photo

Summer BBQ

We had a great turnout for our Chapter Summer BBQ! Chapter Members Alan & Mary White graciously hosted this year's event at their lovely home, which was perfect for a large gathering. The day began with a bit of rain but cleared up into a beautiful afternoon. It was wonderful to spend time with Chapter Members and their families, always one of the highlights of our summer.

Dustin Ard Commemorative Steel Competition (DACSC)

Our annual Dustin Ard Commemorative Steel Competition was a tremendous success—our largest turnout yet, with 100 competitors! The shooting was top-notch and incredibly impressive. Nearly everyone walked away with a prize in hand, including a SA-35 High Power pistol (thank you, Gun Fighters Inc.), a SIG P226 (thank you, LTG (R) John Deedrick & the SIG Team), and a GLOCK COA (thank you, Mark Schishampoo & Scott Tsuda), along with many other great items such as firearms, knives, ammunition, scopes, whiskey, bags, hats, and sweatshirts.

We also raffled off several incredible firearms, adding to the fundraising total. Breakfast and lunch were generously provided by our local Chapter friends. A huge thank you to the Fernan Rod & Gun Club for hosting and to everyone who supported this event. Thanks to your generosity, we raised \$10,000, which was donated to the Ard Family.

SFA XXV & SFA XLIII POW/MIA Cruise

Chapters XXV and XLIII partnered to host an afternoon boat cruise for local veterans. Five disabled veterans from the Post Falls Veterans Home joined the outing, with Chapter XLIII represented by Bruce and Josh, each paired with one of the veterans.



Chapter 43 SFA XXV/XLIII POW/MIA Cruise



Chapter 43 Post 143 Honor Guard Donation

Chapter XLIII (43) Continued...

Bruce's guest, Doug—a 92-year-old Navy veteran from upstate New York—shared stories of sailing the world and said he missed the ocean dearly. After lunch, at Doug's request, they went out on deck to listen to the water lapping against the bow. "It's not quite the ocean," he said with a smile, "but it's still good to hear the water."

Thank you, Bruce, and Josh, for helping make the day so special for these veterans.

Color Guard Donation

It was an honor for Chapter XLIII to contribute \$2,500 to the Post Falls American Legion Post 143 Honor Guard—the only unit left in Kootenai County equipped to provide full military funeral services. The Honor Guard performs 140 services a year throughout the Inland Northwest, offering these honors at no cost to families, though donations are always appreciated. We are proud to support their dedication and service to our veterans and their families.

Wishing all Chapter Members and families a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and a blessed New Year!

47

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



Chapter 47 Members



(L to R) Steve Walker, David Carby

September 13, 2025 - Members of Chapter 47 celebrated their annual chapter picnic at the home of Tony and Jean Tycker. Twenty-six members and twenty-three family members and honored guests were also in attendance.

President Steve Walker recognized David Carby. David is the Oregon State Captain of the Oregon State Patriot Guard Riders. He thanked him for all that his organization does to honor veterans. Steve presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation and a SFA Chapter 47 Coin.

Steve also recognized Dennis Klein's military service and all the dedication and work he has done for the chapter and the ARMY, especially the ROTC and JROTC award programs. He presented Dennis with a Special Achievement Award from the chapter. In addition, Steve announced that the scholarships presented by SFA Chapter 47 will now be known as the MG Dennis E. Klein Scholarships.

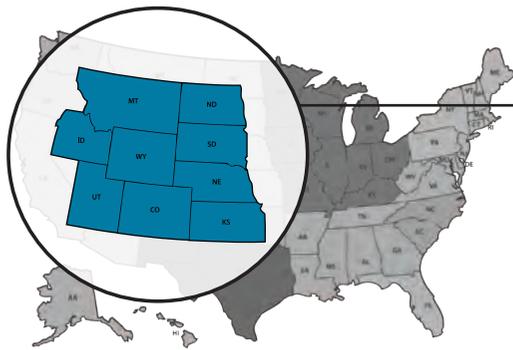
A good time was had by all and many thanks to all the volunteers that helped setup, organize the raffle and cleanup after the picnic.



(L to R) Steve Walker, Dennis Klein



(L to R) Barbara Walker, Steve Walker, Perry Powell, Martha Powell, Deb Gritzbaugh, Bill Gritzbaugh



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*

PRES : Howie Massingill
 VICE : Tom Wisdom
 SEC : Frank Swanson
 TRES : Patrick Flynn



CHAPTER IV-XXIV

Charles Hosking/Al Fontes Rocky Mountain Chapter

4-24

<http://sfa4-24.org>

Colorado Springs, CO



MoH Recipient Drew Dix with the Chapter 4-24 Officers



"The Mogadishu Mile Workout"

Greetings from the snow-swept eastern plains of Colorado. Cannot believe that this is the Winter 2025 edition of the Drop. Chapter 4-24 closed out 2025 with many community and Chapter events.

The Chapter in September convened for a significant meeting at the Center for American Values, where we were welcomed by Medal of Honor recipient and Chapter member Drew Dix. In a touching gesture, Drew presented those in attendance with a signed book featuring quotes from Medal of Honor recipients. This act served as both an honor and a source of inspiration, connecting Chapter members more profoundly with the values of courage, sacrifice, and patriotism upheld by the Medal of Honor community.

October was a special month for our Chaplain Terry McBride, who organized "The Mogadishu Mile Workout" for the fifth year in a row, honoring the men who gave the ultimate sacrifice from Task Force Ranger, Mogadishu, Somalia on 03 - 04 OCT 1993 in support of Operation Gothic Serpent. We had a total of 32 men participate all over the world. We had 18 men participate here in Colorado Springs & Pueblo, Colorado, four 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) men in Stuttgart, Germany, 8 men in Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and 2 men at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. These are the men I know about, and I am sure many others participated. Thank you all for remembering these men, their sacrifice, and their Gold Star Families left behind! I want to thank ALL our Military Veterans, as you volunteered to serve our country.

The Chapter later in October deployed a contingent of Chapter members to Las Vegas, NV for the SFA/SOE National Convention. During the convention, Nick Nickel delivered an insightful overview of Operation Eagle Claw, offering attendees a unique perspective on the historic mission. His presentation not only educated but also inspired members, reinforcing the importance of learning from the past to shape the future.



2025 Colorado Springs Veterans' Day Parade



Chapter 4-24 Veterans' Day Memorial Park 2025

Chapter IV-XXIV (4-24) Continued...

In November, the Chapter bid a heartfelt goodbye to two long-standing members, Donald (Christiane) Bennett and Andy Tyler. Their departure was felt deeply by fellow members; each having made lasting impacts through years of dedicated service and camaraderie to the Chapter. Chapter members took part in the Colorado Springs Veterans Parade, a cherished local event celebrating service and sacrifice. Furthermore, the Chapter led the Pikes Peak Veterans' organizations in a solemn wreath-laying ceremony at Memorial Park. The occasion was attended by veterans, families, and community members, reflecting the enduring respect and gratitude felt toward those who have served. The mayor of Colorado Springs, Blessing Mobolade, attended, read, and presented a Veterans' Day Mayoral Proclamation, along with recognizing our own city councilmember, Dave Donelson. Such events underscore the Chapter's commitment to honoring the past while fostering community spirit.

December, we closed out the year with supporting the local Wreaths Across America operation and our annual Christmas at the Cheyenne Mountain Resort; it offered an opportunity for fellowship, reflection, and celebration, bringing members together in the spirit of unity and gratitude.

29

CHAPTER XXIX

The COL Arthur D. "Bull" Simon Memorial Chapter

Shawnee, KS

www.sfa29.org



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



The Chapter annual Oktoberfest in the beer garden of the Suburban. Honorary chapter member Dr. Tim Eckstein gives the audience an update on the status of Children's Library International projects he and Ross Worley support in Vietnam



William Samuel "Sam" Ratcliffe, December 28, 1942 - August 16, 2025

The Chapter bid farewell to summer at a picnic hosted at Ross Worley's house, and then welcomed fall with its annual Oktoberfest at the Suburban restaurant in Leavenworth. In addition to enjoying great food, beautiful weather, and excellent company, including SOF students and faculty from the Command and General Staff College, the chapter leadership highlighted upcoming events for the chapter, including the Leavenworth Veterans Day parade, support for Wreaths Across America in December, and planning for the SOF Ball in April 2026. Honorary chapter member Dr Tim Eckstein, who has been a very generous supporter of Chapter 29 activities, gave an update on current and future initiatives in support of Children's Library International in Vietnam, which he, Ross Worley, and Roger and Norma Donlon have supported so passionately for many years.

On 4 October Chapter 29 bid its final farewell to member Walter "Sam" Ratcliffe, who passed away on Saturday, August 16, 2025, at Meyer Care Center in Higginsville, MO. He was born in Chillicothe, MO and graduated from Wentworth Military Academy in Lexington before attending Northwest Missouri State University, joining the US Army upon graduation.

Sam spent ten years on active duty and eleven years in the reserves, including 26 months in the Republic of Vietnam as a ODA executive officer and a detachment commander, a senior advisor to a Vietnamese Ranger Battalion, and an advisor to the 2nd ARVN Division. Sam participated in six campaigns in Vietnam, including the Tet Offensive. He also worked for IBM for 20 years, and upon retirement served as the Commandant, Public Affairs and Development Officer, and as an instructor at his alma mater, Wentworth Military Academy. A celebration of life was held on 4 October, and Chapter members attended to pay their respects and conduct the final roll call. The family asked that in lieu of flowers, donations could be made to Wentworth Military Academy Museum, wmamuseum.org, or the Special Forces Association.



Chapter members pay their respects at the memorial service for Sam Ratcliffe on 4 October at the Wentworth Military Academy in Lexington, MO. Pictured left to right are Mike Bedinger, Roy Williams, Terry Buckler, Al James, Mike Neer, and Jack Smith



Chapter members gathered prior to the start of the parade. Pictured left to right: Mike Neer, Terry Buckler, Rich Kiper, Henry Laurent, Pat Textor, Rich Williams, Jan Horvath, Ross Worley, and John Hughes

The Chapter continued its long-standing tradition of marching in the Leavenworth Veterans Day Parade, the oldest observance in the nation and the largest parade west of the Mississippi. Chapter members marched wearing a variety of SF uniforms from Vietnam to Desert Storm while Chapter President Terry Buckler drove his truck (or FLA?) adorned with the Bull Simons Chapter Banner, and the US and SFA flags. While the guys were marching, many of their wives were participating in the parade with the Wreaths Across American Team.

Upcoming events for the chapter are its annual Christmas Lunch on 6 December and participation in the National Wreaths Across America Day on 13 December to lay wreaths at the Leavenworth National and the Fort Leavenworth Cemeteries.

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



CHAPTER LXIX
 The Bernie Fisher Memorial Chapter

69

Boise, ID

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.

Several chapter members supported the 7th Annual Aaron Butler Memorial Purple Heart Run on 16 August taking place at Eagle Island State Park in Eagle, Idaho. The Aaron Butler Memorial Foundation was created to honor the legacy of SSG Aaron Butler who was a proud 19th Group Green Beret who gave his life in Afghanistan on August 16th, 2017.

On that same Saturday, chapter members rode their motorcycles in the Gold Star Ride in southwest Idaho. The Gold Star Ride Foundation actively supports, comforts and provides education benefits to Gold Star Families throughout the United States. Riders from the chapter included Frank Metayer, Devin Hagar, Mike Edwards, Tony Durik and Joe Wright.

The chapter family picnic combined with the Vietnam Shoot occurred on 6 September. Several members wore Vietnam era uniforms and field gear. Period weapons and ammunition were available for the participants.

Five chapter members attended SFACON in Las Vegas in October: Frank Metayer, Mike Tomlin, Vahan Sipantzi, Sam Linville and Jack Lawson.

Upcoming events include the Sgt Alvin York Turkey Shoot and Chili Cookoff on 22 November and our annual Christmas Party at a local pizza & Italian restaurant in Meridan, Idaho on 2 December.

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.

DOL



Group photo of the shooters at the Vietnam Shoot



Participants gather for the range safety briefing



Jason Thach in Vietcong attire



The range tower is nearly completed



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*



8

CHAPTER VIII

The MSG Earl Kalani Memorial Chapter

Honolulu, Hawaii

www.sfa8.org



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

The past quarter has been one of unity, remembrance, and continued service for the Special Forces Association MSG Earl Kalani Memorial Chapter VIII – a chapter that proudly carries the legacy of Hawaii’s Green Berets. From community outreach to national-level gatherings, the Chapter’s activities over the last few months reflect the same principles that define the Special Forces.

Every month, Chapter VIII members gather for their **Pau Hana**, a relaxed “meet and greet” that has become a vital connection point for local Special Forces veterans, active-duty members, and supporters. These gatherings strengthen the brotherhood and ensure that the bonds forged in service continue well beyond the uniform. Pau Hana nights are more than social events – they are a reminder that the heart of the Chapter beats strongest through fellowship and shared purpose.

In September, Chapter VIII proudly participated in the **9/11 Remembrance Ceremony**, honoring those lost on that tragic day and recognizing the countless service members who answered the call in its aftermath. The ceremony was marked by solemn reflection and unity, as members stood shoulder to shoulder with the broader Hawaii community.

This quarter also saw members engage with the nationwide **Flag Sojourn 250** initiative, a tribute to America’s 250th birthday in 2026. The event celebrates the journey of the U.S. flag across all 50 states, symbolizing freedom, resilience, and the sacrifices made to preserve both. Chapter VIII’s participation was both ceremonial and deeply personal.

Representatives from Chapter VIII also took part in **SFACON** and **SOAR**, two of the Special Forces community’s most significant annual gatherings. These events brought together current and former Green Berets from around the world to exchange ideas, honor fallen comrades, and strengthen ties within the global network of Special Forces professionals. The Chapter’s presence at these conventions underscores Hawaii’s ongoing role in maintaining the spirit and legacy of the Regiment.

Equally impressive were the contributions of the Chapter’s close allies – the **Special Forces Brotherhood Motorcycle Club (SFBMC)**. The SFBMC exemplified service beyond the uniform through charitable giving and community engagement. This quarter, they generously **donated funds to the Tunnel to Towers Foundation**, supporting veterans, first responders, and their families. They also participated in the **Celebrity Softball Classic**, where camaraderie met competition for a good cause. Members further honored their fallen brothers at the **annual Beirut Remembrance Event**, keeping alive the memory of those who made the ultimate sacrifice.



Monthly pau hana



1st Group Buddies at SFACON



SFBMC National event at JBLM



SFBMC Fort DeRussy post 9-11 Memorial Ceremony

In addition, the SFBMC attended the **5 Club Pa'ina event**, celebrating unity among Hawaii's motorcycle organizations. And to cap off an extraordinary year, they are preparing to host their **7th Anniversary Celebration on November 30th**, an event that promises to bring together brothers and sisters in arms, supporters, and friends from across the islands. If you're on O'ahu, you're invited to share in the fellowship and honor that define this remarkable group.

As 2026 approaches, the MSG Earl Kalani Memorial Chapter VIII continues to embody the enduring strength of the Special Forces community — living proof that while missions may end, the brotherhood never does. Aloha and De Oppresso Liber.

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



CHAPTER XCI-CI
 The Combat Chapters

91-101

Iraq & Afghanistan



New Member Phil Watson



Rebecca accepts Gold

Phil Watson joined the chapter as a new life member at SFACON 2025. Phil served 15 years in 5th SFG culminating as the ODA-5133 18Z. He retires in 2026 and runs the Killer Ridge Homestead Hot Sauce Company with his wife.

The highlight of SFACON 2025 was the St. Philip Neri (SF patron saint) award presentations. Daughter Rebecca accepted the Gold Award for chapter member (and SFA-91 past president) MSG (Ret) Phil Hudicourt. Phil is fighting Parkinson's and was unable to travel. Phil served America for 45 years, including 19 years in combat, excelled at all Special Operator ideals, humbly exemplified the Quiet Warrior, always supported his comrades, and spent more time downrange in the service of his country than few others.

The Silver Award went to SGM (Ret, deceased) Ron Brockelman's family. Ron's teammate, Rob "Red Cloud" Whitaker, delivered the tribute. Another teammate, Bruce Hazelwood, noted Ron was simply the BEST--there were no bad days in SF for those fortunate enough to be with him.

Attending the SFACON banquet were (l-r) Kathleen ("Q") and Phil Crowley (SFA 91-101 VP), Chris North, Rebecca Hudicourt, Rob Whitaker, SGM Brockelman's granddaughter. Not pictured is Brent Lyew, now retiring from a successful classified career, making his home in Manoa, Hawaii.

SFACON 2025 was held in conjunction with the Special Operations Association (SOA) convention--which afforded a (75-78) 3/7 SFG mini-reunion. Pictured are Jim Hetrick (MACV-SOG, B/3/7 SFG, ODA-8/7/10) now from Utah; Gary Smith, Southern Pines (ODA-?, CAG); Ken Lanzalaco (son of our 3/7 comrade, Ken Sr, and a reunion regular); Chris North (ODA-10/8, CAG, ODSO) Hawaii; Tim Gwynn (ODA-?, ODSO) Durango, CO. Jim & Chris were ODA-10 (Jumping Ambassadors) teammates--Jim asked Chris to make a monthly trip to CL-6 for a pickup load of Olympia beer for the team bar! Contribution to the Team was a case of beer for each new "event!" Not pictured (but present) were Rob Whitaker (C Company) and Rick "I know the way" Hendrick (MACV-SOG, ODA-8, SF SCUBA instructor, DET-A). Story: Rick was one of 6 (out of 15 who tried) grads from Bruce Hazelwood's Scuba course in the Canal Zone--and the only one who drowned (did not touch the edge of the pool!) who went on to finish the course! Other distinguished grads were 1LT (later LTG, CAG) Gary Harrell and SSG (later LTC, SMU) Ben Morris (ODA-8). Chris promoted Ben to SFC on the beach at the conclusion of the 10k open water swim (circa OCT 77).

There were lots of other stories--many will be retold at the next SFACON in Destin sponsored by SFA-7--be there!



SFACON Banquet



3-7 SFG Reunion

Doug Livermore

A SUCCESSFUL GATHERING OF THE SPECIAL OPERATIONS BROTHERHOOD: THE 2025 SFA CONVENTION AND SOAR XLIX IN LAS VEGAS



From 14–17 October 2025, the Special Forces Association (SFA) held its annual national convention (SFACON 2025) in Las Vegas, and by every measure it proved to be an extraordinary success. For the first time, the SFA conducted its convention concurrently with the Special Operations Association’s (SOA) annual reunion, SOAR XLIX, bringing the wider American special operations community together at the Orleans Hotel & Casino. Veterans, active-duty personnel, families, and supporters filled the halls of the off-Strip resort for a week of camaraderie, remembrance, and professional engagement that far exceeded expectations.

A Unified Event Across Two Storied Associations

Both the SFA and SOA have long been pillars of the U.S. special operations community. The SFA continues to serve



as “the voice for the Special Forces community,” while the SOA—rooted in MACV-SOG and other Vietnam-era units—remains focused on supporting special operations veterans, their families, and the preservation of their history.

For 2025, the two organizations aligned their events, allowing attendees to move seamlessly between shared hospitality rooms, vendor areas, and symposiums. The decision proved extremely popular. Members who belonged to both associations benefited from simplified registration, and turnout reflected the appeal of a combined gathering. The atmosphere throughout the Orleans Hotel was one of unity—an acknowledgment that although the organizations are distinct, their missions, histories, and cultures are intertwined.

The concurrent format also enabled closer collaboration on logistics and programming, leading to a more robust schedule of events than either association could have executed alone. Attendees widely praised the sense of community the joint format created, noting that the mixture of generations, units, and operational backgrounds strengthened the bonds that define the special operations profession.





A Strong Program Highlighting Legacy, Brotherhood, and Current Issues

Over the course of the week, SFACON and SOAR attendees participated in a broad slate of activities. The shared hospitality suites quickly became the heart of the reunion—places where Vietnam veterans sat shoulder-to-shoulder with younger Special Forces soldiers from Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, and Africa. Many members remarked that these rooms captured the essence of what makes these gatherings matter: the chance to reconnect with teammates, to welcome newcomers, and to honor those who were lost.

The vendor displays attracted steady traffic, featuring military memorabilia, books, veteran-owned companies, and equipment manufacturers. Vendors reported higher-than-usual engagement, reflecting both the larger combined attendance and the strong support within the special operations community for veteran-led businesses.

Symposiums and informational briefings—another signature of both organizations—were particularly well-received in 2025. Sessions focused on current global security challenges, updates to veterans’ benefits, ongoing efforts to document the history of special operations, and initiatives to support families and Gold Star communities. By pooling resources, SFA and SOA offered a deeper and more varied slate of speakers, and the resulting conversations were described by many attendees as some of the most valuable in recent years.

Shared Fundraising and Member Support Efforts

Fundraising events also benefited from the combined format. Raffles and auctions drew impressive participation, with proceeds supporting both organizations’ heritage and assistance programs. The SOA’s long-running “Brightlight” program—which helps members and surviving spouses attend the reunion—received an outpouring of support, and the SFA’s scholarship and family assistance initiatives likewise saw increased backing.



Attendees were enthusiastic about the joint commemorative coin issued for the 2025 event, and the convention’s special edition T-shirt sold out quickly—another marker of the convention’s high morale and strong turnout.

Memorable Activities and the Unique Setting of the Orleans

Las Vegas proved once again to be an ideal venue. The Orleans Hotel & Casino, located just minutes from the Strip but offering its own expansive entertainment and dining options, created a self-contained environment where attendees could spend the entire week without needing to navigate the Strip’s congestion. Its generous meeting spaces, restaurants, and accessible accommodations contributed significantly to the smooth execution of the event.

Several optional activities added to the convention’s overall success. The SFACON/SOAR motorcycle ride on 16 October drew its largest turnout in years, with riders exploring the Nevada desert together—an event



many described as a highlight. SOAR's special outing to see magician David Copperfield at the MGM Grand was equally popular, adding a light-hearted and memorable element to the week.

Community and Looking Toward the Future

Beyond the formal program, many participants reflected on the deeper meaning of the event. For some, it marked the only time in the year when they



could reconnect with those who truly understood the burdens of combat, loss, and service. For younger Green Berets and SOF veterans, it offered a chance to be welcomed into a multigenerational community that honors the legacy they now carry forward. And for families—especially Gold Star families—it provided a space of solidarity and remembrance.

The 2025 convention also demonstrated the value of closer cooperation between the SFA and SOA. Organizers from both associations remarked that the combined format not only reduced costs and increased attendance but also created new opportunities for coordinated support to members, preservation of history, and advocacy for the broader special operations community.

A Resounding Success

By the time the convention concluded on 17 October, the verdict was clear: SFA CON 2025 and SOAR XLIX were a resounding success. Attendees departed with renewed bonds, strengthened community ties, and a shared commitment to service—past, present, and future. The event reaffirmed what has always been true: when the special operations community gathers, it does more than remember history. It adds another chapter. 

SFA DONATIONS

Scholarship Fund (Restricted Funds)	IMO/IHO	Amount (\$)
Ron Lachet	Donald Melvin	2,000.00
	John Roy	
Kathy Krus	MSG Frank Krus, Jr.	1,000.00
Richard Cacini		50.00
Dave Grose		200.00

General Fund (Unrestricted Funds)	IMO/IHO	Amount (\$)
Gregory Horton		75.00
Roy Williams	William "Sam" Radcliffe	100.00
Frontstream		18.20
John Duca		70.00
Paul Ford		30.00
Richard Stefanko Jr.		100.00

Green Beret Ground & Facilities	IMO/IHO	Amount (\$)
John R. Bitters		100.00
Kenny Culpepper		70.00
James M. Mikulak		70.00
Robert W. Dejadon		200.00
Leslie C. Kenney II		70.00
William C. Herbert III		70.00
Robert S. Keller		70.00
Joshua A. Cole		220.00
Kendra L. Milliken		200.00
David R. Gibbs		120.00
Frank Pijuan		100.00
Erick G. Eckhardt		70.00
RAS Consultants LLC		70.00
Mark H. Ochsenein		70.00
Michael S. McBride		50.00
Michael P. Taylor		250.00
David F. Biron		100.00
Michael A. Leptuch		100.00
J.C. Chomko		50.00
Claude O. McBroom		100.00
Lisa D. Tink		1,000.00
W.N. Woon		50.00
Knuckle Draggerz		double oven
Steve Holmstock		150.00
Townsend Blanchard		150.00

SFA DONATIONS

Memorial Brick Pavers	IMO/IHO	Amount (\$)
Richard G. Thomas		40.00
Orlando F. Sella Edwin "Ed" Parker		60.00

CONTRIBUTION DONOR FORM:

Name: _____ Member No: _____

DISTRIBUTION: Scholarship Fund: _____ IMO/IHO: _____

Patriot Fund: _____ IMO/IHO: _____

Undesignated Contribution: _____ IMO/IHO: _____

Total Contribution: \$ _____ . _____

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Email: Jason@specialforceshistory.com



DECADE MEMBERS

MEMBER #	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	CHAPTER
D-10898	Baughman	Wesley W.	16
D-10896	Bisacchi	Todd D.	22
D-10909	Blacklock	Mark W.	16
D-10894	Bochey	Jeffrey	100
D-10910	Booth	Thomas I	1-18
D-10899	Cook	Adam G	55
D-10883	Cuiper	Jeffrey R.	47
D-10871	Foster	Warren D.	
D-10194	Fredrickson	Craig N.	16

DECADE MEMBERS (continued)

MEMBER #	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	CHAPTER
D-10867	Gaffney	Conlin P.	58
D-10801	Grdovic	Mark N	60
D-10895	Kanof	Brian N.	9
D-10903	Keller	James C.	1-18
D-10873	Koepp	Peter	6
D-10878	Matthews	Michael W.	62
D-10877	Mills	Doug E.	60
D-10880	Morales	Raul R.	79
D-10882	Rambo	Matthew	58
D-10876	Severn	Ross H.	48
D-10907	Shaw	Samuel	
D-10900	Spence	Frank A.	
D-10902	Waldman	Scott M.	500
D-10879	Ware	Robert L.	92
D-10887	Winstead	Samuel	
D-10869	Young	George R.	363

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GENERAL MEMBERS

MEMBER #	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	CHAPTER
M-16221	Andreozzi	James C.	48
M-16278	Anthony	Jacob	49
M-16218	Antionhos	Alex	
M-16229	Cohoer	Cristopher S.	16
M-16276	Crismon	John C.	22
M-16275	David	Curtis D.	79
M-16225	Donnan	David R.	38
M-16279	Ferris	Christopher C.	
M-16232	Gothier	Kyle M.	38
M-15270	Harman	Jake	11
M-16230	Heider	Matthew R.	4-24
M-16234	Kaczmarek	Andrew	70
M-16285	Lebs	Aaron M.	15
M-16228	Ogle	Michael W.	88
M-16248	Pino	Nikki	70
M-16227	Piotti	Seth M.	4-24
M-16224	Mino	Ari	34

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GENERAL MEMBERS (continued)

MEMBER #	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	CHAPTER
M-16219	Odom	Darwin R.	15
M-16223	Oka	Gareth	25
M-16250	Read	McLane K.	59
M-16256	Rittgers	David	
M-16253	Robertson	Carlan T.	4-24
M-16252	Rowland	Jason	16
M-16226	Santillan	Michael A.	7
M-16247	Sonner	Matthew A	45
M-16202	Spence	Gregory R.	60
M-16254	Smith	Kyle F.	7
M-16273	Schwarz	Bradford W	0
M-16272	Spaulding	Terrence L.	1-18

LIFE MEMBERS

MEMBER #	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	CHAPTER
M-16258	Acton	Jeffrey B.	45
A-4857	Adams	Perry J.	45
A-4450	Bailey	Mark A	45
D-4793	Benish	Michael E.	15
D-8744	Berry	Kevin	363
M-16259	Bradley	Preston J.	45
M-3657	Buckner	Warren J.	
M-5718	Bush	Charles K.	
D-10875	Cavan	James E.	48
M-8645	Cole	Michael W.	
A-4862	Conrad	Michael J.	22
D-10874	Cox	Joseph C.	
M-16220	Dunaway	Lewis K.	48
D-10911	Dwyer	Brian	85
A-4858	Edwards Jr.	Ronald G.	45
M-14591	Estraykh	Igor	111

LIFE MEMBERS (continued)

MEMBER #	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	CHAPTER
M-16277	Franklin Jr.	Luther J.	58
M-16271	Fuller	Timothy	55
M-16235	Geyling	Wilson T.	78
D-10889	Goss	Rodney A.	45
D-10886	Granger	Lance C.	92
D-10890	Grudzinski	Daniel L.	45
M-16260	Hall	James E.	45
M-16261	Johnston	Kyle M	45
M-16231	Klass	Kevin C.	78
D-10904	Knott III	Lawrence	11
M-16262	Kozuhowski	Stephen J.	45
A-4861	Lazar	Tricia J.	45
M-16222	Lee	Patrick J.	48
A-4864	Leitwein	Cameron M.	45
M-16284	Linville	Arthur D.	32-50
D-10891	Lockwood	Chet G.	45
M-16245	Maes	Desi A.	31
M-16263	Magnacca	Christian D.	45
D-10884	Martin	John H.	al
M-16264	McCarthy	Daniel J.	45
D-614	Messer	Joseph	
M-13988	Messinger Jr.	Keith J.	78
D-10892	Meyer	Dustin L.	45
D-8044	Mongold	Edward A.	
M-5447	Morgan Jr.	Dennis D	60
A-4852	Mullin	Geoffrey M.	90
M-8510	Nealson	William B.	28
D-5189	Noll Jr.	Richard C.	72
M-16255	Norberg	Chad R.	28
D-10885	Nordberg	Erik A.	5
D-10893	Nowling	Aaron S.	45
D-7289	Parkinson	Anthony	79
A-4863	Phillips	Matthew R.	45
D-10849	Pirl	Brian S.	45
D-10901	Powell	William "Tim"	15
M-16257	Prince	Christian	23
D-10906	Radle	Robert	39
M-9258	Reiten	Thomas C.	

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LIFE MEMBERS (continued)

MEMBER #	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	CHAPTER
A-3399	Reynolds	Charles E.	363
A-4866	Riley	Francis T.	92
M-16163	Rodriguez	Marco A.	45
M-9779	Rose	Jerry A.	38
M-16244	Rues	Matthew	14
M-16266	Scott	Timothy P.	45
D-10881	Shell	Peter C.	16
A-4865	Sowards	Colton S.	45
A-4856	Starling	Nicholas B.	45
M-16265	Timmons	Elliot J.	45
D-10888	Turner	Jonathan R.	45

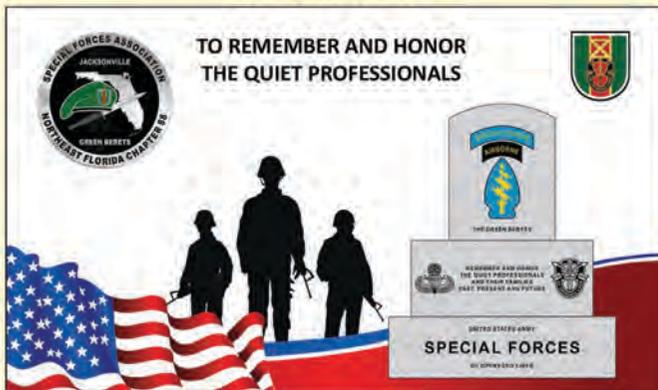
LIFE MEMBERS (continued)

MEMBER #	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	CHAPTER
M-16233	Vides	Jason	78
M-16274	Wallace	Andrew L.	48
D-10897	Watson	Philip A.	91-101
M-16282	Willcut	Roger E.	20
M-16251	Williams	Nicolas	1-18
M-16267	Wray	Wyatt C.	45
D-10984	Zastudil	Timothy E.	45

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

MEMBER #	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	CHAPTER
A-4859	Kelly	Victor G.	60
A-4855	Rutland	Kris	89
A-4860	Shoop	Jeremy J.C.	60

Help Honor our Heroes Support the Special Forces Monument



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

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

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

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

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

Are you Old School? We accept checks made payable to "SFA Chapter 88," write "SF Monument" on the memo line. Mail checks to: SFA 88 Monument, 10539 Inverness Dr., Jacksonville, FL 32257. We are a 501(c)(19) charity, Fed Tax EIN: 56-6148492, and donations are tax-deductible.

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

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



Scan to Donate

Charlie Quesenberry

SPECIAL FORCES READINESS EVALUATION

SPECIAL FORCES CANDIDATE PREPARATION



“Our job is to free the oppressed, often for people who will never know what you did and maybe not even care.”

The Special Forces Conditioning & Training (SFCP) program was held at Camp Blanding, Florida from 21-24 August, 2025. The training is conducted by 3rd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group (Airborne) of the Florida National Guard. SFCP is the second phase of the Special Forces Readiness Evaluation (SFRE) program. Both phases are conducted several times throughout the year. The program is open to active duty, National Guard and civilians. Candidates are screened by the cadre to ensure they meet the basic requirements for successfully completing the program. Contact information, and training specifics are below¹.

This author learned about the program from a fellow

Special Forces Association member. One of the 3/20th SFG cadre invited SFA members to Camp Blanding via email to be a guest speaker at an SFRE or SFCP event to talk about their experiences with the candidates. Guests are welcome to either program for a day or either entire four-day program.

Author's Note: Inexpensive quarters are available on site via the Camp Blanding Lodging Office².

Several Special Forces National Guard units conduct their own SFRE and SFCP programs around the country. The other programs are located in, but not limited to: Alabama, Colorado, Indiana,

¹ 3/20th Special Forces Group (Airborne)
Training Company Readiness NCO
Camp Blanding, BLDG 3518 5629 FL-16 W, Starke, FL 32091
Cell: 352-216-5608
NIPR: shane.a.colon.mil@army.mil
Recruiting: ng.fl.flarnng.list.20sf@army.mil
3/20th Link Tree: <https://linktr.ee/320sfg>

a. SFRE Schedule (Phase 1): 18-21 SEPT 2025 / 04-07 DEC 2025 / 19-22 FEB 2026 / 09-12 APR 2026 / 13-16 AUG 2026
b. SFCP Schedule (Phase 2): 21-24 AUG 2025 / 16-19 OCT 2025 / 22-25 JAN 2026 / 12-15 MAR 2026 / 08-10 MAY 2026 / 18-20 SEP 2026

² Camp Blanding JTC Lodging: 904-682-3892

North Carolina and Massachusetts.

The lead message on the main page of the <https://www.guardsf.com/sfre> website states: “SFRE/SFE events are not preparation for SFAS; your performance is simply an indicator”.

The Camp Blanding cadre uses their combined experience of multiple deployments, various MOS specialties and years of training and experience to the SFRE & SFCP programs. The level of excellence they bring to the table every day is immediately evident.

Names of 20th SFG cadre are not shared in this article for reasons of operational security (OPSEC). Cadre and candidates’ faces are also blurred. Support staff, and other non-qualified personnel (NQPs) are also not identified by name or rank. The small contingent of support personnel is led by an NCO man whose attention detail ensures that all equipment and related gear is where and when it is needed at all times, freeing the cadre to focus on teaching and counseling. A sincere tip of the beret goes to this NCO who makes the best coffee this side of the Mississippi (and probably the other side of it as well).

Special Forces PT Test

Day One

It is Thursday afternoon, 1500 hours. The intense, unrelenting Florida sun is high in the sky. It is 87 degrees and the midsummer humidity is higher. Candidates are briefed prior to testing that candidates failing the test results in a quick dismissal to go home.

The standards are non-negotiable. The minimum number of pushups, situps, pullups, plank and the five-mile and twelve-mile ruck run times have minimum scores and times required to pass. The free rope climb is another strength indicator and an assessment of any issues with heights.

Cadre emphatically reminded candidates that making the minimum numbers is good, but that their scores can and must improve if and before they move on



Camp Blanding History

Camp Blanding’s diverse history as a major U.S. Army training ground and POW Camp during World War II. According to the camp’s museum: “Divisions serving time at Camp Blanding during the war included the 1st, 29th, 30th, 31st 36th, 43rd, 63rd, 66th and 79th. Other units that trained there included the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment and the 6th Cavalry Regiment, three tank destroyer battalions, field artillery regiments and combat engineer organizations.” Camp Blanding is currently home to a number of units, to include the Florida Army National Guard’s 53rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, the 83rd Troop Command, the 211th Infantry Regiment, and the 260th Military Intelligence Battalion. The Florida Air National Guard’s 202nd Red Horse Squadron and the 125th Civil Engineer Squadron also use Camp Blanding for training exercises. Camp Blanding also hosts training for other U.S. Army, Marines, Navy, Coast Guard, and various government agencies.

to SFAS. Said one cadre: “There are no do-overs in Special Forces”.

Once the candidates are assembled into formation, they received the following instructions from cadre: “From this point forward you will conduct yourself in a military manner.” “You will not casually walk anywhere.” “I encourage you to listen carefully to what you are told and to follow instructions.” “If you do not understand,

do not hold back and not ask questions.” “We want you to succeed and will do everything in our power to help you to do so.” “Do you understand?”

Candidates are tested on every element. Pushups, situps and planks are conducted in the grassy areas outside the training company before moving on to a nearby and very large open-frame training shed for the pullups and rope climb. Each candidate is carefully observed and their score recorded on their tracking sheet by cadre.

Across the street is a 34-foot jump training tower and the parachute riggers’ shack. Non Airborne-qualified candidates will be intimately involved with those training tools at Fort Benning if they pass the course and are recommended for further training.

The candidates are released to their barracks after the PT tests to prepare their gear, eat and prepare the next few days ahead of them. The cadre is treated to catered meals twice a day from the good folks of Mission BBQ <https://mission-bbq.com/>. Many thanks to these American Patriots for their support. (Candidates’ chow was MREs for the duration of the program...a subtle but important part of the training and preparation.)

Day Two

Friday morning, 0530 hours. The candidates arrive by LMTVs (M1078 Light Medical Tactical Vehicle) to a road course laid out by the cadre earlier in the morning.

The course is marked by orange cones and chem lights. It is a moonless night pixelated with clear bright stars. Saturn, Venus and Jupiter shine brightly. The cadre ensures candidates have hydrated, checked their footwear and are ready to go.

At the command “Go!” they begin the 5-mile run. Candidates are followed by vehicles and a medical van in case of an injury. Two cadre are at the finish line to collect their roster numbers and give them their completion times. The heat and humidity has wastes no time in climbing, having barely slacked off during the previous night. Similar to the PT tests the previous day, they do not receive feedback on their performance



Day Three

A few candidates' injuries prevent them from doing the ruck march. Their task is working out on a rowing machine or exercise bicycle. No one gets a break from physical tasks, everyone does something. Cadre stated simply, "Everyone works." "It sends a message that even if you're on a profile (temporary relief from an activity or activities from a medical professional) you will be exerting maximum effort like everyone else." "It may also discourage a candidate from pursuing a less than bona fide reason for a profile." Candidates have one hour to recover, eat and drink before the next iteration: land navigation.

other than the time they cross the finish line. (The time standard is 40 minutes).

Land Navigation Didactic Training

Land navigation is difficult. Candidates work hard and fast to gain proficiency. 3/20th cadre just built a new navigation course and as one master sergeant noted, "Its extremely difficult...point being if they can negotiate this course, they have every possibility of successfully negotiating the "Star Course" at Camp Mackall, Ft. Bragg, North Carolina." One senior cadre member noted that the new course features the "biggest banana spiders ever seen" and no shortage of ticks, making it a memorable training experience.

The cadre invests significant time and effort into teaching map reading, plotting a course and efficiently getting from Point A to Point B. Candidates learn how to determine if they "drift left" or "drift right" while walking an azimuth. After the didactic session and 40-question quiz they move on to the drift course. The drift course is a 360-degree 100-meter circle where candidates learn their pace count and how far they "drift" left or right from their azimuth. Each point on the course is named in honor of a former training company cadre

member. The task is followed by a 30-minute individual land nav test.

Every Green Beret immediately pivots from what they are doing at the moment to address a candidate approaching with a question or issue. The challenge is typically "What do you have/what do you need?" These are the penultimate coaches, teachers and mentors in the military. The cadre spares no effort to ensure candidates have the skills to do the task at hand.

Attention to detail is paramount...and everything is a detail. The candidates are reminded to always maintain themselves and their gear and never, ever lose control of their weapon. The Special Forces Creed states in part: "I will keep my mind and body, clean, alert and strong. I will maintain my arms and equipment in an immaculate state befitting a Special Forces Soldier, for this is my debt to those who depend upon me."

Candidates now carry a heavy rubber version of an M-4 instead of an actual weapon, unlike "back in the day". This practice reduces the cost of a functional weapon being lost and retrieved by an unauthorized person, and the risk of it being used for harm. True to form, one of



Real-World Applications

Every iteration of training has real-world applications. One candidate questioned a Sergeant during the field land nav exercise in a sidebar discussion. The conversation went something like this:

'I get why we need to know where we are and be able to navigate to where we need to be. What I'm having trouble with is it's a lot to learn in a really short timeframe, and always under pressure.' The Sergeant quiet and measured response was "When you're operating in a denied area, failure means death." "You need to know exactly where you are, where you are with respect to the rest of your team and where the hostiles are or may be. You must know your location if you need to call in fire support, and the distance and location to where your closest extraction point is, especially if you need to get 'out of Dodge' quickly.'

the cadre's hobbies is to attempt to "liberate" a weapon from a candidate in class or in the field. Sure enough, a few found their way into his possession. The result was each and every candidate did a lot of extra PT.

A Special Visit

The candidates were visited by two prior service Green Beret Colonels. The men shared valuable words of wisdom: "Don't take your foot off the gas." "Stay hungry, curious, prepared and motivated." "Maintain a positive, can-do attitude at all times because there are no shortcuts." "Our job is to free the oppressed, often for people who will never know what you did and maybe not even care." "Focus on what you control, let the rest go."

The two men talked about how unconventional warfare is the bread and butter of special operations and the likelihood that the next generation of

operators will face new and unique challenges such as drones, electronic warfare and different battlefield realities requiring innovative tactical solutions.

Field Exercise

The classroom lessons are immediately put into use in the field. Candidates are assigned points to identify on their map. Each candidate works out a route and an action plan of how to find their first point by understanding the terrain, their pace count, distance to target, etc. The first exercise is cadre-led to provide guidance in the field, build confidence and evaluate each candidate's ability to complete the task. Each candidate's plan is reviewed by a cadre and adjusted as necessary. Each of the points on the land navigation course is named after a fallen Green Beret. It is a poignant reminder of the seriousness of the path ahead of the candidates

One candidate left his compass and map behind at a water point during the first exercise. The lesson is simple, direct and effective: The candidate was instructed to carry another candidate to the treeline and back while the rest of the class was PT'd. Careless attention to detail, a piece of an MRE wrapper, etc. and especially gear left behind) allows an adversary to identify them, their location & time, their numbers, etc. Every lesson is valuable and needs to become second nature to a Green Beret.

Field Exercise Part Two

The second time out is more difficult. Candidates are given new points, much further afield but with the same instructions. This time it is cadre who follow. They do not provide feedback and or guidance in this iteration. One candidate asked, "Am I on target?" to which the cadre Sergeant replied, "I don't know, are you?" The purpose is to instill confidence in the candidate so he can successfully complete the mission before him, and do so in the allotted time. This more challenging phase reflects the candidate's ability to perform, and always under pressure.

The candidates' rucks are fitted with a "dog collar"

in the individual second phase of the exercise. The tracking device allows cadre to precisely track each candidate's movement as a "blip" in the field. The "dog collars" are keyed to each candidate's roster number. The cadre knows where each candidate is during the entire exercise. There is no chance of cheating. Cadre keep a close watch on the large screen monitor set up at the command post. The "blips" are overlaid on a map which can show terrain, distance, etc. The "blips" show real-time movement as well. If one of the "blips" shows no movement, cadre can get to them quickly in case of an emergency as well.

Woe be to the candidate who uses a road or follows too closely to one. Using a road to "handrail" is an authorized method of moving in the field, however the candidate must maintain a minimum distance of 50 meters from any road. One senior cadre identifies several candidates using the "handrailing" method well within the 50 meter limit and labels them "roadkill".

Trash and loose gear was again found in the candidates' area during the second field exercise. Again, the class did not clean up (police) their area and maintain control of their equipment. The night course was abruptly cancelled due to heavy lightning strikes that forced the post to shut down all operations for the first time in almost ten years. The candidates loaded up on their transports and headed back to their barracks. They were surprised to see upon arrival that several cadre were there and waiting for them. It was time to

emphatically repeat the "attention to detail" lesson from earlier in the day.

They also learned that the cadre misses nothing. No detail escapes their attention. The cadre uses the opportunity to teach another lesson: Candidates were not looking out for each other and not supporting each other in completing their mission. The exhausted candidates' late-day PT in the rain effectively drove



Peer Assessment

Candidates received a confidential peer assessment sheet. The form provides a tool for candidates to say how they view their peers and their strengths and weaknesses, etc. They also took the opportunity to numerically rate and rank their fellow candidates. Candidates were released for the evening to clean their gear, prepare for gear turn in and the assessment board the following morning.

home the point and the real-world implications again.

Back in the classroom Thursday evening, cadre solicited feedback from the candidates about the program. Every Sergeant present wanted to know what the candidates thought went well, what could be better and how to improve for the next time. An honest assessment is applied to candidate and cadre. This is the epitome of professionalism.

Special Forces Boards - Sunday

The final exercise of the program is the review board. There are two review boards, one for candidates the board is considering recommending for further training, and one for candidates who will not be recommended. The boards are staffed by the training staff. Candidates nervously await their name to be called under a pine tree. The early morning and grey skies foretell yet another onslaught of heavy rain and lightning. Their instructions are simple: Present a military bearing at all times. Knock at the door and enter after receiving permission to enter. Enter, salute the President of the Board and sit down only when given permission.

Each candidate is treated with the utmost respect and consideration. Each candidate is reminded that just the act of showing up and giving it their best effort commands a measure of respect. They are reminded that that alone is more than 98% of their fellow countrymen have ever, or will ever do.

Each candidate's first question was "How do you feel you did?" This is their opportunity to reflect on their performance. Total honesty is expected. The candidate will receive nothing less from the board. Officer candidates receive no special treatment pursuant to their rank during training or assessment. The officers were grilled about how they did or did not demonstrate their leadership qualities. An officer candidate found lacking hears very clearly what qualities must improve before they will be able and worthy of leading a team.

Not all candidates are recommended for further training. Some are encouraged to return and repeat the first or second phase. Occasionally a candidate receives other guidance, such as transferring to a combat arms unit if they are service in a support unit to learn new skills before trying again. Most of the candidates did not appear to be surprised when hearing the board's assessment and recommendations.

Feedback from the board could be interpreted as brutal. It is unvarnished and bare knuckle. Its doubtful at best to infer that not a single candidate has ever heard a raw personal evaluation like this before. The board leaves no doubt about its position. It is, at the very least an intensely stressful experience but necessary one for a soldier who wants to pursue an intense, dangerous, stressful and highly rewarding career unlike any other in the military. It is not for the faint of heart.

3/20th SFG only sends a candidate to Camp Mackall for



SFAS (Special Forces Assessment & Selection) when they have proven to them of their ability to succeed. Decisions about a candidate's ability and probability of success are discussed in detail by the board. The board's assessment and decision is not negotiable.

Final Notes & Observations

The program was conducted in late August and in Florida. It was hot and very humid and/or it was raining. Weather conditions were challenging. The volume and complexity of the information being given and the pressure to succeed to the standards are daunting. The candidates this writer spoke with thought they came with a clear understanding of what lay before them from watching YouTube or Instagram posts from "influencers". The reality however, was and is always something very different. The candidates received the best training from the best soldiers in the world. This author believes each candidate left with a better appreciation of what they are made of, what lies before them and/or what they need to do to improve. (Three of the twenty four candidates were voluntary withdrawals.)

Many long lost memories returned after this writer's four days' experience. It is difficult to articulate the sense of belonging and camaraderie that is unique to the Special Forces environment. Several cadre were observed in deep philosophical and religious discussions. To be sure, the bad jokes, raw language still exists, but only as the backdrop to the seriousness and dedication to which these men apply to the mission.

These men are the best of the best. The country is privileged to have men like these who give so much of themselves to recruit and train the next generation of Green Berets. This author looks forward to the honor and privilege of returning to tell more of the story. 🇺🇸

For more information:

Earlier this year the FNG Academy³ produced four videos reflecting the training program in conjunction with 3/20 SFG. The high quality episodes entitled "Special Forces: The Next Generation" do a great job of reflecting what is in store for a candidate. They are, in order:

Special Forces : The Next Generation | Episode 1

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jWSPUcdldSM>

Special Forces : The Next Generation | Episode 2

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5nwoB76HJzw>

Special Forces : The Next Generation | Episode 3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uRpVapzv-fk>

Special Forces : The Next Generation | Episode 4

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6YTYT3BdxOI>



³ thefngacademy.com, [instagram.com/thefngacademy](https://www.instagram.com/thefngacademy), [youtube.com/@fngacademystore](https://www.youtube.com/@fngacademystore)

Author's background: Prior 82nd Abn & 19th SFG, SFA Member At Large



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The Special Forces Ring



Command Sergeant Major (R) Jim Hargraves says...

"The Original Special Forces Ring," designed and crafted by Heritage Jewelers, is known throughout the SF community as "The Ring Of Choice" for Special Forces.

"In A Class By Itself... For A Class All Its Own"



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