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SUMMER 2026



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THE 2026 SFA CONVENTION

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SUMMER 2026

Special Forces Association

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UPDATES FROM HEADQUARTERS



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Chris Wilkerson

SFA Members,

As we wrap up a busy quarter, I would like to share some important updates regarding our activities and future plans.

Election Cycle and New Board Members

We successfully completed the recent election cycle, which saw the departure of Mike Hurst and Chris North. We extend our heartfelt gratitude for their dedicated service and contributions to the SFA. We are pleased to welcome Chris Tackett back to the board as Treasurer and Nate Reahl as Vice President. Additionally, we concluded the selection cycle with the monumental acceptance of national bylaws that align with our constitution. Our constitution defines our identity, mission, and purpose, while the bylaws outline the operational "how" of our organization.

SOFWeek Highlights

During SOFWeek, we hosted our first-ever SFA social, thanks to the generosity of SFA Chapter 60 and their teamhouse. This event was well-received, and we plan to continue it in the future. We aim to promote this gathering earlier next year to maximize participation and minimize scheduling conflicts.

SFACON 26 Review

A few weeks ago, SFACON 26 took place, hosted excellently by Chapter 7 near Destin, Florida. The event featured outstanding activities, interactions with the 7th SFG, and inspiring guest speakers. Pat and his team truly excelled in creating a memorable experience. If you missed it, I encourage you to attend the next convention they host.

Looking Ahead: SFACON 27

Planning is already underway for SFACON 27, which will be a historic convention celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Green Berets and the 50th SFA convention. Scheduled for June 6-11 at Fort Bragg, we anticipate over 1,000 attendees. The four local chapters are travel coordinating various events, and hotel information will be shared soon. Please make your travel plans now.

Appreciation and Engagement

I want to sincerely thank our membership for granting me another two years to lead this remarkable association. I frequently travel and am open to invitations from chapters for their events. If you would like to have an NBO presence at any upcoming activities, please reach out so we can coordinate.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement.

Warm regards,
Chris Wilkerson

THE DIRECTOR'S CUT

Mike Goodrich

Membership:

As of 4 June, 2026 there are 11,350 members. The breakdown is: 4,998 (Decade), 4,975 (General), 1,377 (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 is behind us and once again there was very poor participation from our membership (11%). Thanks to all that did. Take an active role in your Association!

The Drop:

The Spring Drop was our first edition since the exit of our long-time publisher and by all accounts it was a success. 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 343 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 Yarrowburgh Knives that are presented to the SFQC honor graduates and to Mission BBQ for providing lunch for the entire class.

THE SFA MEMORIAL BRICK PAVER WALKWAY

Special Forces Association Board of Trustees

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

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

FILL THIS FORM OUT AND MAIL WITH PAYMENT TO:

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PO Box 41436
Fayetteville, NC 28309-1436

Name to be memorialized: _____

Person placing the order:

Name: _____

Email: _____

Contact #: _____

Address: _____

Amount paid: _____

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'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.

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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.

READ MORE



TheDropOnline.com



CARMEL ABBATE

M-4649



Carmel Abbate, 83 of Chicago, Illinois passed away on May 1st, 2026. Carmel was a Vietnam War veteran of the 5th SFG(A). He is survived by his wife (Fran) and sons (Anthony, Terry). A funeral service was held at the Cumberland Chapels, Norridge, Illinois on May 7th, 2026. Interment at St. Adalbert Cemetery in Nilis, Illinois.

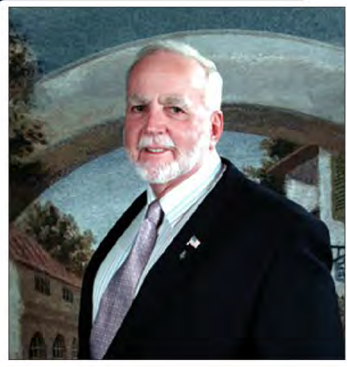


ROGER ALBERTSON

M-6200



Roger Albertson, 84 of Minneapolis, Minnesota passed away on February 24, 2026. Roger volunteered for Special Forces duty and was assigned to the 1st SFG(A) in Okinawa, Japan in 1964. In 1965 he was reassigned to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam (B-52) until 1966 when he returned to 1st SFG(A). Roger was honorably discharged from active duty in 1967 and returned to Minneapolis. Among his awards and decorations are the Vietnam Service Medal, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Parachutist's Badge. He is survived by his son (Bryan) and daughter (Heather).

**DONALD AUGUSTIN****M-1568**

Donald Augustin, 87 of Land O' Lakes, Florida passed away on March 14th, 2026. Don began his military career by enlisting in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1955. He was honorably discharged in 1960 and reenlisted in the U.S. Army. In 1964, Don volunteered for Special Forces duty and was assigned to the 5th SFG(A) as a Special Forces Medical Sergeant. In 1966 he briefly served as an instructor with the SF Medical Sergeants Course before his reassignment to the 46th SF Company in Thailand. He is survived by his wife (Diana), son (Wun), and daughter (Gina). Interment is at the Florida National Cemetery.

**RONALD BAYLES, JR.****M-9847**

Ronald Bayles, Jr., 91 of New Smyrna Beach, Florida passed away on May 7th, 2026. Ron enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1952 and was deployed to Korea during the Korean War. In 1959 he was reassigned to the 322nd Special Operations Detachment. In 1960, he was transferred to the 13th SFG(A) and, in 1963, the 11th SFG(A). Ron was honorably retired military service in 1969 and began a career as a public relations executive with AT&T. A funeral service was held at the Settle-Wilder Funeral Home in New Smyrna Beach, Florida on May 12th, 2026.

**MARK BOYATT****D-3777**

COL(R) Mark Boyatt, 77 of Fayetteville, North Carolina passed away at the University of North Carolina Hospital on February 27th, 2026. An Army veteran of almost 29 years, Mark served in the 5th, 1st, and 3rd SFG(A). He is survived by his wife (Nancy) and sons (Chris, Ben, James). A memorial service was held at the Rogers and Breece Funeral Home in Fayetteville, North Carolina on April 18th, 2026.

**BRUCE BRADIGAN****M-5142**

Bruce Bradigan, 80 of Saratoga Springs, Florida passed away on February 24th, 2026. Bruce volunteered for Special Forces duty upon his graduation from Officer Candidate School in 1967 and was assigned briefly to the 6th SFG(A). He was reassigned to the 1st SFG(A) in Okinawa, Japan where he served until 1969 at which time he joined the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam. Bruce was medically discharged from active duty in 1970. A celebration of life was held at the Saratoga Golf and Polo Club on March 4th, 2026. Interment will be at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

**MICHAEL CANAVAN****M-1851**

LTG(R) Michael Canavan, 79 of Beaufort, South Carolina passed away on February 13th, 2026 after a long illness. General Canavan enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1966 and served as a Combat Engineer. He was later commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant upon graduation from OCS. General Canavan was awarded his Special Forces qualification while assigned to the 10th SFG(A) in Bad Toelz, Germany in 1967. In 1969 he was reassigned to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam (IV Corps Mobile Strike Force). He returned stateside to Ft. Bragg, North Carolina in 1970 serving briefly with the 6th SFG(A) before reassignment to the 5th SFG(A).

**CHRISTOPHER CATHERS****M-9684**

Christopher Cathers, 52 of Flowery Branch, Georgia passed away on February 18th, 2026. Chris was awarded his Special Forces qualification in 1994 and assigned to the 3rd SFG(A). He was honorably discharged from active duty in 1999. Chris founded the Brothers Keeper Veteran Foundation to ensure no struggling veteran fought alone. Chris is survived by his wife (Jennifer) and step-son (Gavin). A committal service was held at the Doylestown Cemetery in Doylestown, Pennsylvania on March 7th, 2026.

**ROBIN CHAMBERS****A-4366**

Robin Chambers, 71 of West Haven, Utah passed away on May 1st, 2026. Rob joined the 19th SFG(A) in 1986. He served as a parachute rigger and was appointed as the Group Rigger Section NCOIC until his retirement in 2004. He was a dedicated and talented individual, officially retiring in 2014 after a remarkable career. Rob was a proud patriot, but his dedication extended beyond his professional life. Rob is survived by his wife (Susie), sons (Colby, Casey), and daughters (Christina, Kari). A funeral service was held at the Myers Mortuary in Roy, Utah on May 20th, 2026.

**PETER CONNELLY****D-8498**

Peter Connelly, 63 of Lorton, Virginia passed away at INOVA Alexandria Hospital on April 7th, 2026. Peter was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant upon his graduation from Norwich University in 1985. He volunteered for Special Forces duty and was assigned to the 5th SFG(A) upon completion of SFOC. Pete was honorably retired from active duty in 2013 after 28 years of service. He is survived by his wife (Hyun), son (Jack), and daughter (Sarah). A funeral service was held at the Fairfax Memorial Funeral Home, Fairfax, Virginia on April 19th, 2026. Interment will be at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

**DONALD CRABTREE****M-13562**

Donald Crabtree, 80 of McKinney, Texas, passed away on March 25th, 2026. Don enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1967 and was selected to attend Officer Candidate School. In 1968, he volunteered for Special Forces duty and was assigned to the 7th SFG(A). Don was reassigned to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam and served as the Executive Officer for SFOD-A 502. He was honorably discharged from active duty in 1970 and completed his degree from Murray State University. He is survived by his wife (Linda), daughter (Stephanie), step-sons (Zane, Steven, Lee, Jeffery), and step-daughter (Amanda).

**GARY RAY DAVIS****D-9137**

Gary Ray Davis, 84 of Payson, Utah, passed away on June 27th, 2026. Gary proudly served for 27 years in the Utah National Guard as a member of the 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne). In 1966, he successfully completed Army Infantry School, Airborne Course, and the Special Forces Qualification Course. As a Green Beret, he specialized in both heavy and light weaponry, serving with honor and forming lifelong friendships with his fellow soldiers. He is survived by his loving wife of 58 years, Karen Davis, his daughter, Courtney Rae Davis, his sister, Joan Davis Barnhart; his brother, Darrell W. Davis and two children from an earlier marriage.

**PIERCE DURHAM****D-600**

Pierce Durham, 88 of Temple Terrace, Florida passed away on April 17th, 2026. Pierce began his military career as a U.S. Marine in the 1950's and after his discharge, reenlisted in the U.S. Army. He served four combat tours with Special Forces, most notably MACVSOG (RT Moccasin). Pierce was honorably retired from active duty in 1988 and began a second career as a DOD Civilian with the Special Operations Command in Tampa, Florida. He is survived by his wife (Masako) and sons (Christian, Alexander). Per his wishes, no services were held.

**DANIEL FORDICE, III****A-2247**

Daniel Fordice, III, 66 of Vicksburg, Mississippi passed away on May 12th, 2026. Dan was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant upon graduation from Mississippi State University and joined the Mississippi Army National Guard where he served for 13 years, half of which was with the 20th SFG(A). Dan retired in 2023 while serving as Vice President of Fordice Construction Company. He was an active pilot with over 5,000 hours primarily flying vintage aircraft. Dan is survived by his wife (Ann), son (Nathan), and daughters (Alaina, Erin).

**TIMOTHY FOUNTAIN****D-8973**

Timothy Fountain, 58 of Colorado Springs, Colorado passed away on April 3rd, 2026. Tim was awarded his Special Forces TAB in 1995 and assigned to the 7th SFG(A) where he served for most of his Special Forces career. In 2014, Tim was honorably retired from active duty after 26 years of service. Among his awards and decorations are the Bronze Star (1 OLC), the Meritorious Service Medal (1 OLC), the Joint Service Commendation Medal (1 OLC), the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Ranger TAB, the Special Forces TAB, the Master Freefall Parachutist's Badge, and the Master Parachutist's Badge.

**WILLIAM GEORGE FRENCH****M-14318**

William "Bill" George French, 79 of Murrells Inlet, South Carolina, passed away on June 10th, 2026. Bill answered the call to serve his country during the Vietnam War. He enlisted in the United States Army Special Forces in 1965, completed officer training, and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant. As a member of the 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne) and later the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), he served in Vietnam with distinction. First Lieutenant French was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for Valor. Bill continued serving his country as an Intelligence Officer with the Central Intelligence Agency from 1969 to 1978.

**JACK FULP****D-862**

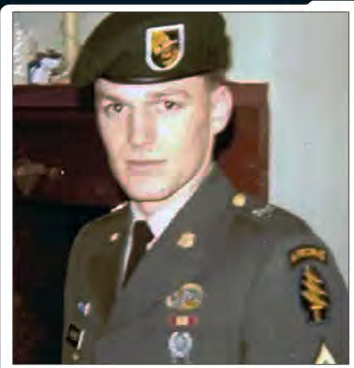
Jack Fulp, 95 passed away at his home in Fayetteville, North Carolina on May 12th, 2026. Jack was awarded his Special Forces qualification in 1963 while assigned to the 10th SFG(A) in Bad Toelz, Germany. Jack retired from active duty after 30-years of faithful service. Among his awards and decorations are the Bronze Star, and The Purple Heart. He is survived by his wife (Angie) and daughters (Jennifer, Rebecca). A funeral service was held at the Jernigan-Warren Funeral Home in Fayetteville, North Carolina on June 5th, 2026. Interment is at the Sandhills State Veterans Cemetery, Spring Lake, North Carolina.

**JAMES GORDON GRITZ****D-1710**

James "Bo" Gritz, 87 of Sandy Valley, Nevada passed away on February 27th, 2026. Bo was assigned to the 77th SFG(A) in 1957 and served until 1959. He returned to the newly redesignated 7th SFG(A) in 1962 where he was awarded his Special Forces qualification. In 1963 he was briefly transferred to the 6th SFG(A) before assignment to the UW/Special Warfare School. Among his many awards and decorations are The Silver Star (2 OLC), The Bronze Star (w/V, 3 OLC), The Purple Heart (1 OLC), The Soldiers Medal, and the Distinguished Flying Cross. Bo was an author, radio host, and public figure with a larger-than-life personality.

**GORDON HARDISTY****D-1069**

Gordon Hardisty, 86 of Shiloh, Texas passed away on April 26th, 2026. Gordon was awarded his Special Forces qualification in 1964 and assigned to the 7th SFG(A). In 1965 he was reassigned to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam. Returning stateside, Gordon served a tour at the JFKUSAIMA before returning to Vietnam. In 1969, he was reassigned to the 46th SF Company in Thailand. Gordon was honorably retired from active duty while assigned to the 1st SFG(A). Among his awards are the Bronze Star, The Purple Heart, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, and the Master Parachutist's Badge.

**ROSS HECKERT****M-3527**

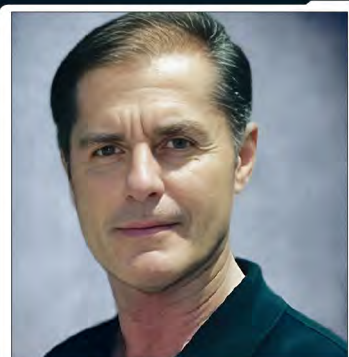
Ross Heckert, 79 passed away at his home in Herndon, Pennsylvania on April 19th, 2026. Ross was awarded his Special Forces qualification in November 1970 and assigned to the 7th SFG(A). In 1971, he was reassigned to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam with a further assignment to MACVSOG (TF2AE). Returning stateside, Ross was honorably discharged from active duty. At the time of his death Ross was employed as a 5th Grade teacher with the Line Mountain School District. A memorial service was held on May 6th, 2026 at the Zion Stone Valley Church in Dalmatia, Pennsylvania with interment at the Stone Valley Cemetery.

**PHILLIP HERBERT****D-731**

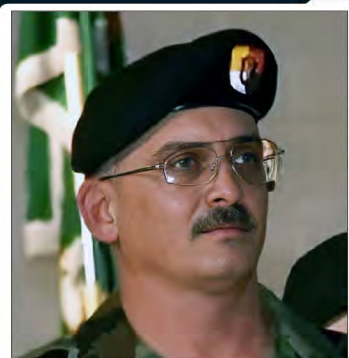
Phillip "Mick" Herbert, 88 of Columbia, Missouri passed away at the Truman VZ Hospital on April 15th, 2026. Mick volunteered for Special Forces duty in 1960 and was assigned to the 77th SFG(A). He was awarded his Special Forces qualification in 1963 while assigned to the newly redesignated 7th SFG(A). Mick was reassigned to the 1st SFG(A) in 1964. He returned stateside in 1966 for a brief tour with the 3rd SFG(A) before reassignment to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam (MACVSOG). Completing his combat tour, Mick returned to Ft. Bragg, NC and the 3rd SFG(A). He returned to Vietnam in 1970 (MACVSOG) in 1970, before assigned to 10th SFG(A).

**TIMOTHY HODGE****D-3271**

Timothy Hodge, 68 of Evergreen, North Carolina passed away on March 5th, 2026. Tim was awarded his Special Forces qualification in 1978 and assigned to the 7th SFG(A). In 1979, Tim was honorably discharged from active duty and joined the 19th SFG(A). In 1985, he reenlisted and was assigned to the Signal Company of 7th SFG(A). He was reassigned to 3rd Bn of the 7th SFG(A) in Panama in 1987. Tim is survived by his wife (Wendy) and children (Selkei, Chance Judith, and Hollis). A funeral service was held at the Floyd Mortuary and Crematory in Lumberton, North Carolina on March 9th, 2026.

**MICHAEL JEFFRA****A-709**

Michael Jeffra, 81, of Georgetown, Delaware, passed away on April 17th, 2026. Mike served as a medical corpsman with the 19th SFG(A) and he was certified as a Jungle Expert. In civilian life, Mike found professional success as a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Mike was a valued member of SFA Chapter 26. Until he retired, he found professional success installing fiber optic systems as a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. He is survived by his daughters (Caroline, Diana). A celebration of life is planned for a later date.

**BENJAMIN JONES, JR.****D-7036**

Benjamin Jones, Jr., 68, of Fayetteville, North Carolina, passed away on March 14th, 2026. Ben enlisted in the U.S. Army and, upon completion of his training, was assigned to 1/75th Ranger Bn in 1983. In 1987, Ben was honorably discharged from active duty and joined the U.S. Army Reserve (11th SFG(A)). He was awarded his Special Forces TAB in 1988. In 1991 he returned to active duty and was assigned to the 3rd SFG(A). Among his awards and decorations are The Silver Star, the Bronze Star, The Purple Heart, the Ranger TAB, the Special Forces TAB, and the Master Parachutist's Badge. Interment is at the Mountain Home National Cemetery.

**BRIAN KANOF****D-10895**

Brian Norman Kanof, 77, of El Paso, Texas, passed away on June 21, 2026. Brian was commissioned through ROTC in 1971, and began his career as a Signal Officer. He also served as a Public Affairs Officer. He later joined the 12th SFG(A) in 1978. Brian served as a Green Beret with the 12th group for 7 years. Brian officially retired from the military in 1991 as a Major. Brian is survived by his sister Debra, his wife Jacky, his daughter Lauren and son Stuart. His grand children and step grand children Jonas, Jaxon, Jaden, Tyson, Tre and Tatem. His service was on Friday June 26th at 9:30 am at the Temple Mt. Sinai Cemetery in El Paso, Texas.

**WALDO KING****M-6780**

Waldo "Perry" King, 97, of Galesburg, Illinois, passed away at the Knox County Nursing Home on March 25th, 2026. Perry enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1946 and served with the 11th Airborne Division. In 1952, Perry volunteered for the newly activated 10th SFG(A) in Germany. He was honorably discharged in 1955. Returning stateside, Perry started a new career with J.I. Case, Bettendorf, Experimental Division. Among his awards and decorations are the Army of Occupation Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Parachute Glider Badge. A graveside service was held at the Haines Cemetery in Rathbun, Iowa on March 30th, 2026.

**WILLIAM KNOTTS****D-2996**

William Knotts, 79, of Neosho, Missouri, passed away on February 17th, 2026. William volunteered for Special Forces duty in 1967. He completed his training in 1968 and was assigned to the 7th SFG(A). In 1971 he was reassigned to 8th SFG(A) in Panama. Returning stateside in 1973, William was assigned to the 5th SFG(A) at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. He later served multiple tours of duty with the JFK Institute for Military Assistance. William was honorably retired from active duty in 1990. He is survived by his son (Joseph) and daughters (Roberta, Belinda, Rosalee). A memorial service is planned for a later date.

**RALPH LEIGH****M-8534**

Ralph Leigh, 81 of Portland, Maine passed away on February 17th, 2026 after a brief battle with cancer. Drafted into the U.S. Army in 1966, Ralph served in Vietnam as a combat medic and began what would become a 26-year military career. He was awarded his Special Forces TAB in 1984 while assigned to 1st SOCOM at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. He is survived by his son, Heinz Leigh. A celebration of life was held at VFW Post 10093 in Safe Harbor, Florida on April 19th, 2026.

**STEPHEN LEOPOLD****D-3993**

COL(R) Stephen Leopold, 81 passed away in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico on April 7th 2026. After graduating from Stanford University, Steve enlisted in the U.S. Army and entered Officer Candidate School in 1966. He volunteered for Special Forces duty and upon completion of his training, was assigned to the 7th SFG(A) in 1967. In 1968, Steve was reassigned to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam. Steve was taken prisoner in May of 1968. He was repatriated in 1973 after 1,762 days of captivity. Returning stateside, was transferred from active duty to the U.S. Army Reserve where he joined the 12th SFG(A). Steve retired from the Army Reserve in 1997.

**JOHN PATRICK MCAFEE****M-6734**

John McAfee, 78 of Hendersonville, North Carolina passed away on March 19th, 2026. Pat enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1967 and volunteered for Special Forces duty. He was first assigned to the 8th SFG(A) before his reassignment to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam (B-43). Returning stateside, John was honorably discharged and enrolled in the University of Texas. He earned a degree in English Literature and began a new career as a teacher. Pat is survived by his wife (Elizabeth) and son (Lewis). Memorial services are planned for a later date.

**DENNIS MCVEY****M-13381**

CSM(R) Dennis McVey, 84 of Rainer, Washington passed away on January 6th, 2026. Dennis enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1964 and after AIT volunteered for Special Forces duty. He was awarded his qualification as a Special Forces Medical NCO in 1965 and assigned to the 6th SFG(A). In 1966 he was reassigned to the 1st SFG(A) in Okinawa, Japan. Dennis reported to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam in 1968 to begin a 19-month combat tour. Among his awards and decorations are The Bronze Star (w/V), the Meritorious Service Medal (3 OLC), the Humanitarian Service Medal, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, and the Vietnam Campaign Medal.

**VIRGIL MCVICKER****D-5212**

COL(R) Virgil McVicker, 89 of Modesto, California passed away on February 5th, 2026. Virgil was a veteran of the Korean and Vietnam Wars. His Special Forces service included tours with the 5th and 12th SFG(A). Virgil is survived by his wife (Julie), sons (Virgil, Gregory), and daughters (Beverly, Lindsie, Alicia). A memorial service was held at the Big Valley Grace Church in Modesto, California on March 12th, 2026.

**MARVIN MEDDOWS****M-5287**

Marvin Meddows, 80, of Ooltewah, Tennessee, passed away at his home on March 18th, 2026. Marvin volunteered for Special Forces duty in 1966 and after graduating from SFQC, he was assigned to the 6th SFG(A). In 1967, he was reassigned to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam. Returning stateside Marvin was honorably discharged from active duty and began a new career as a carpenter. Among his awards and decorations are The Bronze Star (w/V), the Army Commendation Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Parachutist's Badge.

**MAURICE MOORE****M-13425**

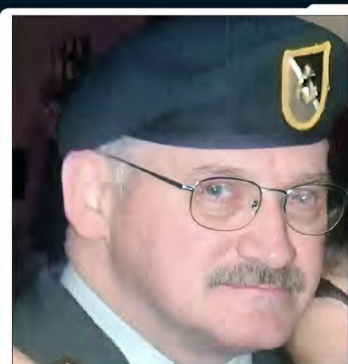
Maurice Moore, 88, of Saint Marys, Georgia, passed away at his home on April 1st, 2026. Maurice enlisted in the U.S. Army and rose through the ranks to retire as a Major. He served with the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam. Among his awards and decorations are The Bronze Star (w/V, 3 OLC), The Purple Heart, the Air Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Parachutist's Badge. He is survived by his daughter Elizabeth. A celebration of life was held at the Christ Episcopal Church in Saint Marys, Georgia on May 16th, 2026.

**JERRY MORMAN****D-6804**

SGM(R) Jerry Morman, 74 of Wilmington, North Carolina passed away on March 10th, 2026. Jerry was drafted into the U.S. Army at the age of nineteen and trained as an artilleryman and was assigned to the 173rd Airborne Brigade in Vietnam. Returning stateside he was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division for a number of years before volunteering for Special Forces duty. Jerry was awarded his Special Forces qualification in 1983 and assigned to the 5th SFG(A). In 1990, he was reassigned to the 3rd SFG(A), and his final tour of duty was with the Special Forces Command. Jerry was honorably retired from active duty in 1994.

**CHARLIE MORROW****M-10371**

Charlie Morrow, 87 of Cunningham, Tennessee passed away on April 3rd, 2026. Charlie was awarded his Special Forces qualification in 1963 and assigned to the 7th SFG(A). He was reassigned to the 5th SFG(A) in 1964. Charlie was briefly reassigned to the 6th SFG(A) prior to attending Officer Candidate School. In 1969, now a newly minted 2nd Lieutenant, Charlie was reassigned to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam (MACVSOG). Returning stateside, Charlie served in a variety of posts (Intelligence Officer, PSYOP Officer, Military Policeman to name a few). Following his military service, Charlie retired to Tennessee and returned to farming.

**FRANK MORTON, SR.****D-6069**

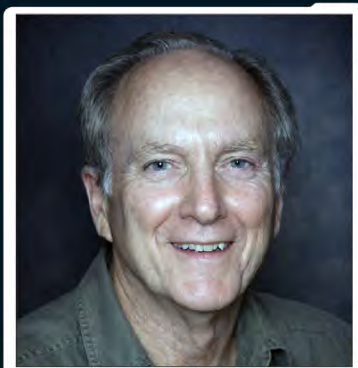
Frank Morton, Sr., 77 of Avis, Pennsylvania passed away on February 17th, 2026. Frank was awarded his Special Forces qualification in 1983 and assigned to the 7th SFG(A). In 1993 he was reassigned to the JFKSWC where he served until his honorable retirement from active duty in 1997. Among his awards and decorations are the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal (8 OLC), the Army Achievement Medal (5 OLC), the Expert Infantryman's Badge, and the Master Parachutist's Badge. Frank continued to serve his community as a Disaster Action Team member with the American Red Cross.

**FRANCIS PINEIRO****M-1225**

Francis "Frank" Pineiro, 84 of Fayetteville, North Carolina passed away at his home on March 21st, 2026. Frank earned his qualification as a Special Forces Communications Sergeant in 1967 and assigned to the 6th SFG(A). In November of that year, he was reassigned to the 5th SFG(A) and MACVSOG (CCN). Returning stateside in 1968, Frank was assigned to the 7th SFG(A). In 1971 he was reassigned to the 8th SFG(A) in Panama which would later be redesignated 3rd Bn 7th SFG(A). Retiring from active duty, Frank completed his college degree and began a career with the Fort Bragg Federal Credit Union.

**KURT PEPPEL****M-6591**

Kurt Peppel, 75 of Savannah, Georgia passed away on May 18th, 2026. Kurt enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1969 and served 22 months in Vietnam as an Intelligence Coordinator with the 525th Military Intelligence Group. Returning stateside, Kurt was discharged from active duty and joined the U.S. Army Reserve. He earned a Bachelor's degree from Indiana State University and returned to active duty as a 2nd Lieutenant. Kurt joined the 12th SFG(A) in 1985 and transferred to the 11th SFG(A) in 1991. He was honorably retired in 1993 and began a second career as police officer with the Fairfax County Police Department in Virginia.

**PETER POWER****D-2703**

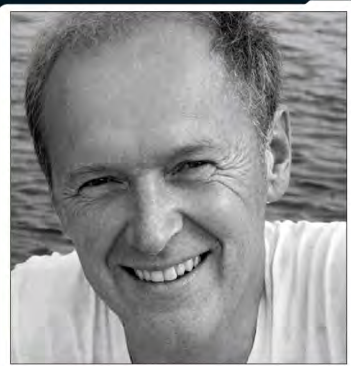
Peter "Pete" Power, 79 of Atascosita, Texas passed away on February 23rd, 2026. Pete enlisted in the U.S. Army while still a student at St. Bernard College. He volunteered for Officer Candidate School and was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in 1969. He was assigned to the 10th SFG(A) in Ft. Devens, Massachusetts until his honorable discharge from active duty. Pete then returned to St. Bernard College to complete his degree in Economics. After earning a graduate degree from the University of Mississippi, Pete began a long career with Sonat Drilling Company and later Transocean.

**JAMES RENSHAW****M-309**

James Renshaw, 80 of Washougal, Washington passed away on March 12th, 2026. Jim was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army upon his graduation from Temple University in 1968. He volunteered for Special Forces duty and, upon completion of his training, was assigned to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam. After completion of a combat tour, Jim was reassigned to the 7th SFG(A) at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. He was honorably retired from active duty in 1993. Following his retirement, Jim worked as a government contractor until his final retirement in 2012. He is survived by his wife (Paula).

**JOHN THOMAS RIDOUT****D-2114**

John Thomas Ridout, 89, of Killeen, passed away on April 30, 2026. John proudly served his country for 30 years as an U.S. Army Sergeant Major, where his distinguished military career that included assignments in G2 Intelligence/ Counter intelligence, Special Forces (a RECONDO Instructor in Vietnam) and had the honor to participate in the U.S. Army Golden Knights Parachute Demonstration Team. He was also a proud member of the Central Texas Chapter, 82nd Airborne Association and Special Forces Association, Chapter 77, Killeen TX.

**ALFRED SMITH**

D-2934



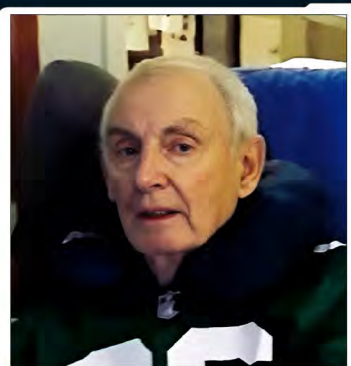
Alfred Smith, 85 of Doylestown, Pennsylvania passed away on March 18th, 2026. Al enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1963 and was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division and deployed with the 1st Brigade to Vietnam in 1965. Returning stateside in 1966, Al was honorably discharged from active duty and joined the 11th SFG(A). He would later be reassigned to the 20th SFG(A) upon the deactivation of the 11th. Among his awards and decorations are The Bronze Star (w/V), the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Special Forces TAB, and the Master Parachutist's Badge. Al was a long-standing and valued member of SFA Chapter 19.

**GEORGE SPERRY**

M-14390



George Sperry, 86 of Wilmington, North Carolina passed away at the New Hanover Regional Medical Center on March 17th, 2026. George enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1960 and was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division. While serving with 101st, George was selected for Special Forces training and assigned to the 7th SFG(A). He completed his training as a Special Forces Aidman in 1961. He participated in Operation White Star (Laos) and served an additional combat tour in Vietnam. George was honorably discharged from active duty in 1963.

**PAUL TROUTNER**

M-147



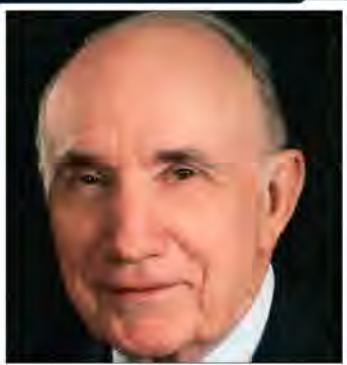
Paul Troutner, 86, of West Chester, Pennsylvania, passed away on May 11th, 2026. Paul was awarded his Special Forces qualification in 1971 while assigned to the 11th SFG(A). He is survived by his wife (Mary), son (James), and daughters (Rosemary, Natalie, Barbara). A funeral Mass was held at the St. Maximilian Kolbe Church in West Chester, Pennsylvania on May 15th, 2026. Interment is at the SS Peter and Paul Cemetery in Springfield.

**JOSEPH ULATOSKI**

M-8549



BG(R) Joseph Ulatoski, 98, of Vashon Island, Washington, passed away on March 20th, 2026. Joe lied about his age and enlisted in the U.S. Army during WWII. He was found out and discharged. He reenlisted during the Korean War and fought with the 5th Ranger Company and Unit 8086. Joe served three tours of duty in Vietnam and one tour with JCRC in Thailand. Among his awards and decorations are The Bronze Star (w/V, 3 OLC), The Purple Heart (1 OLC), the the Distinguished Service Medal, the Combat Infantryman's Badge (w/Star). In 1983 he was honorably retired from active duty after 33 years of service.

**GEORGE WHITTON****D-7959**

George Whitton, 89 of Athens, Georgia passed away on April 29th, 2026. George was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army upon graduation from the University of Georgia in 1959. In 1966 he was assigned to the 11th SFG(A) as a Detachment Commander. During his time with the 11th SFG(A), George also served as a Company Operations Officer, Executive Officer, and Company Commander. George was honorably retired from active duty in 1997 to begin a new career in the banking industry. He is survived by his wife (Elizabeth), son (George), and daughter (Becky).

**JAMES WILLIAMS****D-82**

James Williams, 94 of Korat, Thailand passed away on May 12th, 2026. Jim enlisted in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and, after his initial term, volunteered for Special Forces duty. He was assigned to the 77th SFG(A) in 1953. Jim's Special Forces career included service with the 10th, 7th, 6th, 1st, 5th SFG(A), and the 46th SF Company in Thailand. He was honorably retired from active duty in 1972. Among his awards and decorations are the Bronze Star, the Air Medal, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Pathfinder Badge, and the Master Parachutist's Badge. He moved to Thailand in 1997 where he taught conversational English.

**WILLIAM WILSON****M-13947**

COL(R) William Wilson, 85 of Vero Beach, Florida passed away on April 1st, 2026. Wil was appointed a 2nd Lieutenant upon graduating from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York in 1963. He volunteered for Special Forces training and was assigned to the 3rd SFG(A) in 1965 briefly before moving to the 6th SFG(A). Late 1965 Will was reassigned to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam where he commanded ODA 103 and ODA 113. In the 1970's Will returned to West Point as a faculty member where he founded the Center for Leadership and Personal Development. He was honorably retired from active duty in 1992.

OTHER FALLEN COMRADES**SFA**

Patrick J. Kelly		March 16th, 2026
Euell White.....	M-9787.....	April 28th, 2021
Robert Shaw	D-2553	October 2nd, 2015
Petter Noone	M-1111	July 16th, 2025
Damian Wilson	D-3889	January 26, 2024
Albertis Wilson.....	M-2621	December 14th, 2023
Michael Bansmer.....	M-11533	September 11th, 2023
Finton Stewart.....	M-10119	October 13th, 2024

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

As well as many other important causes and Chapter Donations

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Feature Article - Doug Livermore

Introduction

In the early morning hours of February 4, 2026, thousands of Russian soldiers across the Ukrainian front lines experienced something unprecedented in modern warfare—their primary communications network simply vanished. Frantic voices crackled across intercepted radio channels as Russian troops reported the sudden failure of systems they code-named "Kosmos" and "Sinka"—references to Starlink satellite internet and Telegram messaging services. Within hours, Ukrainian reconnaissance units from the elite Bureviy Brigade were documenting chaos in Russian positions. Assault operations ground to a halt. Drone operators lost their video feeds. Artillery coordination collapsed. SpaceX's decision to require verification for all Starlink terminals operating in Ukraine had just fundamentally altered the dynamics of Europe's largest land war since 1945.

The timing of this technological disruption could not have been more consequential. After four years of grinding attrition, the conflict in Ukraine had evolved into a war dominated by drones, precision strikes, and the critical importance of real-time battlefield communications. Both Ukrainian and Russian forces had come to depend heavily on Starlink's commercial satellite internet service to coordinate operations, control unmanned systems, and maintain command and control in areas where traditional communications infrastructure had been destroyed. The sudden deactivation of unauthorized terminals—primarily those illicitly obtained by Russian forces through black market channels—represented not just a tactical setback but a strategic inflection point in the electronic warfare dimension of the conflict.

This article examines the profound impact of SpaceX's February 2026 decision to enforce strict verification protocols for Starlink terminals operating in Ukraine,

with particular focus on how this technological disruption affected front-line operations and the sophisticated special operations forces that have become central to Ukraine's defense. The analysis explores the longstanding partnership between U.S. Special Operations Forces and their Ukrainian counterparts—a collaboration that has quietly shaped the course of the war since well before Russia's full-scale invasion. Finally, it contextualizes the Starlink crackdown within the broader transformation of modern military operations, where commercial satellite communications have become as essential as ammunition and where control of the electromagnetic spectrum can determine victory or defeat.

The Immediate Tactical Earthquake

The impact of the Starlink shutdown was both immediate and dramatic. Lieutenant Denis Yaroslavsky, commander of a special reconnaissance unit within the Armed Forces of Ukraine, provided one of the first detailed assessments from the front lines. "For three to four days after the shutdown, they really reduced the assault operations," Yaroslavsky reported, noting a direct correlation between connectivity loss and combat tempo[1]. The disruption was not theoretical—it was a tactical earthquake that reverberated across hundreds of kilometers of active front lines.

Russian forces had spent months developing sophisticated methods to exploit Starlink's capabilities. Terminals purchased through third-country intermediaries or captured on the battlefield were integrated into Russian military operations at multiple levels. At the tactical edge, individual units mounted Starlink terminals on vehicles and weapon systems to facilitate real-time video streaming from reconnaissance drones. This capability allowed Russian artillery batteries to receive high-definition feeds from forward observers, enabling precision strikes



Ukrainian Special Operations Forces in the field. Ukrainian SOF units have become critical actors in the conflict, leveraging advanced technology and training from Western partners.

with significantly reduced time between target identification and engagement. Without these terminals, that digital backbone simply collapsed.

The effects cascaded through Russian military formations. Drone operators who had relied on Starlink's jam-resistant, high-bandwidth connections suddenly found themselves unable to transmit video feeds back to command posts. First-person view (FPV) drones—small, agile kamikaze systems that had become increasingly lethal when paired with real-time control—lost their primary advantage. Russian forces had even modified their Iranian-designed Geran drones to serve as carriers for smaller FPV drones, effectively creating a long-range delivery system for precision strikes. These sophisticated tactics became significantly less effective when the communications link enabling real-time targeting disappeared. Perhaps most significantly, the breakdown in communications disrupted the coordination between different elements of combined-arms operations. Modern military doctrine emphasizes the synchronization of artillery, armor, infantry, and aerial assets to create overwhelming effects at decisive points. This synchronization requires robust, real-time communications. When Russian assault groups advanced without adequate drone overwatch or timely artillery support—unable to call for immediate assistance or redirect their efforts—they stumbled into well-prepared Ukrainian kill zones with catastrophic results.

Widening the Casualty Gap

The human cost of the communications disruption

manifested in stark casualty statistics that Ukrainian commanders documented with grim precision. One anonymous Ukrainian unit commander, leading an elite sector, provided detailed analysis of how the Starlink shutdown affected attrition rates. "On any given day, depending on your scale of analysis, my sector was already achieving 20:1 before the shutdown, and we are an elite unit," the commander explained. "Regular units have no problem going 5:1 or 8:1. With Starlink down, 13:1 for a regular unit is easy".

These figures paint a devastating picture of the battlefield reality. A shift from a casualty ratio of 5:1 to 13:1 represents a nearly threefold increase in defensive effectiveness—meaning that for every Ukrainian soldier lost, thirteen Russian soldiers were killed or wounded. For elite Ukrainian units already operating at high efficiency, the ratio expanded from 20:1 to even more lopsided figures. The mathematics of attrition warfare are brutal: such casualty differentials are unsustainable for any military force, regardless of its numerical superiority or strategic objectives.

The reasons for this dramatic shift trace directly to the loss of battlefield coordination enabled by Starlink. Without real-time communications, Russian infantry assaults proceeded blind, lacking the drone reconnaissance that had become essential for identifying Ukrainian defensive positions, locating anti-tank weapons, and mapping safe approach routes.

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The Special Forces Association National Convention kicked off the opening ceremony with a CAPEX demonstration of a direct action takedown of a target at the 7th SFG(A) compound for Red Empire week.



SFA President, Chris Wilkerson recognizes Chapter 7 for their exceptional work hosting the convention.



SFA President, Chris Wilkerson, briefs the SFA chapter leadership during the chapter presidents meeting.



SFA Chapter 7 President, Patrick Colloton, presents awards to Issac "Ike" Camacho and Cliff Newman after they told remarkable stories of their distinguished military careers and support for the SFA.



SFA Chapter 7 awarded numerous scholarships to worthy individuals and other needy causes.



Florida's LT Governor and former Green Beret, Jay Collins, gave an inspirational speech during the event.



Former Ranger school candidates visited the new Gator Lounge at the 6th Ranger Training Facility.





Various pictures from the SFACON 2026 Banquet and Closing Ceremony at the Rigdon Center in Ft Walton, FL.



Dewey Walker receives the Gold Saint Philip Neri Award for his lifelong service.



Receiving the Bronze Saint Philip Award are, from left, Myles Cappiello, Rodney Larreau, Rusty Gaeta, and JP Cervantes.



Chris Wilkerson presented the Saint Philip Neri Silver Award to Phil Crowley for his exceptional service and dedication to the regiment and the Special Forces Association.



Bonnie Cooper receives the Heritage Award from SFA President Chris Wilkerson. The Heritage Award is new award established in 2025. 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.

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. The 2026 awardees are as follows. **Saint Philip Neri Gold Level:** Dewey Walker and Wade Ishimoto. **The Saint Philip Neri Silver Level:** Phil Crowley. **The Saint Philip Neri Bronze Level:** Myles Cappiello, Rodney Paul "Seaux" Larreau, Rusty Gaeta, Peter von Jess, and JP Cervantes. **The Heritage Award:** Bonnie Cooper and Hank Cramer.

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June 1, 2026

★ 2026 SFA NATIONAL ELECTIONS ★

The Teller Committee met at SFA National Headquarters 27 May, 2026 to tabulate ballots for the 2026 Election. The Teller Committee was comprised of volunteers from local SFA Chapters.



SFA Total Membership as of 15 May (last day to vote) was **11,296**



845 valid paper ballots and **422** electronic votes on Teamhouse were cast for a total of **1,247** votes. This represents **11.03%** of SFA Membership on 15 May, exceeding the 10% needed for a quorum.

THE RESULTS WERE (ALL CANDIDATES RUNNING UNOPPOSED):		YES	NO/BLANK
★	For President, Chris Wilkerson	93%	7%
★	For Vice President, Nathan Rehl	94%	6%
★	For Secretary, Jeff Olson	95%	5%
📢	For Director of External Communications, Doug Livermore	96%	4%
🛡️	For Director of Special Projects, Garon Strong	95%	5%
📝	Approve amending the Constitution and implementing Bylaws	79.5%	21.5%

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Garon Strong

GARON STRONG
SFA Director of Special Projects
Teller Committee Chair



SPECIAL FORCES TRUST

Trust the Trust: Built by Brotherhood, Powered by Purpose



Our Mission

The Special Forces Trust (SFT) is a 501(c)(3) charity that provides meaningful and sustainable support to the Green Berets, and their Families. The SFT supports timely, innovative, and comprehensive programs and services designed to enhance the well-being and health of both the Special Forces Soldier and their family.

Our Vision

The Special Forces Trust is dedicated to the sole proposition of taking care of our Special Forces Soldiers and their families... Our goal is to raise the funds necessary to financially and professionally enhance the Command's family resiliency initiatives. Our objective is to support and sustain all programs that enrich the well-being, healthy living, and strong family bonds of a Green Beret Force committed to keeping America safe.



BEYOND THE BATTLEFIELD

The SFT presents, "Beyond the Battlefield" – a sponsored Operational Stress Management & Suicide Prevention Platform. The intent of this platform is to offer soldiers an option to anonymously explore and invest in their mental and emotional wealth.

While the government does a fine job of preparing Soldiers for war, they fall short when it comes to Family support and in preparing the Soldier for what lies beyond the battlefield. The Special Forces Trust strives to fill those shortfalls. The growing mental wellness crisis in America is no secret and since mental wellness is not discriminatory, it affects every category of society. The U.S. Army Special Forces community is no exception. Already war-torn and tired, operators are returning home to wage yet another war, the war on Operational Fatigue Syndrome. The bravado of the 20-year war may have relinquished, but its silence is exposing the deafening sounds of chaos in the hearts and minds of these Soldiers. Presenting as Post-Traumatic Stress, suicidal ideation or the burden of various causes of guilt, it is important to offer a solution for those seeking help and comfort without fear of reporting, ridicule, or unnecessary push back from the Tri-Care Health System. Our mission is to provide an option that offers a silently suffering Soldier and his family a path towards help, without the worry of how it may impact his career.



Special Forces Trust

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Famous CIA Operative Teaches Development, Humility, and Balance

SGM(R) Daniel L. Jones

Years ago, I had the opportunity to host Felix I. Rodriguez, the famous CIA operative whose intelligence and advice led to the capture of Ernesto “Che” Guevara. While talking with Mr. Rodriguez, I was reminded of a passage from *Men at War*, edited by Ernest Hemingway: “there are no worse things to be gone through than men have been through before.”¹ We know this truth, yet we too often fail to set aside our own self-interests long enough to seek out those who carry historical lessons directly applicable to today’s challenges. After the visit, I asked myself how I could translate the experience into something of value for my peers. Three lessons emerged: development, humility, and balance.

Hosting distinguished visitors (DV) is an ideal, yet frequently overlooked, developmental opportunity for senior NCOs and organizational leaders. Such events place NCOs in low-hazard, high-stakes situations that mirror the demands of organizational leadership far better than most routine training. Beyond the planning challenge, hosting a DV demands genuine humility—the willingness to learn from someone whose experiences dwarf our own. When the right guest is chosen, the encounter can also model the life balance that USSOCOM’s Preservation of the Force and Family program champions: Mind, Body, Family, and Spirit.

Background: Felix I. Rodriguez

The following background on Mr. Rodriguez establishes why he is a uniquely powerful teacher of all three lessons and frames the discussion that follows. Felix I. Rodriguez was born in Havana, Cuba, in 1941 and spent his early years in Sancti Spiritus. At the behest of relatives, he attended the Perkiomen Preparatory School in Pennsburg, Pennsylvania. While he was away, Fidel Castro seized control of the Cuban government on 31 December 1958, and with it all of the Rodriguez family’s possessions and memories. Eager for revenge, the 17-year-old Rodriguez forged his father’s

signature—while sitting in front of him—on an enlistment release form and joined the Anti-Communist Legion of the Caribbean. A failed insertion mission into Cuba in 1959, followed by a bout of hepatitis, forced him back to the United States. He returned undeterred.

Rodriguez joined the CIA-backed 2506th Brigade, organized to lay the groundwork for the Bay of Pigs invasion. After repeated delays, he finally returned to his homeland on a night maritime infiltration “with weapon in hand.”³ Once ashore, he pressed inland to prepare for the main assault—pausing, at considerable personal risk, to check on the family of his future wife, Rosa, only to learn she was safely in Miami. When news of the invasion’s failure reached him over Cuban radio, Rodriguez became a political refugee sheltered in the Spanish Embassy for six months before escaping to Venezuela. He eventually made his way back to the United States, married Rosa, and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Infantry at Fort Benning, Georgia.

His Army career proved brief. An offer to support another CIA-backed liberation effort drew Rodriguez away within six months of his commissioning, and he resigned to spend nearly two years running communications in Nicaragua. Although the operation achieved measurable success, U.S. support collapsed following President Kennedy’s assassination as the country’s attention shifted to Vietnam. backbone simply collapsed.

Rodriguez’s next assignment would become the mission for which he is best remembered. Che Guevara had left Cuba to export revolution—unsuccessfully in Africa, and now ambitiously in Bolivia. Rodriguez accepted the assignment to help capture him without hesitation and left Rosa with an open-ended good-bye.

SHADOW WARRIOR

The CIA Hero of a
Hundred Unknown Battles

FELIX I. RODRIGUEZ
AND JOHN WEISMAN

From July to October 1967, Rodriguez served as a CIA advisor to Bolivian military intelligence. He worked alongside MTT-BL 404-67X of the 8th Special Forces Group (Airborne), commanded by Major Ralph “Pappy” Sheldon, whose Spanish-speaking detachment organized and trained the Bolivian 2nd Ranger Battalion for counterinsurgency operations specifically targeting Che. Within two months of Rodriguez’s arrival—and at the cost of only one Bolivian Ranger—Che was captured alive. Rodriguez conducted the final interrogation before Che’s execution and personally delivered the body to the Bolivian Command for forensic analysis.

After Bolivia, Rodriguez served two years in Vietnam with the CIA. Working alongside General James Hollingsworth, he developed helicopter tactics and techniques that generated immediate actionable intelligence against the Vietcong and effectively halted the hit-and-run rocket attacks threatening Saigon in the early 1970s. He would adapt these same combat-proven methods against the Sandinista guerrillas of Nicaragua in the late 1980s.

Rodriguez’s career was not without cost on the home front. While operating in South America, his wife notified him that he had been subpoenaed to testify before Congress regarding the Iran-Contra affair. Senator John Kerry alleged Rodriguez’s involvement in the South American drug trade with the knowledge of Vice President George H. Bush. After a protracted and public ordeal, Rodriguez was cleared of all wrongdoing and received a semi-public apology from Senator Kerry. The episode illustrated a recurring theme in his life: absorbing institutional pressure for the sake of mission and country, while his family bore the burden at home.

Rodriguez’s biography is a master class in adaptive planning under uncertainty—precisely the capability senior NCOs must develop as they move from tactical execution to organizational leadership. Hosting a DV of his caliber creates a structured, low-risk environment to begin building exactly those skills.

Senior NCOs in SOF rightly take pride in their ability to receive, plan, and execute missions autonomously, anywhere in the world. That competence is foundational, but it does not automatically translate to the organizational responsibilities awaiting leaders at the E-7 and E-8 level. DV hosting bridges that gap. The planning process mirrors



every phase of military planning—from intelligence preparation of the environment to post-event lessons learned—while adding dimensions that routine operations rarely touch. Considerations such as the guest’s age, health needs, logistical requirements, and schedule call for the same environmental clarity the ASCOPE/PMESII crosswalk is designed to develop.

Beyond the planning itself, hosting simultaneously places NCOs in contact with higher staff, civilian entities, media, and command leadership. Managing protocol, funding, venue coordination, and public affairs exposes NCOs to the behind-the-scenes staff networks that shape organizational decisions. Planning for transportation, lodging, and meals builds business relationships and professional contacts that compound in value over a career. A single well-executed DV visit can develop capabilities that years of mission execution alone may never reach.

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[Sponsor Name]
[Sponsor Address]

February 26, 2026

Subject: Sponsorship Opportunity for Special Forces Association Programs

Dear [Sponsor Name],

I am writing today to invite you to be a partner with the Special Forces Association (SFA) as a sponsor for our upcoming programs for 2026.

The SFA is a 501(C)19 veterans fraternal organization founded in 1964 that currently has 11,000 members. SFA's central mission is to promote the general welfare of the Special Forces Regiment through a number of financial and social programs.

THE SFA ACHIEVES ITS MISSION THROUGH THREE FUNDS THAT SUPPORT SPECIAL FORCES SOLDIERS, VETERANS, AND THEIR FAMILIES.



1 **THE EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND:** Provides financial assistance to SF Soldiers and their families during natural and unexpected disasters.



2 **THE PATRIOT FUNDS:** Provides financial support for the JFK Special Warfare Center and School, assisting with expenses that are not funded by the existing training budget.



3 **THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM:** Provides educational scholarships to the immediate family of all past and present SF soldiers.



4 **THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE:** Our Annual Conference occurs in June at locations across the US. This year, SFACON 2027—the 50th Convention—is back to Fort Bragg. This is also the 75th Anniversary of the donning of the Green Beret by the 10th Group. This convention fosters camaraderie across generations of Green Berets, provides the latest intel, highlights membership activities, and provides a forum for everyone who supports the vital work of the Special Forces soldiers and their Association.

Sponsoring the Association's programs is a meaningful opportunity for your organization to show appreciation for the legacy of the Special Forces (Green Berets) Regiment and its multiple eras of combat veterans. This sponsorship opportunity also provides your organization with valuable exposure and recognition. We are currently offering a range of sponsorship levels to suit various budgets:

★ PLATINUM SPONSORSHIP ★

Benefits: 12 tickets for SFACON registration and banquet attendance

Opportunity: A vendor table at SFACON and your logo on our website and in the Drop magazine

Investment: \$25,000

★ GOLD SPONSORSHIP ★

Benefits: 8 tickets for SFACON registration and banquet attendance

Opportunity: A vendor table at SFACON and your logo on our website and in the Drop magazine

Investment: \$10,000

★ SILVER SPONSORSHIP ★

Benefits: 4 tickets for SFACON registration and banquet attendance

Opportunity: A vendor table at SFACON and your logo on our website and in the Drop magazine

Investment: \$5,000

★ BRONZE SPONSORSHIP ★

Benefits: 2 tickets for SFACON registration and banquet attendance

Opportunity: A vendor table at SFACON and your logo on our website and in the Drop magazine

Investment: \$2,500

Special Forces units are currently deployed in 90 countries around the globe, ensuring our national interests are supported and protected. The Special Forces Association supports these dedicated warriors and their families during times of need. Your support will benefit Special Forces soldiers and veterans, and recognize the sacrifices they have made (and that many continue to make) to protect our national security interests. Your sponsorship honors the families of Special Forces soldiers by ensuring they have support during periods when their spouse is deployed overseas.

Most members of Special Forces experience multiple deployments during their careers. This means multiple times away from their families. Some members of the Regiment are deployed several times a year, in response to the demands of supporting America's allies around the globe. Their sacrifice, and the sacrifices of their families, deserve to be recognized.

To learn more about sponsorship opportunities or to submit your application, please contact me at President@SFANBO.org or (910) 710-5110.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to the possibility of working with you!

Sincerely,

De Oppresso Liber,

Christopher Wilkerson
President, SFA NBO





and we'll work with you to resolve the matter as quickly as possible. Please note that we do not cover damage caused by the installation of other manufacturers' products.

At Maxim Defense, we take pride in designing and manufacturing high-performance firearms, suppressors and accessories that deliver exceptional reliability and durability. Your feedback and positive reviews are important to us, as they help us continually improve our products. If you experience any issues with your Maxim Defense products, please contact us at info@maximdefense.com,

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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>	_____ x \$0	_____
(Lunch Included)		
<u>Distillery / Brewery Day Trip: (Staff ride)</u>	_____ x \$0	_____
(Lunch Included)		
<u>Prayer Breakfast:</u>	_____ x \$0	_____
<u>Airborne Operation:</u>	_____ x \$0	_____
<u>Unit Range Day / Open House:</u>	_____ x \$0	_____
<u>Chapter President's Breakfast and or Bike Ride:</u>	_____ x \$0	_____
Hosted by Chapter President (Joel Pruitt) at Chapter's Safehouse		

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

 65th REUNION/LEGION WEEK SCHEDULE of EVENTS 						
19 thru 26 September 2026						
SAT 19th SUN 20th	MON 21st	TUE 22nd	WED 23rd	THUR 24	Friday 25th	SAT 26th
	☐ Registration Country Inn & Suites Clarksville TN 1600-2000	☐ Registration Country Inn & Suites Clarksville TN 1000-1600	☐ Registration Country Inn & Suites Clarksville TN 1000-1600	☐ Registration Country Inn & Suites Clarksville TN 1000-1600	☐ Registration Country Inn & Suites Clarksville TN 1000-1600	
Saturday 19 Sep ☐ Clay Shooting Competition Cross Creek Clays 3975 Jarman Hollow Palmyra TN 0800-1600 Sunday 20 Sept ☐ Patriot Catfishing Trip Clarksville Marina Clarksville TN	☐ Football Tournament Fryer Stadium FTCKY 0800-1200 ☐ Softball Tournament FTCKY 1200-1600 Hospitality Room Soft opening 1600-2400	☐ THOR3 Competition 5th SFG Turf Field FTCKY 0700-0900 ☐ Softball Tournament FTCKY 1200-1600 Hospitality Room 1600-2400	☐ Chapter 38 Day Trip Nashville TN Departs from Country Inn and Suites 0900-UTC ☐ Airborne Operation and Family Picnic Bastogne DZ FTCKY 1000-1500 ☐ Old and New Mixer Hall of Heroes FTCKY 1645-1815 Hospitality Room 1600-2400	☐ Prayer Breakfast Hall of Heroes FTCKY 0800-1000 ☐ Group Open House FRG Tent Sale 5th SFG Footprint FTCKY 1000-1430 ☐ Family Shoot Range 70 FTCKY 1000-1430 ☐ Reunion Dinner The Silo Event Ctr 110 John Rives RD Hopkinsville KY 1800-2130 Hospitality Room 1600-2400	☐ Golf Scramble Cole Park GC FTCKY 0800-1830 ☐ Staff Ride (distillery tour) local area 0900-1630 Departs from Country Inn and Suites Hospitality Room 1600-2400	☐ Reunion Bike Ride Chapter Safehouse Registration 0800-1000 Wheels Up 1000 ☐ Color Run & 5K Deek's Language Lab Fort Campbell Ky 0730-0900 ☐ Family Obstacle Course 5th SFG Obstacle Course 0900-1200 ☐ Group Picnic Gabriel Field 1600-2130 Hospitality Room 1600-2400



SFA REGIONAL INFO

- CHAPTER INDEX
- POINTS OF CONTACT



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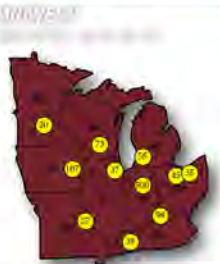
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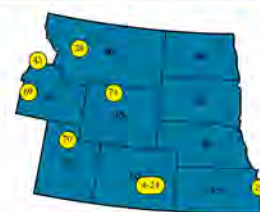
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REGION I

Northeast Region

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

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

*Chapters in red did not submit input for this quarter

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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

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SFA Chapter 19 President, Myles Capiello is congratulated by Kevin Knapp after receiving the Bronze Saint Neri Award at the Special Forces Association annual 2026 convention in Fort Walton/Destin, Florida



TWENTY-ONE GUN SALUTE TO
MSG ALFRED E. SMITH

On March 18, 2026 MSG Alfred Elwell Smith (ret.) of Doylestown, PA peacefully passed away surrounded by family. He was just a week shy of his 85th birthday. Al would tell you his educational and early work history were modest at best, and he described himself as a "late bloomer". He joined the Army Airborne Infantry in 1963 after speaking to veteran college classmates. He was assigned to the 1st Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division and went to Recondo School at Fort Campbell. Al also completed the Special Forces Qualification Course in Operations and Intelligence School. He is remembered by the men as an excellent JumpMaster and Team Sergeant. Al joined the Special Forces Association and was assigned SFA#D-2934, and has been with Chapter 19 since the early 1970's. To the men in Chapter 19 Al was seen as:

"A bright light with his sharp wit, knowledge, and focus on the mission. He strived to participate in many of the Chapter projects such as teaching young cadets at the Academy in Camp Buckner at West Point or role playing for Civil Affairs exercises. Cadets named him, "El Supremo," which Al figured described him perfectly. He had a passion for instructing and training troops that penetrated those on the receiving end. Al was a true Renaissance man and would discuss classical music, literature,

philosophy, religion, psychology, genealogy, military strategy, dream interpretation, flea markets, collecting, or building a breakwater - he had a lively interest in so many things, but most of all, he had an interest in people. Whoever Al was conversing with had his complete attention. As with his cadets, with whom he would initiate informal camp fire discussions, he consistently created an environment in which it was safe to express any thoughts or feelings, and to ask questions without judgment. Many of us grew up relying on his listening ear and his help in understanding the situations we were facing. Al also used his keen intelligence to devise pranks, and he laughed just as hard when the tables were turned on him (but beware, because he did raise the stakes). A large plaque above his desk read, "Illegitimi non carborundum," i.e. "Don't let the bastards grind you down." He always had a profound sense of justice, and injustice would stir him to action.

<https://sfa19.org/al-smith/>



PRES : John Nottell
 VICE : Dean Chapman
 SEC : Steve Kelley
 TRES : John Hardman
 SGT at ARMS : Chris Carreiro



www.48sfa.net

CHAPTER XLVIII

The Rhode Island Chapter

48

Rhode Island



Chapter 48 conducted our annual Memorial Day Ceremony at the Special Forces monument, RI Veterans Memorial Cemetery followed by breakfast at the Homestead Restaurant. On June 1st, the recently elected officers of Chapter 48 assumed their positions: John Nottell, President; Dean Chapman, Vice President; John Hardman, Treasurer; Steve Kelley, Secretary. Filling the three Director positions are: Charlie Knowles, Dickie Kennis and Al Tolleson. Chris Correiro will continue to serve as our Sergeant at Arms. Chapter 48 conducted our semi-annual shootout in May hosted by the TriTown Gun Club. Thanks to Larry Pezza, Vito Pezzillo and Rick Stewart for their outstanding efforts which made this event a success. In May we also presented the SFA Award of Excellence to the following JrOTC cadets: Daniel Perez, Cranston HS East, presented by CSM(R) Mo Moniz; Eva Fontaine, East Providence HS, presented by Dean Chapman and Jose Montano Bejarano, Central HS, Providence, presented by Chapter President Al Tolleson.



54

CHAPTER LIV

The LTC William F. Buckley Memorial Chapter

Boston, MA

www.sfob54.org

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

READ MORE



TheDropOnline.com



The 8" guns on the USS Salem are impressed by the visitors from Chapter 54.



Professor Edith Flynn speaking to members of the Lexington Lions Club.

Members and guests enjoyed a guided tour of the USS Salem – a Cold War era "heavy" cruiser. The warship bristles with 8" and 5" "rifles" and 3" AA guns. We visited gun turrets, the bridge, berthing areas, staterooms, kitchens, medical facilities, and the brig. Chapter member Edith Flynn (a retired Northeastern University professor) gave a lecture on Patriot's Day to the Lexington Lions Club. She described the heroic actions of both World War II carriers named after that town. Edith also reviewed the career of COL Patrick Flynn (her late husband), an original member of the Special Forces who was awarded the CIB with two stars and several Purple Hearts for his service during World War II in North Africa, Sicily, and Anzio, with the 2nd Infantry Division during the Korean War, and the 5th Special Forces Group during the Vietnam War. The same day chapter member LTC Andrew Ballow (the garrison commander at the Natick Soldiers System Center) participated in the 130th Boston Marathon and completed the grueling 26.2-mile course.



LTC Andrew Ballow running in the Boston Marathon.

72

CHAPTER LXXII

The Trojan Horse Chapter

New Hampshire



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

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Greetings from the Granite State and the New England Trojan Horse Chapter. The planning process for the Green Beret Challenge and VIP Experience is in full swing with Bob Treutlein and Dave Fielding representing the Chapter at Camp Resilience meetings. The event serves as the Chapter's annual fundraiser and supports the Camp's fundraising to conduct retreats for military veterans, first responders and families suffering from the physical and mental wounds of their chosen professions. As in past years the event will be held the last weekend in June at the Ladd Equestrian Farm. Last year we had 13 members volunteer to serve as trainers, team walkers, point sitters and G-chiefs. This year's recipients of the SF Leadership award for ROTC cadets were Cadet Dominic Silvestri from Norwich University (pictured below with Harry Miller) and Cadet John O'Sullivan from the University of New Hampshire. The Chapter's annual BBQ will be held on 8 August @ the Ayer Gun and Sportsman Club. Last year we had over 40 members and guests attend, and great times were had by all. If your traveling and in the area swing by. Please don't hesitate to reach out when traveling through New England as we have several "safe houses" available to fellow Green Berets. Also please feel free to contact our Secretary, Harry Miller at 603-321-5070 or harry.e.miller58@gmail.com for anyone trying to locate/reconnect with our members.



REGION II

Midwest Region

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



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

*Chapters in red did not submit input for this quarter



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



CHAPTER XX

The Kenneth Worthley Memorial Chapter

20

Minnesota



Special Operations Stone at the Airborne Circle in Ft. Snelling National Cemetery.



Roger Albertson



Two Harbors Heritage Days Parade.

Greetings from the Midwest! On Memorial Day, we met at the Special Operations Stone at the Airborne Circle in Ft. Snelling National Cemetery. The veterans include: U.S. military, the Royal Lao Army, Hmong, South Vietnamese, Thai, Khmer, and the Afghan interpreters. This completes our merry band. We pass in review at 1000 hrs as the program begins. On June 6th, we will pay our last respects to Roger Albertson. Roger was a Vietnam veteran and served with 1st SFGA and 5th SFGA B-52 Project Delta. He served as a Treasurer for Chapter XX and also designed a challenge coin commemorating the lost members of Delta Project. DOL buddy! On July 10, we will travel to Keith and Jean Larson's home for the weekend to celebrate Two Harbors Heritage Days. We have been marching in the Saturday parade for nearly 25 years. The parade is one of the largest in the state and we appreciate the warm response our presence engenders from the crowd. Our numbers may have diminished, but our hearts are still pure and our intentions are virtuous. It's just the joints and aches that slow us down! It is a good time for us to renew friendships and relive our sometimes misguided youth. Airborne and DOL!



PRES : Patrick Crimmins
VICE : Mark Radziszewski
SEC : William Stach
TRES : Joseph Meinike



CHAPTER XXXVII

The MG Michael D. Healy Memorial Chapter

37

www.sfa37.org

Chicago, IL

Greetings to our SF Brothers from Chicagoland Chapter XXXVII. On 18APR26, we held our 29th Annual Military Ball at the Fountain Blue Banquets and Convention Center in Des Plaines, Illinois. The evening brought together chapter members, families, friends of the Special Forces Association, and representatives from the various veteran and charitable organizations our chapter supports. The Fire Battalion of the Army ROTC program from the University of Illinois Chicago provided an Honor Guard for the event. During the ceremony, three Cadets were awarded the CW4 John J. Condich Scholarship by our Scholarship Committee Co-Chairmen, John Olson and Chris Lucie. Our guest speaker, Chaplain Steven Rindahl, SFA Chapter XV member and 12th SFG(A) alumnus, gave a riveting presentation regarding his ministry, Warriors on the Way, which assists veterans coping with PTSD. Our own Chaplain, Allan Peterson, introduced Chaplain Rindahl and presented him with a token of appreciation. For more information on his work, please visit <https://warriorsontheway.org/>. Additionally, Chapter XXXVII made charitable donations to Veterans Path to Hope who assists local homeless veterans and Chuck Theusch's Library of Vietnam Project. Following dinner, guests enjoyed entertainment provided by Ral Donner Jr. Photos from the evening are attached to this quarter's Drop Submission. Looking ahead, our next event is a Benefit Golf Outing on 25JUN26, at Cantigny Golf Course in Wheaton, Illinois. This event is essential for raising the funds necessary to continue our chapter's charitable work. For updates on all future events, please visit our webpage at <https://www.sfa37.us> and follow our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/SFAch37>



De Oppresso Liber

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Chapter 37 SFA Annual Military Ball.



J. Olson(L) & C. Lucie(R) with Cadets



Chapter 37 Toast to the CIG



Chaplain Rindahl with Fire Battalion Color Guard & Scholarship Cadets.

38

CHAPTER XXXVIII

The LTG William P. Yarborough Chapter

Fort Campbell, KY

www.sfa38.us



PRES: Mitchell Tagart
VICE: Peter Roth
SEC: Michael Cunningham
TRES: Israel Betanzos



End of a long day!



Legion Sniper Challenge

Greetings from Middle Tennessee, South Central Kentucky and Ft Campbell. Chapter 38 has had a very busy start to 2026 and it probably won't slow down until the year is out. First, congratulations to President Mitchell Tagart, Vice-President Peter Roth, Secretary Mike Cunningham, Assistant Secretary Zach Leggett, Treasurer Israel Betanzos, Assistant Treasurer Gary Ward and Quartermaster Hal Bedell for their election to the Chapter Executive Board effective 1 May 2026. A special thanks goes out to Joel Pruitt for his 4 years of service to the Legion Community and Josh Burch for his 2 years as Vice-President. The standards have been further elevated thanks to your dedication and service. This spring we had the honor to host the children from the 5th Special Forces Group and Chapter families to the annual "Eggstravaganza" easter egg hunt at the safehouse with nearly 500 Legionnaires enjoying games, bouncy houses, egg hunting and food. Chapter members, Matt Masterson and Jason Roberts planned and executed the Legion Sniper Challenge in early May. A superb shooting event, The Chapter also awarded \$50,000 in academic scholarships for the upcoming fall semester. Each year the number of applicants continues to grow and the quality of their packets as well. The 2027 Legion Scholarship announcement letter will be posted on our website on 1 February 2027. By the time you read this, we will be on short final in the planning 65th Annual Reunion/Legion Week 19-27 September 2026. A registration form, schedule of events and lodging information can be found in this edition. For more information see our website at sfa38.org. Strength and Honor.



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



www.sfa45.org

CHAPTER XLV

The Buckeye Chapter

45

Central Ohio

Greetings from the Buckeye Chapter. Chapter 45 is making final preparations for our 11th annual 3 Gun Shoot fundraiser. This year's event will be held on 5 September at the Richwood Gun and Game Club, north of Marysville, Ohio. Chapter member Rick LaValley has secured over \$50,000 in sponsored shooters. With the help and support of his American Legion post he is also providing a hamburger and hot dog lunch for the shooters. We'd like to thank Chapter member Ron Rinto for once again providing ammunition for this event. Our 11th annual Freedom Ride will be held on August 1, 2026. Registration starts at 1100 hours with an expectation of over 150 riders. 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 proceeds from the 3 Gun Shoot and Freedom Ride will be used to support the soldiers and families of B Co. 2nd BN, 19th SFGA. The Chapter's educational scholarship program continues to grow at a fast pace. Recently, Chapter member SGM(R) Bob Schneider attended his granddaughter's commencement ceremony at BGSU. Amber was a 2025 OGBSG scholarship recipient. To see the chapter's latest news, upcoming events, and memorials visit www.sfa45.org.



Chapter 45 members plan for our 2026 3 Gun Shoot



SGM(R) Bob Schneider with scholarship recipient Amber Schneider



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



www.sfa37.org

CHAPTER LXXII

The Great Lakes Chapter

73

Milwaukee, WI

Chapter 73 is saddened by the passing of Col. (Ret) Stephen R Leopold, D-3993, who died on April 7, 2026, after a brief illness in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. A founding member and former president of our chapter, Steve actively contributed to all its endeavors. His passion for baseball was renowned, and he frequently arranged trips to Milwaukee Brewers games for chapter members, including a memorable chapter night at Brewers Stadium following one of our quarterly meetings. Steve's life was defined by exceptional service and unwavering resilience. Captured in South Vietnam in May 1968, he endured captivity as a prisoner of war until his release in March 1973. Jim McNamara, assigned as Steve's personal escort post-release, recalls the briefing emphasizing that returning POWs were to be regarded as "returnees." Their bond endured until Steve's recent passing. On May 16, 2026, VFW Post 5716 rendered military honors at Heritage Funeral Home in New Berlin, WI, where arrangements were expertly handled. Chapter member Jerry Smith orchestrated the walk-thru, ensuring a fitting tribute. After the funeral service chapter members gathered at VFW Post 5716 to share stories and memories of our fallen comrade. Contrasting with the somber remembrance of Steve's life, Chapter 73 also celebrated its annual dining out on February 21, 2026, held at Mackinaws Bar and Grill in Green Bay, WI. National association president Chris Wilkerson graced the event with his presence, recounting his journey to becoming a Special Forces soldier during an engaging Q&A session. Chapter Co-president Rubin Littmann presented him with a chapter coin. During the earlier business meeting, President Wilkerson articulated his aspirations for the association. Heartfelt gratitude was expressed to John Nowak and his wife, Yun Kyung Lee, for their meticulous organization of the dining out. The subsequent day saw chapter members VP Bruce Wozniak and Dan Wilke accompanying President Wilkerson on a tour of Lambeau Field, home of the Green Bay Packers.



De Oppresso Liber

43

99

CHAPTER XCIX

The Bluegrass Chapter

Louisville, KY

www.sfa99.org

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



TheDropOnline.com



Bluegrass Chapter 99 members celebrate the SF birthday but nearly forgot to take a picture.



Bluegrass Chapter 99's Duane Larson presents \$1000 JROTC scholarship to Aleah Lester.



LTC Dave Schnaak presents the Frederick Leadership Award and \$250 check to William Futrell

Bluegrass Chapter 99 survived another Derby season and continue to prepare for our annual Memorial Golf Scramble, which was held on 1 June 2026, at Woodhaven Country Club in Louisville. Registration was from 11-12:30pm, putting contest from 12-12:45, and shotgun started at 1pm. Special thanks to LTC Dave Schnaak, PMS at Western Kentucky University for re-establishing the Frederick Leadership award sponsored by Bluegrass Chapter 99. This years' outstanding cadet was William Futrell, who in addition to the shadow box with V-42 dagger, also received a \$250 dollar scholarship. Bluegrass Chapter 99 also presented a \$1000 dollar JROTC scholarship to Aleah Lester, of North Hardin High School. Aleah plans on continuing her military service while attending the University of Louisville. 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. 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. De Oppresso Liber! COL(R) Don Wolfe, President Chapter 99.

107

CHAPTER CVII

The Galen Kittleson Chapter

Cedar Rapids, IA

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

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



TheDropOnline.com

Chapter 107, the Galen Kittleson Chapter, participated in the North Iowa Band Fair Parade Memorial Day weekend. As usual the people of Mason City and Northern Iowa were very gracious. The Chapter had a great turn out for the event and had three vehicles filled with members in the parade. Chapter members Mike Kuehn and Dan Thorsen generously provided their Jeeps to carry chapter members in the parade. The Chapter thanks Pearson's Guns in Little Cedar, Iowa for the loan of a Hummer to be used in the parade. Following the parade, the Chapter visited the final resting place of CSM Kittleson, then convened to a local eatery for good food and comradery. The Chapter presented awards to outstanding ROTC students at the University of Iowa, Iowa State University and the University of Northern Iowa and JROTC students in Davenport, Ottumwa and Waterloo. Chapter 107 thanks members Dave Hansen, Fletcher Newcomb and VP Jochum for taking the time and trouble to present the awards. Chapter Vice President Jerry Jochum took part in an Honor Flight to the Normandy, France area for the 82nd Anniversary of the D-Day invasion. VP Jochum assisted a veteran during the visit.



Chapter 107 Group Photo taken after the Band Festival Parade.



Chapter 107 on Parade.



Fletcher Newcomb presenting awards to distinguished JROTC and ROTC cadets on behalf of the chapter.



Chapter 107 groups together before the Band Festival Parade.



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 : Jay Anderson



www.sfall.org

CHAPTER XI
The National Capital Chapter

11

Washington, DC

SFA Chapter XI has had a busy spring. In February, Chapter Member Bill Jensen Assumed Command of the Leesburg Civil Air Patrol Squadron unit with over 250 cadets. On National Medal of Honor Day, March 25, Ray Oden was at Fort Leavenworth's Lewis and Clark Center for the Dedication Ceremony of the COL Roger H.C. Donlon Bust. The ceremony also marked the establishment of the Col. Roger H.C. Donlon Chair for Military Leadership Studies, described as capturing Donlon's decades of dedication to mentorship and leader development at CGSC. COL Donlon's bust and the new distinguished chair created in his name will be a constant reminder of the standard set by COL Donlon: a man who faced down incredible odds with unflinching courage, and who dedicated his life to CGSC and its community, and set a standard of leadership and selfless service that will inspire generations to come. His legacy is now formally a guiding light for all who will pass through CGSC's halls. On 8 MAY 2026, SFA Chapter XI hosted the SF Regimental Birthday Ball for the National Capital Region, honoring the Veterans of U.S. Army Special Forces-Korea at the beautiful Army Navy Country Club in Arlington, VA. The U.S. Army Color Guard and the Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps posted the Colors, and "The National Anthem" was sung by SSG Imani Spicer of the U.S. Army Chorus. Then, we were entertained by the U.S. Army Chorus. It was a great evening! We had 146 folks attend, including Mrs. Norma Donlon, widow of COL Roger H.C. Donlon, MoH & DMOR, and three DMORs: COL Paris Davis MoH, CPT Wade Ishimoto (this year's recipient of the Gold Order of Saint Philip of Neri), and LTC Bucky Burruss and his daughter, Mrs. Cara Teeter, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of War for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict. Next year we'll celebrate Seventy-five Years of Special Forces on Friday, May 7, 2027, at the Army-Navy Country Club in Arlington, VA. It will be a night to come, enjoy, and remember! Join us and enjoy a great night of camaraderie, so save that date for the 2027 SF Regimental Birthday Ball! Chapter XI tries to represent the Regiment at every Special Forces Soldier's funeral at Arlington National Cemetery and to assist the family and friends of our comrades-in-arms. This summer, we have been honored to celebrate the lives of Past Chapter XI President LTC James "Tom" Price [1st & 7th SFGAs & 46th SF Co, INSCOM], SFC James "Jake" Michael Powers [2nd SWTGA, 5th SFGA ODA-5224], Chapter Member COL Peter Lawrence Connolly, 1LT Charles Almay [5th SFGA & MACV-SOG], and Chapter Member CPT Thomas E. Wilson [5th SFGA VN]. Please let Chapter XI know of any upcoming SF funerals in Arlington or in the DC area so we can reach out to the next of kin and support them. You never know whether the family will be alone at their Green Beret's ceremony. Chapter XI works hard to prevent that!



Ray Oden at Fort Leavenworth with Norma Donlon and SFA Chapter 29 for the Dedication Ceremony of the COL Roger H.C. Donlon Bust at CGSC.



Lynn Mariano, David Jackson, Ray Oden, Thuy Hugo, Jay Anderson, and Chan Eiland at the SF Regimental Birthday Ball for the National Capital Region.



In April, Chapter members Monika and Tim Stoy were in Korea to honor Monika's Dad and other veterans of Army Unit 8240 with the ROKA Airborne Special Operations Brigade. Monika's Dad was a partisan and "Donkey" in WOLFPACK 8 of the 8240AU (the forerunner of the ROKA Special Operations Brigade) during the Korean War.



The US Army Color Guard and Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps Posting the Colors.

De Oppresso Liber

45

26

CHAPTER XXVI

The Gun Powder Chapter

Maryland



PRES : Bill Hanrahan
VICE : Charlie Drake
SEC : Nick Demas
TRES : Leo Kosoriek

READ MORE



TheDropOnline.com

During 2026 the National Infantry Association has awarded the Order of Saint Michael to two members of Chapter 26, for significant contributions to Airborne and Special Operations duties. On 6 Feb 2026 the award was presented to SGM (ret.) Jim Diven Sr. in Baltimore. On 25 Apr 2026 in Ellicott City, Maryland Chapter President Bill Hanrahan also received the award.



Jim Diven Sr. (right) with (from the left) Chapter President Bill Hanrahan, Mrs. Diven and Treasurer Leo Kosoriek.



Current Chapter President Bill Hanrahan (center) with past presidents Chuck Christianson (left) and Jim Diven Jr. (right).

90

CHAPTER XC

The MSG Richard L. Ferguson Memorial Chapter

Fredericksburg, VA

www.sfach90.org



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

READ MORE



TheDropOnline.com

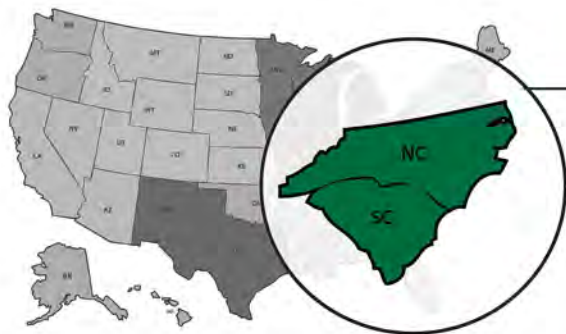
Greetings from Chapter 90 in Fredericksburg, VA. Our Chapter namesake – MSG Richard "Fergie" Ferguson Memorial, died March 30, 2004 in Iraq, when the military vehicle he was riding in rolled over. On the anniversary of his passing, our Chapter raised a glass to our fallen Brother. May he and all of our fallen brothers never be forgotten for their ultimate sacrifice. On April 30th Chapter officers travelled to the Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA and presented our annual 'Profiles in Courage' Award to their ROTC class for their heroic actions against the terrorist who murdered the University's Chair of the ROTC program.

On May 5th, Chapter 90 members travelled to Virginia Military Institute (VMI) to present the Chapter's MG Frederick Leadership Award to this year's recipient Cadet Frederick Kleinschuster. Our annual spring Charity Golf Tournament was held on May 15th. We would like to thank our many sponsors who helped us generate more than \$25,000 for distribution to the Chapter's scholarship program and this year's principle charity, 'Project Healing Waters' – a national organization that helps veterans recover from PTSD, TBI, and other service-related injuries. Chapter 90 meets the first Friday of every month at 2000 hours at Moose Lodge 2215, 422 Eskimo Hill Rd, Stafford, VA. As always, the team room is always open to all SF teammates. If you're travelling through the area, all are welcome to join us.



Pictured top left, Virginia Military Institute (VMI) presented the Chapter's MG Frederick Leadership Award to this year's recipient Cadet Frederick Kleinschuster; above right, Chapter 90 meeting at the Moose Lodge; bottom left, On April 30th Chapter officers travelled to the Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA and presented our annual 'Profiles in Courage' Award to their ROTC class for their heroic actions against the terrorist who murdered the University's Chair of the ROTC program; bottom right, is the annual spring Charity Golf Tournament was held on May 15th.





REGION IV

Carolinas Region

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



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

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

READ MORE



PRES : Jeff Rinaldi
VICE : Blake Nelson
SEC : Marcus Washington
TRES : George Gomez



CHAPTER I-XVIII

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

www.sfa1-18.com

Fayetteville, NC

1-18

Greetings from the original Aaron Bank and Samuel S. Theriault Chapter 1-18 of Fayetteville/ Fort Bragg. First and foremost, I would like to thank the chapter staff and Regular Volunteer team, the generous donors from our SF veterans and local businesses, Warner Group, Teresa View, Mike Lindsay, Savage Lenders, Caudill Home Team, and Parks building supply. Without their support we could not continue the mission. This quarter: The chapter honored a few passing members and spent time visiting our sick and hospitalized members, hosted RFF/SFQCs 342 & 343 for a congratulatory welcome to the Regiment/family BBQ, presented daggers to the honor graduates from WOTTC and SLC. Held regularly scheduled meetings which included briefs as part of our "informative briefing series". The idea is to keep the chapter in touch with our regiment and being informed on current business. The chapter treasurer, Mike Locklear (USASOC Force Mod Deputy) briefed the reorganization of the regiment. JFKSWCS Proponency Chief, LTC George Webb briefed the chapter on the health of the force. Thank you to these great Americans for keeping us in the loop. Lastly, we hosted a poker run in May and are preparing for our annual Octoberfest on 4 October 2026. We thank everyone for the support of our past events and would like to invite and welcome all to come to our future events. Chapter 1-18 meets at 1:30pm on the second Saturday monthly. We are located at: 1509 Zinnia Court, Fayetteville. Follow us online at via Teamhouse at <https://teamhouse.specialforcesassociation.org/SFACH1-18>, or on Facebook at 'SFA Chapter 1-18'. If you are not receiving email updates from the chapter distro, or having issues with teamhouse, please email the Secretary Marcus Washington at: Q_Rator@yahoo.com.



Chapter 1-18 annual regiment and family BBQ picnic and welcomed new SFQC graduates.



Many participants turned out for the annual Poker Run that was held in May 2026.

READ MORE



PRES : Gary Koenitzer
VICE : Rick Turcotte
SEC : Tim Howle
TRES : John McManus



CHAPTER VI

The Camp Mackall Chapter

www.facebook.com/sfacvi/

Camp Mackall, NC

6

The weekend kicked off with our Chapter Golf Tournament at Deercroft Golf Course Friday May 8! The tournament funds raised enough for our annual 5k donation to Gold Star Teen Adventures and money for our chapter Colonel John Tobin Scholarship fund. Deercroft is a great host, and thanks to 7th Dimension and Defender ammo for their donations. We held a memorial ceremony for CSM Rickie Brittain who passed away October 28, 2025, aged 71. Thanks to Keith Rutledge for putting the ceremony together and all those that spoke. We had 52 members at the meeting Saturday May 9, 2026, including 2 new members. Immediately following our meeting, members and their families enjoyed a Cinco de Mayo fiesta at the chapter compound. Cynco De Mayo was awesome, Thanks to Lanny, Angel and Joe for organizing the event. Another success. We would like to recognize a chapter member, Lawrence (Larry) Costa for his continued support of Gold Star families. When approached about the possibility of supporting Chapter 6's efforts in conjunction with the Memorial Valor Foundation to honor SOF Gold Star Families, he never hesitated and has been a major donor each year. We continue preparations to support 9th annual Gold Star event with the Memorial Valor Foundation which will take place at the Memorial 3 Gun Competition held October 9-11, 2026 at Gryphon Group Complex, Maxton, NC.



Chapter Golf Tournament raised a \$k donation to Gold Star Teen Adventures



Memorial Ceremony for CSM Rickie Brittain who passed away October 28, 2025, aged 71.

17

CHAPTER XVII

The COL Jerry "Robin" Sage Memorial Chapter

Maggie Valley, NC

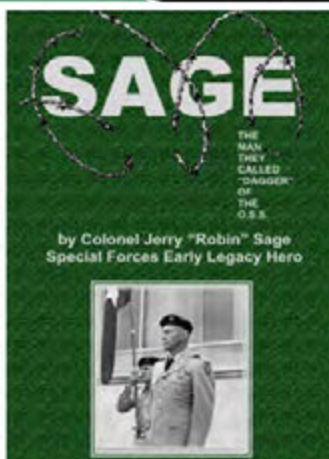
www.sfachapter17.com



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



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. 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. 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." Chapter 17 had their quarterly meeting at Guidon Brewing Company in Hendersonville, NC www.guidonbrewing.com. This company touts: Experience the perfect blend of American spirit and German craft. All 10th Group guys felt like they had been there before! AND good times were had by all!





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



CHAPTER LXIII

The Francis "Swamp Fox" Marion Chapter

63

Charleston, SC

Chapter 63 for 2026 has been eventful. Unfortunately, our SF Experience/Range Day, originally scheduled for 19 April, was postponed until next spring. The changes to our location and a shift from fall to spring shortened our planning and preparation time, which necessitated the postponement in order to ensure a first class event. The postponement freed up chapter members to assist the Tri-County Veterans Support Network (TCSVN) with their annual Spec Ops Shooting Experience, which was on 18 April. We have assisted them with Green Beret shooting assistance and range safety in the past. Kirk Ferguson, Jerry Estenson, Chris Fox, Ronnie Johnson, and John Edsall ably represented Chapter 63 at the fundraiser. On a rainy 26 February, Bob Welsh, John Edsall, and Tom Doran presented the chapter's wreath at the annual ceremony at the tomb of General Francis Marion, the Swamp Fox, whom Chapter 63 honors. The following Saturday, four chapter members attended the dedication of a waterfront dog park in Mount Pleasant, which honors a local Special Forces Captain killed in Afghanistan in 2009. The Captain The ceremony was attended by Chris Fox, Mike Holzer, Tom Doran, and Kendall Witt, Kendall served with Cliff, and spoke at the event.



Kirk Ferguson, Jerry Estenson, Chris Fox, Ronnie Johnson, John Edsall.



Tom Doran, John Edsall, Bob Welsh.



Captain Richie Cliff Memorial Dog Park plaque.



PRES : Pat Fensom
VICE : Jake Dunn
SEC : Ralph Longello
TRES : Alden Sims



CHAPTER CCCLXIII

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

363

Greenville, SC

In February, SFA Chapter 363 hosted a breakfast with members of the Upstate Ranger Association. Members, families, and guests enjoyed fellowship and discussed local veteran-focused events to help them stay active and connected. The chapter conducted several SF-focused educational engagements from January through May. The 8-week course titled "Green Berets in Vietnam" was held at Furman University as part of its OLLI curriculum. The course presented SF involved operations ranging from the initial advisory teams through the end of the Vietnam War. Several members of the chapter who served in Vietnam shared personal experiences. The course was well-received by the 43 enrolled students. Additionally, the chapter continued its ROTC engagements with Clemson University. The chapter also participated in several award ceremonies, presenting plaques and medals to JROTC students in Georgia and ROTC Cadets from Clemson University, Furman University, and Wofford College. The Billy Waugh "Never Quit" award was presented to a student at Greenville High School, who received a \$200.00 check, a certificate, and the book Hunting the Jackal for persevering through hardship to graduate. CH 363 held its Spring Range Day, bringing together members and guests for a day of shooting and competition. Veterans for America provided lunch. Upcoming events include a chapter picnic, business meetings, and preparation for an 8-week course to be taught at Furman University's OLLI program discussing the Global War on Terrorism.



Pictured top left, Chapter 363 and guests at the Spring Range Day; above, Chapter 363 member Ray Steele sharing his experience during the 8-week course titled, Green Berets in Vietnam; and left are Chapter 363 members with Upstate Ranger Association during February breakfast.



REGION V

Florida Region

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*



7

CHAPTER VII

Emerald Coast Chapter

Northwest Florida

www.sfa7.com



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

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TheDropOnline.com

The Emerald Coast Chapter had a busy quarter! Our mission profile shifted from holiday traditions toward high-impact community investment and the long-range planning required for a landmark year in 2026. Trading our kit for tool belts and planning binders, the chapter focused on fortifying local partnerships and honoring our commitment to the next generation of leaders. The quarter began with a "boots on the ground" effort to support local youth development. Our members spearheaded the construction of a new obstacle course for the Cub Scouts, providing the manual labor and technical expertise necessary to build a challenging environment for young scouts to test their mettle. This spirit of physical readiness carried over to our support of the Savage Loop running event in Niceville, FL, where Chapter 7 members assisted in the execution of one of the area's most grueling endurance challenges, further cementing our bond with the Niceville athletic community. Our investment in the local area also took a more traditional turn this season as we finalized our sponsorship of a local Little League team for the upcoming 2026 baseball season. By supporting youth sports, we aim to foster the same values of teamwork and discipline that define the Special Forces community. However, our most significant "mission behind the wire" this quarter has been the extensive preparation for the 2026 National Special Forces Association Convention. As the host chapter for this prestigious national event, we are working tirelessly to ensure the Emerald Coast provides a world-class homecoming for our brothers and sisters from across the globe. The rest of the country might be hunkering down for the freeze, but here in the Panhandle, we're just getting warmed up for a historic year of service and brotherhood.



Pictured left, Chapter 7 Vice-President, Al Zalenski and Treasurer Gabe Correa hand out door prizes at the SFA 2026 National Convention. Above, Florida's LT Governor and former 7th SFG(A) Green Beret, Jay Collins, makes a toast during the convention banquet.



Chapter 7 supports Pack 553's Ninja Warrior Course.



Chapter 7 supports The Savage Loop.



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



specialforceschapter21florida.com

CHAPTER XXI

The Bob Salzman Memorial Chapter

21

Orlando, FL

On 21 February Chapter 21 held its first Chapter Meeting for 2026 along with a luncheon at River Rocks Restaurant in Rockledge FL. We had 31 total in attendance (both Chapter members and guests. Attendees included: Ginny Billingsley with her daughter Lisa & Son in Law, Curtis; Ed Chandler; Richard Comerford; Michael McCrudden; Bonnie Cooper; Jim Day; John & Gayle Erskine; John Favel & Nancy Furbish; Alex Saunders; Suzie Gaspard; John Goodyear & Hannah Sink; John Haralson; Bill and Mary Haskell; Joseph & Lyndsay Hasting; Frederick & Bonnie Irtz, Sue Micelli; Ron and Donna Owens; Bill Schulz; Jim Summerhill, John & Betty Vislosky; and Richard Whitman. Congratulations to Chapter 21 Member Colonel (R) John Erskine who was inducted in April 2026 into the Marion County Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame. John was recognized for his extensive work assisting other Veterans.



Colonel (R) John & Gayle Erskine. John was inducted in April 2026 into the Marion County Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame.



(L-R) Jimmy Summerhill, Nancy Furbish, John Favel, Jim Day and Bill Schulz



(L-R) John Goodyear, Hannah Sink, John Haralson, Bonnie and Fred Irtz enjoying our first meeting and luncheon of 2026.



PRES : Brian Wilson
VP of Operations : Pat Rizzi
VP of Support : Keith Pecha
SEC : Joe Harosky
TRES : Jim Fagan



www.specialforces.org

CHAPTER LX

The Richard J. Meadows Memorial Chapter

60

Tampa, FL

Chapter 60 continued an active and productive start to 2026 with steady participation in Chapter meetings, Team House activities, scholarship planning, and fellowship events. The Chapter remains focused on supporting the Special Forces Brotherhood, strengthening membership participation, and continuing the development of the Team House as a central gathering place for members, families, and supporters. During the quarter, Chapter 60 hosted Springfest at the Team House in Tampa. The family-friendly, barbecue-style event brought together members, families, and friends of the Chapter for an afternoon of fellowship and camaraderie. Events such as Springfest continue to help strengthen the bonds within the Chapter while providing an opportunity for newer members, longtime members, and families to gather in a relaxed setting. Chapter 60 also continued planning and support for its ROTC and JROTC scholarship efforts. The Chapter is grateful for the generous support received from the Retired Police Officer Association, Hernando 10-13 Club, in support of the ROTC Scholarship Fund. Contributions such as this help Chapter 60 continue its tradition of recognizing and encouraging the next generation of young leaders. The Chapter also received a thoughtful contribution from Joseph Quigley, and sincerely appreciates the continued support of friends, families, and organizations who help advance the Chapter's mission. The Team House and Underground Tavern remained important centers of fellowship throughout the quarter. Chapter 60 also continued improvements and ongoing support efforts at the Team House, including updates to operations and activities designed to make the facility more welcoming and useful for members and guests. Looking ahead, Chapter 60 will remain actively engaged during SOF Week in Tampa from 18-21 May. The Chapter has also been invited to participate in the 1st Annual Tactical Tee-Off Golf Outing during SOF Week on 18 May, where Chapter 60 will have a table and raffle tickets available. These events provide an excellent opportunity to represent the Chapter, support the Special Operations community, and engage with members, veterans, families, and supporters from across the area. Chapter members are also looking forward to SFACON 2026, scheduled for 7-11 June in Destin, Florida. Chapter 60 looks forward to joining fellow members of the Special Forces Association from across the country for fellowship, updates from National, and continued support of the Association's mission. Chapter 60 meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month from 1730 to 1830 at the Team House, located at 6207 S. Dale Mabry Highway, Tampa, Florida 33611. Members and visiting Brothers in the area are always welcome to attend. The Chapter also operates the Underground Tavern at the same location, open Thursday through Sunday from 1500 to 2200, providing an additional opportunity for fellowship. De Oppresso Liber



LTC(R) Kevin Logan was recognized by the Veterans Council of Hillsborough County at a Ceremony held at the Veterans Memorial Park. Kevin represented the Special Operations Community who served as Ground Force Commander for a Special Forces unit in Desert Shield/Storm. He was presented the award by Jessica Schwartzkopf, daughter of "Stormin' Norman.



Rod Nishimura was recognized as Associate Member of the Year for his consistent volunteer service and support to the Chapter. Gary Weber was recognized as Member of the Year for his contributions to the Chapter, including his work on the Chapter Newsletter and the historical narrative of the Team House project.

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



TheDropOnline.com



Chapter 74 members at Low and Slow BBQ on 2 May 2026.

Chapter 74 held a quarterly meeting on 02 May 2026 at the Low and Slow BBQ in Lakeland, FL. We had a good turnout of members, and we discussed the upcoming National Convention and our upcoming events. We received updated briefings from all officers and had several visitors who expressed interest in joining Chapter 74 and the SFA. Our next Quarterly meeting will be held on 08 Aug 2026 at the Deland Stockyard Steakhouse in Deland FL. All SFA Members are invited to attend to enjoy good food and the comradery of SF members, spouses and families. Chapter 74 will be conducting our Annual Rendezvous on 06-07-08 Nov 2026 at the Ocala Outdoor Adventure Camp located in the Ocala National Forest (7326 NE 170th Ave, Silver Springs, FL). We enjoy aa campfire on Friday Night, Meeting and Memorial Service Saturday Morning followed by BBQ Lunch and weapons firing Saturday Afternoon. We have another bonfire Saturday night. There are open bay cabins for sleeping and 4 private showers and bathrooms in each cabin. We request an RSVP from members and guests who may want to visit so we can ensure sufficient BBQ for everyone.

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



TheDropOnline.com

On February 21, Chapter 76 members gathered at Pike's Peak Restaurant in Hollywood, FL. We had an excellent turnout and were pleased to welcome several new faces. Our gatherings remain informal, enjoyable, and focused on camaraderie. It is always a great time seeing longtime friends reconnect while ensuring new guests feel immediately at home. Chapter 76 leadership remains focused on encouraging "small bands of brothers" to meet more frequently. This quarter, several members held successful local meet-ups at Mission BBQ and Lester's Restaurant. These smaller groups are a great way to maintain our bond between larger scheduled events. We also continue our mission to support our brothers, their families, and meaningful charities such as the Special Forces Charitable Trust and the SFA Memorial Grounds. If your travels bring you through South Florida—whether you're in the Miami or Fort Lauderdale area or heading out on a cruise—please reach out. We would be glad to connect. Stay safe, stay vigilant, and always watch your six. De Oppresso Liber, Chapter 76 Leadership.



Chapter 76 members had a full gathering at Twin Peaks restaurant in Hollywood, FL, and (pictured bottom right) a small group gathering at Mission BBQ.

READ MORE



TheDropOnline.com

PRES : Pete Marceau
VICE : Richard Deininger
SEC : Bill Sander
TRES : Ed Boatright



www.sfachapter85.com

CHAPTER LXXXV

The Treasure Coast Chapter

85

Jensen Beach, FL

Greetings from SFA Chapter 85 (LXXXV) on the Florida Treasure Coast. At our April 2026 Chapter 85 meeting we held our bi-annual election of officers. All officers were re-elected for another two year term. Officers are: President Pete Marceau, VP Rich Deininger, Secretary Bill Sander and Treasurer Ed Boatright. On 9 May, Chapter 85 members: Art Walker, Lynn Steele, Mark Seidler and other Veteran friends visited the Vietnam Traveling Wall in Melbourne, FL. The photo shows (L to R) James Kehlenbach, Mark Seidler, Jase Brandes (Mark's grandson), Dave Schaffer, Art Walker, Lynn Steele, Fred Eckleman and Fred Masters. The second photo is of Art and Lynn rubbing the name on the wall of BARRY D. MURPHY, Special Forces, KIA 18 March 1969 in Cambodia. He was the brother of our SFA Chapter 85 member MSG(R) Robert Murphy, who is also a Special Forces Veteran. On 16 May over 40 members and guests, including two Vietnamese Special Forces Officers, attended our annual Chapter 85 picnic at the home of CSM(R) Rafael Lopez here in Port St Lucie. Rafael and his wife knocked it out of the park with an incredible catered Paella feast that exceeded all expectations by far. Of course, there were sandwiches, salad, rolls, finger foods, beverages and a cake decorated with the SFA Chapter 85 logo. Chapter 85 is very active in presenting certificates and medals to JROTC graduates in St Lucie, Martin and Palm Beach Counties. This year we presented medals and certificates at over 20 high schools in Palm Beach, Martin and St Lucie counties in Florida. It is always satisfying to see the enrolled cadets and their parents who support the program. If you are a Special Forces veteran and in our area on vacation or have moved here permanently, we would like to meet with you for coffee or lunch. We generally meet at Mission BBQ, 1407 NW St Lucie Blvd, Port St Lucie, 34986 at 1130h on the 3rd Saturday of each month. Please give Bill a call at 954 336 8445 to confirm dates and times.



READ MORE



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PRES : Vacant
EXEC OFF : Vacant
VP of OPS : David Ware
SEC : Thomas F. Burke, Sr.
TRES : Wade D. Carroll



www.SFA88.org

CHAPTER LXXXVIII

Northeast Florida Chapter

88

Jacksonville, FL

In the 2nd quarter of 2026, Chapter 88 executed two milestone objectives for the year in the greater Jacksonville area. After just over a year in the planning and coordination, the chapter's project to build and donate a new Special Forces Memorial Monument to the Jacksonville National Cemetery concluded on April 11th in great triumph. About 125 people gathered to dedicate the 3-foot-high grey granite monument in the cemetery. The chapter successfully raised \$21,000 to cover the costs of creating, shipping and installing the monument, and pay for the dedication ceremony and reception. Florida's Lieutenant Governor Jay Collins, a retired SF veteran, provided the keynote address and helped unveil the monument. Collins also publicly recognized the chapter's Monument Committee Chairman Padraic Mulvihill for his outstanding leadership of the project, awarding him with his challenge coin. The chapter also held its 11th annual Green Beret Charity Golf Tournament on May 8 at the Eagle Landing Golf Club in Orange Park. 76 golfers participated to play, putt, shoot golf balls, bid on the silent auction, and enjoy a terrific taco dinner. After paying the bills, the chapter netted just over \$13,400 to use towards charity, veteran, JROTC and community programs.



Lt. Gov. Jay Collins congratulates interim chapter president David Ware on Chapter 88's efforts to honor SF Soldiers.
 (Photo by Mark Geil Photography)



Chapter 88 tournament director David Ware welcomes golfers to the Eagle Landing Golf Course with head golf pro Ernie Cruz.



Chapter member Mark Dickens readies his stance for teeing off, while teammates Rylan, Tyler and Richard Newman watch.



Retired Master Sgt. Joey Browning, far left, stands with some of incarcerated veterans he supports at Raiford Prison.



Chapter 88 past president retired CSM Dewey Walker is selected for 2026 St. Philip Neri Gold Award.

De Oppresso Liber

53



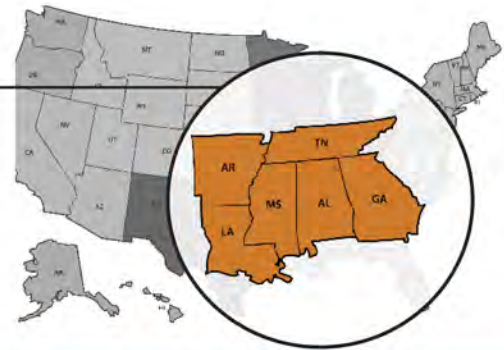
REGION VI

Southeast Region

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

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

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



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)



As summer unfolds, Chapter LIX has been actively involved in various initiatives and events, leveraging synergies with the Military Officers Association of America Chattahoochee Valley (MOAA-CVC) of which many of our members are also a part. Notably, we have been exchanging guest speakers and hosting a joint MOAA-CVA/SFA Chapter 59 Christmas party. Distinguished cadets from the University of North Georgia, Georgia Tech, and Columbus State University were honored with mounted sabers, certificates, medallions, SFA challenge coins, and a check for \$250. Cartersville and Taylor County High School's distinguished Junior ROTC cadets received certificates and SFA challenge coins. The Chapter has allocated three \$1,000 scholarships to high school students exhibiting academic excellence. Thus far, we have one nomination. The portrait of SGM Courtney has been installed in the Georgia State Capitol Building, joining the ranks of the Georgia Military Veteran's Hall of Fame.



Lisa Tink was recognized with a certificate for her outstanding contribution of \$3000 made an impact.



Anh Nguyen, an honorary Chapter member, will travel to Vietnam from April 12-21, 2026, as part of a distinguished group committed to the recovery efforts of fallen soldiers. He has agreed to present a debrief of his After Action Review (AAR) at our meeting on May 2, 2026, as well as SFACON in June.

79

CHAPTER LXXIX

The SGM Bryan F. McKnight Memorial Chapter

Jackson, MS

www.sfa79.com



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



Chapter 79 member, Daniel Kirkwood Fordice, III departed this life on May 12, 2026, at the age of 66. He died doing what he loved, flying his P51 Mustang. It was a solo crash near the airfield. Dan was born in Baton Rouge, La. on April 20, 1960, to his parents Daniel Kirkwood Fordice, Jr. and Patricia Louise Owens. A 1978 graduate of St. Aloysius High School, and a graduate of Mississippi State University with a degree in Construction Engineering Technology, Dan was commissioned as a US Army Second Lieutenant on active duty and later joined the Mississippi Army National Guard, serving for a total of 13 years. He spent half of his military career as an Engineer and the other half serving in the 2nd 20th Special Forces Unit having attained the rank of Captain. In 2023, Dan retired as Vice President of his family's fourth generation Fordice Construction Co. A natural leader, Dan served as the only second-generation National President in the history of the Associated General Contractors of America from 2022-2023, which speaks to how much he valued continuing family legacy and building community. He inspired a sense of adventure and fidelity in his family and chosen family, bringing everyone together anywhere from skiing the slopes to diving the depths of the ocean, completing every experience by inviting everyone to his table, cooking a meal, and leading all in prayer.



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



www.chapter92sfa.com

CHAPTER XCII

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

92

Madison, AL

Chapter 92 membership continues to grow, now at 106 members. Our monthly meetings are held at VFW Post 2702 the first Saturday of the month 10 am-noon, with lunch afterwards at the Meteor Café across the street. The VA Huntsville Community-Based Outpatient Clinic held a MOH recognition ceremony April 29, to honor two local MOH recipients one of the two honored at the ceremony was our own Chapter 92 member CPT(R) Gary Michael Rose. In addition to our regular monthly meeting Chapter 92's major focus was supporting 20 high school JROTC and 9 college SROTC awards presentations for the year 2026. This year we presented deserving Cadets with an SFA certificate, SF medal set, and SFA Chapter 92 ROTC coin with the SROTC cadets also receiving a \$250.00 check used in any way they choose.



The VA Huntsville Community-Based Outpatient Clinic presentation was to recognize Chapter 92 Member Mike Rose (MOH).



Tuskegee University Awardee SROTC Cadet Jada Philpot receiving her Certificate from Chapter 92 Member Les Fuller.



Cadet Keller Allen receiving his Certificate, Metal and SFA Coin from Chapter 92 Member Les Fuller.



PRES : Mitch Sivas
VICE : Scott Rezendes
SEC : Charles Dory
TRES : Jerry Smeltz



CHAPTER CII

The Billy Waugh Chapter

102

Evans, GA

As a new SFA Chapter, 102 is going through the growing pains of any new chapter. We are growing our membership and getting organized. We are also getting more and more involved in the local community. In September 2025 many Chapter members participated in the ceremony changing the name of Ft Eisenhower back to Ft Gordon. We held a Christmas party graciously hosted by member Ryan Brummond on his property, and we have also participated in the Memorial Day Parades in Aiken, SC. For the past several months we have conducted a series of back briefs where members briefed on missions they were part of, ranging from Berlin, Beirut, Vietnam, Panama, Sub-Saharan Africa, and more. Very good stuff!! We are still working on establishing a dedicated meeting location, and will announce when we have one. Looking forward to a great 2026!



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



CHAPTER CXI

Blue Ridge Mountains Region

111

Mountain City, TN



Pictured above, Chapter 111 members take a break from a fine BBQ during their meeting at Doe Valley Farm in Mountain City, TN.

Pictured left, are members: Chappy, Matt, VP Bob Bean, and Chapter President Drue Loiselle, at the National Poppy Day Golf Tournament at Pine Oak CC, Johnson City, TN.

Well, spring is here in the mountains, people and animals emerging from hibernation, enjoying the sunshine and temperatures. The Chapter held its second BBQ for members and guests on 22 May, at Doe Valley Farm in Mountain City, TN. We had thirty-five members, family, and SFA members and everyone had a wonderful time. Dennis and Kate DiTunno, owners of the farm, once again went beyond supporting the Chapter. Daniel Boone Restaurant from Boone provided the food which was extremely tasty. Amber Talyor provided acoustic guitar music and song for the afternoon. The Chapter raffled Glock19 Gen 6 with Aimpoint red dot, and the winner was our outgoing Treasurer, Steve Owens. We had a surprise, a retired 3rd Grouper, walking the entire Appalachian Trail stopped by for some hot chow and a few cold ones. The Chapter held elections for Chapter officers, with President, VP, and Secretary remaining the same. John Good was elected as the new Treasurer. The Chapter was one of the sponsors of the VFW 2108's National Poppy Day Golf Tournament at Pine Oak CC, Johnson City, TN, 22 May. We also sponsored a closet to the pin hole and fielded a team with the Pres and VP playing. Our focus is twofold, first trying to raise our membership and second planning for our fourth Gala, this year at the Johnson City Country Club, Johnson City TN on October 10th. A flyer will be posted on the SFA 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)**, **XCIV (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



TheDropOnline.com

Greetings from the men of Chapter 9. 24th SOG Expo (7-9 April 2026): Expo was held at the Centennial Club again this year. Vendor Appreciation Dinner at VFW 812 and Range Day FT Bliss Rod & Gun Club (0700-1400). The expo was very successful due to Chapter members/SORB showing up with positive can-do attitudes. The 25th SOG Expo is scheduled for 6-8 April 2027. ROTC/JROTC SFA Award of Excellence-2026: EPISD had a consolidated presentation for the 10 awards on the 31st of March (Ike), YISD got seven different presentations. UTEP ROTC was completed on April 29th. A total of 20 awards were presented. Old Glory Memorial for the Vietnam Veteran's annual ceremony was on 29 March. Joe "China Boy" Lopez again led the Chapter 9 participants. Jerry Montoya was selected for the Honor Flight & President Emeritus Peral coordinated the letter writing campaign for Jerry to read on the flight's return from DC. 20th Anniversary CSM (R) John McLaughlin Golf Tournament - TBD September 2026: Chair - Pete Peral. 19th Annual Jerry Rainey Scholarship - Greg Brown Chair; The 2026 scholarship presentation is August 15, 2026.



Isaac "Ike" Camacho presents EPISD JROTC members the SFA Award of Excellence.



SFA Chapter 9 Members at the 24th Annual SOG Expo.

15

CHAPTER XV

The Alamo Chapter

San Antonio, TX

www.sfa-xv.org



PRES : John Armezzani
VICE : Thomas Tannahill
SEC : Fred Solis
TRES : Merrill G. Hall



TheDropOnline.com



The Alamo Chapter Annual Jack Hogue Memorial Picnic.



Shrimp Boil with John Armezzani and Paul Coleman.



John Lopez presents a JROTC Leadership Award.

Greetings to all from the Alamo Chapter. We just wrapped up our annual Jack Hogue Memorial picnic in Bandera TX. A tip of the Beret to Dave Marshall for being the maestro of the shrimp boil, also thanks to Merrill Hall and Joel Ornelas for set up and Harold and Anna McBride, Santiago and Mary Jane Sanchez, Mike and Marta Rozsypal, Tom and Linda Tannahill and Susanne Armezzani for helping with clean up. Earlier this month John Lopez, Santiago Sanchez, Art Medina and Merrill Hall made presentations to our JROTC Leadership Award winners and various High Schools in the area. We launched the webpage for the Third Annual Chapter Golf Tournament on September 10th this year in remembrance of the 25th Anniversary of the events of 9/11. There are ample sponsorship opportunities available. Sign up for teams and individuals are also available on our website if you want to sponsor or come on down and join us. www.sfa-xv.org

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TheDropOnline.com

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

**CHAPTER XXXIX**

The MSG Roy Benavidez Chapter

39www.sfachapter32-50.org

Houston, TX

On Saturday 21 February 2026, Special Forces Association Chapter 39 assembled at The Honor Café, in Conroe, Texas for its first meeting of the new year. Fourteen Chapter members, five women, and two sons of a member attended. Chris North, Vice President of the SFA and President of the Combat Chapter 91-101 attended and was our guest speaker. Chapter 39 President Tommy Austin convened the meeting at 12:45 p.m. and welcomed members and guests. A PowerPoint presentation was projected on a large TV monitor for the meeting. Tommy Austin then led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance, a moment of silence, and the singing of the Ballad of the Green Berets. On 19 March 2026, Chapter 39 President Tommy Austin attended the Special Forces Trust event "Conversations with Commandos" at The Kendall in Boerne, Texas. In short, the event was attended by significant donors to help fund this organization, which supports needy Green Beret veterans. It is chaired by CEO David Dezso. Some of our chapter members met him earlier in the year at the SF/Ranger breakfast. On 24 April 2026, Chapter 39 participated in the annual Houston Independent School District's (HISD) JROTC awards ceremony. Chapter 39 started its SFA Award of Excellence (AOE) program participation in 2021. Chapter officers Tommy Austin, Dino McBride, Dan Denham, and Tom Bridgwater awarded SFA AOE medals and certificates to the Top 6 JROTC cadets, the Cadet Corps Commander and the five Cadet Brigade Commanders. Starting in 2027, Chapter 39 will present awards to the Cadet Corps Commander and the five top cadets who are either juniors or sophomores. This will allow the awardees to wear their SFA ribbons or medals on their uniforms during their following high school years. On Saturday 9 May 2026, Special Forces Association Chapter 39 assembled at The Honor Café, in Conroe, Texas. Fifteen Chapter members, four women, one guest, and one son of a member attended. Attendees ordered food from the menu, dined, and socialized prior to the meeting. Chapter 39 Vice President Dino McBride convened the meeting at 12:00 p.m. and welcomed all attendees. Dino had each member introduce himself, his guest(s), and provide a brief personal career history. Dan Denham gave a presentation on the Team House web site.



Above, SFA Chapter officers Tom Bridgwater, Tommy Austin, Dean McBride, and Dan Denham pose with two HISD JROTC administrators. Pictured below, attendees at the Feb 2026 meeting.



Above, May meeting: L to R: Eddie Eskola, Rick Grenfell, Al Robb III, Sonny Sonsei, Charles Keane, Carson Headley, Tom Bridgwater, PeeWee Reese, Carlos Gutierrez, Karl Kumm, Chuck Kennedy, David Kumm (son), Steve Sherman, Dan Denham, Doc Heintzleman, Dino McBride.



READ MORE



TheDropOnline.com

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

**CHAPTER XLI**

The Lone Star Chapter

41www.sfa41.org

Austin, TX



Chapter 41 hosted a Range Day with SFA Members mentoring young shooters.

Chapter XLI met at a central location for March, Rudy's, for barbecue and to catch up on chapter business, since February was a presentation and not a regular meeting. Great time as usual. On April 18th we held a chapter range day, renting out a local range for chapter members, family, and friends to come out and send some rounds downrange. Over the course of the day, we applied renowned Special Forces small arms instruction techniques to take a new shooter from complete non-shooter to effectively placing rounds on steel at 15 meters. Kind of like being on a JCET again. Everybody had a great time, and the consensus from those in attendance was to look for additional opportunities to get out as a chapter and shoot, maybe increasing to two events per year – one in the spring, and one in the fall. Overall, it was a great day to apply and practice SF and warrior skills. At the time of this submission in May, so far we've held a virtual officer meeting to review chapter business and plan for chapter events for the next several months – one of which is our Memorial Day Ceremony later in the month.

77

CHAPTER LXXVII

The Central Texas Chapter



PRES : Don Fender
VICE : Richard Briggs
SEC : Jimmy Williams
TRES : John Mitten



TheDropOnline.com

Central Texas

Chapter 77 Teamhouse Administrator and Associate Life Member Johnny Reid recently attended SFACON 2026 in Fort Walton Beach, Florida, accompanied by his wife, Teri. Throughout the convention, the GBA displayed its line of officially licensed SF Association merchandise and accepted orders through convenient QR code access to its online store. The GBA recently entered into a written licensing agreement with the SFA to offer officially licensed SFA merchandise, with fifty percent of the net profit from all SFA-branded merchandise being returned to the SF Association in support of its mission. You can find a link to the GBA store's SFA Collection on the Teamhouse. We are also pleased to report that our Chapter Vice, Rick Briggs, is recovering well following recent open-heart surgery. While the road to recovery takes time, Rick is making steady progress and remains in good spirits. As anyone who has spent time around Special Forces soldiers already knows, they are a resilient breed. We wish Rick a full and speedy recovery and look forward to having him back with the chapter soon. Although our numbers may not be growing as quickly as we would like, the spirit of Chapter 77 remains strong. We continue to support one another, honor those we've lost, welcome every opportunity to strengthen our Special Forces community, and remain committed to carrying the torch for those who will follow us. De Oppresso Liber.



SGM John Thomas Ridout, 89, of Killeen, passed away on April 30, 2026. Born on November 13, 1936, in Toronto Canada, John lived a life marked by service, adventure, leadership, and dedication to family and country. Chapter 77 was saddened by the recent passing of a longtime member, and he was a cornerstone of the SF Association community in Central Texas for decades. John proudly served his country for 30 years as a U.S. Army Sergeant Major, where his distinguished military career that included assignments in G2 Intelligence/ Counter intelligence, Special Forces (a RECONDO Instructor in Vietnam) and he had the honor to participate in the U.S. Army Golden Knights Parachute Demonstration Team. His commitment, skill and courage earned the respect and admiration by all who knew him.

80

CHAPTER LXXX

The Chili Chapter



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



TheDropOnline.com

Las Cruces, NM

Local veteran's organizations in coordination with the City of Las Cruces mark the service of Vietnam Veterans each year on the last Saturday of March at Veterans Memorial Park. The event is called "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans". Chapter 80 members along with the mayor, other veterans and supporters assisted in the raising of a garrison flag to open the event. Chapter 80 members returned to the park again on 9 April to commemorate Bataan Memorial Day. Bataan Memorial Day commemorates the bravery and sacrifice of American and Filipino soldiers during the Bataan Death March in World War II. A garrison flag was raised at 0800. In conjunction with a retreat ceremony at 1700 hrs., family members of Bataan survivors gathered around the Bataan Memorial at the park with photos of their Bataan veterans while sharing testimony of their experiences. During the remainder of the reporting period members presented JROTC awards at five local high schools.



Pictured top left, Raising of the Flag at Veterans Memorial Park on 28 March 2026.

Top right, The Bataan Memorial Day Commemoration on 9 April 2026.

Bottom right, Chapter President Roberto Medina at Santa Teresa HS JROTC Award May 2026.

Bottom left, Chapter Secretary Richard Lutz at Mayfield HS JROTC Award April 2026.





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



CHAPTER XCIII

The Raymond J. Verba Jr. Memorial Chapter

93

Waco, TX

Greetings from Central Texas. Our Chapter is named The Raymond J. Verba Memorial Chapter. Raymond was the first KIA casualty from McLennan County and Waco area in Vietnam and was one of the earlier Special Forces KIA's. Raymond served with SSG Barry Sadler and is mentioned in one of Sadler's songs. Chapter 93 strives to uphold the memory and honor of Raymond Verba in all we do. Our Chapter proudly recognizes young students participating in Junior ROTC programs in High School. Each year Chapter 93 provides an award for outstanding leadership within the JROTC program at each of the five local High Schools that have a program. The recipient is selected by the JROTC Cadre. This year Bert Hernandez presented the award at Waco (Army) and LaVega (Navy) High Schools; Jim Savell presented the award at University (Army) High School; Larry Hendry presented the award at Connelly (Air Force) High School; and Jon Ker presented the award at Midway (Marine) High School. We also proudly participate in local events honoring the military. Memorial Day is this month, and Chapter 93 will again raise the Flag at the ceremony held at the Waco VA Hospital. Additionally, Jon Ker will deliver the Memorial Day address at the Falls County, Texas ceremony. As with all Veterans, we like to take time to have fun by meeting for breakfast at Denny's Restaurant where old war stories and other lies abound. We do this in conjunction with the local 82d Airborne Association members. Each year during the last week of April, the B-2-12 SFGA reunion meets in Ruidoso, New Mexico. While it is a reunion related to B-2-12, all SFer's are welcome. We spend two days on the rifle and pistol ranges burning up lots of ammo. Any day on the range is a good day. Plan on joining us next year!



Meeting of Chapter 93 with the 82d Airborne at Denny's.



Chapter President Wally Burns on the pistol range at the B-2-12 reunion.



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



www.sfach95.org

CHAPTER XCV

The Llano Estacado Chapter

95

Amarillo, TX

Greetings from Amarillo Texas, also known as Bomb City! Well, our chapter and a bunch of other SF troopers from the old 12th SFG (A) Reserve got together again this year for our annual 12th Reunion in Ruidoso NM the last of April. We had access to the private range again for two days of shooting fun. We had two catered dinners there and the food was really great. As in the past few years, our member count keeps dropping most every year due to old age problems. As always, a great time was had by all. Memorial Day saw several memorial services in Amarillo. Some of us attended a few of them. One major service was at a major cemetery, where we got to see six old military planes do a fly over, with a three civil war cannon salute with re-enactors manning the guns. The salute really got all the attendees attention. Really nice service. The second one I went to was at the Texas Panhandle War Memorial, also in Amarillo. They have a really great museum set up honoring Panhandle vet sacrifices. The service was great, with the fly over again. Hope all else had a meaningful weekend. Hope all are doing well. DOL



Cannons were lined up for the three volley salute during the flyover.



Chapter 95 members at the Memorial Day service at the Texas Panhandle War Memorial in Amarillo, TX.



BROTHERS IN THE BERET

Retired Green Beret Receives the Gift of Life from a Fellow Green Beret He Had Never Met

"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." — John 15:13



John David Miller (left) with his kidney donor, Ross Lightsey, following the successful transplant at Vanderbilt Medical Center.

Sometimes, the strongest bonds are forged not on the battlefield, but through the enduring brotherhood that follows.

That brotherhood was on full display when Special Forces Association Chapter 4-24 member Ross Lightsey made an extraordinary decision—to donate one of his kidneys to fellow Green Beret veteran John David Miller, a retired soldier from the 5th Special Forces Group whom he had never served with and, until recently, had never even met.

On March 31, 2026, surgeons at Vanderbilt University Medical Center successfully completed the life-saving transplant. What began as a simple Facebook post became a remarkable testament to faith, sacrifice, and the unbreakable bond shared by America's Green Berets.

★ A BROTHERHOOD ANSWERS THE CALL

In 2022, John David Miller learned that he would need a kidney transplant to survive. After multiple rounds of testing with family and friends came up empty, fellow Green Beret Mike Jenney shared John David's story on the "US Special Forces Team Room" Facebook page and several other Special Forces groups.

Within thirty minutes, responses began arriving. Among them was one simple message from Ross Lightsey: *"I've got an extra kidney."*

Ross volunteered to begin testing through the nearest VA in Virginia, never knowing whether he would ultimately be able to help.

★ A MIRACLE OF COMPATIBILITY

The evaluation process proved far more demanding than Ross expected. While completing extensive medical testing, he was also moving his family from Virginia to Colorado.

In less than two weeks after he initially volunteered, Ross learned that not only did he have the same blood type as John David, but every other critical medical factor aligned perfectly for a direct kidney donation.

Considering the small pool of people who might have read Jenney's post, and that one man stepped forward—and was a complete match—is almost statistically impossible. For both men, it was nothing short of an answer to prayer.

“THIS IS WHAT BEING A GREEN BERET IS REALLY ALL ABOUT—LEAVING NO BROTHER BEHIND.”

★ TIMELINE OF A MIRACLE ★

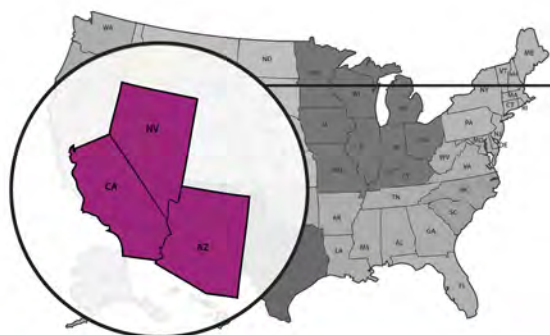
- 2022 John David Miller is informed he needs a kidney transplant.
- 2022 Mike Jenney posts a request on the "US Special Forces Team Room" Facebook page.
- 2022 Within 30 minutes, Ross Lightsey volunteers to donate.
- 2022 Testing confirms a perfect match.
- 2023 Transplant planned for late 2023.
- 2023 Cancerous tumors are discovered in John David's remaining kidney. Transplant delayed until he is cancer-free for at least two years.
- 2024-2025 John David undergoes dialysis three times a week.
- MARCH 31, 2026 The transplant is successfully completed at Vanderbilt Medical Center in Nashville, TN.

BY THE NUMBERS

- 1 IN 10,000**
Chance of a perfect living-donor match
- 3X A WEEK**
Dialysis treatments John David endured
- 1 KIDNEY**
Ross gave the gift of a lifetime

AT A GLANCE

- THE DONOR** Ross Lightsey
SFA Chapter 4-24 Member
- THE RECIPIENT** John David Miller
5th Special Forces Group Veteran
- THE HOSPITAL** Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Nashville, Tennessee
- THE OUTCOME** A successful transplant. A renewed life.
A brotherhood that saved a life.



REGION VIII

Southwest Region

(SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, NEVADA, ARIZONA)



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

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



TheDropOnline.com

PRES : Dan DuRocher
VICE : Vacant
SEC : Michael Babb
TRES : Larry Wroten
QUARTERMASTER : Charlie Sands



CHAPTER XXII

The Sgt. Walter B. Foote Memorial Chapter

22

www.sfa22arizona.org

Greater Arizona

The HEAT is here along with JROTC Awards season. We managed to cover most of the presentations with a skeleton crew (always looking for volunteer presenters), and we were able to recognize outstanding JROTC Cadets throughout the valley. We had our Spring Fling event in Tucson at the Chuck Ford Park April 18th, and a second day trip to the Titan II Missile museum. This year attendance was very light, and we're going to explore other options and venues for future Spring Flings. By the time this edition hits the streets, we will have made our annual trip to Safford for Memorial Day weekend (30 May) and conducted a gravesite ceremony for our Chapter namesake, Walter Bruce Foote. Hopefully we will have a good turnout for that event. Looking ahead, July 10-12 we will have our Summer Getaway. We are 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 weather and fire danger conditions permitting, 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. In September, we'll have our annual business meeting at the VFW in Scottsdale. November will be our Veterans Day picnic at Red Mountain Park in Mesa, and we'll wrap up the year with our Christmas party in December. 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

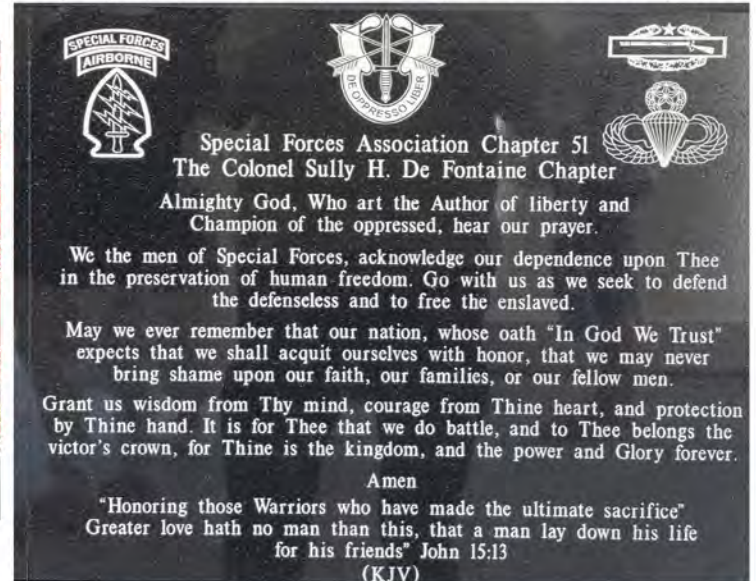


TheDropOnline.com

Chapter 51 holds a weekly breakfast every Wednesday morning at the 50s Diner and Omelet House in Las Vegas. If you are ever visiting the Las Vegas area, please join us. It's a little early (0700) but always a great time. Every Sunday before Memorial Day, SFA Chapter 51 hosts a Memorial Day Service at the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Boulder City, NV. The Service is well attended by various motorcycle groups and locals. This year, SFA Chapter 51 dedicated a wall plaque in honor of Special Forces who sacrificed their lives for the freedom of others.



Pictured above, Chapter 51 Members meeting for their weekly breakfast. SFA Chapter 51 dedicated a wall plaque in honor of Special Forces who sacrificed their lives for the freedom of others.



78

CHAPTER LXXVIII

The LTC Frank J. Dallas Chapter

Southern California

www.specialforces78.com

PRES : James McLanahan
VICE : Donald Deatherage
SEC : Gary Macnamara
TRES : Richard Simonian



TheDropOnline.com

Our February meeting was held at Iron Mike's Guns in Yorba Linda, a modern, all family range, store, and learning center. After our shortened business meeting, all were eager to get downstairs to the range and re-engage with their favorite sidearm. Our speakers in March were from a company called Onebrief, which markets to the military their AI enhanced program which helps quickly and accurately manage work flow for meetings and projects. While saving a bunch of management time it ensures projects allow all who want to, to get to participate and know their roles. The program doesn't make any decisions, it just quickly helps the process stay on track. Will Walker told us about the program and its benefits. Joseph Ivanov updated us on our upcoming chapter trip to Normandy to celebrate D-Day and the memorial to the French Resistance whom our OSS predecessors helped train and equip. Joseph was involved in the initial installation in 2021 by the Normandy Institute. On April 19, our Third Annual Valor Lunch was an outstanding success, with attendance swelling to 122, proceeds (donations, raffle, silent auction) growing as well, to \$50K. Dick "Dynamite" Thompson, PhD and SOG legend, talked about how to deal with fear in combat and beyond. Mel McLanahan (James' wife) and her crew put on another great event. Also helping were AVAG and Sunburst Academy. More coverage is available in the Sentinel at www.specialforces78.com



Pictured above, Some of the attending Chapter 78 members, part of the 122 individuals who attended our hugely successful third annual Valor Lunch fundraiser, with keynote speaker and SOG veteran Dick "Dynamite" Thompson.

Pictured right, Gary Macnamara presenting SFA Awards of Excellence to CSUF ROTC, and Sandhurst JROTC, and Jim Cragg and James McLanahan at UCLA ROTC.





REGION IX

Northwest Region

(WASHINGTON, OREGON, NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, NORTHERN IDAHO)



CHAPTERS: XVI (16), XXIII (23), XXV (25), XLVII (47), LXXXIX (89), CIII (103)

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

READ MORE



TheDropOnline.com

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



CHAPTER XVI

The William R. Card Memorial Chapter

16

www.sfa-chapter-16.org

Ft. Lewis, WA

Greetings from Joint Base Lewis-McChord and the Pac Northwest! Members of Chapter XVI are shaking off their Gortex and gearing up for what promises to be another active summer for the chapter and the 1st SFG(A). March and April saw the chapter host several well attended gatherings including its bi-monthly general membership meeting and the very popular Breakfast Huddle for which the crew puts out a spectacular spread that includes the highly favored SOS and 'Eggs-to-Order' (so long as they're scrambled). During its general membership meeting in April, the chapter hosted members of the local South Puget Sound "Quilts of Valor" chapter, who provided chapter members with an overview of the program and guidance on how worthy candidates may be nominated for receipt of the quilts. Following the presentation, the chapter unanimously elected to present the QoV chapter with funds to support its outstanding program.



"Quilts of Valor" presentation at the Chapter Breakfast.



In May 2026, the chapter and the 1st SFG(A) suffered a significant loss with the unexpected passing of treasured teammate and Brother SGM(R) Rob Wadleigh, who passed following a brief illness he'd suffered while visiting the Philippines. The quintessential "Quiet Professional", Rob was as enormously humble as he was competent and capable and he will truly be missed by all.

READ MORE



TheDropOnline.com

PRES : Jim Ayre
VICE : Jim Shields
SEC : Bill Lynch
TRES : Sher Singh



CHAPTER XXIII

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

23

Find us on Teamhouse.

San Francisco, CA



Members of Chapter 23 join in celebrating a day together at the Rio Vista, California Golf Course.

Chapter 23 held a lunch get-together in March at the Monarch Grill and Bar, located on a golf course in the village of Rio Vista, California. It's the kind of place that lets one sit back and enjoy life without judgement or pretense. The largest economic driver for the community is a marijuana farm, so you know it is laid back. AND, our very own Mike Evers is the local "G" chief. Many thanks to Mike for making the event happen. Sincere appreciation was expressed to Bina Basir who came to our March 21st lunch to share his life story of growing up in Taliban dominated Afghanistan, how he supported our ODAs as an interpreter and area expert for several years, escaped the horrors of retaliation, and how he migrated to the U.S. and, after years of struggle established a successful business. Chapter 23 is attempting to make the Chapter meaningful to each member. We are seeking ways to provide services to members,

their families, and to our SF community. This includes financial aid to and/or scholarship funding. We will honor our commitment to supporting the SGM Jon R. Cavaiani (MOH) Scholarship program originally designated for Livingston High School Students. However, next year we will expand our scope of impact so that we can assist students throughout our Chapter's sphere of influence. We hope to make the JRC Scholarship program one that has influence and impact in all high schools in Northern California and presents SF as a viable option as our youth enter the work force.

25

CHAPTER XLVII

The Lewis and Clark/Norman A. Doney Chapter

Oregon & SW Washington

www.sfa47.org

PRES : Michael Charter
 VICE : Gregory Hammonds
 SEC : Michael Zambryski
 TRES : Michael Zambryski



TheDropOnline.com

Chapter 25 is still going strong in Spokane with 54 current members from Eastern Washington and the surrounding areas. Recent highlights include the presentation of two William B. Hunt Awards to ROTC cadets at Gonzaga University and Eastern Washington University. The William B. Hunt Award is presented to top-performing cadets across several categories including academics, physical fitness, tactical skills, and leadership. The award is presented in the name of MSG William Balt Hunt, who made the ultimate sacrifice while helping evacuate wounded soldiers in Vietnam. Please take a moment to learn more about MSG Hunt's service at www.sfa25.org. We had another successful Annual Meeting and Dining-In in April where we broke fundraising records with our silent auction. Looking ahead to September we will once again be hosting members and their loved ones on our annual lunch cruise of Lake Coeur d'Alene in Idaho. One of the finest perks of Chapter 25 membership is weekly Thursday breakfast where our members reconnect with The Brotherhood. We welcome visitors from across the Special Forces Association to join us, so if you're ever passing through Spokane, reach out to info@sfa25.org for the 5Ws. De Oppresso Liber.



Pictured top, Chapter 25 on Lake Coeur d'Alene in 2025. Bottom, from left, Vance Peterson presents The William B. Hunt Award and an Attleboro Knife to cadet Michael Schottfeldt at Gonzaga University on 4/30/26. Michael is a combat veteran of the US Marine Corps. Middle, Ron Weeks presents The William B. Hunt Award and an Attleboro Knife to a graduating ROTC cadet at Eastern Washington University on 5/14/26. Bottom right, The most handsome members of Chapter 25 meet weekly for coffee, breakfast, and spirited social debate.

103

CHAPTER CIII

The Battle Born Chapter

Reno, NV



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

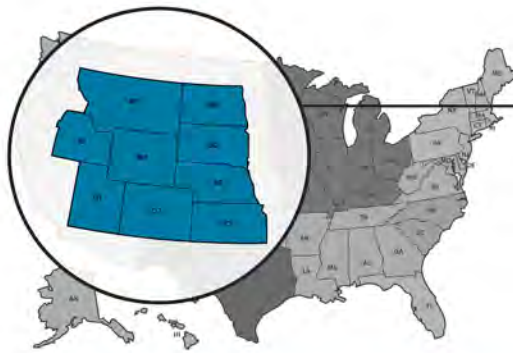


TheDropOnline.com

Greetings from Northern Nevada and the Biggest little city in the world. Our meeting began shortly after 10:00 a.m. at the Branding Iron Cafe in the Bonanza Casino with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer by Art Glass. Chapter President Brady Hines reviewed the chapter calendar, which runs from Memorial Day through the annual dinner party, planned for the second or third weekend of November. December is generally reserved for family and holiday activities. On Memorial Day, we will gather at the Northern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Fernley for the annual ceremony featuring the posting of the colors, guest speakers, and rifle salutes. Afterwards, members will visit the Columbarium to honor our fallen brothers. The chapter will also participate in the Virginia City Veterans Day Parade for the third consecutive year. The chapter also reviewed the annual JROTC awards presented to outstanding local high school cadets. Brady usually presents the awards, but other volunteers are welcome. We briefly discussed proper flag etiquette and observed that the number of Vietnam veterans continues to decline.



Pictured left, Treasurer Bob Bluemer presented the Special Forces Association JROTC Award to Kander Shepherd of Reno High School. Veteran Dave Flippo, a candidate for Congress in our district, introduced himself to the chapter. As a nonpartisan organization, the SFA cannot endorse candidates, but we wished him success in his campaign.



REGION X

Mountain Region

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



CHAPTERS: IV-XXIV (4-24), **XXVIII (28)**, XXIX (29), XLIII (43), LXIX (69), LXX (70), LXXI (71)

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

READ MORE



TheDropOnline.com

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

SFA Chapter 4-24 has been busy since the start of 2026, beginning with our signature winter tradition, Ski Daze in Leadville, Colorado. Despite low snowfall, we had a strong turnout featuring a flag parade down Ski Cooper's Molly Mayfield Trail. Colonel Christoffer Knutsen, Norwegian Military Attaché, attended in recognition of Norwegian soldiers who trained at Camp Hale during World War II and Norway's experience under Nazi occupation. On March 21, a chapter contingent joined the 37th Annual Bataan Memorial Death March at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico—"not a race," but a test of resolve. With temperatures forecast near 90°F, the event was limited to 15.6 miles, and all members of Team 4-24 finished safely. The Farewell to Panzer ceremony as 1st Battalion, 10th SFG(A) transitioned from Panzer Kaserne to Baumholder, Germany, bringing together more than 350 soldiers, alumni, and family members. This spring, we supported over 20 ROTC/JROTC programs by presenting the SFA Award of Excellence and selected eight recipients for the 2026 CSM Frank Socha Educational Grant, with presentations planned for 10th SFG(A) Family Day on June 11. Next, we'll support the 10th SFG(A) Organization Week (June 8-12) and Birthday Ball, and America 250 recognition before our annual picnic.



Chapter 4-24 Bataan Memorial Death March Marathon Team.



John Bartlett with Military Order of the Purple Heart presenting a Purple Heart Trail sign.

READ MORE



TheDropOnline.com

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



CHAPTER XXIX

The COL Arthur D. "Bull" Simon Memorial Chapter

29

www.sfa29.org

Shawnee, KS



The Leavenworth High School JROTC Program Color Guard posting the Colors during the 2026 SOF Ball.



BG Brinker, the featured guest speaker for the 2026 SOF Ball.

The highlight of this quarter was the 2026 SOF Ball on 24 April, hosted jointly by Chapter 29 and the Combined Arms Command Special Operations Directorate at Fort Leavenworth. The event was well attended by members of Chapter 29, several of whom traveled from Michigan, Iowa, and Illinois, and the SOF students and faculty at the Command and General Staff College. In what has become an annual tradition, the Leavenworth High School JROTC Program provided the Color Guard to open and close the event, and two of their members sang the National Anthem. As always, they were exceptional in this role and as a result of this strong relationship, Chapter 29 will sponsor an award for an exceptional cadet at their annual awards banquet. We were also privileged to have BG Kirk Brinker, the Deputy Commanding General, USASOC, as the guest speaker. BG Brinker's inspiring remarks highlighted the contributions of the veterans in the audience and the students, several of whom were to be promoted to Major in the following days. He also discussed the expectations of these officers as they return to the force following their graduation in May, and the critical role families play in building and enabling the SOF community. This exceptional event was closed with a toast by Treasurer Roy Williams to chapter members, especially, former Chapter President Jack Smith, who were unable to attend the event, and then Chapter 29 members gathered around member Rich Kiper for the singing of the Ballad of the Green Beret. Future events later in the year: its annual Oktoberfest, Veterans Day Parade, and the 2027 SOF Ball.

43

CHAPTER XLIII

SGM Bradley Conner Chapter

Coeur d'Alene, ID



PRES : Stephen Durfee
VICE : David Erickson
SEC : Brenda Day
TRES : Mike Backhaus



Chapter XLIII was honored to donate \$500.00 to help our member's grandson attend his middle school class trip to Washington, DC. Nickoli F. and his classmates worked hard through fundraising efforts to help offset travel expenses, and students were also responsible for contributing a portion of the cost themselves. Visiting the Jefferson Memorial, FDR Memorial, Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, Capitol Hill, and the Supreme Court were just a few of the experiences Nickoli will treasure.



Chapter 43 Christmas DOL Grant Trip to Washington DC.



Chapter 43 Bingo Night Group.

69

CHAPTER LXIX

The Bernie Fisher Chapter

Boise, ID



PRES : Frank Metayer
VICE : Andrew Tuttle
TRES : Anne Reeve



Chapter elections were held on 7 April. The offices of chapter president and treasurer remain unchanged with Frank Metayer and Anne Reeve, respectively. Our new vice president is Andrew Tuttle taking over from Devin Hager. Thank you Devin for your service and congratulations to Andrew. On 18 April, several chapter members participated in a motorcycle event sponsored by "Ride for 22", a non-profit organization whose mission is to spread awareness along with educating the public of Post Traumatic Stress (PTS), serve as a living memorial and provide support and comfort to the loved ones left behind. Riders included Mike Edwards, Frank Metayer, Devin Hager, Joe Wright and Andrew Tuttle. A Long-Range Shooting Competition was held in Council, Idaho on 2 May. Targets ranged from 360 yards out to almost 700 yards. Eight chapter members participated: Bill Vermette, Steve Bock, Sam Linville, Steve Merrill, Frank Metayer, Mike Tomlin, Jim Tsarnas and Jeff Zuidema.



Long-range shooting participants: Bill Vermette, Frank Metayer, Mike Tomlin and Sam Linville.



Sam Linville engaging a long-range target.

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



The January meeting at the Ft. Douglas Military Museum was our annual business meeting, where plans for the 2026 year were laid out and approved by those in attendance. February's meeting, attended by 68 guests, was our annual Valentines dinner at the Timber Mine Restaurant in Ogden, Utah. The March meeting, held at the VFW in Layton, Utah, was a briefing for chapter members on the upcoming FTX for the 19th SFGA later this year, presented by MSG Kevin Call.



FTX Debriefing by MSG Kevin Call.



Chapter 70 Valentine's Dinner.



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*

READ MORE



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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

The Special Forces Association MSG Earl Kalani Memorial Chapter VIII had a full and meaningful spring season here in Hawaii, marked by camaraderie, service, and strong community support across the islands. One of the highlights of the season was the successful execution of our very first golf tournament. The event brought together veterans, supporters, and friends for a day of fellowship and friendly competition in support of a great cause. Congratulations go out to the winning team, the outstanding cadre from the University of Hawaii Army ROTC program. Their professionalism, teamwork, and spirit made them worthy champions. Great people, great laughs, and a great cause—our chapter could not have asked for a better day. Our monthly gatherings continue to strengthen the bonds among our members. In March, 13 members attended our monthly pau hana, while in April we had seven attend. During March, chapter members also proudly marched and rode motorcycles in the National Vietnam Veterans Parade on March 29 in recognition of those who served during that difficult chapter of our nation's history. Several members also attended the SFBMC Fort Bullis 10-Year Anniversary event in Texas. April remained active as well. Ten members attended our monthly SFA meeting in person at the Oahu Veterans Center, while three additional members joined remotely via Zoom. The Task Force Dagger Special Operations Foundation benefited from the SFBMC Spring Motorcycle Event, where all proceeds were donated to support wounded, ill, and injured Special Operations personnel and their families. Some of our members also traveled to the Florida Panhandle to attend the SFBMC Duke Field 15th Anniversary celebration. Our chapter remains especially proud of sponsoring all 28 high school JROTC and college ROTC programs across Hawaii, regardless of service branch. Each year we recognize deserving cadets with a certificate, medal, and commemorative coin. We look forward to what the summer season brings here in paradise.



SFA Chapter 8 Inaugural Golf Tournament.



SFA Chapter 8 Meeting at the Oahu Veterans Center.



SFA Chapter 8 marching in the Vietnam Veterans Parade.



SFA President presents SFA Award to cadet at Baldwin HS JROTC program.

46

CHAPTER XLVI

Nick Rowe Memorial Chapter (Philippines) Chapter

Philippines



PRES : Sean O'Conner
VICE : James E. (Jim) Collins
SEC: Michael Bolding
TRES: Roo Dengerud



TheDropOnline.com

SFACH46 had a busy year in 2025. We first must acknowledge the loss of two of our brothers who have passed: associate member Mark Irvin from Australia and chapter member MAJ (R) Gerald Thomas Casey Jr. Moreover, Chapter 46 attended and delivered the eulogy at the funeral and Interment for our Special Forces Brother and Chapter Member, MAJ (R) Gerald Thomas Casey Jr., at Clark Veterans Cemetery, May 2nd, 2025. From January 28 - 31, 2025, members of the Special Forces Association, Chapter 46 (SFA CH46), participated in and supported Operation Cabanatuan Ranger 2025 (OCR25), comprised of a group of retired US Army Rangers. The Rangers (past and present) retraced the route used by the Alamo Scouts, 6th Ranger Battalion, and Filipino Scouts-Guerrillas to rescue the allied prisoners held at the Cabanatuan Prison Camp, Nueva Ecija, Philippines. Our mission was to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of "The Great Raid" on the Cabanatuan Prison Camp that saved more than 500+ allied POWs from inevitable deaths. Our Chapter Operation Mercury Ruck March at Subic Bay, Philippines, is complete for the 4th year, with SFA Ch 46 running the local event. Over 44 people, including chapter members, family members, and friends, completed the march as we honor veterans and help prevent suicides in the veteran community. Chapter 46 held our annual 4th of July party. The last event was the fireworks, and they were spectacular. We were honored to have our very own Chuck Randall representing Chapter 46 at The Special Operations Association Reunion (SOAR) and the Special Forces Association Convention (SFACON), 13-17 OCT at the Orleans Hotel in Las Vegas. The Fleet Club on the Subic Freeport Zone has graciously welcomed Chapter 46 and our friends to join them and become members as their project flourishes. Membership details will be ironed out as they move forward. The Fleet Club will be a safe, secure alternative for recreation and business meetings for Servicemen, Veterans, and friends. There will be something for everyone. One example is a focus on fitness training with a pool and a combative training area.



MAJ (R) Gerald Thomas Casey Jr. was laid to rest at Clark Veterans Cemetery, May 2nd, 2025



Chuck Randall represents Chapter 46 at The Special Operations Association Reunion (SOAR) and the Special Forces Association Convention (SFACON)

91-101

CHAPTER XCI-CI

The Combat Chapters

Iraq & Afghanistan



PRES : Chris North
VICE : Phil Crowley
SEC: Jim McDougal
Ukraine Cell (FWD):
Patrick Christian



TheDropOnline.com

We remember: COL David M Peters. In 1965, LTC Peters commanded SF DET C-4, 5th SFG: 250 U.S. advisors working with a 9,000-man South Vietnamese Special Forces Command located in IV Corps (Can Tho). DET C-4 oversaw multiple Special Forces A-camps and CIDG operations in the Mekong Delta. SFA 91-101 remains the only virtual chapter, and the only known chapter with 100% life members. An SFA National initiative is to associate "at large" members (~1300 at last count) with active chapters--the intent is to increase communication with members and enhance their representation in our community. This quarter we welcome about 50x "at large" members to SFA 91-101, life members all. Please consider this an open invitation to other "at large" life members to join us virtually--send us an email and we'll pull you in! News: Will Stoesser can no longer take the good retirement life--pls send him career ideas! Maybe contact Patrick Christian in Kyiv--he remains engaged in psychosocial and psychological training with more countries than there is room to list. Jeff Mott works on the SFA National scholarship committee. Bubba Hamm enjoys what he calls paradise in Boquete, Panama. Bruce Hazelwood paid a respectful tribute to recently departed legend Bo Gritz. Walt Davis lives in Belize--looking for an overseas chapter south of the border. Tony Oresteen is doing well. Bobby Sinko is back in Fayette Nam--from Gaza, this time. Dale Harris lives in Thailand. Jim Kraus remembers completing SF training back in the day--1957! APB for contact info on George Fails, please.



Pictures listed clockwise, starting top left, are Ch 91-101 at Bagram Afghanistan (2017); SOJTF-A Bagram (2019); SFA 91 in Iraq (2009); and bottom right, SFA 91 Chapter Officers.

Membership Renewal

& change of address

NOT FOR NEW MEMBERS

Mail to: Special Forces Association
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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: _____



The Special Forces Readiness Evaluation (SFRE) was conducted September 18–21, 2025, at Camp Blanding, Florida, by 3rd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Florida National Guard. SFRE serves as the initial assessment for prospective Green Berets, evaluating whether candidates possess the physical ability, mental resilience, leadership, and character required to continue into the Special Forces Conditioning Program (SFCP) and ultimately Special Forces Assessment and Selection.

Open to active-duty military, National Guard personnel, and qualified civilians, the program emphasizes preparation and commitment. Candidates receive detailed guidance before arrival, including minimum physical standards, and those unable to meet requirements are released early.

Training begins with a demanding Special Forces Physical Fitness Test, including a two-mile run, pull-ups, push-ups, sit-ups, planking, rope climbs, and other events. Candidates then receive equipment, including rucksacks, uniforms, and training weapons, before undergoing an unexpected midnight rucksack weigh-in to verify integrity and compliance with weight requirements.

The second day introduces increasingly demanding physical and mental challenges. Candidates complete a timed five-mile run, an obstacle course modeled after Camp Mackall's renowned "Nasty Nick," and an eight-mile ruck march. Throughout these events, cadre provide instruction on rucksack preparation, nutrition, hydration, and recovery, reinforcing that success depends as much on preparation as determination.

Water confidence testing at Kingsley Lake follows, requiring candidates to complete a 50-meter swim in boots and combat uniform, tread water for ten minutes, and participate in competitive team relay events. These exercises reinforce teamwork while demonstrating that performance under stress carries consequences. Cadre repeatedly remind candidates that "It pays to be a winner," underscoring the importance of initiative and mission accomplishment.

Instruction continues with classes on knots and lashings before candidates face the Combat Fitness Assessment,

which combines timed obstacle courses, wall climbs, tire pulls, and additional physical tasks. Throughout training, cadre constantly evaluate attention to detail, adaptability, leadership potential, and perseverance under increasing fatigue and uncertainty.

Saturday culminates in realistic team scenarios designed to replicate Special Forces missions. Candidates conduct an eight-mile ruck before carrying heavy water cans and ammunition to reinforce a simulated Operational Detachment Alpha (ODA). They then respond to an ambush, evacuate simulated casualties, construct a litter using knots and lashings learned the previous day, and transport a simulated downed pilot through difficult terrain. The final event requires teams to carry 300-pound Zodiac boats over long distances before reaching the water. Leadership rotates frequently, allowing cadre to observe who naturally steps forward and motivates teammates despite exhaustion.

The demanding environment also reinforces discipline. One candidate suffered heat-related injuries after failing to follow repeated guidance on hydration and nutrition, highlighting the importance of attention to detail and personal responsibility. Fortunately, Special Forces medics immediately treated the individual, who later recovered fully.

The final day concludes with formal review boards where candidates receive candid evaluations of their performance, leadership, motivation, and suitability for future Special Forces training. Based on their results, candidates are recommended to continue into SFCP, repeat SFRE, or pursue other opportunities.

Throughout the four-day evaluation, cadre demonstrate not only exceptional professionalism but also a genuine commitment to developing future Green Berets. The experience challenges candidates physically and mentally while instilling confidence, teamwork, discipline, and resilience. Whether candidates ultimately earn the Green Beret or return to civilian life, SFRE leaves them with lasting lessons about leadership, preparation, and pushing beyond perceived limits. (Read More - TheDropOnline.com)



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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