

THE DROP

SPRING 2026



MEDAL OF HONOR

CW5 ERIC STOVER

*AFGHANISTAN,
A HISTORY ALREADY FORGOTTEN*

BOOK REVIEW: MASTERS OF MAYHEM
BY JAMES STEJSKAL

THE 2026 SFA CONVENTION

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Saint Philip Neri Awards

SFA NATIONAL ELECTION





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FACTS.

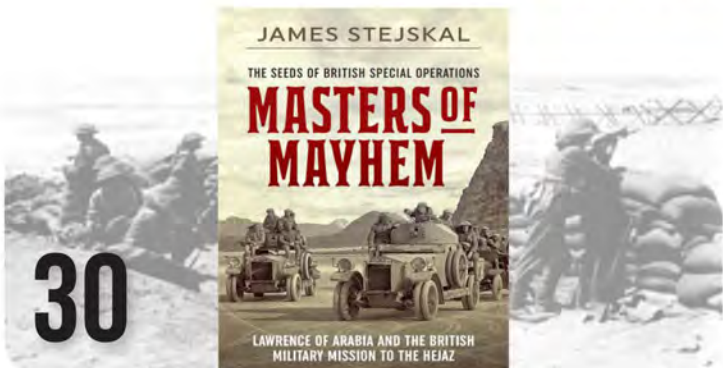
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THE DROP

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SPRING 2026

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UPDATES FROM HEADQUARTERS



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Chris Wilkerson

SFA Members,

I hope the holidays were enjoyable and 2026 is off to a good start. Here at the Headquarters, the National Board of Officers is staying busy.

In the past few weeks, I've traveled to Florida to represent the SFA during the funeral of recent Gold St Philip Neri award recipient, Phil Hudicourt. During the writing of this message to the membership, I am sitting in the airport returning home from Green Bay after attending a banquet with Chapter 73. My future travels in support of the SFA have Chicago, DC and Tampa on the near horizon. As President of the SFA, I feel it is an obligation and a privilege to attend any event a Chapter requests presence at. Please keep that in mind as you are working on your annual calendar of events. With a bit of forewarning and coordination, I'm happy to travel.

This version of the Drop is the first of several that will be amended and tweaked until we figure out the long-term solution. The printed out version is thinner than the online version, so please check out both. The results of the recent poll conducted on Teamhouse show that the membership is split on how to progress. Some are steadfast in receiving a printed copy, while others are happy transitioning to an online version. Oddly enough, age doesn't play a factor in these results with some of our oldest members preferring the digital version as it allows for zooming in and bigger fonts, while some of our younger members prefer the paper edition that they can keep on a table. This transition is not, nor could it ever be, a one-and-done solution. It will take a few editions for us to determine what the right answer is for long term approval and sustainment. Bear with us, but please provide feedback.

Please watch your mailbox for an envelope coming from National Headquarters. Not only are the annual Memorial Ground raffle tickets being mailed, but the election ballot for your 2026-2028 National Board of Officers is there as well. Paper ballots must be post-marked by 15 May and online voting via Teamhouse will end the same day. This ballot will have one added vote on it - this vote being important as it changes the overall structure of our governing documents, along with how amendments occur in the future. The proposed

documents are online and in Teamhouse. There will be a lot of discussion on why we need new documents and what the intent is. Please talk with your Chapter Leadership or contact me directly to understand the intent if needed.

Please ensure you're tracking the progress of SFACON-26. Chapter 7 is doing an excellent job using the playbook for the annual Red Empire week and amplifying it to also support the SFA convention. Not only will our members attending the convention at the 7th SFG flagpole gain awareness of what the current guys are doing, but it is hopeful to increase awareness and membership applications from active-duty soldiers by taking the convention to them. We look forward to maximum participation and hopefully get some members that haven't attended a convention in a while (or ever) to Destin this summer.

THE DIRECTOR'S CUT **Mike Goodrich**

Membership:

As of 28 February, 2026 there are 11,553 members. The breakdown is: 5,102 (Decade), 5,045 (General), 1,406 (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.

2026 Election:

The 2026 election cycle is upon us and I want to encourage all eligible members to cast your vote. Online voting opened on March 1st and paper ballots have been mailed to all 11, 553 members. Please do not vote more than once (online or paper) as it will cause a delay in tabulating the vote total. Historically, the Special Forces Association has had very poor participation in this important event. Take an active role in your Association. Please vote!

The Drop:

The Spring Drop is our first edition since the exit of our long-time publisher. We are working to continue to provide a high-quality publication for each of our members and we understand that the Drop must not only serve our membership, but it also has to be financially viable for the long-term. Expect some changes as we work toward this goal. The new Drop effort is very much a work in progress and your patience is appreciated.

A Tip of the Beret:

Chapter 1-18 hosted SFQC Class 342 for a BBQ and social at the Chapter Teamhouse. Congratulations to all of the newly minted Green Berets. Also, a special thanks to the Special Forces Trust who will be funding the Yarborough Knives that are presented to the SFQC honor graduates.

Finally, a special shout out to Chapters 1-18,100, and 62 for stepping up to assist HQs in getting all 11,533 ballots prepared for delivery. It was a monumental effort and it could not have been completed without their help. It was a shining example of SF brothers doing what they do best-stepping up to make things happen.

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:

Special Forces Association - MBF
PO Box 41436
Fayetteville, NC 28309-1436

Name to be memorialized: _____

Person placing the order:

Name: _____

Email: _____

Contact #: _____

Address: _____

Amount paid: _____

Cash: _____

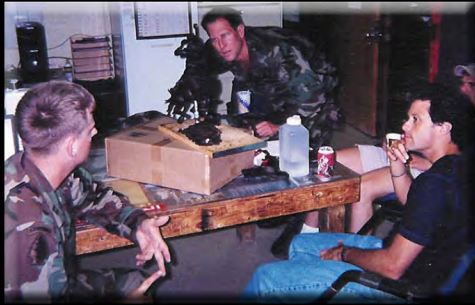
Check #: _____

'De Oppresso Liber'

Bronze Statue

16" tall

50lbs.



During the winter following 9/11, U.S. Green Berets fought their way through the daunting mountains of Northern Afghanistan on horseback, the first Americans to do so in over fifty years. And nobody knew...

In 2002, upon their return from these missions, sculptor Douwe Blumberg worked closely with 5th group on this statue to ensure the historical event was portrayed accurately and respectfully.

2018 saw the dedication of the monumentally-scaled version, 'America's Response Monument' at Liberty Park, appropriately overlooking Ground Zero.

This 16" tall bronze is the original sculpture from which that monument found its inception. This signed and numbered bronze is only available directly from the artist.

For purchasing information
Contact Douwe Studios
805-573-3564
douwestudios@gmail.com
www.douwestudios.com



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.*



For Full Obituaries, please visit our new website:
www.TheDropOnline.com

To read more about our fallen soldiers, you can also
use the QR code with your phone.

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JOEL KEITH ARMISON

M-15816



Joel Armison, 80 of Palm Desert, California passed away at his home on December 3rd, 2025. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1965. Upon completion of his training, Joel was assigned to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam as a Combat Engineer. He returned stateside in 1968 and was honorably discharged from active duty. Among his awards and decorations are the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, and the Parachutist's Badge. Following his military service, Joel worked as a glazier and in construction before becoming a California State Correctional Officer.



HENRY DESMOND ARRUP

M-12989



Henry Desmond "Desi" Arrup, Jr., 80, of Cockeysville, Maryland, passed away on March 29, 2025. Henry was a member of B Company, 2ND Battalion, 20TH Special Forces of the Maryland National Guard. Henry passed away quietly at Greater Baltimore Medical Center after a long struggle with leukemia. He was a Baltimore City Policeman, a Maryland National Guardsman, a Baltimore Colts and Orioles and Philadelphia Eagles and Phillies fan, a good family man and friend. He is survived by his wife of over fifty years, Deborah, and sons Henry Desmond III and Todd.



JOHN JAMES BRADY

D-5315



John James Brady, 80, of Flintstone, Maryland, passed away on August 3, 2024. Henry was a Master Sergeant E8 (Retired) and a member of B Company, 2ND Battalion, 20TH Special Forces of the Maryland National Guard. John served in Vietnam and is also a Persian Gulf War Veteran.



HARRY LEE BRYSON

M-1425



Harry Lee Bryson, 96 of Jacksonville, Florida passed away at his home on February 5th, 2026. Harry joined the 20th SFG(A) in 1963 and was awarded his Special Forces qualification in 1966. He served in the 20th SFG(A) for 6 years. Harry's civilian career began with the United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company in 1956 and rose to serve as its' General Manager. He is survived by his wife (Hilda) and daughter (Cynthia). A graveside service was held at the Mandarin Cemetery in Jacksonville, Florida on February 13th, 2026.



DANIEL CHAPA

D-4914



Daniel Chapa, 92 of Fayetteville, North Carolina passed away on January 22nd 2026. Daniel volunteered for Special Forces duty in 1965 and was awarded his qualification later that same year. Upon his completion of SFQC, Daniel was assigned to the 8th SFG(A). In 1968, he was reassigned to the 5th SFG(A) and MACVSOG (CCC) in 1968. Returning stateside, Daniel served a tour at the JFKUSAIMA before reassignment to the 7th SFG(A). He retired from active duty in 1974. Among his awards and decorations are the Bronze Star, the Korea Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.



ROY A. COLLAR

M-5892



LTC. Roy A. Collar, Sr., 75, of Douglasville, Georgia, passed away on April 28, 2016. Roy graduated from The Citadel as a Civil Engineer and entered the Army in 1963. From 1963 thru 1969, he was stationed in various areas including Fort Bragg, NC and Vietnam. He was awarded many distinctions during his career in the Army some of which include; Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, Presidential Unit Citation, Parachutist Rigger Wings, Master Parachutist Wings and Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm.



ED CULLEN

M-7896



Edward Cullen, Sr., 87 of Pawcatuck, Connecticut passed away at Westerly Hospital on February 9th, 2026. Ed enlisted in the U.S. Army National Guard in 1960 and was assigned to the 19th SFG(A) where he served for more than a decade. Ed was the founder and co-owner of the Connecticut Ambulance Service. He later held management roles at Sikorsky Aircraft and Huyck Metals before becoming a Subcontract Administrator at the Perkins-Elmer Corporation. Throughout his professional career, Ed demonstrated his astute entrepreneurial skills by building a number of successful businesses.



VINCENT D'ANGELO

M-8166



Vincent A. D'Angelo, 76, of Astoria, New York, passed away on August 4, 2020. Vincent served in Vietnam with the 5th Special Forces Group as a communication sergeant. He was honorably discharged at the rank of Sergeant. Upon return from his tour of Vietnam he met and married his great love, Marie. Together they raised a family including daughter, Claudine and son, Adam. While delighting in their 51 years together travelling, skiing, playing chess, enjoying country music and opera.



CHARLES RUSSELL DOBBS

M-8708



Charles Russell Dobbs, 54 of Tampa, Florida passed away on January 1st, 2026. Russell was awarded his qualification as a Special Forces Engineer in 1999 and was assigned to the 1st Special Warfare Training Group. Later he was reassigned to the 5th SFG(A) and served as the Senior Engineer Sergeant on ODA 532 and 534 during Operation Iraqi Freedom/Enduring Freedom. Russell is survived by his wife (Megan), son (Russell), and daughter (Kenzie). A graveside service with Full Military Honors was held at the Sarasota National Cemetery on January 15th, 2026.



RICHARD DREW

D-6161



COL(R) Richard Drew, 61 of Alexandria, Virginia passed away on December 10th, 2025. Throughout his career, Rick served in U.S. Army National Guard Special Forces units at every level. Among his awards and decorations are The Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star (1 OLC), the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Special Forces TAB, the Military Freefall Badge, and the Master Parachutist's Badge. In retirement, Rick continued his service as an Analyst for the Defense Threat Reduction Agency. He is survived by his wife (Evelyn) and stepdaughter (Sharon). Interment will be at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.



WILLIAM EMBREY

M-2169



William Embrey, 64 of Kalispell, Montana passed away on December 14th, 2025. Bill began his life of service by joining the Civil Air Patrol and later enlisting in the U.S. Army where he served as Flight Medic. After his honorable discharge from active duty, Bill joined the 11th SFG(A) U.S. Army Reserve and later, after moving his family to Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Army National Guard. In 2001, Bill began a new career with the Racine County Sheriff's Department, retiring after two decades of public service. Bill is survived by his wife (Jennifer), son (Brandon), and daughter (Jessica). No services are planned at this time.



WILLIAM ESSEX

M-7465



William Essex, Jr., 79 of Bountiful, Utah passed away on December 16th, 2025. Bill enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1964 and upon completion of flight training, served a tour of duty in Vietnam as a helicopter pilot. Bill volunteered for Special Forces duty and completed his Special Forces training in 1967. He was initially assigned to the 3rd SFG(A). He was reassigned to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam in 1968. Bill returned stateside to the 10th SFG(A) in 1969. He was honorably discharged from active duty in 1973 and joined the 19th SFG(A). Bill was honorably separated from the 19th SFG(A) in 1987 and embarked upon a career in law enforcement.



PEDRO "PETE" ESTRADA

D-3554



Pedro "Pete" Estrada, 86 of Bandera, Texas passed away on January 6th, 2026. Pete enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1960 following a four-year tour with the U.S. Air Force. In 1968, Pete volunteered for Special Forces duty and was assigned to the 7th SFG(A) as a Supply Sergeant. He was reassigned to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam in 1969. Returning from his tour in Vietnam, Pete was assigned to the 8th SFG(A) in Panama. In 1971 he began a second tour in Vietnam as Logistics Advisor with MACVSOG. Pete was again assigned to the 5th SFG(A) before returning to Panama with the 7th SFG(A). Pete was honorably retired from active duty in 1979.



RONALD FREDERICKSON

M-7663



Ronald "Fred" Frederickson, 75 of Lunenburg, MA, passed away on January 4th, 2026 at the hospital in Boston. Fred enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1970 and volunteered for Special Forces duty. He completed his training and was assigned to the 10th SFG(A) in 1971. Fred was honorably discharged from active duty in 1973 and moved to New Hampshire where he worked for Bingham Lumber. He began a new career with Digital Equipment in 1980 where he served as a logistics and field service leader at several New England facilities before retiring in 2011. Fred is survived by his wife (Susan), son (Joshua), and daughter (Rachel).



JOHN HAYES

D-2491



COL(R) John Hayes, 97 of Hayes, Virginia passed away on January 28th, 2026. John's storied military career began in 1950 during the Korean War where he served as a commander of infantry and armor units. In 1952, John volunteered for the newly created 10th SFG(A). He would serve two tours with the 10th (Ft. Bragg, and Bad Toelz). In 1955, he was reassigned to the 77th SFG(A). John joined the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam in 1966 and served with Project Delta (B-52), A Company, and as acting commander of CCN. John returned stateside after serving five years in Vietnam. He retired from active duty in 1983 after 33 years of service.



LOUIE HERNANDEZ

M-11856



Louie Hernandez, 83 of Upland, California passed away on January 1st, 2026. Louie enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1963 and volunteered for Special Forces duty. He was awarded his qualification as a Special Forces Weapons Sergeant in 1964 and assigned to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam (B-52). Completing his combat tour, Louie returned stateside and was honorably discharged from active duty in 1966. Among his awards and decorations are the Bronze Star, Vietnam Service Medal, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Parachutist's Badge. After his discharge, Louie joined the Pomona Police Department and served for 34 years.

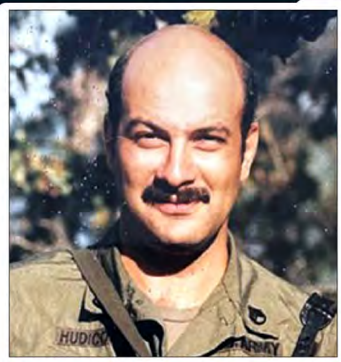


ROBERT HILL

D-3330



Robert Hill, 76 of Corry, Pennsylvania passed away at the VA Community Living Center on February 2nd, 2026. Bob enlisted in the U.S. Army upon graduation from high school in 1968. He qualified for Special Forces duty, was awarded his "S" in 1969 and assigned to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam. Returning stateside, Bob was assigned to the 7th SFG(A). In 1973 he joined the 11th SFG(A). Among his awards and decorations are the Bronze Star (w/V, 1 OLC), The Purple Heart, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Parachutist's Badge.

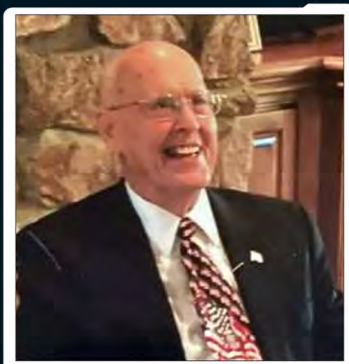


PHILIPPE HUDICOURT

M-12962



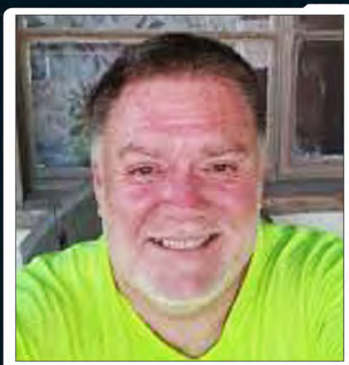
Philippe Hudicourt, 71 of Boynton Beach, Florida passed away on January 22nd, 2026 after a long illness. Phil enlisted in the U.S. Army upon graduation from high school in 1972. He volunteered for Special Forces duty in 1984. He was awarded his TAB later that year and assigned to the 10th SFG(A). In 1987, Phil was reassigned to the 1st Special Operations Command. He served there briefly before he reassignment to the Joint Special Operations Command. Phil was honorably retired from active duty after over twenty years of faithful service. Phil was a valued member of SFA Chapter 91-101.

**ALLAN IMES**

M-4385



Allan Imes, 90 of Griffin, Georgia passed away on November 21st, 2025. Allan was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in 1957 upon graduation from Mercer University. In 1963 he volunteered for Special Forces duty and was assigned to the 7th SFG(A) where he completed a 6-month TDY to Vietnam (A-735). In 1968 Allan was reassigned to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam (B-52). He was retired from active duty in 1978 after 20 years of service. Following his military career, Allan served as the Director of the Griffin High School ROTC Department. He is survived by his wife (Aliene), son (Allan), and daughters (Paula, Pamela, Patricia).

**NORMAN KADUNC**

A-3064



William Norman Kadunc, 86 of Las Vegas, Nevada passed away on December 18th, 2025. Norman was assigned to the 10th SFG(A) in Bad Toelz, Germany briefly in 1963 before his reassignment to the 1st Cavalry Division in Vietnam. A memorial service was held at the Palm Mortuary in Las Vegas on February 21st, 2026. Norman was a member of SFA Chapter 51 in Las Vegas.

**DARRELL KATZ**

D-3764



COL (R) Darrell Katz, 86 of Wimauma, Florida passed away on January 16th, 2026. In 1962, Darrell was assigned to the 10th SFG(A) in what would become a long tenured Special Operations career. He was awarded his Special Forces qualification in 1963. After a tour with the Special Warfare Center and School, Darrell was reassigned to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam where he commanded a company of the I Corps Mobile Strike Force. Completing his first combat tour, Darrell was sent flight school and Infantry Officer's Advance Course before returning to Vietnam. In 1975, returned to SF where he served as the Cmdr of ODA 6 (Det A).

**JAY KEENAN**

M-10545



Jay Keenan, 77 of Middletown, Virginia passed away on December 17th, 2025. Jay was awarded his qualification as a Special Forces Communications Sergeant in 1968 and assigned to the 7th SFG(A). In 1969 he was reassigned to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam where he served with Detachments B-40 (IV Corps Mike Force) and A-402. Returning stateside in 1970 Jay was honorable discharged from active duty. Among his awards and decorations are The Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Parachutist' Badge.



RANDAL KERN

D-4592



Randal Kern, 66 of West Bend, Wisconsin passed away on October 19th, 2025. Randal enlisted in the U.S. Army at the age of 17 and was assigned to 2nd Bn of the 75th Ranger Regiment. Honorably discharged from active duty, Randal joined the 12th SFG(A) in 1987 where he was named Reserve Soldier of the Year. He was awarded his Special Forces TAB in 1988. Randal was retired from military service in 2009. Among his awards and decorations are the Special Forces TAB, the Ranger TAB, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Parachutist's Badge.



JAMES ROBERT KIRKPATRICK

M-13863



James "Jim" Robert Kirkpatrick, 76, of Goodyear, Arizona, passed away on November 16, 2024. Jim was drafted into the Army to serve during the Vietnam war. He was awarded the Bronze Star medal for his heroism and exceptionally valorous actions on March 25, 1970 after him and his fellow soldiers were assaulted by North Vietnamese Army. His education includes a BS in Civil Engineering, The Citadel, Master of Arts in Management, Webster University and he attended the Command and General Staff College and the U.S. War College. Jim will be placed at Arlington National Cemetery with Military Honors.



GLENN LANE

D-1510



CSM (R) Glenn Lane, 96 of Castle Hayne, North Carolina passed away on January 10th, 2026. Glenn enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1949 and, upon completion of his initial training, was deployed to Korea. He volunteered to return to combat after recovering from wounds sustained in the Pusan Perimeter Battle. Returning stateside in 1954, Glenn served in a variety of assignments until volunteering for Special Force duty in 1963. He was awarded his Special Forces qualification in 1964 and assigned to the 6th SFG(A). Glenn was reassigned to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam in 1965 and returned to Vietnam in 1967.

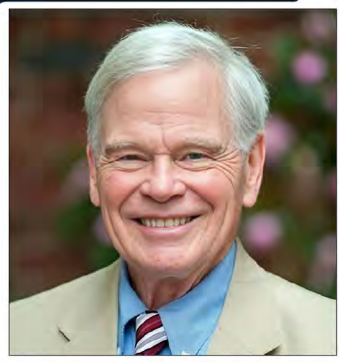


ROBERT STERLING MARBLE

D-1618



Robert Sterling Marble, 80, of Fayetteville, North Carolina, passed away Thursday February 19, 2026. He was the son of the late Sterling H. and Mary (Darmofalski) Marble. He grew up in Seneca Falls, New York. Robert served 22+ years in Army Special Forces. He was a Vietnam War veteran. After retiring from the Army, he continued working another 25+ years in civil service for the Department of Defense starting at the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School at Fort Bragg, North Carolina before moving on to the United States Special Operations Command at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida.



DAVID MARTIN

M-897



David "D.G." Martin, Jr., 85 of Chapel Hill, North Carolina passed away at his home on December 9th, 2025. David was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army upon graduation from Davidson College. He volunteered for Special Forces duty and was awarded his qualification in 1964. In 1966, David was honorably discharged from active duty and enrolled in the Yale Law School. After completing his law degree, David moved to Charlotte, North Carolina where he practiced law for 20 years with the firm of Kennedy, Covington, Lobbell, and Hickman. He later served as the Vice President of Public Affairs at the University of North Carolina.



FRANCIS MCCLOSKEY

M-9646



Francis "Frank" McCloskey, 77 of Johnstown, Colorado passed away on November 18th, 2025. Frank enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1966 and upon completion of Airborne training was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division. He deployed to Vietnam in 1967. Returning stateside after completion of his first combat tour, Frank volunteered for Special Forces duty. He earned his Green Beret in 1968 and was assigned to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam (CCN). He returned stateside in 1969 and was honorably discharged from active duty. He began a new career as a sworn officer with the Metropolitan Police of the District of Columbia.



JOSEPH MCLAUGHLIN

M-10527



Joseph McLaughlin, 83 of Cocoa Beach, Florida passed away in November of 2025. Joe was awarded his Special Forces qualification in December, 1962 and assigned to the 1st SFG(A). Returning stateside in 1964, Joe was honorably discharged from active duty. Among his awards and decorations are the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, and the Parachutist's Badge. No funeral arrangements have been published. Joseph was a member of SFA Chapter 21.

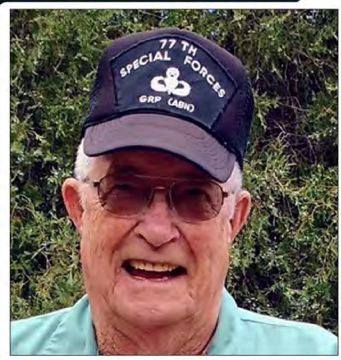


JOHN MEYERS

D-8332



COL (R) John Meyers, 84 of Pawleys Island, South Carolina passed away at his home on January 18th, 2026. John was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in 1967 and began flight training. In 1969, he was assigned to MACVSOG (CCS, CCC) as a fixed wing aviator. Returning stateside, John was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division for a year before his reassignment to the 7th PSYOP Bn. He served the rest of his career in PSYOP and Civil Affairs. John was retired from active duty in 1997. Among his many awards and decorations are The Distinguished Flying Cross (6 OLC), the Bronze Star, The Legion of Merit, and the Special Forces Tab.



NED MILLER

M-212



Ned Miller, 91 of Canon City, Colorado passed away on October 1st, 2025. Ned enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Korean War and served with the 1st Marine Division. He completed his enlistment and in 1956, Ned enlisted in the U.S. Army. In 1958 he was assigned to the 77th SFG(A). He was reassigned to the 8th SFG(A) in 1962 where he served for 3 years before joining the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam in 1965. Ned retired from active duty in 1972 and returned to Colorado where he became a deputy with the Moffat County Sherrif's office. Later he worked as a heavy equipment operator with northwest Colorado coal mines.



LESLIE PARRISH

M-5173



Leslie Parish, 81 of Topeka, Kansas passed away on December 11th, 2025. Leslie enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1966. He volunteered for Special Forces duty and was assigned to the 3rd SFG(A). Leslie was reassigned to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam and assigned to the 5th Mobile Strike Force (B-55) as the Commander of the heavy weapons platoon. Returning stateside, Leslie was honorably discharged from active duty in 1974. Among his awards and decorations are The Army Commendation Medal (w/V), the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal (w/60 device), and the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry (w/Palm).

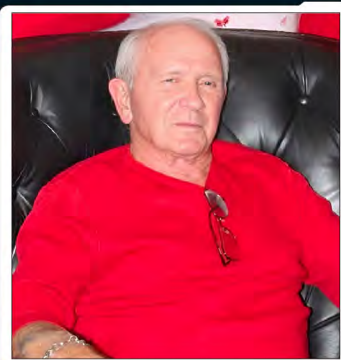


MANUEL PENA

A-2378



Manuel Pena, 78 of Johnstown, Pennsylvania passed away on December 6th, 2025 at the VA Medical Center in Altoona, Pennsylvania. A Vietnam War veteran (1967-68), Manual returned stateside and served as an automobile maintenance technician until his retirement as a Chief Warrant Office (CW3) in 1981. He is survived by his wife (Janet) and son (Martin). At his request, no services will be held. Interment will be in Texas at a later date. He was especially proud to be a member of the Special Forces Association, Chapter #67, Ebensburg.



THOMAS ROGERS

M-1918



CW3(R) Thomas Rogers, 81 of Laurinburg, North Carolina passed away at his home on January 21st, 2026. Tom was awarded his Special Forces qualification 1971 while assigned to the 11th SFG(A). A funeral service was held at the Richard Boles Funeral Service Chapel on January 28th, 2026. Burial with military honors will follow the service in Hillside Memorial Park in Laurinburg, North Carolina.

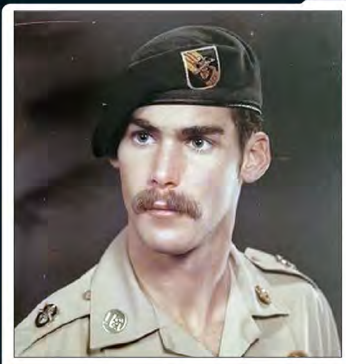


FRANK SHAW

D-4163



Frank Shaw, 87 of Lyman, New Hampshire passed away at his home on December 10th, 2025. Frank enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1956. He volunteered for airborne duty and upon completion of his training was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division. Frank was discharged from active duty in 1959 and joined the 11th SFG(A) where he served until 1991. In 1974, Frank joined the Metropolitan District Commission as a sworn police officer. He would later serve as an officer with the Massachusetts State Police. Frank is survived by his son, Mark. A Mass of Christian Burial was held at the St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in December 18th, 2025.



JAMES PATRICK SHEA

M-14937



James Shea, 74 of South Hadley, Massachusetts passed away at his home on January 14th, 2026. James enlisted in the U.S. Army and volunteered for Special Forces duty. In 1970 he earned his qualification as a Special Forces Aidman and was assigned to the 5th SFG(A). James was discharged from active duty in 1974 and enrolled in the University of Massachusetts where he earned his nursing degree. He worked for over 20 years at Providence Hospital in Holyoke, Massachusetts. He is survived by his wife (Kim) and son (Jason).



FRANK SICARI

A-128



Frank Sicari, 82 of Erie, Pennsylvania passed away on October 5th, 2025. Frank enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1950. He served with the 11th and 101st Airborne Divisions. Frank was retired from active duty in 1976. Among his awards and decorations are the Army Commendation Medal (1 OLC), the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Senior Parachutist's Badge. Upon retirement, Frank worked as a federal employee at Bad Toelz and Garmish. For decades Frank supported 10th SFG(A) operations and training in and around Bad Toelz, Germany.



MARK SIMON

M-9172



Mark Simon, 58 passed away on November 29th, 2025 while serving as the Special Operations Liaison Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Belgrade, Serbia. Mark enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1986 and was awarded his Special Forces qualification in 1996 while assigned to the 20th SFG(A). In 1999 he was reassigned to the 19th SFG(A). He was deployed numerous times post 9/11. Among his awards and decorations are the Bronze Star (2 OLC), the Joint Meritorious Unit Award (2 OLC), the Army Meritorious Unit Award. Mark also worked for the Defense Contract Audit Agency as a Management Analyst.



GORDON SIMS

M-5673



Gordon Sims, 103, of Columbia, South Carolina passed away at his home on November 21st, 2025. Gordon was the last surviving member of the First Special Service Force. Not much is known of Gordon's WWII service in a unit that was heralded for its' extraordinary bravery. He was the last surviving member of the original First Special Service Force – the legendary "Devil's Brigade," also known as the Black Devils – the forefathers of today's special forces and a unit known for extraordinary bravery in World War II. Among his awards and decorations are the Bronze Star, and the Congressional Gold Medal.



TERRENCE SMITH

M-4978



Terrence Smith, 78 of Post Falls, Idaho passed away on January 8th, 2026 at the Idaho State Veterans Home. Terrence was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1968. He reenlisted the following year and volunteered for Special Forces duty. He was assigned to MACVSOG (CCN) where he served as the 1-1 for RT Kansas. Among his awards and decorations are The Silver Star, the Bronze Star, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, and the Parachutist's Badge. Returning stateside, Terrence was honorably discharged from active duty and began a 23-year career as a Chicago Fireman.

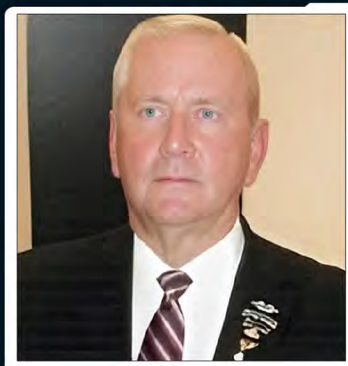


GLENN SOLOMON

D-2696



Glenn "Doc" Solomon, 83 of Norman, Oklahoma passed away on February 5th, 2026. Glenn enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1960 at the age of 18. He served honorably until his retirement from active duty in 1977. His years of service reflected his strength, discipline, and sense of duty. During his military career, he continued serving others through education. In 1990, Glenn was awarded a PhD in Public Health from the University of Oklahoma and remained as a professor at the university. Glenn is survived by his sons (Louis, Forest, Brant).

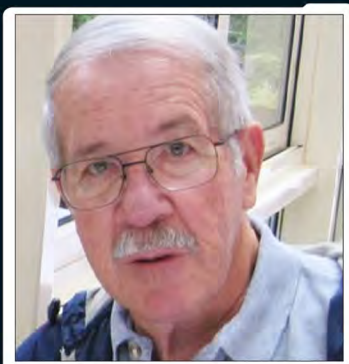


FREDERIC SPAULDING

M-3451



Frederic Spaulding, 85 of Indianapolis, Indiana passed away on December 22nd, 2025. Fred enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1958. He was awarded his Special Forces qualification in 1967 and assigned to the 1st SFG(A) in Okinawa, Japan. In 1970 he was reassigned to the 7th SFG(A). His final Special Forces assignment came in 1981 when he was assigned to the 12th SFG(A). Fred served in three combat theaters and retired from active duty in 1987 at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Among his many awards and decorations are The Silver Star, The Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star (w/V), The Air Medal (w/V).



CHESTER STECKEL

M-4497



Chester Steckel, Jr., 89 of Land O' Lakes, Florida passed away on February 1st, 2026. Chester was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army upon graduation from the University of Maryland in 1961. He was awarded his Special Forces qualification in 1968. Chester retired from active duty in 1983 after 27-years of service. Among his awards and decorations are the Bronze Star, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Master Parachutist's Badge. Interment will be at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.



PAUL TENTLER

M-6379



Paul Tentler, 68 of Newport News, Virginia passed away on November 13th, 2025. Paul enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in the 2nd Ranger Battalion for four years before volunteering for Special Forces duty. He was awarded his Special Forces qualification in April of 1985 and assigned to the 7th SFG(A). In 1989 he was reassigned to the 10th SFG(A). Paul is survived by his wife (Cornelia) and daughter (Cherie).



JEFFERY "TOBY" TODD

D-3991



Jeffery "Toby" Todd, 77, of Cibolo, Texas passed away on November 1st, 2025. Toby was awarded his Special Forces qualification in 1970 and assigned to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam. He remained with the 5th SFG(A) as they redeployed to Ft. Bragg, North Carolina in 1971. Toby was reassigned to the 1st SFG(A) in Okinawa, Japan in 1973 until its' deactivation in 1974 when he returned to Ft. Bragg, NC and the 5th SFG(A). A graveside service was held at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio, Texas on January 8th, 2026.



ROBERT HAGERMAN TRIPP

M-8865



Robert Tripp, 88 of Palmer, Alaska passed away on January 30th, 2026. Bob was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army upon his graduation from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1960. In 1962 Bob was assigned to the 10th SFG(A) in Bad Tolz, Germany. He finished his service obligation with the 12th SFG(A) in California. Bob built a respected career as a civil engineer who specialized in cost and scheduling engineering. He is survived by his wife (Carol) and sons (Charles, Donald, Robert).



Historic Recognition: Five Warriors Receive America's Highest Honor

Feature Article - Doug Livermore

In an unprecedented display of military recognition, five Medal of Honor recipients were announced in a single week in February 2026, spanning conflicts from World War II to modern special operations.

The recognition of these five warriors: Chief Warrant Officer 5 Eric Slover, Captain Royce Williams, Master Sergeant Roderick "Roddie" Edmonds, Staff Sergeant Michael Ollis, and Command Sergeant Major Terry Richardson, represents not only individual acts of valor but also reflects a growing movement within the Department of Defense to revisit historical military awards and ensure that acts of heroism are properly recognized, even decades after the fact. These awards highlight an important evolution in how the nation honors its heroes, particularly as legislative changes have removed arbitrary time limitations that previously prevented deserving service members from receiving the Medal of Honor.

The two awards presented during the February 24, 2026

State of the Union address---to Slover for his actions in Venezuela just weeks earlier and to Williams for aerial combat during the Korean War 74 years prior---created a powerful juxtaposition between contemporary special operations and Cold War-era classified missions. The announcement of three additional Army recipients, whose ceremony is scheduled for March 2, 2026, further underscores the commitment to ensuring valor never goes unrecognized, regardless of when it occurred.

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Eric Slover represents the elite tier of U.S. Army aviation, serving with the legendary 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne), known throughout the military community as the "Night Stalkers." This unit, based at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, maintains the



the Army's most demanding aviation standards and conducts the most sensitive special operations missions globally.

Slover's career trajectory exemplifies the progression of special operations aviators. As a master aviator and senior warrant officer, he had accumulated thousands of flight hours in the MH-47 Chinook helicopter, the workhorse of special operations aviation. The MH-47, a heavily modified version of the standard CH-47 Chinook, features advanced avionics, defensive countermeasures, aerial refueling capability, and specialized equipment for inserting and extracting special operations forces in hostile territory.

Despite his wounds, Slover executed evasive maneuvers to position his helicopter's door gunners for effective return fire, suppressing enemy positions while simultaneously lining up for the landing. He maintained precise control of the forty-ton aircraft, ensuring that the special operations forces could egress safely and rapidly to begin the assault. Only after every commando had departed the helicopter did Slover allow his crew to begin emergency medical treatment.

The raid successfully captured Maduro, who was subsequently extradited to the United States to face federal charges. However, the operation came at significant cost. In addition to Slover's severe injuries, several other service members were wounded, and temporary power outages affected parts of Caracas as the assault force secured the objective.

The Award and Recovery

When Lieutenant General Jonathan Braga, head of Joint Special Operations Command, placed the Medal of Honor around Slover's neck during the State of the Union address, the wounded aviator stood with the assistance of a walker. He remained on active duty, undergoing extensive rehabilitation for his injuries while his award citation was being processed.

Slover's citation specifically recognized his "extraordinary heroism and conspicuous gallantry at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty." The citation detailed how he "placed the mission and his fellow warriors above his own survival," demonstrating the "decisive courage and uncommon valor" that define Medal of Honor recipients.

With Slover's recognition, the total number of Medal of Honor recipients rose to 3,530 since the award's creation during the Civil War, with 63 living recipients. Slover became the first Medal of Honor recipient recognized for actions during Operation Absolute Resolve in Venezuela, adding a new chapter to the Medal's history.

READ MORE



TheDropOnline.com

Membership Renewal & change of address

NOT FOR NEW MEMBERS

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

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

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

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

CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING BOXES:

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

Current mailing address: _____
Address City State Zip + 4

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

Email Address: _____

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

SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION

SFA National Elections 2026

The SFA National Election will conclude in June 2026. Voting will close on May 15, 2026. Members are encouraged to vote via Teamhouse or by mailed ballot. All election procedures follow the SFA Constitution and National Election Guidelines. Dates are subject to change.

Voting will be available online via **Teamhouse** or by **mailed ballot** (included with SFA Grounds Fund raffle tickets). Please vote only once. If you prefer not to vote online, you may download a mail-in ballot, complete it, and mail it to SFA Headquarters per the ballot instructions. TEAMHOUSE.SPECIALFORCESASSOCIATION.ORG

President: Chris Wilkerson



Current SFA President and recently retired from the Army (Nov 2025). Focused on chapter engagement, unity across SF eras, and growing younger membership. Seeks to continue leading the Association for the next two years, strengthen relationships across chapters and generations, and advance initiatives that keep the SFA strong and relevant for future members. He emphasizes personal commitment to the organization, finding purpose in engaging with chapters and listening to members. He reports strong support from chapter leaders and members for the direction of the current Board and its ongoing initiatives. A key priority of his leadership is attracting younger members to ensure the long-term vitality of the SFA. Chris also highlights his commitment to representing all eras of Special Forces service, from Vietnam and the Cold War to the Global War on Terror, and creating unity across the diverse membership.

Vice President: Nathan Rehl



Nathan Rehl served with the 3rd Special Forces Group from 1997 until his retirement in 2014. During his career, he held key leadership and operational roles including Senior Communications Sergeant, 18F (Intelligence Sergeant), interim Team Sergeant, Operations Sergeant for both ODB and Group Headquarters elements, and Team Sergeant for ODA 3321. He deployed multiple times in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, including a one-year deployment for OEF XVII. He also served on ODA 393, a Regional Survey Team operating across multiple combatant commands (CENTCOM, EUCOM, SOUTHCOM, AFRICOM). His awards include the Special Forces Tab, Ranger Tab, Master Parachutist Wings, Expert Infantry Badge, Combat Infantry Badge, four Bronze Stars, a Purple Heart, and an Army Commendation Medal with V-device, among others.

Secretary: Jeff Olson



Jeff Olson is currently serving as Secretary of the Special Forces Association (SFA), having stepped into the role in February 2025. A former member of the 11th Special Forces Group in the 1980s and 1990s, he served as both an 18B and 18F on an ODA after prior active-duty service with the 82nd Airborne. An SFA member since 2017 and a Life Decade Member, Jeff has played a key role in several national-level initiatives. He helped lead the rollout of Teamhouse, trained and supported Chapter Administrators, developed the initial SFA Security Policy to protect IT assets, and served as Chairman of the Membership Committee. He also administers the Teamhouse News Page and designed the SFA Heritage Award, which will begin annual presentation in 2026. As Secretary, he has supported the National Board of Officers, Chapters, and membership at large.

Director of External Communications: Doug Livermore



Doug Livermore served two tours in Iraq (2005–2007) as an infantry officer with the 10th Mountain Division. From 2009–2014, he served in 3rd Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (3/10 SFG), where he commanded two detachments and deployed to the Congo, Mali, Central African Republic, Uganda, and Afghanistan. Doug serves as Division Chief for the Irregular Warfare Division in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Intelligence and Security). He previously served as Director of Sensitive Activities, Special Operations, and Irregular Warfare at the Department of the Navy, and as a sensitive activities advisor to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict. He is Vice President of the Special Operations Association of America, National Director for External Communications for the Special Forces Association (SFA), and Director of Engagements for the Irregular Warfare Initiative.

Director of Special Projects: Garon Strong



Garon Strong is seeking to continue serving as the Special Forces Association's (SFA) National Special Projects Officer for the 2026–2028 term. He is an SFA Decade Member (Chapter 1-18) in good standing and remains active and available for both virtual meetings and travel in support of SFA events and initiatives. His Special Forces assignments included B/2/5 SFG, SOMTB, F Company 1st Special Warfare Training Group (Robin Sage), and NCOIC of the Flight Surgeons Office, 3/3 SFG. His career reflects extensive experience across operational, training, and leadership roles. Over the past 18 months, Garon reports executing the duties of the office in accordance with the SFA Constitution. Key accomplishments include: Upgrading and expanding the SFA scholarship program, increasing recipients and funding, Facilitating demolition and removal of a condemned teamhouse at National Grounds, Leading efforts to gather information for a future SFA conference center.

Treasurer: No Candidate Listed

No candidates were nominated for Treasurer. If no nomination by petition is received, the elected NBO will appoint a Treasurer.

Adjutant: No Candidate Listed

No candidates were nominated for Adjutant. If no nomination by petition is received, the elected NBO will appoint an Adjutant.

Proposed Amendments: Members are also voting on two amendments. The Proposed National Constitution and Proposed National Bylaws have been distributed and are posted on Teamhouse.



SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION, CHAPTER 38
 &
5TH SPECIAL FORCES GROUP (AIRBORNE)
65th ANNIVERSARY REUNION/LEGION WEEK



10-26 SEPTEMBER 2026
 FT. CAMPBELL, KY // CLARKSVILLE, TN

Chapter 38 and 5th Special Forces will be hosting this year's reunion to commemorate the 65th Anniversary of the Unit's activation on 21 September 1961. It will be a mixture of Chapter and Legion supported events throughout the entire week. We invite you to attend, take part in the festivities, reminisce / reconnect with old friends, or create new ones. Please fill out the Registration Form and mail to our address (bottom of form), or visit the Chapter Website (www.sfa38.org). If you plan to participate in an event with no associated costs; please annotate as such, so we can track for transportation purposes. Thank You!!

NAME: _____ Email: _____
 GUEST: _____ Nickname(s): _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 PHONE: _____ Emergency Contact #: _____

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

Mail Registration along with Payment (Payable To)
 SFA, Chapter 38
 PO Box # 223, Ft. Campbell, KY 42223
*Payments Received After 12 September 2026 'Will Not' be Refundable
 w/o Prior Notification*



Special Forces Association Chapter 38
5th Special Forces Group (Airborne)

65th Annual Reunion/Legion Week

19-26 September 2026

This year's Reunion/Legion Week will be conducted from 19 through 26 September 2026. It will highlight the 65th activation date of 5th Special Forces Group ("The Legion") on 21 September 1961. There will be the traditional events associated with our Reunions – Prayer Breakfast, Golf Scramble, Catfishing trip, daytrips, Reunion Dinner, motorcycle ride and more. We are still in the planning process.


We will again be using the Country Inn and Suites of Clarksville, TN as our Reunion Base Camp and site of our hospitality room. This will be the 8th year of using this facility and they've been overly hospitable to the Chapter and our family for all our events. We have rooms blocked under Chapter 38 / 5th Special Forces Reunion at a special seasonal rate 21-26 September; however, when making reservations please call them directly (931-645-1400) or via email cx_clrk@countryinnamericas.com as **YOU CANNOT BOOK AT THE GROUP RATE VIA THEIR TOLL-FREE NUMBER OR THEIR NATIONAL INTERNET SITE – THIS IS A LOCAL DISCOUNTED RATE ONLY.**

The Country Inn & Suites
3075 Wilma Rudolph Blvd
Clarksville, TN 37040
(931) 645-1400

Country Inn & Suites as its base and for the Reunion Week and Hospitality Room; it is located off Exit 4 and I-24 on Wilma Rudolph – just near the mall, in Clarksville, TN. The Exit 4 area of Clarksville offers a great variety of other hotels should you decide on other choices; it also has the greatest number of restaurants and shopping venues in the Clarksville area.

In the meantime, if you require any further information feel free to contact the Chapter directly via the list of contacts below. Looking forward to seeing everyone once again as we bring 'The Legion Family' together this year.

Joel Pruitt: sfa38president@gmail.com
 Josh Burch: sfa38vicepresident@gmail.com
 Mike Cunningham: sfa38secretary@gmail.com
 Israel Betanzos sfa38treasurer@gmail.com

 19 thru 26 September 2026							
SAT 19th SUN 20th	MON 21st	TUE 22nd	WED 23rd	THUR 24	Friday 25th	SAT 26th	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Registration Country Inn & Suites Clarksville TN 1600-2000	<input type="checkbox"/> Registration Country Inn & Suites Clarksville TN 1000-1600	<input type="checkbox"/> Registration Country Inn & Suites Clarksville TN 1000-1600	<input type="checkbox"/> Registration Country Inn & Suites Clarksville TN 1000-1600	<input type="checkbox"/> Registration Country Inn & Suites Clarksville TN 1000-1600	<input type="checkbox"/> Registration Country Inn & Suites Clarksville TN 1000-1600	
Saturday 19 Sep <input type="checkbox"/> Clay Shooting Competition Cross Creek Clays 3975 Jarman Hollow Palmyra TN 0800-1600 Sunday 20 Sept <input type="checkbox"/> Patriot Catfishing Trip Clarksville Marina Clarksville TN	<input type="checkbox"/> Football Tournament Fryer Stadium FTCKY 0800-1200 <input type="checkbox"/> Softball Tournament FTCKY 1200-1600 Hospitality Room Soft opening 1600-2400	<input type="checkbox"/> THOR3 Competition 5th SFG Turf Field FTCKY 0700-0900 <input type="checkbox"/> Softball Tournament FTCKY 1200-1600 Hospitality Room 1600-2400	<input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 38 Day Trip Nashville TN Departs from Country Inn and Suites 0900-UTC <input type="checkbox"/> Airborne Operation and Family Picnic Bastogne DZ FTCKY 1000-1500 <input type="checkbox"/> Old and New Mixer Hall of Heroes FTCKY 1645-1815 Hospitality Room 1600-2400	<input type="checkbox"/> Prayer Breakfast Hall of Heroes FTCKY 0800-1000 <input type="checkbox"/> Group Open House FRG Tent Sale 5th SFG Footprint FTCKY 1000-1430 <input type="checkbox"/> Family Shoot Range 70 FTCKY 1000-1430 <input type="checkbox"/> Reunion Dinner The Silo Event Ctr 110 John Rives RD Hopkinsville KY 1800-2130 Hospitality Room 1600-2400	<input type="checkbox"/> Golf Scramble Cole Park GC FTCKY 0800-1830 <input type="checkbox"/> Staff Ride (distillery tour) local area 0900-1630 Departs from Country Inn and Suites Hospitality Room 1600-2400	<input type="checkbox"/> Reunion Bike Ride Chapter Safehouse Registration 0800-1000 Wheels Up 1000 <input type="checkbox"/> Color Run & 5K Deek's Language Lab Fort Campbell Ky 0730-0900 <input type="checkbox"/> Family Obstacle Course 5th SFG Obstacle Course 0900-1200 <input type="checkbox"/> Group Picnic Gabriel Field 1600-2130 Hospitality Room 1600-2400	

AFGHANISTAN, A HISTORY ALREADY FORGOTTEN

COUNTERINSURGENCY LESSONS U.S. SENIOR MILITARY LEADERS MUST NOT IGNORE

BY DANIEL RIX AND DOUG LIVERMORE
DECEMBER 31, 2025

The United States fought a counterinsurgency in Afghanistan for almost 20 years, resulting in the loss of 2,448 U.S. military, 3,846 U.S. contractors, over 100,000 Afghan lives, and costing trillions of dollars.

"This article identifies clear strategic failures throughout this counterinsurgency that the United States must learn from and endeavor never to repeat."

— Daniel Rix

Bookended by al-Qaeda's attacks on the U.S. homeland and Afghans clinging desperately to the tires of an Air Force C-17 during the evacuation of Kabul while Marines were slaughtered at Abbey Gate, the war in Afghanistan will be remembered as one of the greatest strategic losses in American history. Worse than the collapse of the South Vietnamese government, which persisted for two years after U.S. troop withdrawals, Ashraf Ghani's Afghan government fell even before the U.S. military frantically departed the Hamid Karzai International Airport. Even the Soviet-backed Afghan government remained in power for three years after the Red Army left, highlighting the ineptitude of U.S. conduct in this conflict.

This article identifies clear strategic failures throughout this counterinsurgency that the United States must learn from and endeavor never to repeat. An inability for U.S. senior military leaders to understand them and effectively apply appropriate lessons in a future counterinsurgency or hybrid war, in which counterinsurgent and irregular warfare tactics will indeed manifest, will result in more lives lost unnecessarily and another U.S. strategic failure.

The task of postmortem on America's longest war is, no doubt, a massive undertaking. One that scholars, politicians, and military experts will debate for years to come. Many intellectuals will delve deeply into the failures in Afghanistan, such as the congressionally mandated Afghanistan War Commission. There will be no shortage of analyses and opinions on why the most powerful na-



tion in the world lost a counterinsurgency war against a financially, technologically, and tactically inferior group of insurgents. This article seeks to add to the body of knowledge in a small way by identifying clear counterinsurgency failures in the campaign to root out the Taliban. It focuses on the counterinsurgency against the Taliban, not on counterterrorism targeting al-Qaeda, though the latter is used to explain failures of the former. It also does not attempt to address the counterinsurgency in Iraq, which no doubt limited resources into Afghanistan. Finally, it will not describe the interplay between other sources of instability, such as the Haqqani Network in eastern Afghanistan. Though not comprehensive, this article identifies six strategic failures largely based on David Galula's *Counterinsurgency Warfare: Theory and Practice*, recognizing that there are other counterinsurgency frameworks with which to conduct analysis. David Galula, a veteran of World War II and the Algerian War, observed and experienced several insurgencies before codifying a simple framework of complex principles to counter seditious activities.

Failure 1: Counterterrorism vs. Counterinsurgency, Lacking an Enduring Cause

An insurgency is a protracted struggle designed to overthrow an existing power, which is measured in years and decades rather than months. The longer the struggle, the better it is generally for an insurgency as it takes root within the populace. Mao Zedong’s establishment of the People’s Republic of China in 1949, for example, was preceded by years of guerrilla warfare against Chiang Kai-shek’s Nationalists and Japanese invaders. Mao’s theory of insurgency allows for an insurgency to move back and forth between phases – latent and incipient organization, guerrilla warfare, and conventional “war of movement”– as conditions require to ensure survival. Additionally, there can be synchronized efforts between conventional and insurgent forces, or hybrid warfare, based on the need as was the case of North Vietnamese Army regulars and Viet Cong insurgents operating in different areas in South Vietnam against U.S. and South Vietnamese forces. Throughout this protracted struggle and its shifting phases, an insurgency needs a galvanizing cause that helps drive a wedge between the people and the established government.

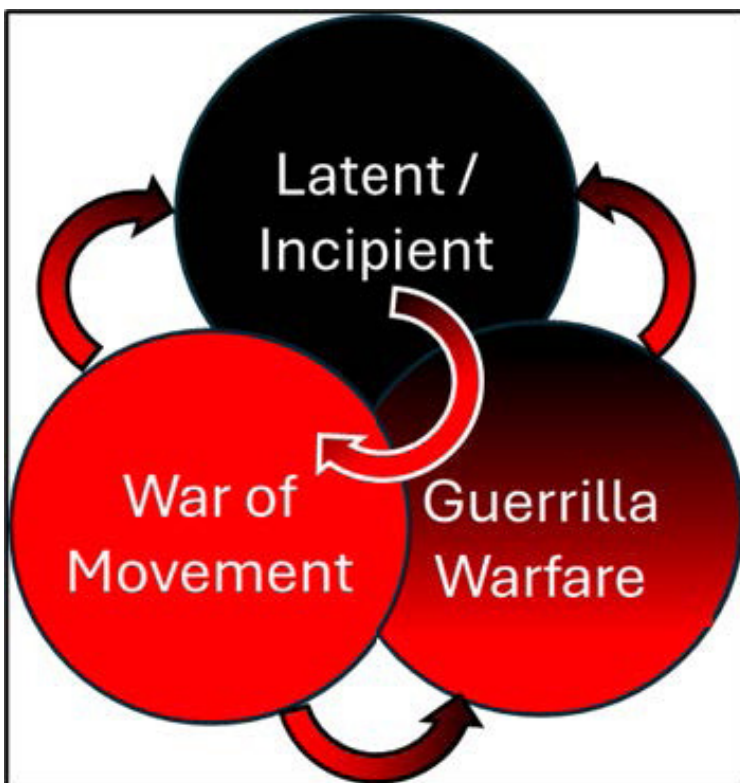
The counterinsurgent must have an equally compelling cause. Though the United States had the political will

to fight a counterinsurgency in Afghanistan for almost 20 years, spanning four presidencies – no small feat – it lacked a coherent and enduring cause or overarching goal to unify the Afghans, and by extension, the American people, against the Taliban. From the heights of optimism following the ouster of the Taliban in late 2001, Afghan popular support for the subsequent governments of Hamid Karzai and Ashraf Ghani saw a consistent downward spin in approval amid widespread incompetence, corruption, and tribal cronyism – issues that the Taliban had popularly positioned themselves against in their initial rise in 1994.

The United States’ justifiable cause in the early days after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, was counterterrorism focused: punish and defeat al-Qaeda for perpetuating the largest terrorist attack on America. The Taliban regime was merely a stumbling block to get to this terrorist organization. Their refusal to hand over Osama bin Laden , al-Qaeda’s leader, to the United States put them in the crosshairs of military action beginning on October 7, 2001.

Aside from installing the rag-tag Northern Alliance and providing humanitarian aid, there was no holistic U.S. counterinsurgent strategy to consolidate gains after toppling the Taliban regime, let alone a unifying cause around which to rally the Afghan people. In fact, the U.S. National Security Strategies (NSS) throughout this conflict highlighted the counterterrorism efforts in Afghanistan with little to no mention of counterinsurgent activity, lumping the Taliban in with al-Qaeda as a terrorist organization instead of an insurgent group.

This gave the remnants of the Taliban regime time to morph back into an insurgency and codify their own cause (and legitimacy) against a foreign “infidel” power. Though a stated cause becomes less important as the conflict drags on and the people pine for a clear winner, in the latent or incipient stages of an insurgency, it is the driving force behind the movement. Unfortunately, the failure of the United States to help provide an indigenous-led cause to the Afghan people gave the Taliban an open door to exploit for their own purposes.



READ MORE



TheDropOnline.com

The Saint Philip Neri Awards Program Overview

Review of the Purpose, History, and Nominations



Awards Overview

The Saint Philip Neri Award is presented annually to individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the Special Forces Regiment and the Special Forces Association. There are three grades of the award: Gold, Silver, and Bronze. Saint Philip Neri awardees must be Special Forces Qualified individuals.

Saint Philip Neri Award

Gold Award: Presented to selected individuals with a demonstrated record of exceptional service to the Regiment and the SFA over a thirty-year period.

Silver Award: Presented to selected individuals with a demonstrated record of exceptional service to the Regiment and the SFA over a twenty-year period.

Bronze Awards: This year, we anticipate being able to recognize five individuals with Bronze level Awards.

Heritage Award

The Heritage Award is a new award established in 2025. The first award will be presented at the 2026 SFA Convention.

The award recognizes individuals who do not qualify for the Saint Philip Neri Award due to either not being SF Qualified or not having had a twenty- or thirty-year impact on the Regiment and the SFA.

Associate and Honorary Members, as well as SF Qualified members, are eligible for this award. The policy letter and overview presentations on Teamhouse provide additional information on both the Saint Philip Neri and Heritage Awards.

How to Submit Nominations

Nominations may be emailed to: secretary@sfanbo.org or mailed to National HQ at the following address:

Special Forces Association
 ATTN: Awards Committee
 4990 Doc Benett Road
 Fayetteville, NC 28306

Deadline:
 All nominations must be received by 28 February of each year.

Example write-ups and information on the Saint Philip Neri Award are available in the Teamhouse Document Library in a folder titled Saint Philip Neri Information.

HERITAGE AWARD



Bonnie Cooper

Bonnie is an SFA Honorary Member and has supported the Association and Special Operations Community for many years, serving as the Registrar for multiple SFACONs, producing the Taps Video each year, and maintaining the SF Taps website. Bonnie also volunteered to assist with the rollout of Teamhouse to the SFA. Bonnie has also worked with SOA and other Veterans Organizations. She is a veteran of service with the US Army.



Hank Cramer

LTC(R) Harry "Hank" Cramer had 28 years of honorable Active and Reserve service - five years of which was with the 1st Group and two in support of the 10th Group. Hank is a Congressional Gold Star Fellow, advocating on behalf of families whose loved ones were killed in action. Over the last 12 years, Hank has served on the Board of Directors for the First in Asia Association. Hank also co-authored the first official '1st SFG(A) History'.

GOLD - SAINT PHILIP AWARD



Dewey Walker

CSM (R) Walker rose from Infantry Private to Command Sergeant Major in a distinguished thirty-year military career. CSM Walker is a Vietnam Veteran. He has served as President of SFA Chapter 88 for ten years and during his tenure has seen the Chapter grow more than five-fold and hosted a successful SFACON.

GOLD - SAINT PHILIP AWARD



Wade Ishimoto

CPT (R) Wade Ishimoto joined Special Forces in 1968 and continues to serve the Regiment and SFA today. During time spent with 1st SFOD-D, he participated in Operation Eagle Claw. He has served as Chapter 42 President for five years and continues to mentor SF Soldiers today.

SILVER - SAINT PHILIP AWARD



Phil Crowley

During his twenty-year career, Phil Crowley served on Scuba and Mountain Teams, as a Sniper Instructor, Extreme Cold Weather and Mountain Instructor, and taught Combatives at SFARTAETC. Phil is a Past President of Chapter 91-101 and is the current Vice President of the Chapter.

BRONZE- SAINT PHILIP AWARD



Myles Capiello

CSM (R) Myles Capiello is the President of Chapter 19 and served with 11th and 20th Groups and attached to 5th and 10th Groups, and as an Instructor at 1st SWTG. He is an Iraq Veteran and continues to mentor a new generation of leaders as a Military Science Instructor at Rutgers University. He is the President of SFA Chapter XIX, encompassing all of New Jersey.



JP Cervantes

Chapter 100 President JP Cervantes is founder and Executive Director of Let's Walk It Out, a 222+ mile ruck march initiative, raising awareness and funds for veteran suicide prevention. After a 17 year career, he retired as a CW3 and founded Nous Defions Group LLC in 2017, specializing in high-threat recovery operations. He has been involved in disaster-response operations in the Caribbean and as a role-player for MARSOC and SOCOM.



Rusty Gaeta

Rusty Gaeta's exceptional military career is a testament to his unwavering dedication and outstanding contributions to the US Army and the SF Community. His involvement in Hurricane Helene relief efforts transforming his home and property into one of three forward operating bases, conducting Search and Rescue missions, and community support initiatives further underscore his selfless commitment to helping those in need.



Peter von Jess

COL (R) Peter A. von Jess, United States Army Reserve, distinguished himself through 22 years of Active, Reserve and National Guard service. He has served as a Detachment Commander in the 7th Group, and in a number of Staff and Command positions in 11th Group. He co-founded Warrior Sportsmen, Inc, a nonprofit organization providing Green Berets a means to enhance recovery.



Rodney Larreau

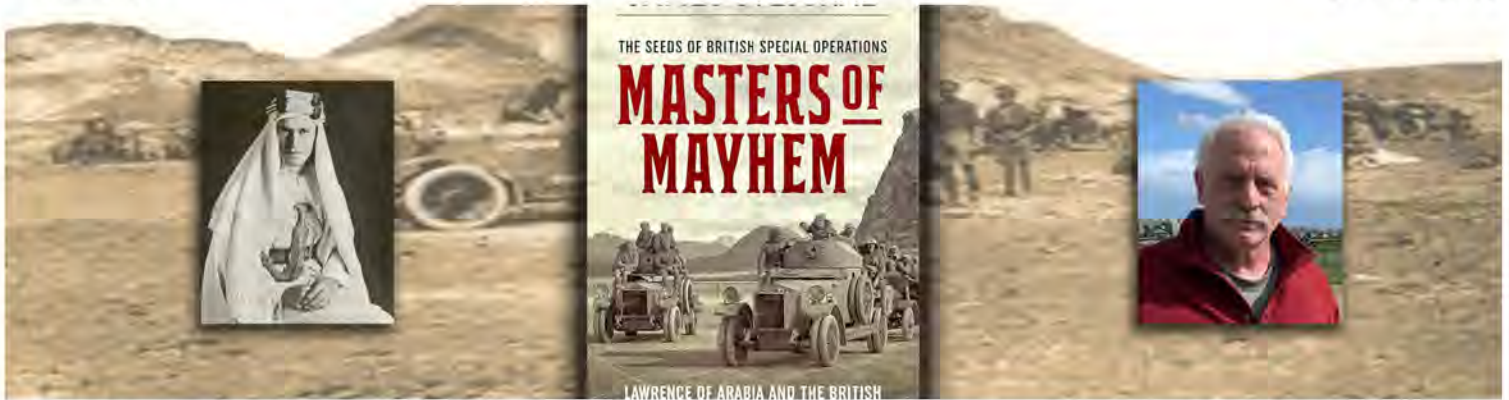
Rodney Paul "Seaux" Larreau A Member of SFA Chapter 17, "Seaux" honorably served 28 years including participation in multiple combat campaigns, from Grenada through Bosnia to Iraq and Afghanistan. In the aftermath of Hurricane Helene, he transformed his home and property into one of three forward operating bases used by the SFA and SF Trust to stage volunteers, equipment, and supplies.

The 1st Special Forces Command announced the award of the Bronze Saint Philip Neri to the following Active Duty / National Guard personnel:

SGM Charles Adams, 1st SFG (A)
 SGM Jason Bowles, 5th SFG (A)
 CW5 Carlos Ruiz, 7th SFG(A)
 CW4 Stoney Ramsey, 10th SFG(A)
 CW5 Scott West, 20th SFG(A)

COL Carl Benander, 3rd SFG (A)
 CSM Timothy Trax, 5th SFG (A)
 CW4 Juan Martillo, 7th SFG(A)
 CW5 Jeremiah Brown, 10th SFG(A)
 COL Ronal Guernsey, 20th SFG(A)

CW3 Michael Keenan, 5th SFG (A)
 COL John Leitner, 7th SFG(A)
 CW4 Jason Gambill, 10th SFG(A) SGM
 CSM Gordon Lindley, 19th SFA(A)
 COL Charles Moore, SOCCENT



Masters of Mayhem: A Landmark Study in the Birth of Modern Unconventional Warfare

A Review of Masters of Mayhem: Lawrence of Arabia and the British Military Mission to the Hejaz by James Stejskal

Book Review - Doug Livermore

In *Masters of Mayhem: Lawrence of Arabia and the British Military Mission to the Hejaz*, James Stejskal delivers a masterful exploration of the origins of modern special operations and unconventional warfare. Far from being another biographical treatment of T.E. Lawrence, this exceptional work examines the collective efforts of the British Military Mission (BMM) that operated in the Arabian Peninsula during World War I, revealing how a small cadre of irregular warfare specialists pioneered tactics and operational concepts that would shape military doctrine for generations to come.

Stejskal brings unique credibility to this historical analysis. As a former U.S. Army Special Forces officer who served thirty-five years as a "Green Beret" and CIA case officer, he understands unconventional warfare not merely as an academic concept but as a lived reality.

His career included two tours with the elite Special Forces Berlin unit during the Cold War, where he conducted clandestine operations behind potential Warsaw Pact lines, and later service with the CIA in numerous high-risk environments worldwide[3]. This operational background allows Stejskal to read the historical record with an expert's eye, recognizing in the actions of Lawrence, Stewart Newcombe, Pierce Joyce, and their Arab allies the fundamental principles that would later underpin British SAS operations, American Special Forces doctrine, and modern counterinsurgency campaigns.

What makes *Masters of Mayhem* particularly significant for scholars and

practitioners of military strategy is its focus on the WWI Arabia campaign as a crucible for unconventional warfare methodology. Stejskal meticulously traces how the BMM developed and refined tactics that remain foundational to special operations today: striking where the enemy is weakest, achieving surprise through mobility and intelligence, working "by, with, and through" indigenous forces, and creating effects disproportionate to the resources committed.

The book excels in its detailed examination of the technical and tactical innovations that emerged from the harsh crucible of desert warfare. Stejskal provides fascinating insights into demolition techniques, including the development of "tulip mines"—thirty-ounce guncotton charges placed under railway sleepers that, when detonated, twisted rails and ties into flower-like shapes that made repair nearly impossible[5]. These were not random acts of sabotage but carefully calculated operations designed to maximize operational impact while minimizing risk to the attacking force. The systematic campaign against the Hejaz Railway demonstrated how a relatively small force, properly employed with good intelligence and indigenous support, could paralyze Turkish military logistics and tie down thousands of enemy troops across hundreds of miles of territory.

READ MORE



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Special Forces Association Convention Fort Walton Beach, Florida 7 – 12 June 2026



Convention Registration – includes links for available hotels/schedules, optional events/and more! Website: <https://secure.qgiv.com/event/sfacon2026>

VENDORS: Interested in setting up a booth at the convention? Contact Mike Hume – (850)826-4020, Michael.hume@sceptresecurityllc.com

GENERAL SCHEDULE

(Follow us on Facebook at - SFACON 2026 Special Forces Association Conference – for more details leading up to the conference) (For security – DETAILED schedules will be sent to your email used for registration one week prior to arrival)

Sunday – 7 June

1700 – 2000 : Arrival, Registration & Welcome Social – Home2Suites

Monday – 8 June

Camp “Bull” Simons: Opening Ceremony - CAPEX – Community Day –
7th SFG(A) Battalion Open Houses
SFA Presidents Meeting
Evening Social – Soundside Waterfront Bar

Tuesday – 9 June

Fort Walton Beach – Symposium Day at Ridgon Center (Regimental Leader Updates/SFA General Member Meeting – Guest Speakers)
Morning Optional Event: Golf Scramble/Afternoon Optional Event: Skeet Shooting
Evening Social – The Island Resort

Wednesday – 10 June

Okaloosa/Egin Beach Park: Beach Day
Optional Events: Barrancas National Cemetery/Fishing Rodeo/Motorcycle Ride/Camp Rudder
Evening Social – Group Reunions (call or email to organize or get details for reunion groups and locations)

Thursday – 11 June

Morning: Dick Meadows Range Dedication/Alumni Range/Combatives Competition – Finals
Afternoon: Awards and Closing Ceremony
Evening: Group Photos and SFA Banquet

REGISTER BY PHONE: (have credit card ready for processing): Molly Smits, molly@sfa-ch7.org, (678)592-3232

ON SITE REGISTRATION AVAILABLE: Email molly@sfa-ch7.org to make arrangements



Joint SOAS/SFA POW/MIA Committee Update

The government shutdown last October resulted in several governmental operations. Specifically, with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA). During the shutdown only those agencies declared essential were allowed to function. DPAA was not on the list of essential agencies. As a result, all DPAA government employees were furloughed and not allowed to work. They were not even allowed to access their government computers or other tech devices. Military personnel assigned to DPAA were not furloughed, but all travel was restricted. The only civilians allowed to work were government contractors.

Needless to say, this all significantly hampered DPAA's ability to continue with their mission on the recovery and identification of unaccounted for service members. More specifically, the missions in Southeast Asia (the Vietnam War) efforts were brought to a standstill. Joint Field Activities teams and Investigation teams currently in Vietnam and Laos were forced to stand down and return to their home bases. Planned operations were halted. All of this was a major setback, because in many cases permits and authorizations expired requiring new negotiations with the host countries.

Moving on the FY2026, DPAA has regenerated their efforts in recovery operations in Southeast Asia. They have missions planned to begin in early FY2026 with three recovery teams in Laos and two in Vietnam where there will also be one investigation mission. Unfortunately, the recovery missions they had scheduled for first quarter of 2026 will be delayed until first quarter FY2027. However, DPAA hops to fit in the investigation missions into FY2026.

As a side note, FY2025 was relatively a good year for recoveries and identifications. There were eight remains identified from the Vietnam War. Although this seems insignificant, it is double the number in recent years. Unfortunately, none were members of Special Forces units. The current number of unidentified service member from the Vietnam War is currently 1,566.

David Gordon

Chair, Joint SOA/SFA POW/MIA Committee

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A Donations page is set up for the following contributions:

- The SFA General Fund
- The SFA Memorial Building Fund
- The SFA Scholarship Fund
- The SFA Drop Magazine

As well as many other important causes and Chapter Donations

To Donate Online, please go to: <https://teamhouse.specialforcesassociation.org/> and click on the Donate tab in the main menu.

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- POINTS OF CONTACT



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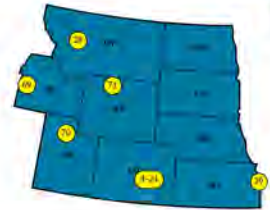
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39th Special Forces Det.
(Airborne)
Unit #15313 Attn: SFA XIII
APO, AP 96271-5313

Chapter XLVI (46)

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PSC 517 BOX RCV, FPO AP 96517
www.nickrowesfa46.com
James E. Collins sgjmjcc@aol.com

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APO AE 09705

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

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REGION I

Northeast Region

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



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

*Chapters in red did not submit input for this quarter

19 CHAPTER XIX

The Ed Muller & Jim Miller Memorial Chapter

New Jersey www.sfa19.org




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

READ MORE

 TheDropOnline.com



AUSA Veterans Luncheon



Interment of Forgotten Veterans

On 06 NOV 2025, at the Sheraton EatonTown Hotel, in Eatontown, NJ the AUSA Monmouth Chapter held a Veteran's Day Luncheon dedicated to US Army Special Forces in which elements of Chapter XIX were treated to lunch. Chapter 19 members present each received a Certificate of Recognition from the AUSA County of Monmouth, a letter from the Governor, Commendation from the New Jersey Legislature, and a Quilt of Valor.

Part of the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office, Missing in America Project and VVA Chapter 12, for a final salute to arms at the Military Honors For Forgotten Veterans service. This event, 16 OCT 2025, paid tribute to 18 forgotten veterans and one family member from WWI, WWII, Korea and Vietnam War eras. Chapter XIX escorted Coast Guardsman Michael A. Calicari, Vietnam Veteran. <https://sfa19.org/interment-of-the-unclaimed-2025/>



At the SFA Conference, 14-17 OCT 2025, Las Vegas, About a half dozen Chapter Members attended. Chapter 19 President Myles Capiello was tasked to be the Master of Ceremonies.

On 11 DEC 2025, Chapter XIX was invited by the NJ 82nd Airborne Association to attend the annual West Point Football Run. Cross Country and Marathon Teams from the academy run the football from West Point to the Army-Navy Game venue. The 82nd sponsors a lunch for the cadets and their NJ State Police escort.

"11 Days" (Op Pineapple Express) is a powerful one-man show written and performed by retired Green Beret Scott Mann, author of the bestselling book Operation Pineapple Express. The play tells the true story of the final days of the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, where ordinary veterans worked against the clock to rescue Afghan allies left behind. Chapter XIX was invited by LTC Scott Mann for the final New York Show on 24 JAN 2026. This was a very powerful performance which we highly recommend for everyone. Very interesting Q&A right after the show with great questions by civilians and military alike.

<https://sfa19.org/11-days-the-story-of-operation-pineapple-express/>



PRES : Tom Davis
VICE : Kevin Hughes
SEC : JD Morris
TRES : Rusty Taylor



CHAPTER XLII
 The Klein/Fronious Memorial Chapter

42

Pennsylvania



Son Tay Raiders, Support Element, POWs and Dignitaries at the Ranger Memorial wreath-laying ceremony.

Greetings from Chapter XLII Southwestern Pennsylvania. In October, Tom Davis, Janet Davis, Tom Monovich and Claudia Monovich attended SOAR/SFCON in Las Vegas. Thanks to all who worked so hard to make this a successful and awesome event. In November Tom Davis, Janet Davis, Mona St. Clair, and CSM (R) Pat St. Clair attended the 55 Anniversary Reunion of the Son Tay Raider Association. This three-day reunion held at Fort Benning Georgia included panel discussions, interviews, equipment displays, a wreath-laying ceremony at the Ranger Memorial and a reception for the raiders and their families. To top the three days off, a premiere showing of 27 minutes at Son Tay. It was an honor and privilege for Tom Davis and Janet Davis to accompany Pat and Mona St. Clair to such a historical



event. May God bless and keep these courageous, extraordinary men and their families safe and healthy. Pictured Left, Tom and Janet Davis at SOAR/SFCON in Las Vegas. In the right picture, Seated CSM (R) Pat St. Clair, SFA National President Chris Wilkerson, and Chapter 42 President, Tom Davis. Upcoming events for Chapter 42, April 11-12, the Chico Outdoor Expo honoring veterans, April 19th, the Jim Kearns Memorial Spaghetti Dinner, TBD The Ladies Only Weapons Training. From Chapter 42 to all of our brothers, sisters and their families Stay Safe, Take Care and God Bless. DOL



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



CHAPTER XLVIII
 The Rhode Island Chapter

48

Rhode Island

www.48sfa.net



In December 2025, a few of us attended the Company A, 2/19SFG(A) Dining Out held at the Wyndham Hotel, Newport, RI. Current members of A Company, retirees, family members, and members of the 56th Troop Command were in attendance. We also remember brothers and family members lost during the year and extend our sincere condolences.



On 7 January 2026, CSM Michael Wong, pictured left, participated in a Change of Responsibility Ceremony conducted at the Rhode Island National Guard Joint Force Headquarters. In December 2025, a few of us attended the Company A, 2/19SFG(A) Dining Out which was held at the Wyndham Hotel, Newport, RI. Pictured right, Steve Kelley, Tom Duffney and Rich Keene at the Co A, 2/19SFG(A). Current members of Aco, their ladies, retirees, and members of the 56th Troop Command were in attendance.



Each year we expand our effort to locate the grave of brothers to honor their service by placing wreaths on their graves during the month of December. The grave sites are cemeteries located in RI, MA and CT. After several days of searching, we were able to locate the grave of SFC Stephen Massett in one cemetery and the grave of SGM Karl Stilwell in another.

SFA SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

Applications for the Special Forces Association national academic scholarships and financial awards for 2025 will be accepted between April 1st and May 15th.

A total of twenty awards will be made. Fifteen (15) are scholarships of \$3,000 each for undergraduate and graduate level study and five (5) are financial assistance awards of \$2,000 each for technical/vocational school study.

Applicants must be SFA members in good standing or the dependent or grandchild of an SFA member in good standing and must have already been accepted by, or be in attendance at, the accredited college, university, junior college or technical/vocational institute at which the scholarship will be applied.

Applications must contain all required documents and be submitted electronically in a single .pdf document to the address listed in the instructions. They will be evaluated objectively in each of the required areas listed, and scored on a competitive, merit-based system. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

For detailed instructions on eligibility, sponsorship, required documentation, scoring and submission dates, go to:

<https://teamhouse.specialforcesassociation.org/Scholarships>

Winners will be announced NLT July 1st, 2026. Payments will be made directly to the school, earmarked as a tuition payment.

Questions regarding the application process may be directed to:

specialprojectsofficer@specialforcesassociation.org



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



CHAPTER LIV

The LTC William F. Buckley Memorial Chapter

54

www.sfob54.org

Boston, MA



Chapter members and their guests relaxing at the chapter president's table.



Mike Drummey, Sal Bolanos, Dan Winschel, and Leon Bagley enjoy some holiday cheer.

The Chapter's annual Christmas party was held on December 13, 2025 at the historic Longfellow's Wayside Inn in Sudbury, Massachusetts, attended by 67 members and guests. Bill Friberg received the 2025 Member of the Year award with the support of his wife Susan. He recently sponsored a Chapter shoot/cook-out in Maine and helped strengthen connections with a local National Guard SF unit. Pictured right, Kevin Paicos presented Vin Pestilli with an encased Yarborough knife. Lin was presented with a gold Special Forces crest necklace.



PRES : Tom Kelly
VICE : Dave Donmoyer
SEC : Oren "BJ" Kauffman
TRES : Jack McFadden



CHAPTER LXIV

The SFC Randall Shughart Memorial Chapter

64

www.sfa64.org

Carlisle, PA



On October 3 2026 SFA 64 Dedicated the Mogadishu Memorial Statue in memory of all US and Coalition Forces who participated in the Battle of Mogadishu. The project took six years to completion and was funded by former SOF members Retired Military and citizens of the surrounding area of central PA. The statue was created by a veteran, sculptor Rob Eelson. On the reverse side of the Base, is a list of All US forces that were KIA in the Battle.

The event hosted over 250 individuals to include retired SOF members who participated in the battle and family member of one of the Medal of Honor recipients. The event Master of Ceremony was the current SOF Chair from the Army War College Col Ron Alonzo. Post event all gathered for a wonderful host of foods a beverage.



66 **CHAPTER LXVI**
The Kedenburg-Bucca Memorial Chapter
West Point, NY



PRES : Ron Diz
VICE : Steve Ryan
SEC : Lance Finick
TRES : VACANT



Christmas Holiday champagne brunch at the Thayer Hotel on West Point.



1st annual USMA hockey night.

Sadly Chapter 66 lost a long-standing member Jim Kilcullen. Jim was a paratrooper with the 11th Abn Div and then in SF with 11th Group (coincidence?). In Vietnam he served with Air America for 3 years and then returned stateside to continue serving with the 11th Group in New York. He went on to become a detective with the NYPD and even opened a bar named the Green Beret in Manhattan. We'll miss Jim, may he rest in peace and may his family be comforted with knowing his memory lives on. On a brighter note we also gained four new members, Art Mogil - former 20th Group, John Faracco - former 11th Group, Mike Johnson who is currently assigned to USMA, and Mark Aarons, currently serving with 20th Group. Chapter 66 members Jim McCauley and Dominic Filippone receiving an award from Representative Mike Lawler at a ceremony at Dominican University for their contributions to the veteran community in southeast NY.



Chapter 66 member Jim McCauley receiving an award from Representative Mike Lawler at a ceremony at Dominican University for his contributions.

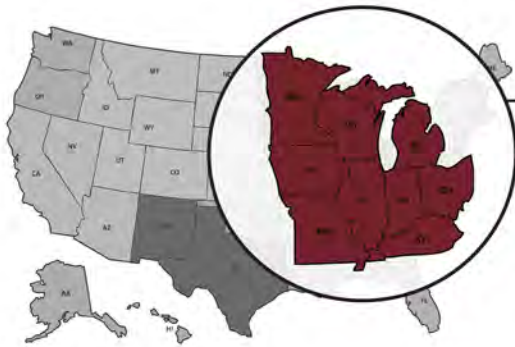
72 **CHAPTER LXXII**
The Trojan Horse Chapter
New Hampshire



PRES : Richard Giero
VICE : Jim Crispen
SEC : Harry Miller
TRES : Alex Kovanko



Greetings from the Granite State and the New England Trojan Horse Chapter. The Chapter's annual Christmas party was held at the Merrimack VFW and was hugely successful with over 30 members and guests attending. Special thanks to Elaine Reinitzer for making all the catering arrangements and to Post 8641 for hosting. At our January meeting, Chapter President Rich Giero presented Jeanne Malouin with a Certificate of Appreciation and a chapter photo for her efforts over the years. Jeanne is the canteen manager at the VFW and has been instrumental in scheduling all of our meetings and special events. 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 who was one of the chief planners of the raid. Books can be purchased online by googling the title and author. After 10 plus years as Chapter Treasurer Paul Miller will be stepping down. Special thanks to Paul for his selfless service and outstanding performance. Thanks to Alex Kovanko who has stepped up and will be taking over as Chapter Treasurer. It's that time of year where we begin the planning process for the Green Beret Challenge which will be held the last weekend in June. Our POC's for planning will be Dave Fielding and Bob Treutlein. We are still looking for volunteers to serve as trainers, team walkers and point sitters. Please don't hesitate to reach out when traveling through New England as we have several "safe houses" available to fellow Green Berets.



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



Happy 100th Birthday, Bill! CSM Bill Bray and Daughter



CSM Bill Bray Ron Lachelt Tim Kirk and Green Beret Friend.

Greetings the Midwest! We held our Airborne/Special Operations Luncheon on 13 Dec at the Lost Spur Golf Course in Eagan MN. For a change, the weather was wonderful and we had a great time with a silent auction, lots of friends reacquainted, great food and festive venue. On 27 Dec there was a gathering to honor CSM(R) William "Bill" Bray on his 100th birthday. Friends and family attended and had a great time. Bill served as a Navy crewman on a torpedo bomber and was shot down in WWII near Palawan. He served as a Ranger School instructor with John "Ranger" Roy at Mountain Phase in Georgia. He then served in Korea with UNPIK and later was the operations sergeant for the 5th SFGA in Vietnam and other operations.. Still sharp as a tack he helped lay the foundations for what it was like to be a Ranger and a Green Beret. What a history! We will be looking forward to seeing Dan Kaiser up and about after getting his hip worked on as we plan for Memorial Day in May and Heritage Days in Two Harbors MN in July.



PRES : Warren Martin
VICE : Troy Colson
SEC : Rick Soldinei
TRES : Mike Stocker



CHAPTER XXVII

The Martha Raye Chapter

27

St. Louis, MO

www.stlouisgreenberets.com

Greetings from Chapter 27, the St. Louis Missouri Martha Raye Chapter.

This past August at the the Eureka Elks Lodge, our Chapter held its 20th annual "Green Beret Casualty Fund" event. Soldiers from 5th Group at Fort Campbell raised the flag for the opening ceremony and provided a static equipment display. We had a variety of attractions including a silent auction, barrel of booze raffle, and static display provided by 5th Group. The annual event has consistently drawn a big crowd and raised funds that are forwarded to Chapter 38 at Fort Campbell. We have too many sponsors to list here, but we want to thank everyone for their annual support in providing items for auction, donations, and marketing the event.

In conjunction with the event, our Chapter Members have manned a Beer Tent at the Washington Town and Country Fair in Washington Missouri, the proceeds of which are donated to the chapter. A \$10,000 donation presented to Chapter 38 representative by Troy Colson, Mike Stocker and chapter 27 President Casey Grau.



Pari Stocker and her baby with 5th Group Soldiers

35

CHAPTER XXXV

The Christian Girard/Daniel West Memorial Chapter

Northern Ohio

www.sfachapter35.org



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



Tisone, Lustig and Kiehl, three former members of B-2-11 from Youngstown Air Base Plotting Strategy.



Many spouses attended. Pictured L-R: Col. and Tina Krompecher, Jeannie and Jimmy Tisone.

Greetings to our SF Brothers from NE Ohio Chapter XXXV. This past August at the the Eureka Elks Lodge, our Chapter held its 20th annual "Green Beret Casualty Fund" event. Soldiers from 5th Group at Fort Campbell raised the flag for the opening ceremony and provided a static equipment display. We had a variety of attractions including a silent auction, barrel of booze raffle, and static display provided by 5th Group. The annual event has consistently drawn a big crowd and raised funds that are forwarded to Chapter 38 at Fort Campbell. We have too many sponsors to list here, but we want to thank everyone for their annual support in providing items for auction, donations, and marketing the event.

37

CHAPTER XXXVII

The MG Michael D. Healy Memorial Chapter

Chicago, IL

www.sfa37.org



PRES : Patrick Crimmins
 VICE : Mark Radziszewski
 SEC : William Stach
 TRES : Michael Tuman



Mike Tuman and Toby Patterson with donations to VPH.



Bill Stach with Honor Flight at 08FEB26 meeting.

Greetings to all our SF Brothers from Chicagoland Chapter XXXVII. On the 12DEC25 our Chapter held its annual Christmas party at the Great Escape in Schiller Park Illinois. Our turnout was larger than previous years with a special visit from our National SFA President Chris Wilkerson. Chapter XXXVII was well represented by the younger members and the "Vintage" members of various Special Forces Groups and their families. A fine mix of dinner, drinks, swamping stories and overall camaraderie. The winner of our 50/50 raffle was our Ladies Auxiliary President Marsha Krzyzak, who generously donated the proceeds back to the Chapter. A Tip of the Beret to Marsha for that selfless gesture and all the outstanding work and commitment you provide that make this Chapter run smoothly. We had a successful exchange of gifts run by Kathy Patterson, thank you Kathy. Our Treasurer Mike Tuman presented a donation to Veterans Path to Hope, a local group who assists homeless veterans who want a chance to rebuild their lives. It was encouraging to see an increased attendance and overall, a successful event.



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



CHAPTER XLV
 The Buckeye Chapter

45

www.sfa45.org

Central Ohio

Greetings from the Buckeye Chapter. After a cold and snowy winter Chapter 45 looks forward to our 11th annual Freedom Ride that will be held on August 1, 2026. Registration starts at 1100 hours with an expectation of over 150 riders. The event will be hosted by the AMVETS riders of Post 1928 and captained by Gary Euton. The ride begins at W. Broad ST of Columbus and ends at Buckeye Lake's AMVETS Post 51. Along the way there will be one stop in Circleville, OH at the AMVETS Post 2256 for riders to stretch their legs, get refreshments, and meet and greet Ohio's green berets. All riders from Ohio are invited to ride with us. Chapter 45 is extremely thankful for all the support Post 1928 has provided over the past year including several generous financial donations. All proceeds from the Freedom Ride will be used to support the soldiers and families of B Co. 2nd BN, 19th SFGA. 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.



First wave of riders depart Freedom Ride 2025.



Chapter 45 members at Freedom Ride 2025.



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



CHAPTER LV
 The Michael May Memorial Chapter

55

www.sfachap55.org

Michigan



Michigan Chapter 55 is enjoying a traditional winter with poor driving conditions, lots of wind and cold temperatures, and high snow accumulations. This should satisfy all those who enjoy skiing, ice fishing, tubing, ice skating, hockey, and snowmobiling! If one likes to shovel driveways, it's his time to shine.

The Chapter leadership is in transition but moving steadily forward with great ideas for improvement in all important areas such as our web site, scholarship program, area team reorganization, public relations, and communication. For scattered membership in the only Chapter for the entire state, communication is critical. For this to happen, all means of contact need to be current. It is the responsibility of each member to ensure that his primary phone number, email address, and home address are accurate and, in case of change, forward that change to Chapter staff.

Our spring meeting will be on Saturday, April 11, in Owosso at the American Legion Post 57, 201 East Mason St.



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 conducts three business meeting a year. In 2025 our first meeting was held in February at Mackinaw's Grill and Spirits located in Green Bay, WI. This meeting is the chapter's annual dining out and was coordinated by John Nowak and his wife Yun Kyung Lee. Our July meeting was at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum located in Madison, WI. An excellent lecture and tour was given by museum staff. The meeting was coordinated by chapter secretary Greg Smith. The September meeting is the chapter's annual picnic held at Pineview Campgrounds, North Pavilion, Ft McCoy, WI and was coordinated by chapter co-president Rubin Littmann. Chapter 73's Teamhouse administrator, Jim Trimby, has begun organizing chapter Zoom calls which take place during months without chapter events. These calls allow chapter members to stay in touch between meetings. A formal call schedule will be discussed at the Feb 2026 chapter meeting. The Green Bay Packers ended the 2025 season with a loss to arch rival Chicago Bears in the NFC Wild Card game.

99

CHAPTER XCIX

The Bluegrass Chapter

Louisville, KY

www.sfa99.org



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

READ MORE



TheDropOnline.com



Current and Former Special Forces Branch personnel celebrate the holidays.



ARSOF Director and Deputy present CW4 Santiago a check for Derby Marathon.

Bluegrass Chapter 99 celebrated our annual Christmas party on 17 December 2025, at Rooster's in Louisville. It was a really good turnout, and we were fortunate to have members of the ARSOF Group from HRC join us as we celebrated our brotherhood and gave thanks for all the blessings the year provided. Bluegrass Chapter 99 continues to have in-person meetings on the second Thursday of even months, at 1800 hrs, at VFW Post 1170 in Louisville. We asked VFW Vice Commander, Frank Sokolowski, to share the Post's calendar of events with us so we can continue to contribute to their success. Frank mentioned that memberships have dropped as WWII members pass away and asked that we consider membership to help this great organization continue to work for veterans, and I encourage you to reach out to your local Posts and see what they have to offer. I hope to see you at our next meeting, and don't forget we still 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.

107

CHAPTER CVII

The Galen Kittleson Chapter

Cedar Rapids, IA

facebook.com/groups/80721910965830/?ref=share&mibextid=NSMWT



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

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Chapter members pose with new Chapter flag.



Chapter members gather for good food, cold beverages and war stories after the meeting.

Chapter CVII held it's Chapter meeting Saturday, January 31st at 1000 hrs. Chapter business was discussed and plans made for calendar year 2026. Chapter Vice President Jerry Jochum presented a US flag blessed and given to the chapter by the Sisinowa Dominican Sisters. The flag will be the official flag for the chapter and will be used, as applicable, at all chapter meetings and events. Vice President Jochum graciously agreed to maintain the flag.

500

CHAPTER D

The Hoosier Chapter

Indianapolis, IN

www.specialforcesac500.org



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

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TheDropOnline.com



Newest member of the Chapter Andrew Unland Recent graduate of the Q course hanging out.

Chapter 500 in Indiana has started the year running, with a new addition to our board, and camaraderie opportunities. Members began the year by renewing connections after the holidays and taking time to remember fellow veterans, a staple of our early-year gatherings that reinforces the bonds of brotherhood that define our chapter. Leadership and volunteers have been working behind the scenes to refine plans for upcoming activities, including range and brotherhood events planned later in the year. As we move to the Spring and Summer seasons, we will increase the opportunities to connect, support one another, and represent the Green Beret legacy throughout Indiana in 2026.



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*

READ MORE



TheDropOnline.com

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



www.sfa11.org

CHAPTER XI

The National Capital Chapter

11

Washington, DC



Son Tay Raiders, POWs and Friends at the National Ranger Memorial for the 55th Reunion of the Son Tay Raid.



The Special Forces Club's Operations Overview of Task Force K-Bar in Afghanistan.

In November, the National Ranger Memorial Foundation and the National Infantry Association hosted the 55th Son Tay Raider Reunion, honoring the legacy of the Son Tay Raiders and commemorating our shared history and contributions of MACV-SOG, MIKE Force, and POWs. Chapter members MG Ken Bowra briefed on MACVSOG, MAJ Willie Merkerson briefed on Mike Force, and Ray Oden represented the chapter at the showing of the documentary film "27 Minutes at Son Tay," which the chapter helped to fund. The Raiders were all awarded the Infantry's Order of Saint Maurice and feted with a beautiful banquet at the National Infantry Museum, a wreath-laying at the National Ranger Memorial, and a Q&A with the Ranger Regiment, the Ranger Training Brigade cadre, and the current OCS class and the OCS Cadre. The Raiders were all awarded the Infantry's Order of Saint Maurice. The final event of the reunion was the screening of the documentary film "27 Minutes at Son Tay," for which Chapter XI members David Jackson, Frank Levesque, Dan Packa, and Ray Oden served as historical advisors. The DVD or Digital Release of the movie "27 Minutes at Son Tay" is now out for pre-order with a delivery date of March 2026. <https://27minutesatsontay.com/pre-order-live/>

READ MORE



TheDropOnline.com

PRES : Jim Diven Jr.
VICE : Randy Runkles
VICE : Charlie Drake
SEC : Bill Hanrahan
TRES : Leo Kosoriek



CHAPTER XXVI

The Gun Powder Chapter

26

Maryland



Chapter members and spouses enjoying the 2025 Christmas Party.



Newly elected chapter officers, left to right Leo Kosorek (Treasurer), Bill Hanrahan (President) and Charlie Drake (Vice President).

On 14 Dec. 2025, in Pikesville, MD, Chapter 26 members attended the annual chapter Christmas party. Incident of the event elections for chapter officers were held. All chapter members are grateful for the service of outgoing President Jim Diven Jr. and look forward to working with newly elected President Bill Hanrahan.

68

CHAPTER LXVIII

The Vernon L. Ramey Memorial Chapter

Kenova, WV

www.sfchapter68.org



PRES : Charles Withers III
VICE : Robert Luther
VICE : Jason Smith
SEC : Erik Curran
TRES : Bob Polcyn



Three students received Chapter 68 Scholarships of \$1000 this year. David Stark and Jack Blackman, grandsons of SGM (R) Tom Workman, as well as Sarah Galang, daughter of Honorary Member Saboor Galang. Thanks to John Rose who donated a rifle to be raffled for the scholarship fund resulting in \$2000 raised. Congratulations to Mike Silver who won the rifle. Thanks to CW3 Jason Addis and his wife Lisa for hosting the 3rd Annual 2/19 reunion. It was a great event and well attended. They will be hosting the 4th Annual 2/19 Reunion this next October. Thanks to Dirk Hay for setting up the range for Chapter 68 Family Range Day.

84

CHAPTER LXXXIV

The Hampton Roads Chapter

Hampton Roads, VA



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



Chapter 84 supporting Mission 22 salt water fishing for veterans



Brett Patron issues ROTC award at Smithfield HS to Gianna Garrett.

Chapter 84 recently supported the charity Fishing for a Mission 22. Mission 22 is a connect program provides veterans with the opportunity to enjoy the therapeutic benefits of recreational fishing through fishing charters and land-based events. Currently, there are boat captains located in Massachusetts, Virginia Beach, and Myrtle Beach. Operation Tackle 22 is our peer-to-peer leadership development and vocational mentorship program dedicated to preventing suicide and promoting healing among our heroes. Thirdly, we have opened our first FTM22 Resource Center for veterans and first responders, dedicated to providing comfort, vocational guidance, employment support, benefits assistance, and behavioral health services to those who have given so much for our nation.

90

CHAPTER XC

The MSG Richard L. Ferguson Memorial Chapter

Fredericksburg, VA

www.sfach90.org

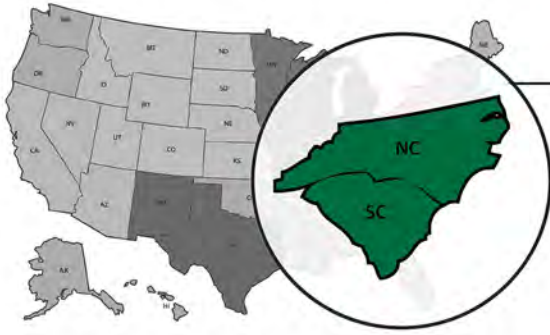


PRES : Greg Discavage
VICE : Rick Morris
SEC : John Cupp
TRES : Bob Ponzio



In February, our Chapter President presented a donation to Marsha Bernard to help with free sewing classes she is hosting for girls in our local 4-H Club. Our Chapter provides many charitable donations to local veteran organizations, youth programs, and other worthwhile causes. We are extremely proud of our track record over the years of providing help where help is needed. Our annual William "Bill" Billingslea Memorial Charity Golf Tournament will be held on Friday, May 15th, at the Gauntlet Golf Course located in Fredericksburg, VA. This is our primary fund raising event that supports our Chapter's SF Scholarship program, as well other charitable activities. If anyone is interested in playing in the tournament or being a sponsor, please go to our website or contact Joe Wieland directly at jmw355@comcast.net. The tournament is always great fun and it's for a good cause. We hope to see some familiar faces there.





REGION IV

Carolinas Region

(NORTH CAROLINA, SOUTH CAROLINA, 7th, 3rd, SWC, SFCMD)



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 : Jeff Rinaldi
VICE : Blake Nelson
SEC : Marcus Washington
TRES : Mike Locklear



CHAPTER I-XVIII

Aaron Bank, Samuel S. Theriault, and Matthew "Matt" Williams Memorial Chapter

1-18

www.sfa1-18.com

Fayetteville, NC



In December the Chapter hosted RFF/SFQC 341 Graduating class.



Several chapter members attended the Funeral service honoring MAJ(R) Steve Sosa.

February 14th, the chapter hosted the regularly the scheduled meeting/Valentine's potluck. March 13 -15th the GORUCK hosted one of their largest annual events of the year the "King of all Rucks" as designated by GORUCK Nation, Bragg Heavy was the first ever GORUCK Heavy dating back to 2012, and GORUCK Cadre execute it annually in and around the hallowed ground of Fort Bragg, NC, where all Special Forces soldiers are put to the test. This weekend event is modeled after Special Forces training that awards soldiers the Green Beret, "A symbol of excellence, a badge of courage, a mark of distinction in the fight for freedom" - JFK.



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



Meeting of the minds! (L-R) Mike Massey, VP Rick Turcotte, Lanny Lancero, Pres Gary Koenitzer and (seated) the famous CSM(R) Hank Luthy.





Chapter VI members at the Mid Carolina Rifle Club Steel Challenge competition 01/17/29. Josh Howle, Lanny Lucero, Tim Howle, Jim Shaw and Rick Turcotte.

We held our winter meeting on 10 JAN 26 at our compound. The day prior our shooting team met at the OGT range for prep of the Steel Challenge Events coming up. The morning of our meeting, we received a tour of the USAJFKSWCS SERE training facilities by the SERE Company OPNS SGT. Upcoming events: 8 MAY 26 - Annual Golf Fundraiser in support of Gold Star Teens and Jack Tobin Scholarship fund. 9 May 26 - Spring Meeting in the morning at our compound. 9 May 26 - Cynco De Mayo party in the afternoon at our compound. Summer Steel Challenge event - date - TBD. 18 JUL 26 - Summer Meeting at our compound. 3 OCT 26 - Fall Meeting at our compound. Second week of OCT 26 - dates - TBD - Memorial Valor Foundation Steel Challenge fundraiser support, in support of Gold Star Families.


17

CHAPTER XVII

The COL Jerry "Robin" Sage Memorial Chapter

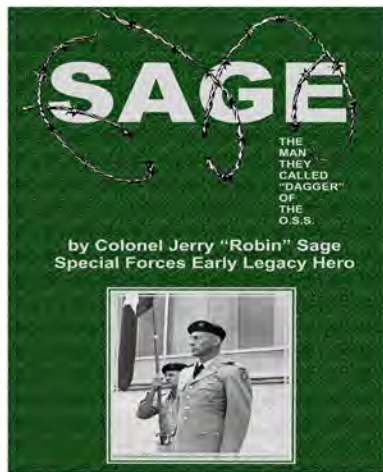



PRES : Phil Hanson
 VICE : Mike Cavanaugh
 SEC : Walt Stonez
 TRES : Bill Gunn
 SGT at ARMS : Benny Wyrick

READ MORE

TheDropOnline.com

Maggie Valley, NC

www.sfchapter17.com



Chapter 17 has republished Col Jerry Sage's Memoir. In his Memoir, SAGE, COL Sage recounts his experiences as a German POW during WWII. This book was the basis for the movie, The Great Escape. Jerry 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 form 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. A link to the Kindle version of the book is also on the web site. Chapter 17 is in the process of reprinting another historical book, this time about the Vietnam War: Mike Di Rocco's Fire Your FPL's. Look for it to come out later this spring/summer! About Di Rocco's book per Lieutenant General William P. Yarborough, "Beautifully written, professional level writing. I was especially impressed with Mike's powers of recall in recreating so much of the environment of wartime Vietnam. No one who was not involved in that fracas as intimately as Mike, could speak with such accuracy and authority about equipment, tactics, and techniques." At our last meeting on 7 February 2026, Seaux Larreau led a lively discussion about Special Forces' support to Helene disaster rescue efforts, emphasizing the need to formalize some of our existing qualifications to support future emergencies. This will be a topic of discussion at the upcoming Spring Convention in Nashville.

62

CHAPTER LXII

The MSG Lowell Stevens Memorial Chapter




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

READ MORE

TheDropOnline.com

Southern Pines, NC

www.sfa62.org

Greetings from Southern Pines in the Sandhills of North Carolina. December saw Chapter members get together for our annual Christmas Celebration at the VFW. We had a great turnout this year and everyone enjoyed the food and camaraderie. Next we begin gearing up for the Annual International Sniper Competition in March. This event just seems to get bigger and better every year. Mark your calendars for March 18-20, 2026, and come enjoy the shooting and rubbing elbows with the shooters and vendors. 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*

63

CHAPTER LXIII

The Francis "Swamp Fox" Marion Chapter




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

READ MORE

TheDropOnline.com

Charleston, SC

Welcome to 2026, which marks the beginning of our 7th year as a chapter. Covid set us back in organization, but we are now rolling at full speed and gaining new members monthly. We are in planning mode for our main fundraiser, Range Day. We have a new, upgraded, location this year and hope to make it our location moving forward as we continue to expand this event. This year's Range Day will take place on Sunday, April 19th. It's our first time having it on a Sunday, but that was when we had access to our new site. Thanks to Vice President Kirk Ferguson for taking the lead on this year's event. There are many changes going on at National and the chapter will adapt, as SF troops always do. We look forward to the challenges facing us and will continue to move forward and accomplish our goals.





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



CHAPTER C

100

The SSG Robert J. Miller Memorial Chapter

www.sfchapter100.org

Fort Bragg, NC



Green Beret Jingle Jog

Since the last issue of the Drop, Chapter 100 continues to support the local SF community around Fort Bragg. Working with the Jedburgh Foundation and the 3rd SFG Chaplain were supported 3rd SFG families in need over the Thanksgiving and Christmas period.

In early December, we hosted the 14th annual Green Beret Jingle Jog at Dirt Bag Ale. We had a record number of registered attendees this year at 723. This event raised monies to support the ten \$2000 scholarships we will award at the 24th annual Stan the Man Charity Golf Classic in June.

Planning for the Stan the Man tournament is in full swing with Ed Petkovich serving as the Tournament Director. The tournament will take place 20 June at Gates Four Country Club in Fayetteville.

To register: <https://givebutter.com/stmcharitygolfclassic2026>

Our Chapter Secretary, MSG(R) Mark W. Peters was selected to participate in Warrior Expeditions, 2026 Warrior Hike Program and will begin the 2197.4 mile trek of the Appalachian Trail starting at Springer Mountain, GA in late March. His goal is to summit Mount Katahdin, ME over the Labor Day weekend.



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



CHAPTER CCCLXIII

363

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

Greenville, SC



COL(R) Stu Farris, Mr. John Kelly, and CSM(R) Pat Fensom after the Chapter 363 Christmas Dinner.



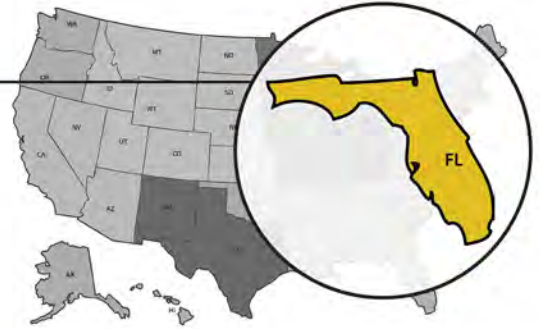
Members of Chapter 363 pose for a group pic following the 'Lunch with the Colonel' held at the Beacon. COL(R) Jack Kaplan served as the host.

SFA Chapter 363 closed out in 2025 with our annual Christmas Dinner. The 72 attendees included 18 ROTC cadets representing Clemson University, Furman University, and Wofford College. COL(R) Stu Farris served as the guest speaker and shared his insights from the book, *The Intoku Code* by CPT(R) Wade Ishimoto. The evening included a silent auction that raised over \$1500.00 for SFA CH 363.

During the Christmas Dinner, the new officers for CH 363 were announced after an election held in November. Elected to serve SFA CH 363 were: Pat Fensom, President; Jake Dunn, Vice-President; Ralph Longello, Secretary; Alden Sims, Treasurer; and John Kelly, Assistant Treasurer.

The chapter kicked off 2026 by teaching an 8-week course at Furman University's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute for the Winter semester. The course titled *Special Forces in Vietnam* highlights SF's role during the Vietnam War, including operations, notable SF Veterans, and lessons learned. SF Vets who served in Vietnam serve as co-instructors and share their experiences of serving on A-Teams, MIKE Force, and SOG.

REGION V
Florida Region
 (10 CHAPTERS; FL)



CHAPTERS: 0, VII (7), XXI (21), LX (60), LXXIV (74), LXXVI (76), LXXXV (85), LXXXVIII (88)
**Chapters in red did not submit input for this quarter*

0 CHAPTER 0
 The Southernmost Chapter
 Key West, FL



PRES : Jeff Burns
VICE : Christian Yount
SEC : Brian Bewley
TRES : Alex Pombar



The Chapter worked with non-profits and benevolent donors to erect a memorial on the Special Forces Underwater Operations School in Key West, FL. The memorial honors the eight students who died in their pursuit to earn their Special Operations Combat Dive badge, displayed on seven pillars given two of the deaths occurred when a dive buddy team was lost at sea in 1965. Both are honored on the same pillar. All benevolent donors and organizations have their names engraved on the bricks surrounding the memorial in a small thanks to their generosity. Special Forces Association Chapter 0 has been working diligently to support the Key West local community and memorialize the past, present, and future members of the Special Forces Regiment. In the last year, the Chapter gave a \$3000 scholarship to the daughter of a Green Beret to help in her pursuit of higher education and becoming a nurse. This is the second \$3000 scholarship the Chapter has given to an applicant since 2024. Lastly, the Chapter provided a local charter school with \$1000 during a fundraiser to build two playgrounds for their students on their school property. The Chapter plans to continue honoring the legacy of Greens Berets in 2026, expanding our scholarship programs.



Combat Dive Student Memorial underneath the SFUWO Flagpole

7 CHAPTER VII
 Emerald Coast Chapter
 Northwest Florida www.sfa7.com



PRES : Yamil R. Osorio
PRES : Patrick T. Colloton
VICE : Alfred L. Zalenski
SEC : Daniel V. Pace
TRES : Gabriel Correa



The Jingle Bell Jog 2025 - The season kicked off with the Jingle Bell Jog, where the 7th SFG(A) community traded their kit for holiday hats and running shoes. It was a fantastic display of fitness and family, bringing Soldiers and their loved ones together for a little smoke session. Whether sprinting toward a personal best or strolling with the kids, the event captured the high-energy camaraderie that the regiment brings to the Emerald Coast.



Chapter 7 personnel at the Wreaths Across America ceremony in December.



The Chapter 7 president and vice president support a gold star family engagement.

While the winter chill finally settled over the Emerald Coast, Chapter 7 remained as active as ever, trading fall sports for holiday traditions and formal attire. This quarter, the chapter shifted its focus toward honoring the fallen, celebrating our current quiet professionals, and maintaining the festive spirit that defines our community. In a more somber but deeply meaningful tribute, Chapter 7 members joined the local community for Wreaths Across America at Beal Memorial Cemetery in Fort Walton Beach. It was a powerful morning of reflection as volunteers placed wreaths on the graves of our nation's heroes. Seeing the Green Berets among the sea of volunteers served as a poignant reminder of our commitment to "Never Forget," ensuring that the legacy of those who served before us is honored with dignity and respect by every generation. The quarter reached its peak with the 7th Special Forces Group Winter Formal. It was a night of elegance and tradition, providing a rare opportunity for our operators and their spouses to step off the range and into the ballroom. The evening was a perfect blend of honoring our unit's storied history and celebrating the strength of the families who support the mission every day. From the toasts to the dance floor, the formal served as a well-deserved moment of celebration for the hardest-working group in the Army. As we look toward the New Year, the Emerald Coast continues to be a bastion of support for our veterans. Whether we were supporting a fun-run or standing in silence among the headstones, Chapter 7 remains dedicated to giving back to the community that gives so much to us. The rest of the country might be hunkering down for the freeze, but here in the Panhandle, we're just getting warmed up for another year of service and brotherhood. *De Oppresso Liber!*

READ MORE

TheDropOnline.com

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

CHAPTER XXI
 The Bob Salzman Memorial Chapter

21

specialforceschapter21florida.com
Orlando, FL

Saluting Stories of Service
2026 HONOREES

Storyteller Award Honoree
 LTC David S. Clukey, US Army, Retired
 Global War on Terror Veteran

Alumni Service Award Honoree
 CAPT Elizabeth Satran, USAF

LTC (R) Dave Clukey, the 2026 Honoree for Imprints of Honor.



Chapter 21 Members at the monthly Green Beret Troop Support Luncheon on 27 January.

The Chapter is pleased to announce that one of our members, LTC David S. Clukey, US Army Special Forces GWOT (Retired), is 2026 Imprints of Honor-Honoree. Imprints of Honor does incredible work connecting students with Veterans—honoring their service, preserving America's heritage, and helping shape the next generation of leaders. On 27 January there was another gathering of Chapter 21 members for the Green Beret Troop Support (GBTS) luncheon in Cape Canaveral FL. A group of 15 members attended and discussed the full Chapter 21 luncheon and meeting on 21 February at River Rock Restaurant in Rockledge Florida.

60

CHAPTER LX

The Richard J. Meadows Memorial Chapter

Tampa, FL

www.specialforces.org



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



Chapter 60 group photo during Menton Day anniversary event on 4 December at the Team House.

Chapter 60 began the year with the election and swearing-in of its Board of Directors during the annual Christmas Party. The Chapter congratulates the following officers: Brian Wilson, President; Pat Rizzi, Vice President of Operations; Keith Pecha, Vice President of Support; Joe Harosky, Secretary; and Jim Fagan, Treasurer. The Board looks forward to continuing the Chapter's mission of fellowship, remembrance, and support of the Special Forces community. Recent Chapter activities included the annual Menton Day observance and Christmas Party, both held at the Chapter's new Team House in Tampa. Menton Day was observed on 4 December and marked the first time the event was hosted at the Team House. Thirty-one Chapter "Longtabbers" were present to honor the origins of Special Forces and the legacy of Colonel Aaron Bank. The observance reflected the traditional Menton Day format, featuring assorted meats, cheeses, bread, gravy, and beer, with members bringing their own canteen cups and knives. One attendee arrived dressed in period-appropriate attire, with hopes that participation in this tradition will grow in future years. The Chapter's annual Christmas Party was held on 14 December and also marked its first occurrence at the new Team House. Approximately 60 members and family members attended, enjoying an evening of fellowship and celebration to close out the year. Thanks to Casper Eloff, the Mosaic foundation provided a \$50,000 donation to Team House Tampa at a recent Tampa Bay Buccaneers game. Chapter 60 members greatly appreciate the \$3,000 donation from SFBMC Camp Bullis Chapter to SFA Chapter 60. The Chapter extends its sincere thoughts and prayers to the families of Darrell Katz and Russell Dobbs, two of our Chapter brethren who recently passed. Their service and dedication to the Brotherhood will be remembered.

74

CHAPTER LXXIV

The CPT Bob May/MSG Richard Garvey Memorial Chapter

Central Florida

www.ch74sfa.com



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



Chapter 74 Member David Humble was presented with a Quilt of Valor by American Legion Post 68, Avon Park, FL on 10 Jan 2026

On 10 January, The American Musclecar Museum in Melbourne, Florida held a private tour for Chapter 74 members and families. The tour was opened up to include all SFA members and families, as well as Graduates of the US Military Academy, US Naval Academy, and US Air Force Academy. Over 150 people attended. The American Musclecar Museum houses almost 500 beautiful cars, many of which have less than 100 miles on the odometer. It is typically only open for charity and special events. The owner, Mark Pieloch, and his staff are particularly supportive of veterans. While the Museum is open to all veterans annually around Veterans' Day in November, it is packed at that time, so our private tour was even more special. During our 02 May 2026 meeting our own Chapter 74-member, COL Bill Prince, will present an assessment of the strange relationship between radical Islam and left leaning organizations, such as Marxist and Communist groups. Bill has done extensive research on the alliance between the Left and radical Islam...including multiple deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan with the CIA." Bill is a 1970 graduate of the US Military Academy at West Point and is a Viet Nam veteran. Bill is also Ranger/Special Forces qualified and has been deployed to various locations across his career, including multiple deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan.

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



Hope everyone is doing well. We in Chapter 76 continue to split our Chapter meetings between Miami-Dade and Broward County. Bass Pro is our usual location in Broward County and American Legion Post #24 in Miami Dade County. We changed locations to Dave & Busters for a new/old experience. Please keep us in mind if you are passing through or boarding a cruise. The Chapter continues to provide financial support to noteworthy charitable organizations and needy SFA individuals.



The Special Forces Flag is proudly displayed at the American Legion Post in South Miami!



Brass Pro meeting



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



CHAPTER LXXXV
 The Treasure Coast Chapter

85

www.sfachapter85.com

Jensen Beach, FL



The Special Forces Flag is proudly displayed at the American Legion Post in South Miami!



Brass Pro meeting

Greetings from SFA Chapter 85 (LXXXV) on the Florida Treasure Coast. Sadly, we lost one of our earliest members last year. Nelson Parrish passed away on 1 September 2025. He was one of our leaders in supporting our JROTC participation. Several members attended and his Celebration of Life. He was buried in the South Florida National Cemetery in Palm Beach. Welcome to our newest member, Robert Espiritu (D-9856) who joined our Chapter in December.



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



CHAPTER LXXXVIII
 Northeast Florida Chapter

88

www.SFA88.org

Jacksonville, FL



The Special Forces Flag is proudly displayed at the American Legion Post in South Miami!



Brass Pro meeting

One end of the year highlight was support for the annual Wreaths Across America event. Chapter 88 members teamed up with Lt. Col. Patrick Heffernan to support the National Day of Remembrance held Dec. 13, 2025, at the Jacksonville National Cemetery. Heffernan, who was then commander of the 3rd Bn., 20th Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Camp Blanding, served as a keynote speaker. During the opening ceremony, he spoke to the dozens of family members and volunteers there to place Christmas wreaths by the headstones of some 23,000 veteran graves.



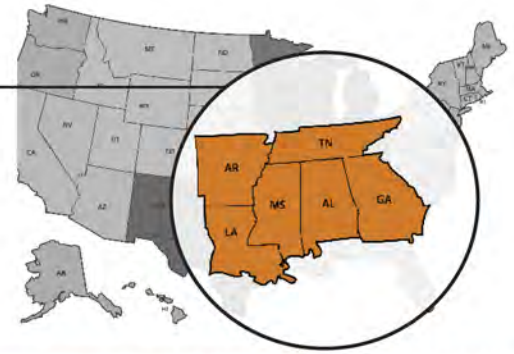
REGION VI

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), XCI (111)

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



49

CHAPTER XLIX

The Richard J. Webber Memorial Chapter

Little Rock, AR



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



Ray Beuscher, Richard Green, BG Chad Bridges, Ken Smith, and President Bobby Nixon.



Chapter 49 Christmas event.

The Chapter also had its annual Christmas event in Hot Springs Arkansas where we discussed several issues including our membership. So many folks are members at large and we're trying to identify them but it's a lot harder than you would think. We will start holding luncheons in central Arkansas as we already have a monthly in the NW corner where many members reside. We are also reviewing charitable sites in need of help, concentrating on the military population first of course along with working on several issues to enhance our presence as many don't know that a Special Forces Chapter exists in Arkansas. Lastly, prayers go out to Ray Buescher, our SGT of Arms, who just had bypass surgery today. We hope for a speedy recovery and all members have a safe and healthy new year.

59

CHAPTER LIX

The Joe C. Alderman Memorial Chapter

Georgia, USA

www.SFALIX.org



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



COL Biff Hadden, friend and family.



Our Joint MOAA/SFA Christmas Party was a delightful success and grateful for the participation.

Chapter 59 anticipates a busy year ahead, dedicated to honoring exceptional ROTC cadets at local colleges and universities, as well as providing scholarships for high school students. We successfully raised funds through a lucrative raffle to support these initiatives. Additionally, we are focused on expanding our membership and supporting the families of our members who have passed away. This includes nominating deserving individuals for the Georgia Military Veterans Hall of Fame and the For the Saint Neri Award. Our Joint MOAA/SFA Christmas Party was a delightful success, and we are grateful for the participation and support. Lastly, we are pleased to share that Biff Hadden, our current Chapter Treasurer and former President, is on the mend following a head injury.



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



CHAPTER LXXIX
 The Bryan F. McKnight Memorial Chapter

79

www.sfa79.com

Pearl, MS



Chapter 79 had a Fall event and gathered at the Pearl River Resort, Silver Star Casino, Mississippi.



Rick Stone introduced authors Emily Lufkin and John Moore.

One of the year's most memorable events was the gathering at the Pearl River Resort, Silver Star Casino, featuring presentations by authors John Moore and Emily Lufkin, both descendants of OSS Detachment 101 members. Their insights into the unit's work in China, Burma, and India during WWII were in formative and well received. MG (Ret.) Garner will be honored at the Vito Canizaro Veterans Home in Biloxi, MS, with a dedication ceremony scheduled for Friday, November 14, 2025, from 12:00-2:00 p.m. The chapter's collection of photos and memorabilia was well received, and his 50 years of service with the 20th Special Forces Group will be recognized with a permanent plaque in the facility. Athena Scholarship Reminder The Green Beret Foundation remains dedicated to supporting both our Green Berets and their families. The Athena Scholarship, established in 2021, provides financial assistance to spouses of current and former U.S. Army Special Forces Soldiers pursuing undergraduate or graduate degrees. Applications are now close for 2025. Please continue preparing submissions for the March 15, 2026, scholarship cycle as well. By-Laws Revision Over the summer, the chapter undertook a comprehensive review of its By Laws, originally written in 2009. The primary issue addressed concerns how members are notified of votes and what constitutes a quorum, as meeting attendance is often low. The proposed solution requires notifying all members 30 days before any meeting that will include a vote, ensuring a quorum is present. One of C/2/20's own, Gil Ferguson, was promoted to LTG and assumed command of USASOC. The 20th SFG Reunion was held 7-8 Feb 2026 at the Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach AL.



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



CHAPTER XCII

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

92

www.chapter92sfa.com

Madison, AL



The Special Forces Flag is proudly displayed at the American Legion Post in South Miami!



Brass Pro meeting

Having missed the past 2 cycles of the DROP, this article will include updates on Chapter 92 activities for several months. Chapter membership continues to grow, we are at 101 members, despite the passing of 3 of our members and 2 of our SF brothers, who were not SFA members in 2025. Regular monthly meetings are held at VFW Post 2702 in Huntsville, on the 1st Saturday of the month. The June 14th meeting was held in Rainbow City, AL, at the Western Sizzlin Steak House. In attendance: 6 guests Betty Mize, Joel Haney (Betty Mize's son-in-law), Mary Crittendon, COL(R) Joe and Mary Creel Patriots Association, Tim Ramsey Etowah County Commissioner, 10 of the 20th Group Society members and 7 SFA Chapter 92 members for roughly 25. Following the meeting we had a police escort to the cemetery and grave of Col Ola Lee Mize, MOH, performing our annual reading of his MOH citation with honors rendered. On August 21st, 2025, 11am the VA Gunterville Clinic was renamed the COL Ola Lee Mize VA Clinic, after being introduced into and passed by the US House of representatives by Congressman Robert Aderholt on 11-24-2024. Upon completion of the ceremony, we took MS Betty Mize to Wentzell's Oyster House for lunch and presented her with an SFA Chapter 92 membership. In addition to the regular September business meeting members gathered 9-13-2025, for a BBQ lunch at Old Greenbrier Restaurant, in Madison, AL, for food, fellowship and camaraderie, with 11 members and 10 spouses and friends, a total of 21. Our Chapter President was invited to Ft Benning, GA for the 55th Son Tay Raiders reunion 20-22 November. He helped fund raise and find declassified reports for Operation King Pin and Ivory Coast for the Documentary that was shown and is supposed to be finally ready for release and sale in March 2026. It was immensely humbling experience and another item checked off my bucket list. The Chapter once again gathered at Texas de Brazil 12-6-2025, in Huntsville for our annual Christmas party and dinner. In addition to great food, we held a silent auction raising \$450 to support the ROTC scholarship fund. The chapter currently has 19 JROTC High Schools and 9 SROTC Colleges programs that we will support in 2026. Election of new officers was also completed in December and are listed above and on Chapter 92 website.



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

READ MORE



TheDropOnline.com



29th Annual Ralph Dominguez/Jerry Montoya Food Drive



58 wreaths were placed at FT Bliss National Cemetery by nearly 20 of our members and families.

Greetings from the men of Chapter 9. Old Fashioned Christmas – about 100 attendees. Omar and his committee upped their game from last year and produced a well-deserved night to celebrate the hard work from last year. We had great food, raffles and dancing with the Villa Band providing entertainment. Special Olympics Basketball Team – Chapter 9 passed \$1,500 in support to the Special Olympics Basketball Team that our member Jerry is a major supporter and coach. Sleep in Heavenly Peace Donation (SHP): Steve, Greg and Brian went out to the Upper Valley to the Sleep in Heavenly Peace warehouse and presented \$2,500 donation to SPH to purchase mattresses. They were prepping to send out beds that they were building to needy families with children. In the last three years SHP has built 3,000 beds. Wreaths Across America. 58 wreaths were placed at FT Bliss National Cemetery by nearly 20 of our members and families. 29th Annual Ralph Dominguez/ Jerry Montoya Food Drive – Greg and his committee did an outstanding job to prepare and execute this past food drive; 96 Boxes prepared for Christmas for needy families this year. Nearly \$3K was Spent. Next year is the 30th year!

15

CHAPTER XV

The Alamo Chapter

San Antonio, TX

www.sfa-xv.org




PRES : Jeffrey D. Dahlby
VICE : Thomas L. Tannahill
SEC : Lionel Solis
TRES : Merrill G. Hall

READ MORE



TheDropOnline.com



CH XV members present at MSG Pedro "Pete" Briones Estrada's funeral



CH XV members present at memorial bench.

Pedro "Pete" Estrada, 86 of Bandera, Texas passed away on January 6th, 2026. Pete enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1960 following a four-year tour with the U.S. Air Force. On February 7th Chapter XV members participated in the Memorial Bench Ceremony for SFC Javier "Jaguar" Gutierrez at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. We lost Chapter members Toby Todd on November 1st, 2025, former member Pat Feeley on December 9th, 2025. Please keep all our members, families and friends in your thoughts and prayers as they recover from illness, live-saving operations, and experience age-related problems. As continuing support to the Echo Hills Gold Star Camp, a check for \$500 was presented by Chapter XV to and accepted by Camp Director Marcie Freedman. Marcie thanked Chapter XV and stated that fortunately the camp was not damaged by the devastating flood that occurred in the Texas Hill Country this past July as the camp is not located in the flood zone. The camp also hosted many first responders during the tragic event.



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



CHAPTER XXXII-L

The Indian Nations Chapter

32-50

www.sfchapter32-50.org

Oklahoma City, OK



Chapter 32-50 Members with BG Robinson in center.



Russ Bigbie presents J.O. Dickey with Letter of Commendation

At the 10 January 2026 Meeting, BG Ben Robinson, USAF, Ret. BG Ben Robinson, USAF, Ret., the Commander of AWACS, at Tinker AFB, on 11 SEP 2001, gave a riveting presentation about what happened throughout our country when the World Trade Center and the Pentagon were attacked by radical Islamic terrorists. There was a large turnout of Members and Guests for the presentation. J.O. Dickey was presented with A Chapter Letter of Commendation at our February Meeting for his actions that possibly saved the life of one of our Brother Green Berets.



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



CHAPTER XXXIX

The MSG Roy Benavidez Chapter

39

www.sfchapter32-50.org

Houston, TX



Chapter 32-50 Members with BG Robinson in center.



Russ Bigbie presents J.O. Dickey with Letter of Commendation

Chapter 39 met at the Palinuro Italian Cuisine restaurant in Katy, Texas on Saturday 6 December 2025 for its Christmas party. Eleven chapter members and nine wives attended. President Tommy Austin provided a brief introduction, then invited Dan Denham to offer a prayer. Each member introduced himself and wife or guest, his SF assignments, and his city of residence. Secretary-Treasurer Dan Denham reported on finances. On 10 January 2026, a few members of the chapter met for the monthly SF/Ranger breakfast, and met Dave Dezso, newly appointed CEO of the Special Forces Trust. We exchanged information with him (mostly true!). We look forward to participating with the SFT in 2026. We thank Dino McBride for coordinating both a raffle and the luncheon arrangements.



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



CHAPTER XLI

The Lone Star Chapter

41

www.sfa41.org

Austin, TX



SFA Teamhouse Presentation.



Chapter XLI held our annual Christmas Party on December 6, 2025.

It's been a busy few months for Chapter XLI, as is typical over the holiday season - with lots of opportunities to get together socialize outside of a formal meeting structure. We also heard from the recipient of our fall MSG Tom Kyle Educational Assistance Grant, currently attending UT Austin, who expressed her gratitude for the assistance the chapter has provided her in purchasing books and other items required for her Pre-Medicine studies. Finally, we facilitated the donation of \$400 of grocery store gift cards to Soldiers in need of some extra cash around the holidays, through the Camp Mabry Family Readiness Group. These gift cards were made possible by a generous donation by Delores Cooper, the widow of SGM Charles Cooper. In January we met at Easy Tiger for a more casual get-together of coffee.

80

CHAPTER LXXX

The Chili Chapter

Las Cruces, NM



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

READ MORE



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Chapter 80's annual Christmas Party, nominally held on the 1st Saturday of Dec., was celebrated on the evening of 6 Dec. Members and guests gathered at our Team House, Mike Burleson's residence, bringing favorite prepared dishes to this festive event. Main course meat items and beverage refreshments were provided by Chapter 80. On Pearl Harbor Memorial Day, 7 Dec., members joined other local veterans to raise a Garrison Flag at Veterans Memorial Park here in Las Cruces to mark the occasion. Chapter 80 again, participated in Wreaths Across America at the Ft. Bliss National Cemetery on 13 Dec. Wreaths were placed at the graves of deceased chapter members as well as the graves of a few other selected veterans. A wreath was also placed at the Chapter sponsored Special Forces Memorial in Veterans Memorial Park in Las Cruces. Chapter 80 recently added to this memorial by placing bricks inscribed with the names of current and former chapter members around its outer perimeter.



93

CHAPTER XCIII

The Raymond J. Verba Jr. Memorial Chapter

Waco, TX



PRES : James "Jim" Savell
VICE : Wally Burns
SEC : Kurtis Fordice
TRES : Humberto Hernandez

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TheDropOnline.com



Chapter support of University High School ROTC evaluation preparation. Chapter members James Savell, Wally Burns, and James's son, Jason assisted. For several years we have been meeting at the home of Jim Savell's son, Jason. We now refer to his house as the Savell Compound or Jason's Compound. This Valentine's Day we had a chapter party at Jason's Compound. Seven chapter members were there along with four wives and one lady friend. Jason served with the 82nd Airborne Division and has contact with several local 82nd veterans. Six 82nd veterans along with four wives were at the party. Following a delicious meal Jim Savell gave each husband a rose which in turn was presented to their wives along with expressions of love and appreciation. A good time was had by all.

95

CHAPTER XCV

The Llano Estacado Chapter

Amarillo, TX

www.sfach95.org



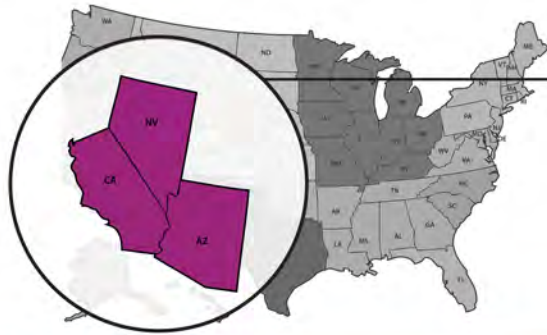
PRES : David Heard
VICE : Terry Hall
SEC : David Heard
TRES : Terry Hall

READ MORE



TheDropOnline.com

Greetings from Amarillo Texas, also known as Bomb City! We ended the year with a Christmas party at our safe house and favorite steak house. We didn't have much of a turnout, with five members & spouse & a few guests. This is always a tough time to schedule anything due to the season party's. We still had a wonderful time. Last fall we voted on the Chap officers and decided to leave the ruling class the same. We have our annual 12th SFG(A) reunion coming up in April that we're busy working on. We always have a fun time at this event, although we seem to be losing members due to final formations. We'll have our next meeting during the reunion sometime.



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 : Steven Ponsi
VICE : Steven King
SEC : Steven Ponsi
TRES : Steven Ponsi



CHAPTER XIV

The Monterey Peninsula Chapter

14

Central California



Chapter 14 celebrated the holiday with a dinner out at Dinner at Old Fisherman's Grotto in Central Coast California. In attendance were Steven Ponsi, Chris Shake, Steven King, Ken Bachini, Alan Cotta, Bill Obermeyer, and Dov Simens.



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



We had a great Christmas party at the Double Tree Hotel in Mesa. It was a new venue for us and we had a great turnout of members. The food was excellent, and we had lots of raffle prizes. The winner of the 1911 .45 handgun was Doug Fuhrman, who donated it back to the chapter. We also installed officers for the next two year term, with Dan DuRocher stepping up (again) to take the reins as President. Unfortunately, the chapter suffered the loss of one of our long-time members, Les "Zero" Parrish. He will be missed by all who knew him. Spring seems to have arrived a little early this year, and it will be a busy time for the Chapter as we will be recognizing outstanding JROTC Cadets throughout the valley. We will also have our Spring Fling event in Tucson at the Chuck Ford Park April 18th, and a second day trip to the Titan II Missile museum. In addition, we will make our annual trip to Safford for Memorial Day weekend (30 May) and conduct a gravesite ceremony for our Chapter namesake, Walter Bruce Foote. Looking ahead, July 10-12 we will have our Summer Getaway. We will be returning to Alpine AZ, located in the White Mountains of eastern Arizona. We have a "block" reservation at the Tal-Wi-Wi Lodge in Alpine; there are some great restaurants in the area, and as always, we will be conducting some weapons "familiarization" firing. So if you want to escape the valley heat in July, bring the family, guns, and lots of ammo and join us. Anyone looking for more information on our Chapter, activities, and photos from events, is welcome to visit our website at www.sfa22arizona.org

51

CHAPTER LI

The Colonel Sully de Fontaine Chapter

Las Vegas, NV

<https://www.sfa51vegas.com>



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



John B. Alexander enlisted in the Army in 1956 and joined the 101st ABN Div as a medic. In 1958 he graduated from Ranger School, was promoted to SGT and became an instructor at the 101st Jump School. In 1960 he joined Special Forces and attended Pathfinder School. As an SFC (E-7) in 1964 he became the honor grad at Infantry OCS. In 1965 he attended SFOC and was assigned to B Co. 7th SFGA at Ft Bragg. Hearing of "the original good deal," he volunteered for D Co, 1st SFGA and deployed to Thailand as XO of A-424. In 2001 he was inducted into the Infantry OCS Hall of Fame and in 2012 the US Army Military Intelligence Knowlton Award.



75

CHAPTER LXXV

The COL Roger H.C. Donlon MOH Chapter

San Diego, CA

www.sfa75sandiego.org



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



Chapter 75 sends greetings from sunny San Diego. Congratulations to Gary Clark for being selected as our 2025 Member of the Year, for his time and effort in developing the C-75 web site, participation with our Scholarship Committee and completing last year's Boston Marathon. Gary served as a SF medic with 5th SFG(A), during the Vietnam War.

The chapter has acquired a brick that was recovered from the Hoa Lo prison, also known as the Hanoi Hilton, in Vietnam. The provenance of the brick has been verified through photos and documents of others known to exist as well as personal eyes-on the one belonging to former POW and Medal of Honor recipient Vice Admiral James Stockdale. This particular brick was acquired by Barbara Birchim, the widow of SOG MIA Capt. James Birchim, about 30 years ago at a POW/MIA working group. Barbara wishes that this particular brick is to be used as a fund raiser for the Chapter 75 scholarship fund. We are using The Drop submission to advertise and assist us in finding a proper home for this rare and important artifact, as well as acquiring a meaningful donation to our scholarship fund.



78

CHAPTER LXXVIII

The LTC Frank J. Dallas Chapter

Southern California

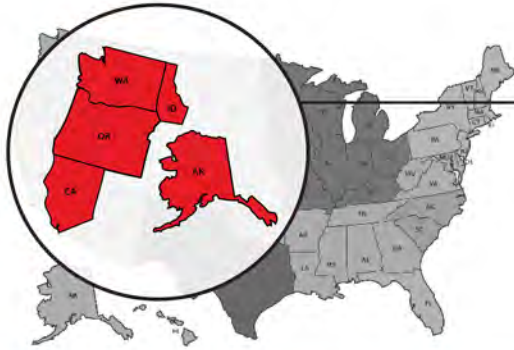
www.specialforces78.com



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



A lot went on this quarter. The guest speaker for November's chapter meeting was James Stejskal, a former Special Forces and intelligence professional. Now an author of both non-fiction and historical thrillers, including Special Forces Berlin: Clandestine Cold War Operations of the U.S. Army's Elite, 1956-1990. Stejskal gave an overview of his background before presenting on the book's focus: the 39th Special Forces Detachment (Airborne), or Detachment "A," a clandestine Green Beret unit based in West Berlin from 1956-1984, offering a rare look into the unit's mission and legacy. They also showed a video of him thanking the chapter for their help, and gave info on a go fund me website for his long recovery. A few members attended the C1/19 SFNG Company's annual Dining Out, and they presented Chapter 78 with a recognition for years of supporting the company and their families. Our December Christmas Party speaker was Norma Shinno Irving Donlon, author of Soldiers Widow, Soldiers Husband, Soldiers Mother. We also had the Sunburst Youth Academy, whom the chapter supports, providing the color guards as guests.



REGION IX

Northwest Region

(WASHINGTON, OREGON, NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, NORTHERN IDAHO)



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

*Chapters in red did not submit input for this quarter



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



CHAPTER XVI

The William R. Card Memorial Chapter

16

www.sfa-chapter-16.org

Ft. Lewis, WA



Community Supporters at the 1st Group Memorial Wall on Veterans Day.



Chapter members, supporters and 1st Group Leadership during 1st Group Menton Days.

Chapter XVI enjoyed yet another busy and memorable quarter that saw its members actively engaged in a variety of 1st SFG(A) and local SF Family events. In November, the chapter provided support to the 1st SFG(A) Veterans Day observance in which two major supporters of the Group's benevolent organizations (Chapter XVI, First in Asia Association and the 1st SFG(A) Scholarship Fund) were invited to join the Command Group in laying wreaths at the Group Memorial Wall. As it does each year, Chapter XVI sponsored the opening social of 1st Group's Menton Days celebration in early December. The event was well attended by 1st Group members and families, foreign guests from Thailand, Japan, South Korea, Canada, the UK and Ireland and, of course, the chapter.



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



CHAPTER XXIII

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

23

Find us on Teamhouse.

San Francisco, CA



Elder members of Chapter 23 join in celebrating the lifelong dedication of Pete Laurence to the betterment of SFA and to the Chapter.



Members of Chapter 23 joined the Flag Brigade at NFL Game.

Chapter 23 engaged in numerous activities in the last quarter of 2025 and looks forward to a bright and productive 2026. Much of the Chapter's effort was in visiting members of the Chapter who are no longer able to travel to events. Member care and support has become a primary focus of the Chapter. In December we held our annual Holiday Gala with Dr. John "Doc" Padgett and Vicky Padgett as special guest presenters. At that event the Chapter took time to honor one of the Chapter originals, Pete Laurence and his wife Sher who have served the Chapter and SFA for more than four decades. Pete and Sher were catalysts in getting Chapter 23 formed and operational. The Chapter engaged with the larger community and with other veterans! On November 09, 2025 several Chapter Members joined in a salute to Veterans by participating in a flag ceremony at Levi Stadium in Santa Clara, California. The salute preceded an NFL football game between the Los Angeles Rams and the San Francisco 49ers. The next event is planned for March 21st at the Monarch Bar and Grill in Rio Vista California.

47

CHAPTER XLVII

The Lewis and Clark/Norman A. Doney Chapter

Oregon & SW Washington

www.sfa47.org



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



TheDropOnline.com



January 17, 2026 - Terry (Theresa) Scott, The "Lacey Lady" B-17, Alliance Executive Director, gave a presentation at the Chapter 47 meeting about the restoration of the "Lacey Lady." She, the "Lacey Lady," began her journey from Oklahoma to Oregon in 1947 when Art Lacey met with the commander of the Altus Army Airfield in Altus, Oklahoma and convinced him to sell him a surplus B-17. The B-17 was flown to Troutdale, Oregon, disassembled, and transported covertly during the night to Milwaukie and ultimately placed over The Bomber gas station. In 2014 the Lacey Lady was disassembled and moved to the McNary Field in Salem



for restoration buy a team of many volunteers with varied skills needed to complete the restoration. The Lacey Lady is the most intact wartime B-17 Flying Fortress in the world under restoration today and holds the lowest amount of engine hours of any B-17 still in existence. Fewer than 50 B-17 Flying Fortresses survive in the entire world today. She still has a long way to go. For more information go to: www.B17Alliance.com

89

CHAPTER LXXXIX

The SFC Allen C. Johnson Memorial Chapter

Northern California



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



TheDropOnline.com



Members of SFA Chapter 89 gathered together for our annual Christmas Party.



SFA Ch 89 President Kevin Knapp visiting Bill Moke at the Veterans Home.

Beyond providing resources and benefits, the event served as a platform for Veterans Groups to recruit new members. Kevin Knapp, President of Special Forces Association Chapter 89, the Northern California Veterans Historical Association, and the newly formed General George Washington Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, highlighted the importance of staying active to combat mental health struggles. The more that you can participate, the more that you can be a part of.

103

CHAPTER CIII

The Battle Born Chapter

Reno, NV



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



TheDropOnline.com

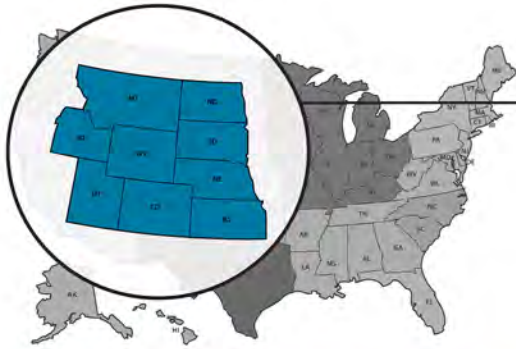


Meeting at Branding Iron Cafe Dec. 13 2025.



Ken Snyder and Don Meredith at SOAR

Greetings from Northern Nevada and the Biggest little city in the world. We had one meeting since December, but that's also a time for family and friends to get together for the holidays. We had breakfast at the Branding Iron Cafe in the Bonanza Casino, Reno NV. After breakfast we started our meeting with the pledge of allegiance and a prayer by Brad Smalley, our acting Chaplain. After reviewing old business we started looking forward to next year, we usually have Memorial day Veterans day, a summer picnic and a party at the end of the year, Christmas time, that is usually a dinner at a restaurant some where in Reno.



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



Christmas Party 2025 at the Cheyenne Mountain Resort.



Wreaths Across America 2025 Pikes Peak National Cemetery.

Rounding out the early year calendar, Chapter 4 24 proudly supported members participating in the 37th Annual Bataan Memorial Death March at White Sands Missile Range on 21 March 2026. Whether marching the course or simply joining for the camaraderie and campout, participants honored the legacy of the Bataan heroes through endurance, remembrance, and unity. The event remains one of the most meaningful opportunities for members to reflect on sacrifice while standing shoulder to shoulder with teammates and supporters. Looking ahead, one of the most significant upcoming milestones is the Farewell to Panzer event, scheduled for 25 April 2026 at the Panzer Kaserne Parade Field. Open to 110 SFG(A) service members and alumni, the gathering will honor the Battalion's long chapter at Panzer while embracing its transition to Baumholder, Germany. It promises to be a moment of reflection, camaraderie, and pride.



PRES : Terry Buckler
VICE : Mike Near
SEC : Andy Lohman
TRES : Roy Williams



CHAPTER XXIX

The COL Arthur D. "Bull" Simon Memorial Chapter

29

www.sfa29.org

Shawnee, KS



Chapter members, families, and honorary members gathered at the annual Christmas lunch.



Chapter members laying wreaths and rendering honors to COL Roger Donlon.

Chapter members, families, and honorary members celebrated the arrival of the holiday season with its annual Christmas lunch on December 7th at Jasper's restaurant in Kansas City. In addition to enjoying great company and great food, the chapter AAR'd its Fall activities and discussed future business and upcoming events, including wreath laying for Wreaths Across America, the 2026 SOF Ball, and support to chapter members in need. The major news announced at the lunch was chapter member Rich Kiper's designation as the Grand Master for the 2026 Veterans Day Parade in Leavenworth. Many speculate one on the reasons Rich was selected because he is among a very small group who can still fit into the uniform he retired in. Chapter members braved the bitter December cold to participate in Wreaths Across America - whose mission is to Remember, Honor, and Teach, to show their support and pay their respects for these inspiring Green Beret heroes.

43

CHAPTER XLIII

SGM Bradly Conner Chapter

Coeur d'Alene, ID



PRES : Jason Legler
VICE : Stephen Durfee
SEC : Dave Erickson
TRES : John Stach



Chapter 43 Christmas Entire Group.



Chapter 43 Annual Turkey Drop.

Chapter XLIII's Christmas Luncheon was a wonderful success! Guests enjoyed great food, drinks, friendly conversation, and several lucky attendees walked away with raffle prizes. You could truly feel the Christmas spirit in the air. Chapter President Stephen Durfee (Durf) shared a recap of the year's events, expressed gratitude to our contributors, and concluded by presenting the Most Valuable Veteran of the Year Award. 18 turkeys were donated to the Post Falls American Legion, Post 143.

69

CHAPTER LXIX

The Bernie Fisher Chapter

Boise, ID



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



Chapter members at the annual Christmas Party.



The assembled participants for the WWII Shoot.

The chapter held its final range event on 22 November, the Sgt Alvin York Turkey Shoot and Chili Cookoff. The last event for the year was our annual Christmas Party held at a local Italian restaurant. It was very well attended, the food was delicious and everyone had a great time. The chapter started 2026 with a WWII Shoot on 24 January. There were nine people in attendance and six shooters. Weapons available included an M1 Garand, M1 Carbine, German Mauser, British Enfield, Thomson sub-machine gun and an M1911 pistol. The shooting went very smooth despite the cold temperature. Mike Tomlin had his second novel published in January 2026. "Final Justice" is available on Amazon.com. His first novel, "Justice in Mean Valley", was published in 2023 and is also available from Amazon.

70

CHAPTER LXX

The CSM Don DeVere Memorial Chapter

Salt Lake City, UT



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



Our October 2025 meeting was held at the VFW in Layton, Utah. We presented a plaque to Alisa Williams for her work with the families of our deceased members at the Utah Veterans Cemetery. Seventy-four members and guests attended the December Christmas Party at the Timbermine in Ogden, Utah. For the first time, the Chapter awarded a "Grand Lady of the Chapter" plaque to Jane Martin, wife of BG (Ret) James Martin. During November, held at the Fort Douglas Museum, we honored three members of the chapter. First, James G. McGee was presented the Member of the Year Award for 2024 for his project to provide families with the "Final Jump" for our members who have passed. Kent Anderson and Nikki Pino were presented Utah Cold Ward Medals and Certificates.



REGION XI

Overseas Region

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



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

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



PRES : Matthew Dobyns
VICE : Jim Gibson
SEC : Vince Depp
TRES : Jay Balenti



CHAPTER III

The Nate Chapman/Erawan Memorial Chapter

3

www.sfac3-thailand.org

Thailand



Thai SFQC Graduates with GEN Braga, Ft. Bragg, NC.



SFA Members with the RTA Airborne Association.

In the evolving Indo-Pacific security environment, the deep U.S.-Thai Special Operations partnership remains essential. SFA Chapter 3 has been quietly working to maintain this vital relationship and build new connections in the region. The Thai-U.S. alliance has proven remarkably resilient, spanning 81 years since World War II. It began when the U.S. Office of Strategic Services (OSS) joined forces with Free Thai resistance fighters to oppose Japanese occupation—a collaboration that has endured through subsequent global conflicts and regional crises. The Royal Thai Army and Air Force sent their first NCOs to the U.S. Special Forces Qualification Course, where they completed the 18B Weapons Sergeant pipeline. This achievement marks the first Thai NCO to complete the course and is a milestone for Thai Special Operations NCOs. SFA Chapter 3 also participated in the Annual Thai Airborne Association meeting in Lopburi province.



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



CHAPTER VIII

The MSG Earl Kalani Memorial Chapter

8

www.sfa8.org

Honolulu, Hawaii



SFA Ch 8 at February 2026 meeting.



SFBMC hosting Bikes-Brews-Brotherhood Event.

Since the last issue of The Drop, Chapter VIII has remained consistently engaged across O'ahu, maintaining a visible and meaningful presence at commemorative ceremonies, community events, and internal chapter activities. November began with participation in the island-wide Veterans Day Ceremony, an annual observance that brings together service members, veterans, civic leaders, and local families. Chapter members stood shoulder to shoulder with brothers and sisters in arms from across generations, reinforcing the message that service does not end with retirement or transition from active duty. For Chapter VIII, Veterans Day is not only about remembrance—it is about reaffirming responsibility. That same month, members attended the Special Operations Command Pacific (SOCPAC) beach birthday celebration, followed by the SOCPAC Christmas Ball. These events offered opportunities to engage with the broader special operations community.



Members attending the SOCPAC Winter Ball.



Chapter President swearing in new Secretary, Bill Nagel.

across the Indo-Pacific region, bridging the gap between active-duty forces and those who have gone before them. For Chapter VIII members, many of whom served in complex operational environments, these gatherings underscored the continuity of the profession and the shared identity that binds Special Operations Forces across time, units, and missions. December carried particular weight and significance. On December 7th, Chapter VIII proudly participated in the Pearl Harbor Parade, commemorating the anniversary of the 1941 attack. The event remains one of Hawai'i's most solemn and historically important observances. Marching in remembrance, chapter members honored the fallen of Pearl Harbor while reflecting on how that pivotal moment reshaped American military history.

91-101

CHAPTER XCI-CI

The Combat Chapters




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

READ MORE



TheDropOnline.com

Iraq & Afghanistan



Phil Hudicourt and Chris North in Baghdad, 2009.



SFA attends Phil Hudicourt's Funeral.

Lo, there do I see my father. Lo, there do I see my brothers. Lo, there do I see the line of my people, Back to the beginning. Lo, they do call to me. They bid me take my place among them, In the halls of Valhalla, Where the brave may live forever! Phil Hudicourt would have said these words had he been able--his brothers gathered in Florida to see him to his final rendezvous. Phil Hudicourt's US Army active duty military career was exceptional, always serving on the cutting edge--paratrooper, ranger battalion, special forces, the Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC) staff, and two years combat employment as a Special Mission Unit (SMU) operator. Also exceptional was his 23-year service as a contractor supporting U.S. forces and objectives, including 17 years in combat zones and 6 years foreign internal defense (FID). Phil was a warrior--recipient of the 2025 SFA Gold St Philip Neri award--his numerous achievements and exploits are found on Teamhouse. He steadily rose through the ranks of Falcon Security in Iraq as all his predecessors were killed, mostly performing convoy security. Phil was the fourth president of SFA-91 (Iraq). Phil's daughters, Michelle and Rebecca, hosted a memorial well-attended by his family. From the SFA were Prez Chris Wilkerson, two SFA-91 past presidents, and John Schuler (SFA-38). Also COL (Ret) Jim Mowery from 2-505 ABN service and Lee Sharon from 2-75 RGR days. COL Mowery said Phil was the finest NCO he ever knew. Rebecca, who accepted the St Philip Neri award for her father last year, is an honorary member of SFA 91-101 and expects to attend SFACON 2026. Phil's funeral was well conducted and attended by the SFA. His brothers from the Patriot Guard Riders led the procession, including John Gilio and Jeff Garten (SFA-76), Charlie Gates (SFA-60), and Bill Yeider (SFA 1-18). SFA President Chris Wilkerson gave a respectful tribute at the ceremony. Also attending were SFA-85 President Pete Marceau, Chris North and Phil Crowley (SFA 91-101), all who knew Phil Hudicourt well in his downrange years. Lee County, Florida dedicated a portion of Veterans Parkway--between the Midpoint Bridge and the toll booth--as the: "Captain Daniel W. Eggers Memorial Highway," honoring Captain Daniel W. Eggers, killed in Afghanistan on May 29, 2004. Captain Eggers served with the 1st Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Fort Bragg. He was killed when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device in Zabul Province, Afghanistan. The U.S. military previously honored him by renaming the Kabul compound Camp Eggers in 2005. Dan's father, Bill, is an honorary SFA 91-101 member and expects to attend SFACON.



Phil's Falcon Bar in Baghdad, 2010, with Chris North.



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



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