



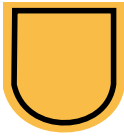
# THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SENTINEL

## SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION CHAPTER 78

### The LTC Frank J. Dallas Chapter

NEWSLETTER OF THE QUIET PROFESSIONALS

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 5 • MAY 2017



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SFA Chapter 78 April 2017 Meeting





# SENTINEL

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**COVER:** Chapter Treasurer Richard Simonian and Chapter Secretary Gary Macnamara in front of the Chapter 78 Trophy Wall adjacent to Simonian's "Board Room" which we use as a SF Team Room. Photo by Lonny Holmes



Please visit us at [specialforces78.com](http://specialforces78.com) and [sfa78cup.com](http://sfa78cup.com)



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Lonny Holmes  
Sentinel Editor

I received the sad news that Chapter 78 Secretary LTC (R) Gary Macnamara's wife Michele had died unexpectedly on Friday, April 28. My heart goes out to Gary, and our prayers and thoughts are with Gary and his family this time.

LTC (R) Macnamara continues to be one of the hardest working and devoted members since joining chapter. Early on he established a relationship with California State University Fullerton by attending their ROTC

Awards ceremony, presenting the Special Forces Medal of Merit and giving a presentation at their commissioning ceremony. Thus establishing a relationship with the program he approached the Professor of Military Science and offered to give some academic and leadership lectures to the programs cadets. His first class became a test for him — the commanding officer at that time was unsure of Gary's capabilities as an instructor. That first class said it all and he was then put on the "lecture roster."

Beginning in the fall semester of 2014 he began a series of military history lectures with a class on the American Civil War which has led to a full series on Military History and also Leadership and Command. LTC (R) Macnamara's lecture's on warfare have included battles from the Civil War, the war against Germany and Italy, World War II in the Pacific, the Mexican-American War, Korea and of course Vietnam.

Gary's series of Leadership and Command lectures have covered such topics as Grand Strategy and the Washington High Command, the American Army in transition, the "Cold War" and Flexible Response and Military Decision Making Process (MDMP). Lectures for a lower level of command included Platoon Leadership, Mission Command II and the Company Grade Officer, Toxic Leadership and Law of Land Warfare and the Rules of Engagement (ROE).

A special highlighted series that always drew an overwhelming response from the cadets were Battle Analysis of the Ia Drang Valley Campaign – Operation Silver Bullet, Stability Operations in the Philippines and Ethical Case Studies in "COIN Operations."

These series of lecture were two to three hours each in duration. Including preparation and presentation this is a lot of work by a devoted member of SF Chapter 78.

LTC (R) Macnamara's background as an instructor at the Army Command and General Staff College gave him the combined ability as instructor and military historian to teach these highly specialized class for the ROTC Cadets at CSUF. Yes, of course he is a "Green Beret" and teaching is one of the duties of a Special Forces Soldier Again, a "Tip of the Beret" to Gary McNamara. ❖

Lonny Holmes  
Sentinel Editor



Bruce Long  
President SFA 78

It looks like the Chapter has found a new home. We again met at **Richard Simonian's** office building located in the city of Orange. Our attendance was again excellent with 21 Chapter members and 2 guests, Tom La Porte & Dennis Dellsomme. The breakfast was catered by Marie Calendar's located across the street from Richard's office. Our business meeting started at approximately 0845 hours, and was conducted during our breakfast. The

Chapter meeting started at 1000 hours. I led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Richard gave the Invocation.

New Member: **Doug Le Tourmeau** (not present) — **Tilt Meyer** served with Doug in MACV-SOG and hopes to get him to one of our meetings in the near future.

CSUF ROTC Officer's Guide Handbook was discussed and our Secretary **Gary Macnamara** is working with **Tom Turney**, who has developed a stick-on label depicting the SF patch and SFA Chapter 78 logo. Cost is still a factor, and the Chapter has budgeted for \$500 for 25 Handbooks and will have the cadets name inscribed.

Richard made an excellent suggestion — why not include the Chapter web site on the label? As previously discussed the label will be attached to the Officer's Guide Handbook. At the writing of this column, I have confirmed through Tom Turney that adding our Chapter web site is not a problem.

Claremont/McKenna and CSUSB had submitted the names and date of their cadets. **Mike Keele** and **Tilt Meyer** represented our Chapter on April 25th, 2017. Certificates of Excellence, ribbons, and SFA Chapter 78 challenge coins were provided to the presenters.

CSUF will be conducting their ceremony on May 5th. **Gary Macnamara** and I will be representing our Chapter. We will also be presenting a check for \$500 to the outstanding cadet along with a Certificate of Excellence, ribbon, and SFA Chapter 78 challenge coin.

LTC Mark Waters, Professor of Military Science for CSUF will be receiving a plaque on May 5th during the ROTC ceremonies. The plaque is for his support of our Chapter.

Range Day was again discussed by Chapter membership. Artemis has offered us to attend during one of their events on July 8th, 2017 at Prado Dam shooting range at cost of \$50 per member. This event has been tabled until our next Chapter meeting in May.

A check for \$700 has been sent to the Vietnam fund in support of the Montagnards. Watch for the DROP magazine as it will contain an article about supporting the "Yards".

I've been in touch with **SGM Hank Eylicio** and things have "heated up" but all is well. The SGM sent me a photo of ODA 9511.

I met with **MSG Boodaghian** and **MSG Sato** this week, and as of right now it looks like A Company will arrive at FT Bliss sometime in the middle of May, 2017.

However, the demobilization process is very extensive, and can last for up to two weeks. SSG Travis Ogle ODA 9515 is back from Afghanistan — he broke his ankle during insertion. SSG Ogle also had the unpleasant honor of escorting the 7th Group NCO that was recently KIA.

We conducted another book raffle and along with fines for NOT having your Berets, the Chapter collected over \$200. The Chapter also agreed we would start collecting \$10 per person for breakfast beginning at our next Chapter meeting. We closed the Chapter meeting with an Easter prayer, led by **Richard Simonian** and **Mike Keele**.

As usual, any questions feel free to contact me.  
Blong26774@gmail.com ❖

Bruce D Long  
President, SFA Chapter 78  
SGM, SF (Ret)

## Next Chapter Meeting

**Our next Chapter meeting will be at Richard Simonian's office conference room on May 20th, 2017.**

0830 hrs. Breakfast / Meeting

1000 hrs. Chapter Meeting

Address: [326 W. Katella, Bldg. L4, Orange, CA 92867](#)

*Please keep in mind Richard's 2-story building sets back off of Katella (south) approximately 50 meters and is easy to miss if you haven't been there before.*

# SOG Boss Jack Singlaub Gives Chapter 78 Members a Mission



SFA Chap 78 members Doug “The Frenchman” LeTourneau, left, and John S. Meyer, right, visit with spec ops legend (retired) Maj. Gen. Jack Singlaub in Franklin, TN on April 21.



John Stryker Meyer

By John Stryker Meyer

Two SFA Chapter 78 members recently visited spec ops living legend Jack Singlaub in his new Tennessee home.

The newest Chapter 78 member, SOG recon man Doug L. “The Frenchman” LeTourneau and fellow SOG recon dog and chapter member John Stryker “Tilt” Meyer visited (retired) Major General Jack Singlaub, his wife Joan and daughter Debra in Franklin, TN, on April 21.

Before brunch, Singlaub talked about previous missions as an agent for the OSS during WWII, spec ops in Korea and of course, a few stories about his two-year tenure as Chief SOG. He was one of colonels who commanded the secret war in Southeast Asia conducted under the aegis of the Military Assistance Command Vietnam – Studies and Observations Group. And, he was kind enough to autograph his book “*Hazardous Duty*” for The Frenchman, who served one year in SOG running recon with RT Virginia and RT Idaho.

Before they left, Singlaub asked them to carry his message of gratitude to the Mel Swanson Day Celebration of Life to be held the following day at the Tennessee Museum of Aviation in Sevierville, TN. Singlaub, who turns 96 in July, explained that he couldn’t attend it but asked the SOG recon men to do so on his behalf. We saluted and provided him details about the venerable Air Force A-1 Skyraider pilot and squadron commander who flew hundreds of sorties in the single-engine SPAD in support of SOG and SAR (Search and Rescue) missions in Laos, N. Vietnam and Cambodia.

In early 1970, Lt. Col. Melvin G. “Mel” Swanson was assigned to command the 56th SOW Operating Location Alpha Alpha (OLAA) at Da



Reviewing Hardy's MACV-SOG Vol 10, showing the General Doug's photograph in the book when he was on recon team Virginia

Nang, where he led the small unit in support of SOG recon and Hatchet Force missions across the fence, along with pulling SAR missions. In September 1970, a Green Beret Hatchet Force out of Kontum ran one of the most successful missions against communist forces in Laos in Operation Tailwind. With close air support from SPADs led by Swanson, Marine Corps Cobra gunships from Scarface, and fast mover jets during the day and Spectre C-130s at night, the 16 Green Berets and 120 indigenous forces successfully destroyed enemy weapons and food caches, collected hundreds of enemy intelligence reports and documents while successfully taking pressure off of a CIA operation deep in Laos, thus enabling them to crush enemy resistance at that time.

When Swanson died March 12, fellow OLAA pilots and Museum staff planned the celebration of his life that included SOG recon men George Hunt, George Steinberg, John Hutchens, LeTourneau and Meyer who told stories about how fearless SPAD pilots like Swanson had saved their teams on numerous occasions during the eight-year secret war.

Swanson's daughter Frances and her granddaughter were told that Gen. Singlaub wanted them to know that there were times when the Air Force brass attempted to replace A1 Skyraiders with other assets, but he and other commanders insisted on keeping



After returning from flying the missing-man formation, piloted by Neal Melton.

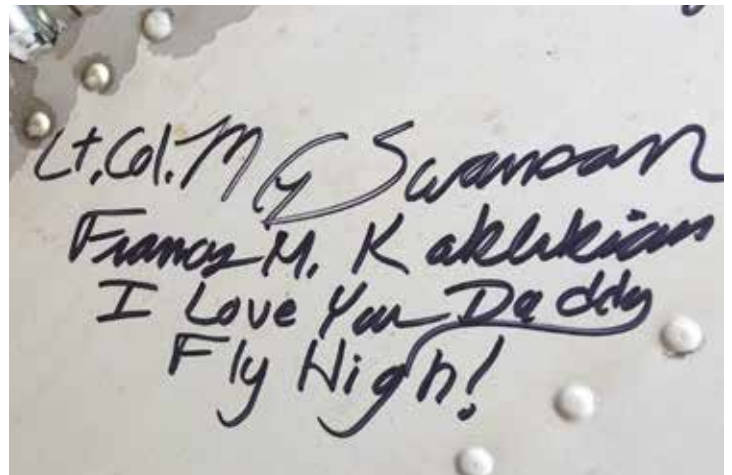


The Frenchman and Tilt sit in the door of a Sikorsky H-34 helicopter.

SPADs assigned to support SOG missions because they provided the most ordnance in close support of SOG teams and could stay on station longer than any other aircraft. Singlaub said he saluted Mel Swanson, his courage and all of the SPAD pilots who served in Vietnam.

James Moriarty, a Marine Corps helicopter crewman during the Vietnam War, father of SSG Moriarty has long been an advocate of Special Forces. He served on Operation Tailwind in his role as a door gunner. He became an attorney later and was instrumental in the correcting the false accusations made by CNN about Operation Tailwind.

Also present was retired Captain Mike Rose who was the medic who managed to care for and save all 16 Special Forces soldiers wounded during Tailwind. He was severely wounded, on the first day of the five day operation. He refused to be evacuated and continued to administer all the wounded SF and Hatchet Force strikers until they were all evacuated. Mike was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions. His courage and dedication to duty during the operation have recently been re-evaluated and has been upgraded to a Medal of Honor. He will be receiving that honor early next year. ❖



Mel Swanson's daughter signed the A1-H Skyraider that spread Mel's ashes.

# Who Woulda Thunk It!

## Rancho Remembers Continues to Amaze



Mike Keele

By Mike Keele

The first year I attended Rancho Remembers Veterans, I was BLOWN AWAY. This year, my fifth, was no different. The concept of honoring veterans at the high school level took on a spectacular quality when the first Rancho Remembers, ten years ago, had a few dozen veterans in attendance. In all the prior years that I have participated, no less than 273 veterans were being honored. This

year had 295 vets in the Rancho Cucamonga High School gymnasium, regaling some 600 eleventh grade students. There are things that go on there which don't fit the mold for an American high school. First, all these young adults are friendly, outgoing and smartly dressed. Second, they greet and speak to you eagerly. The school's A Capella Choir did a splendid rendition of the Star Spangled Banner. Then, a moment of silence was proclaimed — I chose to pray for our troops, and on and on.

Several years ago, our erudite editor, Lonny Holmes, set a record of sorts, when he was honored with five lovely young ladies at one time. This apparently set off some sort of emotional alarm with the administration, because the fire marshal, no less, arrived to do his version of a full-blown hissy fit, demanding that two of the girls find another table. Well, that didn't work too well, as all five

ladies smiled sweetly and held their ground. Lonny wasn't about to get between his charges and the marshal, grinning lasciviously and holding his tongue as well. Not to be dismissed, the marshal stomped off in search of true authority, returning later with a woman of short stature and considerable power. "Two of you have to go, ladies," and while the young damsels looked petulantly around, the bell rang. Time to move to their next table. Who won? EVERYBODY — except the fire marshal.

This year, I was a contender for Lonny's record, having managed to attract four gorgeous young ladies, overall. True, they were split up into the two groups I hosted, but they were all gorgeous, just the same. The guys were sharp as well, but even a 6', 200# linebacker wouldn't have held a candle to the ladies. Their questions were all good, they seemed to be interested and acted as if they were interested in my daring tales. They actually took notes when I threw out buzz words like "Tet, Khe Sanh, Dak To, and A Shau Valley." Since they are of the computer generation, there's a good chance those names will be Googled a couple of times today. And talk about celebrity conscious, they — the whole room — cheered when the senior delegate of our cadre was asked to stand, a spry ninety-five year old who sprang from his chair and acknowledged the crowd.

But that's not all. At the close of the show, I was talking to a veteran from the First Cav's First of the Seventh, who had done a full three year enlistment in just three days in the Ia Drang Valley during November, 1965, when a smartly dressed young man approached to ask a question. Did we have any words of wisdom for him? He said he was going into the Army and had his mind and heart set on becoming a Green Beret. What did we think? By the quickness of his answers and the cut of his jib, it looks like this country has a brighter future than it recently seemed. ❖



Members of Company A looking forward to some California sunshine.

# Chapter 78 Congratulates the 2017 ROTC Recipients of the Special Forces Association Award of Excellence



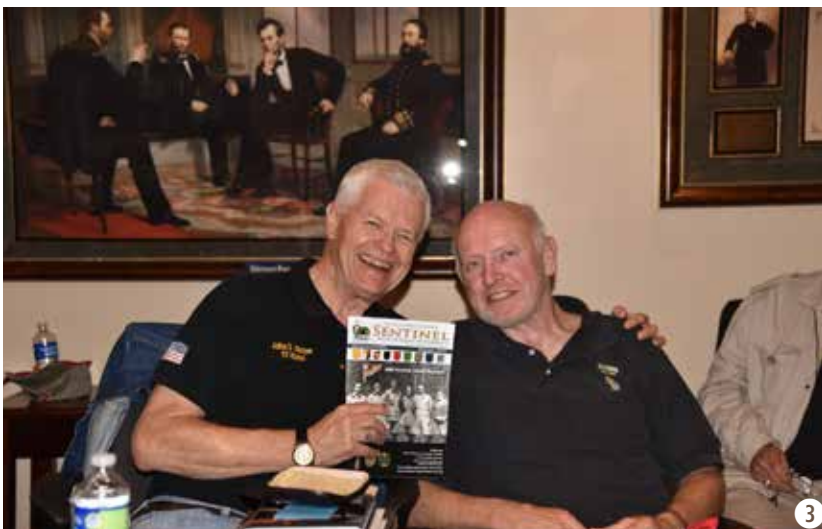
Following Chapter tradition we continue to support five local university ROTC programs with the Special Forces Award for outstanding achievement. These universities are, University of California at Los Angeles, University of Southern California, California State University Fullerton and Claremont/McKenna College. Many of these programs are actually composite ROTC classes consisting of cadets from other local schools, such as Biola for CSU Fullerton, California State University Long Beach with USC, and California State University San Bernardino with Claremont. There are many more, but too numerous to list.

Top left: Kenn Miller presenting the Chapter 78 award to UCLA ROTC Cadet Will Simmons.

Bottom: Cadet Maislin, left, and Cadet Morales, right, of Claremont/McKenna ROTC were presented their awards by Chapter members Mike Keele, center left, and John Stryker Meyer, center right.



# SFA Chapter 78 April 2017 Meeting



- ❶ Chapter 78 President Bruce Long, John "Tilt" Meyer and Chapter Secretary Gary Macnamara. "Tilt" is discussing new Chapter 78 member, Doug Tourneau, "The Frenchman," whom he served with in Vietnam on a MACV-SOG Team.
- ❷ An original flyer (one of the few surviving) for a party celebrating 10th Special Forces Group second anniversary in Bad Tolz , Germany on August 13, 1954. Richard Simonian attended and was a Sergeant

- then; he had arrived in Germany two years previously with the first contingent of SF with Colonel Aaron Banks.
- ❸ John Stryker Meyer displays the latest issue of the Sentinel.
- ❹ Rob Pugh and LTC (R) Dave Thomas in "Richard's Team Room."
- ❺ Thad Gembacz in our SF Hall.
- ❻ Left to right, Richard Simonian, Gary Macnamara, John Stryker Meyer, and James Carter
- ❼ Hamm Salley, left, and Don Gonnerville, right