



# SENTINEL

NEWSLETTER OF THE QUIET PROFESSIONALS

SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION CHAPTER 78

The LTC Frank J. Dallas Chapter

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 10 • OCTOBER 2022

## The Long, Proud History of the U.S. Army 10th Special Forces Group

**In Memoriam:**  
Former Chapter 78  
President Bruce Long

**A DEFECTOR IN PLACE:**  
The Strange and Terrible  
Saga of a Green Beret  
Sandinista – Part One

**AN INSTANT *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLER**

**OPERATION PINEAPPLE EXPRESS**

by Lt. Col. Scott Mann (Ret.)

**Veterans Canine  
Intelligence Academy  
Help Veterans Begin the  
Journey to Independence**



# SENTINEL

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 10 • OCTOBER 2022

## From the Editor



US ARMY SPECIAL OPS COMMAND



US ARMY JFK SWCS



1ST SF COMMAND



1ST SF GROUP



3RD SF GROUP



5TH SF GROUP



7TH SF GROUP



10TH SF GROUP



19TH SF GROUP



20TH SF GROUP



8TH SF GROUP



11TH SF GROUP



12TH SF GROUP

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**FRONT COVER:** *We Own the Night* — a U.S. Army Green Beret, assigned to 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), stands ready to exit a C-130 Hercules aircraft during a night jump on Oct. 24, 2017, at Fort Carson, Colo. 10th Group's Green Berets and Soldiers train continuously to be the best at what they do, to be ready to respond to and deter crises and contingencies across the planet. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Connor Mendez/Reviewed)



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How Miller  
Sentinel Editor

Our much loved and respected, multi-term Chapter 78 President, Bruce Long hit his final DZ on 9/14/22. He will be missed by his friends, relatives, chapter members, and our SF National Guard company C/1/19, in whose predecessor companies Bruce served. He was a great supporter of them and practically all people he ran into.

Our Kenn Miller, LRRP, Ranger, author, and book reviewer, writes one of his most direct and enthusiastic reviews about *Tip of the Spear*, by Ryan Hendrickson.

Our "letters to the editor" included a request for help from a bunch of Green Berets from Northern Pennsylvania. They are looking to build their informal get-togethers into something more robust. If you, or an SF friend, live in the Northeastern PA area, please contact them. Who knows, you might be able to start a new SFA chapter together.

My book review of Scott Mann's *Operation Pineapple Express* is much more than that. For many, it will introduce a retired Green Beret who continues to give on an incredible scale. He does motivational speaking, TED talks, writes books, produces and acts in a play, helps Vets, and runs a charity or three. In an hour of need, he put together and ran an organization that has been instrumental in us helping fulfill our unwritten promise to our Afghan partners to have their backs, like they had ours. And to top it off, as in all that he does, it's a great book, suspenseful, informative, and self revealing.

In "A Defector in Place," retired Green Beret, Greg Walker tells another no-holds-barred story. This one is about a Green Beret whose destiny was to use those skills to try to aid his own country by joining the other side. Everything David Baez did while a Green Beret was exemplary, but he had to fulfill his family loyalty by leaving and joining the Sandanistas. They were wary of him at first, but just as he proved himself to us, so did he find a welcome there. It is a tale with twists and turns, told masterfully by Greg Walker. This is part 1 of a three part series.

It is fitting due to their anniversary, and the fact that the 10th SFG (A) will be welcoming SFACON 2022 participants to their inner sanctum, that we give you a history of their accomplishments.

Finally, a plug for an incredibly helpful charity, Veterans Canine Intelligence Academy that came to visit this month's chapter meeting. It is run by one of our comrades-in-arms, a former Navy SEAL, followed by pictures of our meeting.

Enjoy. ❖

How Miller  
Sentinel Editor

# From the President | October 2022



Gregory Horton  
President SFA Ch. 78

Greetings, Colorado Springs and SFA CON 2022 here we come. It's going to be a great week of planning and networking to strengthen the Special Forces Association as well as Chapter 78. I am looking forward to some excellent sessions so I can get a better perspective and some great tips on my position as Chapter 78 President. Up to this point, I always had the sage counsel from our past President SGM Bruce Long. He was always there for me when I had a question and would give me excellent advice. Unfortunately, Bruce

lost his long battle with cancer and made the journey to join his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ on September 14th. I am going to miss our outstanding relationship and his great insight. May God Bless you Bruce, and my condolences to your wonderful family.

The September 17 get-together was another meeting well received by the Chapter attendees. Debra Holm gave an update of the Teamhouse platform and the Chapter website. We continue to have excellent interest in our Chapter website, while How and Debra are always searching for outstanding articles to put in the *Sentinel* and our website.

The Board will begin to assemble a planning committee for our annual Christmas Party to be held at the Corinthian Yacht Club. The Committee will be responsible for arranging the opening ceremony, raffle gifts, and contracting the DJ. I will be sending out a Chapter wide request for assistance soon.

We lucked out this month with an excellent speaker and his awesome service company. Andy McTigue (Retired Navy, NSW, Seal Team 1) presented two of his highly trained service dogs and discussed what his company, Veterans Canine Intelligence Academy (VCIA) does. Andy and his assistant, Jonathan, put on a demonstration of their dog's training and discussed their capabilities. They are remarkable animals and this was a very informative session. If you are ever considering a service animal, or know someone who wants or has one, please consider using VCIA as a resource.

VCIA is a nonprofit 501(C)(3) organization dedicated to assisting veterans and first responders, nationwide, with disabilities and their families free of charge with the following:

- Training their own dog as a service dog to assist them with their disability enabling them to live a better life.
- Locating a dog for them to train as a service dog.
- Veteran Administration benefit issue.
- Through association with Veterans Legal Institute of Orange County assist in Landlord – Tenant or employment issues associated with a service dog.
- Connect them with a source of free household items they may require.

If you are ever looking for a solid charity to donate to or if you have an employer involved in giving, then you do not have to look any further. This is a Top Flight non-profit that is a great help to veterans and first responders. We will have further information on this company in this issue of the *Sentinel*, so if you get a chance, send them a donation, and help a vet. Thanks.....

**PLEASE STEP UP TO THE PLATE AND JOIN THE CHRISTMAS PARTY COMMITTEE!!! WE NEED TO START PLANNING SOON...**

## OUR NEXT CHAPTER MEETING Saturday, October 15th, 2022

**TIME:** Breakfast 0800 — Meeting 0830

**LOCATION:** The Pub at Fiddler's Green

**ADDRESS:** 4745 Yorktown Ave., Bldg. 19  
Los Alamitos, CA 90720-5176  
(Joint Forces Training Base, Los Alamitos)

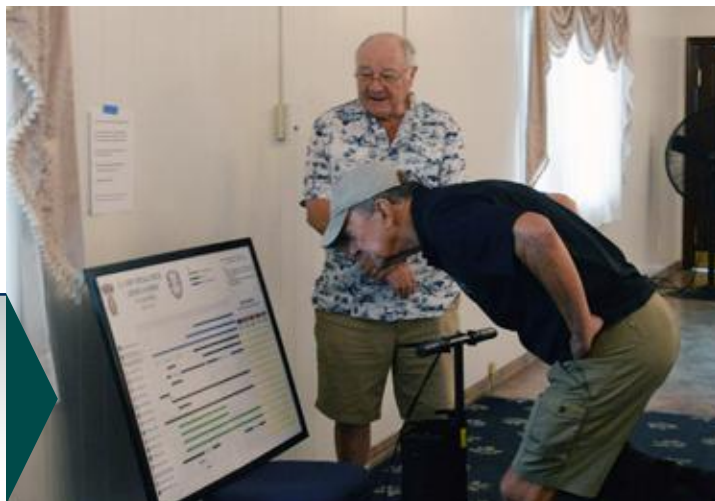
Greg Horton SGM (Ret)  
President  
SFA Chapter 78

## Dates of Remaining 2022 Chapter 78 Meetings MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

October 15 • November 19

December 10 – Chapter 78 Christmas Party

At right, Chapter member Jim Lockhart, at right, displayed framed versions of the SF Lineage and Honors chart he has designed at the September 17 Chapter meeting. Jim's chart appeared in the [June 2022 Sentinel](#) in the article "70 Years of Special Forces – 1952-2022." Jim may be making this unique chart available for distribution to members if there is interest. If you would be interested in getting more information about the chart's availability contact [sfchapter78@gmail.com](mailto:sfchapter78@gmail.com).



# In Memoriam

## SGM BRUCE D. LONG (Ret.)

### 1942-2022



Above, SGM Bruce Long (R) dressed in his official SFA blazer and wearing his Green Beret poses in front of a portrait of himself in uniform from his younger years.

Below, Bruce Long's medal and service ribbons: Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with Arrowhead, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Army NCO Professional Development Ribbon, Army Overseas Service Ribbon, RVN Campaign Medal with 1960-device

SGM Bruce Long (Ret.), former SFA Chapter 78 President, passed away peacefully at age 80 on September 14, 2022, surrounded by family and friends at his home in Corona, California. SGM Long had been a member of Special Forces Association for over fifteen years and served three terms as president of Chapter 78.

Bruce Dale Long was born on May 17, 1942 to Marian Replogle and Dennis James Long in Evanston, Illinois.

Bruce attended South Torrance High School. After graduating in 1961, he joined the United States Army, serving in Vietnam. Bruce served with the 82nd Airborne Division stateside from 1962-1964, and was then part of the 173rd Airborne Brigade from 1966-1967 in Vietnam. From 1968-1969 he was part of the United States Army Support, Thailand 46th Company 1st Special Forces.

In 1969, he received an Honorary discharge. He continued serving his community by joining the Westminster Police Department. While serving there, he completed his Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Criminal Justice at California State University Fullerton. He went on to earn his Master of Arts at Pepperdine University. Bruce rose to Detective, and became a member of their SWAT team, attending the FBI Training Academy in Quantico, VA.

Bruce joined the United States Army Reserve in 1977 and served with the 12th and the 19th Special Forces, retiring in 2001 as Sergeant Major with 32 years of dedicated service to the United States Army and Special Forces.

Sergeant Major Bruce Long joined SFA Chapter 12 and served as Chapter President from 2006 to 2008. He then joined SFA Chapter 78 in 2012 and served as Chapter President from 2014-2017 and then again from 2020 to 2021 for a total of three terms.

In his combined six years as President for Chapter 78, what Bruce did for the Chapter, to quote Chapter 78 Treasurer Richard Simonian, was to "put it together, hold it together, make good things happen." His work with the Chapter, both during and outside of his tenure as President, was a demonstration of his love for his fellow Special Forces brothers and his commitment to supporting the community.

The single most important contribution SGM Bruce Long made to SFA Chapter 78 during his first tenure as President was the establishment of close relations with Company C (formerly Company A), 19th Special Forces Group, Airborne. This relationship with Company C was facilitated by the fact he had served as SGM in the local Reserve and National Guard SF units prior to his retirement. This relationship continues to this day. In fact, our Chapter meetings are held at the Joint Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos, where Company C is located.

At the Saturday September 17, 2022 Chapter meeting, members shared about their experiences with Bruce and the ways in which he inspired them. It was agreed that Chapter 78 owes Bruce a debt of gratitude. We will miss Bruce's kindness, humility, humor, and energy.

Bruce Long is survived by his wife Geri Delp Long, his children Dale and daughter-in-law Tina, Jill Elliott and son-in-law Chase, Jason Gruetzmacher and daughter-in-law Carlie, and Heather Kinnersley and son-in-law Dan, and his four grandchildren. ❖

# Book Review

## TIP OF THE SPEAR: The Incredible Story of an Injured Green Beret's Return to Battle by Ryan Hendrickson



Kenn Miller

By Kenn Miller

This review is rather short because a better use of your time would be for you to hurry to the nearest bookstore — or go to Amazon Books or rush to your local librarian — and get your hands and your eyes on *TIP OF THE SPEAR*.

You won't regret it, for this is one helluva a military memoir of a man who served in the

Navy, the Air Force, and finally the U.S. Army and Special Forces — in training, in living in something similar to normal life, or whether in combat, or recovering from injuries and wounds.

Above all, Ryan Hendrickson's *TIP OF THE SPEAR* is a book about brotherhood, courage, fortitude, integrity, morality, and preservation — whether in war or peace, in health or injury, and failure or success. It is a book that can inspire you — and you won't want to put this one down. ❖

[Tip of the Spear: The Incredible Story of an Injured Green Beret's Return to Battle](#)

By Ryan Hendrickson  
Center Street; 1st edition  
(July 7, 2020)

314 pages  
including acknowledgments

**Learn more about Ryan Hendrickson** — visit his website [ryanmhendrickson.com](http://ryanmhendrickson.com)



# GREEN BERETS IN THE WILDERNESS



SFA members who met at the Meadowbrook Diner in August, left to right, Jim Roach, Dennis Morgan, Bob Albert, Peter Crittenden, Don Mills, Mark O'Neill, Leo Kurtz, Ricky Mills, Mark Baylis and Jonathon Gomez.

From SFA Chapter 64's Mark Baylis:

Rumor has it we have a bunch of SFA members here in NE PA. So we are starting an SF Breakfast. I am reaching out, but it is with the help of others. There are currently only two scheduled.

I hope you can help us get some SF guys in touch.

### SF Breakfasts North Eastern PA

**Who:** SF people

**What:** Meet for Breakfast

**When:** 0800hrs 27 September & 25 October 2022

**Where:** Meadowbrook Diner  
1950 Route 209  
Brodheads ville, PA 18322

**Why:** Because if there are SF guys in the area we should stay in touch.

**Questions?** Contact Mark Baylis  
Phone: (570) 460-2489  
Email: [fourtrees@mindspring.com](mailto:fourtrees@mindspring.com)

# Book Review

## ***OPERATION PINEAPPLE EXPRESS: The Incredible Story of a Group of Americans Who Undertook One Last Mission and Honored a Promise in Afghanistan*** by Lt. Col. Scott Mann (Ret.)



How Miller

By How Miller

This is a review of Scott Mann's recently published book, *Operation Pineapple Express*. I could save you some reading and simply write in large bold letters **"Go buy the book!"** It is that good.

Instead I would like to begin by introducing most of you to a truly remarkable man. His bio will tell you he spent about 3½ years in the Sandbox as a career Green Beret officer, while

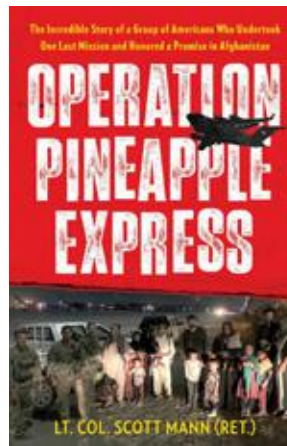
maintaining a relationship with his eventual, and also remarkable, wife and raising three kids. That was not easy to accomplish and it took its toll on all of them.

When he retired he built a business as a much sought motivational speaker, including such things as his Rooftop Leadership organization. The concept was to teach leadership the way Green Berets practiced it, starting with him and his men going up to the rooftop each night with his men and fighting off the Taliban. The credibility and trust they exhibited encouraged the Afghans to gradually join the effort and learn to succeed. He gave a *TED* Talk in Santa Barbara in 2016, called "Rooftop Leadership" that described that method in a very straightforward and enthusiastic way. You can see that at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M78sDuehUnk>.

He later found a need to dig deeper and share more of himself so he could help other veterans dig themselves out of the hole he had found himself in. And somewhere in there he did another *TED* Talk called "The Generosity of Scars with Scott Mann." View it at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=szAosvdWdM>.

Perhaps emboldened by his *TED* Talk success, he decided, with the help of his wife Monty to create, produce and be the lead character in a play called *Last Out*. The play starts out with action and never lets up in intensity. His purpose was to share a story built loosely around his and others' experiences and show the myriad ways today's volunteer soldiers face so many more stresses than even we old timers did. It was very intense and emotional, superbly performed by his awesome cast and crew, and intended to reach past the barriers we combat vets put up. They were extremely veteran friendly and even had the foresight to bring along PTS professionals to each show.

After I saw their last public performance in January 2020 I was enthused enough to write my first article for the *Sentinel* describing it. Unfortunately, COVID put a long stop to it, though a new tour is not out of the question.



*Operation Pineapple Express: The Incredible Story of a Group of Americans Who Undertook One Last Mission and Honored a Promise in Afghanistan*

By Lt. Col. Scott Mann (Ret.)

Simon & Schuster

(August 30, 2022)

416 pages



The cast from *Last Out: Elegy of a Green Beret*. In front, from left to right, Ame Livingston, Scott Mann, and Leonard Bruce. Bryan Bachman stands behind the group. (Jamie Dunn / Heroes Journey photo)

You can see my article in the [February 2020 Sentinel](#). And you can also see the whole *Last Out* play on [Amazon Prime](#).

Time passed. Trump made a deal with the Taliban. Biden decided to roughly follow the agreement and finally leave our 20 year war. And inevitably, but with astounding speed the Taliban took over the country. That left a lot of people unprepared to make a quick exit. That is roughly where this book starts.

There were people we knew who had been working behind the scenes trying to get interpreters, their families, and others out. And when word started getting out about Operation Pineapple Express, I was not at all surprised to hear that Scott was involved in it.

Knowing what I already knew of the quality of Scott's productions, I was happy to say yes to his surprise request that I review his book. As curious as most of the country was, as a Green Beret I was especially curious how that whole scene played out. I have to tell you that it was hard to put down.

He tells the story from a deeply personal level and uses a style that builds in intensity and bares the good and the bad. He starts out hoping he can provide moral support for Nezam, with whom he had worked in the Village Stability Operations in Kandahar Province, now stuck in SIV hell. As it dawns on him that the government is not going to be much help to the incredibly courageous people who so



Scott and young Nezam after completing a combat patrol during Village Stability Operations in Khakrez district in Kandahar province in June 2010. (Photo courtesy Scott Mann)



Scott introduces Nezami's children to fishing on his pier. (Photo courtesy Scott Mann)

many Green Berets trusted their lives to, he realizes that these folks would have to depend on him and, at first, just a handful of others if they were to stay alive, because the Taliban were hunting them.

The story describes the dangers and fears faced by those on the ground, and the ups and downs of the struggle they faced in trying to leave. It also tells of the obstacles faced by those that were trying to help with the clock ticking relentlessly, and how small successes led to larger successes amidst the chaos.

Scott's group was not the only one working the problem, but eloquently serves as an example of the intense effort put in by a combination of vets, civilians, and active duty personnel to extricate as many as possible in the time allowed.

At the end of the book he expounds on his exasperation with the abominable way our folks were seemingly hung out to dry by the government while SF typically did things our own way to get the job done.

He also has some suggestions on how to proceed, because the mission continues, with thousands more to save who are far more deserving than the many who made it out without ever having picked up a rifle. I am forwarding those suggestions to my congressman who happens to be a vet.

Go buy, borrow, or steal a copy of this book. It is inspiring for the general public, but right in the headspace of any Green Beret. ❖



Captain John Folta (second from left), aka "Captain Red Sunglasses," and his paratroopers brought this group of Afghan special operations forces and family members into HKIA on the Pineapple Express in the early afternoon on August 26, 2021, just hours before the ISIS-K bomb detonated at Abbey Gate. (Photo courtesy Scott Mann)



2:00 p.m. on August 24, 2021: U.S. Marines and NATO forces (left) stand on the wall of the sewage canal near Abbey Gate, which is clogged with Afghan civilians and former military members. (Photo courtesy Scott Mann)



Sergeant Jason Milstead of the 82nd Airborne was spotted by Finnish Special Envoy Jussi Tanner inside HKIA as he held a newborn Afghan. The action helped Jason cope with post-traumatic stress triggered by the last of many Afghanistan deployments. (Photo courtesy Scott Mann)

# A Defector in Place: The Strange and Terrible Saga of a Green Beret Sandinista – Part One

By Greg Walker (ret)

## Prologue: Operation Patuca River, Honduras, 1983

On July 19, 1983, a group of 96 Marxist guerrillas with extensive training in Cuba and six months of combat conditioning in Nicaragua fighting U.S.-backed Contras, successfully infiltrated Honduras on foot after crossing the Coco River by boat.

The mission was planned and led by Dr. Jose Reyes Mata (“Commander Pablo Mendoza”), a well-known and highly-respected Honduran icon in the Latin American Marxist-Leninist community. The newly-formed Armed Forces of the People, or FAP, was a multi-national revolutionary army made up of Hondurans, Nicaraguans, Cubans, and two North Americans. Reyes Mata, an original founder of the Revolutionary Party of Central American Workers, Honduras (PRTC-H) under whose umbrella the FAP fell, had fought in Bolivia during the second attempt by the survivors of Commander Che Guevara’s disastrous 1967 effort to overthrow that South American country’s government. Captured, Reyes Mata was sent to prison until escaping to nearby and revolutionary-friendly Chile.

In Chile, he continued to promote and refine for export Che’s *foco* theory of revolution, a theory he hoped to personally plant the seed of in Honduras. Making his way to Nicaragua, he participated in the 1979 victory of the Sandinista FSLN guerrilla war against President Anastasio Somoza Debayle, thereby earning great favor with the new Marxist government in Managua as well as in Cuba where he was a welcome visitor and, at times, a resident.

**David Arturo Baez Cruz was the only known ‘Green Beret’ to have willingly left his family and military career in 1980 to join the Sandinista Popular Army (EPS) in its fight against the Contras.”**

Christened “the March of Liberty toward Victory,” the column, organized into four platoons, was to establish a series of logistical FAP base camps in Honduras from which to begin additional local recruiting, training, and finally to conduct guerrilla operations against the government and armed forces of Honduras. The FAP was to be the regional vanguard movement with expected support from the external PRTC forces in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Costa Rica.

Instead, in just two months, the column would be brutally annihilated by the elite Honduran Special Forces Squadron in close cooperation with its military intelligence sister unit, Battalion 316.

This *SENTINEL* three-part series relies upon current declassified documents, the extensive investigative efforts of both Honduran and U.S. media outlets, the declassified war diary of Dr. Reyes Mata, and personal recollections of those with first-hand knowledge of what took place in the rugged Olancho province of Honduras, as well as at the joint U.S./Honduran air base at El Aguacate.



David Baez’s father, Adolfo Baez Bone, was the senior planner of the coup attempt to kill Somoza Garcia and his two sons. As the young boy was growing up, he would be challenged to “have big balls like your father!” by his father’s friends. (Credit: Enrique Saenz/Vamos)

Much has been speculated about — and written about — Operation Patuca River. To paraphrase SAS veteran Mike Coburn, author of the book *Soldier Five—The Real Truth About the Bravo Two Zero Mission*, retired Special Forces soldier and author Greg Walker offers: “It’s important to portray events as they really happened. Not only because the success of Operation Patuca River crushed a nascent civil war in Honduras, but because so many related to several of the FAP column have since searched for answers regarding their loved ones, regardless of their ideology, and to date found no resolution as to what happened to them.”

It begins with the family and friends of David Arturo Baez Cruz, the only known Green Beret to have willingly left his family and military career in 1980 to join the Sandinista Popular Army (EPS) in its fight against the Contras, and in 1983 against the Honduran Army as an FSLN combat adviser to the FAP.

## Part One – The birth of a lifelong vendetta

*Arturo was obsessive. He wanted to contribute something to the overthrow of the Somozas. For him it was like a sense of mission, especially after the death of [our] dad at the hands of the Somozas. He did not know him, but he grew up with ‘So, you’re Baez Bone, you must have ‘guevon’ [“big balls”] like your dad.’*

– Eduardo Baez, brother and former Sandinista officer

David Arturo Baez Cruz was born on December 19, 1950, in Jenotepe, Nicaragua. His father, Adolfo Baez Bone, was a young lieutenant in



Nicaraguan president Anastasio Somoza Garcia's National Guard. His grandmother, whose surname was Bone, was Guatemalan. In 1947, Adolfo was expelled from the National Guard along with other officers who had supported President Leonardo Arguello over Somoza Garcia.

On April 4, 1954, Adolfo and his brother, Luis Felipe Baez Bone, along with 23 others, sought to overthrow President Somoza Garcia by assassination. Also to be killed were the president's two adult sons, Luis and Anastasio, the latter better known as "Tachito." On the eve of the attack, to be led by Adolfo, an informer betrayed the conspirators, and all were arrested and imprisoned. Adolfo was personally beaten and tortured by Tachito for four agonizing days before he was fatally shot. Luis was also killed as were the others. Their bodies were burned and then secretly buried in a mass unmarked grave. In an eerie forecast of things to come, Adolfo was reported to have spat in Tachito's face and warned him, "My blood with chase you!" before his execution.

### Growing up Nicaraguan

*"He [Arturo] grew up sleeping in the room where the closet held his father's remains in a wooden trunk. The bones were eventually buried, but not Baez's hatred for the Somozas. He always had something in his head about avenging his father."*

— Eduardo Baez, brother and former Sandinista officer

Friends of the families of those murdered eventually located the mass grave. Adolfo's remains were identified — despite having been burned — and his bones were brought to the family. They were hidden away until it was deemed safe to bury them properly. Today, in Managua, there is a monument to the "Heroes of April 4, 1954" with all 25 names of those considered martyrs inscribed on it.

David Arturo Baez Cruz began growing into a young man in his father's image. He attended school in Managua from 1960 until 1967. By then, Somoza Garcia had himself been assassinated (in 1956) and his son Luis Somoza Debayle, who had succeeded him, had just died of a heart attack. Tachito, who had served as the head of the National Guard under his older brother, took control of the presidency as well. Where Luis was seen as a benevolent dictator, Tachito emulated his father's ruthless quest for wealth and power at the expense of the Nicaraguan people.

By 1967, David, as he would become known to his American friends and later fellow Green Berets, was active in mass street protests against the Somoza brothers. His enthusiasm became such that his mother remanded him to one of her sisters then living in San Francisco, California. David attended George Washington High School but elected to relocate to Palisades High School in Kinterville, Pennsylvania. He had an early Army enlistment date of October 20, 1969 and was formally sworn in on October 20, 1970.

By all accounts, Baez breezed through his basic and MOS training, the latter as an 11-Charlie heavy weapons specialist. He volunteered for jump school at Fort Benning, Georgia, and upon earning his military parachutist wings, again volunteered, but this time for Special Forces and Pfc. Baez attended SFQC 28A-70. Upon completing Phase 3 in late September of that year, he graduated as an E-5 (Sergeant), Heavy Weapons Leader. Being a native Spanish speaker, Sgt. Baez was assigned to the 8th Special Forces Group at Fort Gulick, Panama. Sgt. Maj. (retired) Walt Cargile, a combat veteran of the later clandestine war in El Salvador, recalled Baez from when they were both



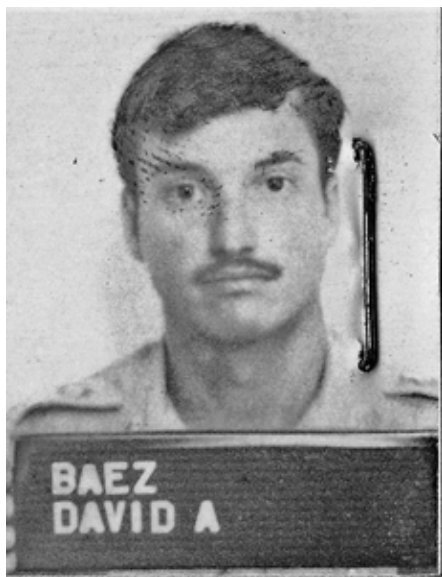
Above, The "Monument of Heroes of April 4, 1954" commemorates Lt. Adolfo Baez Bones and the 24 others arrested, tortured, and then killed by President Anastasio Somoza Garcia in their failed coup attempt. (Historical Marker Database)

Right, Upon his defection, Lt. David Arturo Baez Cruz, formally Staff Sgt. David Baez, 3/7th Special Forces Group (A), trained the first Sandinista Popular Army airborne unit under the umbrella of the Combat Readiness Directorate. (Author collection)



in the 8th SFG(A). "He was like a blood brother to me," Cargile told Juan Tumayo in a 2009 story for *Soldier of Fortune* magazine. "We talked a lot about Nicaragua."

Baez left the Army in April 1972, although he remained in an SF reserve status. Upon his return to the United States, he lived with a brother in New Jersey, then met and married Jennifer Raimond, a pretty blonde girl five years his junior. In November 1973, now-Specialist Baez attended Jumpmaster School at Fort Devens, MA, as a reservist. He had a knack for languages and now spoke Spanish, English, and German. Upon graduation from the Basic Non-Commissioned Officers Course in 1974, David re-enlisted on active duty and was assigned to the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) then at Fort Devens, Massachusetts. He was further assigned to B Company, 3rd Battalion, where he served on an operational detachment (A-Team) from May



David Arturo Baez's DA identification photo in 1975. Baez, already Special Forces qualified, was assigned to B-Company, 3/10th SFG(A) at Fort Devens, MA. (Author collection)



Then-commander of the Nicaraguan National Guard under his father, President Somoza Garcia, "Tachito" Somoza Debayle (seated, wearing glasses, facing camera) was directly responsible for the arrest, torture, and execution of David Baez's father in April 1954. He would become president after his brother Luis's death and himself be assassinated in September 1980 while living in exile in Paraguay. (Credit: Col. (retired) Paul Scharf)

1975 until February the following year. He lived quietly on-post with his wife and participated in the yearly Flintlock exercise in Germany where he received high accolades for his MOS expertise and fluency in German. During this period, he was promoted to Sergeant, E-5.

By all accounts, Sgt. David Baez was the model Special Forces Green Beret. His rapid rise up the promotion ladder showed him to very possibly be a career soldier and his marriage seemed to settle the young man down. But privately, David was following the events in Nicaragua closely. The Sandinista National Liberation Front, or FSLN, had been founded in 1961. It became militarily operational in 1974, and by 1976, was swiftly gaining power and influence as it battled now-President Somoza Debayle's National Guard. That was the same Somoza who Baez held personally responsible for his father's tortured death in 1954. Eduardo Baez would later recall his older brother ruminating about being stateside and in "the gringo army" when he said, "I should be there firing bullets against Somoza!" Eduardo himself joined the Sandinista guerrillas and would become an officer in the Sandinista Popular Army once Somoza agreed to abdicate power in July 1979.

### Return to Panama

*"Baez and I were ASTs together. We were always the first ones in the team room in the mornings following PT. That's where I spoke with him one-on-one."* – Master Sgt. (retired) Leamon Ratterree, 3/7th Special Forces Group (Airborne)

The year 1975 was a dismal one for Special Forces. With the end of the war in Vietnam, the United States Army was restructuring itself. Special Forces, which had seen rapid expansion during the war, was now on the chopping block. The 5th Special Forces Group (A) was among the first to see its ranks culled by both involuntary separations from service and normal attrition. The 8th Group, best known for its significant contribution to seeing Che Guevara run to ground in Bolivia in 1967, was to be deactivated. It was only through clever politicking and the documented

rapid expansion of communism and Marxist-inspired revolution in Latin America that the 8th was honorably transitioned and became the 3rd Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group (A) in Panama.

The attrition of seasoned Latin American veterans wearing the green beret to include their language and cultural capabilities as the 8th Group's colors were lowered demanded an influx of, among other skills, Spanish language-qualified speakers. Special Forces in Panama not only conducted mobile training teams throughout Central and South America but also provided military subject matter experts as instructors for the School of Americas (SOA), also located at Fort Gulick.

In March 1976, Sgt. David Baez found himself on leave back to Panama for this very reason. He would be promoted to Staff Sergeant, E-6, that June. Now he was an experienced non-commissioned officer with invaluable experience from his tour with 10th Group in unconventional warfare to include setting up and running clandestine and covert urban guerrilla cells. His tradecraft training with practical field exercises like Flintlock included surveillance techniques, lock-picking, hard and soft target assessments, demolitions, infiltration and exfiltration techniques, recruiting and developing informants, as well as counter-guerrilla operations.



After an injury during Delta Selection saw him returned to 3/7th SFG(A) in Panama, Staff Sgt. Baez interviewed and was selected for the battalion's "longhair team", or AST. He would travel throughout Central America in his new intelligence-gathering role to include El Salvador. (Author collection)



ODA 5, 3/7th SFG(A), taught military parachuting at Fort Sherman, Panama. The team provided expert instruction and refresher courses for both U.S. and foreign allied airborne forces, the latter often attending additional courses at the School of the Americas then on Fort Gulick. David Baez (standing, far right) was a popular addition to the team upon his arrival from the 10th SFG(A) at Fort Devens, MA. (Robert K. Brown Collection)

**“David genuinely switched to the Sandinistas. He imagined himself as a Che Guevara-type guerrilla leader.”**

Upon his arrival at Fort Gulick, the young sergeant swiftly obtained on-post quarters for himself and his wife. He was initially assigned to Company A and ODA 5, the Airborne training team. His place of duty was at Fort Sherman, home of the Army’s jungle warfare school, and where Special Forces provided both internal and external airborne training for its own and foreign students attending the School of the Americas. It was good duty and immensely comfortable for those on ODA 5. Off-duty time was spent scuba diving, open ocean fishing, treasure hunting, and on shopping trips to both Colon and Panama City.

Baez was immediately at home and quickly became popular with his rich sense of humor, professionalism, and high intelligence. His language capability garnered him a secondary MOS as an interpreter/translator. He was awarded his Senior Parachutist wings, and after an MTT to Puerto Rico, he was presented with a Letter of Commendation signed by the battalion commander, Lt. Col. Roger Donlon, the first recipient of the Medal of Honor during the war in Vietnam. It seemed like David Arturo Baez had finally found his home.

However, being as close as he was geographically to Nicaragua, he maintained even more contact with his immediate and extended family, most of whom were not so much Sandinista in ideology but anti-Somoza. He was easily able to physically visit his birth country and by now Eduardo was in the mountains with the guerrillas. It was during this period that Baez elected to arrange to return to Nicaragua to join the revolution.

**From Delta Force Selection to becoming a “long hair” Green Beret**

In September 1978, having successfully passed the interview process held at the battalion headquarters on Fort Gulick, Staff Sgt. Baez began the intense process of qualifying to become an operator with the 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment – Delta. On paper, his military career supported his attending selection as a viable candidate. His evaluation reports were consistently high and his peers’ assessments of him likewise encouraged the Delta Force recruiting team sent to Panama.

At 5-foot-8 and 150 pounds, with brown hair and brown eyes, David Baez could easily fit in anywhere and draw little attention to himself while doing so. He was boyishly handsome with a disarming smile that belied his intuition and intentions. Physically, he was lean and far stronger and tougher than he looked. For the Delta recruiters, these attributes, along with his intelligence and answers to their questions, made him a strong candidate.

An injury during the initial phase of selection saw David returned to Panama with an invitation to return to once he’d healed. Instead, Baez volunteered to interview for the secretive “longhair team” known as the AST, or Area Study Team, an internal intelligence-gathering function within the battalion. Composed of specially-selected and trained Special Forces soldiers, the AST traveled throughout Central and South America providing a host of vital and highly-classified services to the battalion commander as well as the U.S. Southern Command at Quarry Heights. Possessing Top Secret (TS) as well as Sensitive Compartmented Information (SCI) clearances, an AST operator had access to immensely critical as well as valuable information and intelligence products. The AST also interfaced with all U.S. intelligence agencies as well as allied foreign intelligence organizations and assets.



In December 1979, David Baez was reassigned to the AST. He was also identified for promotion to Sergeant First Class, E-7, Master Sgt. (retired) Leamon Ratterree, 3/7th SFG(A). According to Leamon Ratterree,

“David genuinely switched to the Sandinistas. He imagined himself as a Che Guevara-type guerrilla leader.” – Master Sgt. (retired) Leamon Ratterree, 3/7th SFG(A). (Author collection)

Baez was included in some of the first AST missions to El Salvador in 1979 and 1980. Those missions offered him the opportunity to gather information on the emerging restructuring and training of Salvadoran combat units to better counter the five guerrilla armies of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN). It was information he would later use to restructure and train the first EPS Irregular Warfare Battalions in their fight against the Contras.

By this time, Baez was preparing to leave the Army under the pretense of a family emergency in Nicaragua. In his interview with Juan Tumayo, SF Lt. Col. (retired) Art Zieske, S-3 and then XO for 3/7, recalled David's sharing of his plan. "He told us in confidence that he was preparing to separate from the Army, as he'd received word from the Nicaraguan government that if he did not return to Nicaragua, his family would be in grave danger." Zieske added that Baez stated he'd have to join the EPS to protect his family.

Leamon Ratterree told me that Baez "made some trips to Managua after it fell to the Sandinistas. He linked up with his old buddies. I am certain that was what convinced him to join up." Baez told Ratterree of his many relatives in the FSLN, among them Commander Luis Carrion Cruz, who once stated "that to be a revolutionary in Nicaragua meant joining the Frente Sandinista." Carrion Cruz was one of the original nine-man Sandinista national directorate and the revolution's first prime minister of the interior or Secret Police. Baez was also on friendly terms with Gen. Joaquin Cuadra LaCayo, the first Sandinista Chief of Staff of the Army, and EPS Lt. Col. Alvaro Boltodano Cantarero, then chief of the EPS Combat Readiness Directorate. Perhaps his most important relationship was with Col. Ricardo Wheelock Roman, then the chief of the Military Intelligence Directorate for the EPS.

As the son of one of the original heroes of the April 4, 1954 failed coup against the Somozas, David Baez was as close to revolutionary royalty as one could be in the FSLN. "He bought the Sandinista revolutionary line hook, line, and sinker," offered Eduardo Baez to Juan Tumayo in 2009.

In December 1979, Baez took an emergency leave to travel to Managua, Nicaragua. He returned with a formal letter from his grandparents stating that their advanced age required their grandson to leave the Army and return to Nicaragua to work on their coffee farm. The letter, formally translated into English by the School of the Americas at Baez's request, also offered if he did not return, the grandparents would lose the farm. Baez submitted a formal request for a compassionate hardship discharge which, upon review, was granted. He was honorably discharged on August 22, 1980.

No one at the U.S. Southern Command apparently blinked an eye upon his departure for Managua. Leamon Ratterree recalls his last visit with Baez. "[The] S2 wasn't tracking Baez. I talked to him at Kobbe Beach the day before his flight to Managua. He had out-processed and was inebriated. He was quite open about his intentions and quite enthusiastic about 'the cause'."

In an August 2001 interview with *La Prensa's* Roberto Fonseca, Eduardo Baez revealed his brother's final meeting before defecting. "[He] came to Nicaragua. He spoke then with Commander Luis Carrion, who is our cousin, and raised his interest to come, so I think Luis Carrion gave him an endorsement, a go-ahead." Baez also met with Alvaro Baltodano and Joaquin Cuadra. Both also encouraged him to defect and join the EPS. It is surmised, to prove his new loyalty to



Eduardo Baez Cruz, David Baez's younger brother, fought as a Sandinista guerrilla and later became an officer in the Sandinista Popular Army. Unhappy with what the FSLN failed to do after the revolution, he left the party in 1986 and founded the Books for Children Foundation. Eduardo never stopped searching for his brother's remains. He died in May of 2010. (Books for Children)

the revolution, Baez would have to deliver a substantial intelligence packet to the Sandinistas, something he'd been able to construct in his position as an AST. What that information and intelligence was has never been revealed. In 2019, Leamon Ratterree again expressed his concerns about Baez. "[He] sometimes was TDY to SouthCom at Quarry Heights. This was of great concern to me, as he had access to operational details while planning to defect." Again, no one in a position of authority to raise a red flag did so.

Upon his arrival in Managua, David Arturo Baez Cruz was commissioned as a lieutenant in the Sandinista Popular Army. Requesting to immediately join in combat operations against the Contras, he was instead assigned to the Combat Readiness Directorate where his assignment was to train the first EPS Airborne unit and later the early Irregular Warfare Battalions. Later, he would be assigned to the Pedro Altamirano Irregular Warfare Battalion, based in Montelimar. He would participate almost non-stop in combat operations focused in the critical high mountain area of Kilambe Massif, where Contra units were attempting to establish forward operating bases and to recruit additional fighters.

**"[He] sometimes was TDY to SouthCom at Quarry Heights. This was of great concern to me, as he had access to operational details while planning to defect."**

He swiftly made captain and became part of a five-man special mobile team operating on the Honduran-Nicaraguan border in "no man's land." Hunting Contra infiltrators, these units were sometimes joined by Green Beret combat advisers from the 7th Special Forces Group.



Just prior to his defection, David Baez Cruz took an emergency leave and traveled to Managua. There he met with his cousin, Cmdte. Luis Carrion Cruz, head of the Secret Police, and Cmdte. of the Army Joaquin Cuadra Lacayo. It is unknown but quite possible he also met President Daniel Ortega Saavedra during his interview process. (L-R) Joaquin Cuadra Lacayo, Luis Carrion Cruz, Daniel Ortega Saavedra. (Nicaragua This Is Your History)

Although deployed for months at a time, Baez was able to re-marry (his first wife, Jennifer, had left him and returned to the United States) and father three children. In May 1983, he met with his brother, Eduardo, and shared that he had volunteered for a special mission. He was to be the personal bodyguard to Dr. Jose Reyes Mata, a Honduran Marxist revolutionary who was taking 96 men and women, all combat-proven guerrillas, into Honduras. Reyes Mata, a legend to Latin American revolutionaries, required additional assistance and protection per the Sandinista High Command. Eduardo recalls his brother asking him to take care of his children while he was away and agreeing he would use the nom de guerre Adolfo — their father's name — so Eduardo would know if he was captured or killed and the news broadcast or otherwise relayed back to the family. He would be entering Honduras in a Contra uniform and carrying no identification of any type.

To further isolate his association with the Intelligence Directorate, Baez “disappeared” from the EPS radar screen, joining Reyes Mata and the column's members in a secure compound outside of Managua.

In mid-July 1983, now-Major David Arturo Baez Cruz forded the Coco River to wage war in Honduras. ❖



#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Greg Walker is an honorably retired “Green Beret”. He served with the 3/7th Special Forces Group (ABN) in Panama from 1982 until 1985. He is a Life member of the Special Operations Association and Special Forces Association. Today Greg lives and writes from his home in Sisters, Oregon, along with his service pup, Tommy.

**In the November 2022 *Sentinel*:**  
**Part Two – “Operation Patuca River, a Classic Hammer and Anvil Strategy,”** results in the annihilation of the FAP by the Honduran Special Forces. Thirty-six guerrillas are captured at the campaign's conclusion to include Dr. Reyes Mata, Comandante David Baez, and Padre James Carney. The story of what became of them will now finally be told.

# The Long, Proud History of the U.S. Army 10th Special Forces Group



By the United State Army Special Operations Command  
[https://www.soc.mil/USASFC/Groups/10th/10thSFG\(A\).html](https://www.soc.mil/USASFC/Groups/10th/10thSFG(A).html)

The 10th SFG was activated on June 19, 1952 at Fort Bragg, N.C., with Col. Aaron Bank in command. Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 10th SFG was activated on 19 May 1952, preceding the activation of the Group proper.

The first class of the Special Forces Course graduated in 1952 and the Group grew to an aggregate strength of 1,700 personnel over the next year. In September 1953, following intensive individual and team training, 782 members of the Group, deployed to Germany and established Group headquarters at Lengries in Bavaria. An additional 99 personnel deployed to Korea where they were assigned to the 8240th Army Unit which was training anti-Communist North Korean partisans (called the United Nations Partisan Forces Korea) on the off-shore islands.

The remaining personnel stayed at Fort Bragg where they formed the core of the 77th Special Forces Group. In 1968, the majority of the Group redeployed to Fort Devens, Massachusetts. The 1st Battalion remained in Germany as part of Special Forces Detachment-Europe, and is currently located at Panzer Kaserne in Stuttgart. Between 1994 and 1995, 10th SFG moved to Fort Carson, Colorado, where three line battalions, 2nd, 3rd and 4th, plus a Group Support Battalion, operate today.

### 1950s

The group's mission was to conduct partisan warfare behind enemy lines in the event of a Soviet invasion of Europe. The 10th Special Forces Group originally attracted many former members of the OSS, Rangers and Airborne units from World War II as well as many foreign nationals.

Among the more notable of these men was Major Larry Thorne, a former Finnish Army soldier who was awarded the Mannerheim Cross Fourth Class during the Russo-Finish War in 1938-1939). In 1951 Congress passed the Lodge Act, which provided for the recruiting of foreign nationals, predominantly Eastern Europeans, into the United States military. It was originally envisioned that a significant percentage of the members would be native Europeans. Several of the initial volunteers in the 10th SFG were anti-Communist Lodge Act recruits.

The Green Beret was authorized for wear at Bad Tölz by the Group commander, Col. William Ekman, on 17 November 1955, and its usage became group policy. Every soldier in the unit wore a green beret as part of the uniform. The Department of the Army (DA) did not recognize the beret as official headgear, and only after President John F. Kennedy's visit to Fort Bragg in October 1961 was the wear of the Green Beret authorized. President Kennedy, a major champion of the Special Forces, issued a Presidential Directive recognizing the Green Beret as the "Symbol of Excellence" and the official headgear of Special Forces.

The 10th SFG was recognized publicly for the first time in 1955 when the *New York Times* published two articles about the unit, describing them as a "liberation" force designed to fight behind enemy lines. Pictures showed soldiers of the Group wearing their berets, with their faces blacked out to conceal their identities.



COL Aaron Bank (U.S. Army)



Chapter 78's Richard Simonian, an original 10th Special Forces Group soldier, stands by the unit sign on Smoke Bomb Hill, Fort Bragg, NC, 1953. (Courtesy Richard Simonian)

## 1960s

10th Group Operational Detachments (ODAs) began exchange training with unconventional forces in friendly countries. Among these was the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Norway, Spain, Italy, and Greece. This training taught 10th Group soldiers how to subsist on native food and contributed to establishing valuable rapport with the host and partner nation forces.

In the summer of 1960, a few 10th Group members deployed to the newly independent Democratic Republic of the Congo. Amidst revolutionary turmoil, the men rescued endangered Americans and Europeans and moved them to Leopoldville, where a larger evacuation was led by Belgian paratroopers.

The group evacuated 239 civilians in only nine days without suffering a single casualty. Later in 1962, a 10th Group team conducted a mountaintop operation in Iran to recover the bodies of American service personnel killed in an airplane crash. It was also during the 1960's that Special Operations teams supported the historic Mercury Space Program in Africa.

As the United States became increasingly involved in Vietnam, counter-insurgency warfare became the primary focus of the Special Forces, rather than the traditional unconventional warfare. While the 10th SFG never deployed to Vietnam as a unit, many soldiers and officers did rotate into the country and participated in Special Forces operations. Thus began the use of Specialized Infil ODAs.



10TH SFG mountain recovery operation, Iran 1962 — CPT Larry A. Thorne (R) with the Detachement A-2 'High Camp Mountaineers.' (U.S. Army)

Read the full story of this mission on the ARSOF History website at [https://arsof-history.org/articles/v13n1\\_mountain\\_recovery\\_page\\_1.html](https://arsof-history.org/articles/v13n1_mountain_recovery_page_1.html).

The success of this mission paved the way for almost fifteen years of training in Iran and built professional relationships in the Middle East.

## Special Forces Group organization in the Vietnam Era

During the Vietnam War, 10th Group began training Middle Eastern special warfare forces. In Jordan, B Detachment established that nation's first airborne school, with King Hussein attending the inaugural graduation parachute jump. In 1963, Company C trained 350 officers and NCOs of a guerrilla force fighting the socialist government in Yemen. Detachments also traveled to Iran to train the Iranian Special Forces, along with Kurdish tribesmen in the mountains of Iran. Operational Detachments also trained Turkish and Pakistani Special Forces.

In 1968, the 10th Special Forces Group, minus the 1st Battalion, was deployed from Europe to Fort Devens, Massachusetts. 1st Battalion remained in Bad Tölz, Germany.

## 1970s - 1980s

Following the military reductions at the end of the Vietnam War, operational deployments decreased in both number and frequency. However 10th Group deployed frequently to Europe to train with their NATO allies.

From 11 May 1983 to 25 October 1985, 10th Group deployed seventeen Mobile Training Teams (MTT) to Lebanon in support of the Lebanese Army.

The teams created a training program for over five thousand officers, NCOs, and soldiers, that included establishing basic training sites, and encompassed unit training, unit combined arms live fire training, and urban live fire training. Special Forces MOS's were awarded to the Lebanese Militia Members (Maronites). The entry of the Syrian Army into Lebanon ended the program prematurely.

A Mobile Training Team (MTT) from the 1st Battalion, Bad Tölz, Germany deployed to Somalia for four months to conduct humanitarian disaster relief operations in June 1985. In 1986, a detachment of 10th Group trained the nucleus of what became the Nigerian Airborne forces.

The 10th SFG was the leading force behind the development of the M25 sniper rifle in the late 1980s, at Fort Devens. The rifle is an improvement on the previous M21 sniper rifle, itself a modification of the M14 semi-automatic rifle.

## 1990s - Current

Following the August 1991 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, 10th SFG deployed an MTT to train the Saudi Arabian National Guard. In Operation DESERT STORM, during the Battle of Khafji, the MTT accompanied the Saudi forces into battle, coordinated troop movements, called in airstrikes, and assisted with artillery fire support. Other elements of 10th Group deployed to southeast Turkey in support of Operations DESERT SHIELD/DESERT STORM. The Boston Herald reported: "The 10th Special Forces Group's penchant for secrecy is so exacting the base publicist didn't know the unit had gone to war until they were on their way home from Operation Desert Storm."

Following the end of the first Persian Gulf War, Saddam Hussein turned his wrath on Iraq's Kurdish minority, causing over a half million Kurds to flee into the mountains on the Turkish-Iraqi border. Under the leadership of Colonel William P. Tangney, all three battalions of 10th Group were deployed to the region for Operation PROVIDE COMFORT I and II, a UN humanitarian effort. 10th Group coordinated the ground relief effort, and was credited by General Galvin, the EUCOM commander, as having "saved half a million Kurds from extinction."



During Operation RESTORE HOPE in Somalia in 1992-93, 10th Group deployed a Coalition Support Team (CST) consisting of 4 ODA's to support the 1st Belgian Para-Commando Battalion. In addition to supporting the Para-Commandos, the CST assisted the U.S.'s 10th Mountain Division and provided security for meetings with Somali leaders. Following the ethnic conflict in Rwanda, 10th Group deployed to Entebbe airfield, Uganda. The group assisted the displaced persons return to their homes.

10th Group led the 1st Armored Division into Bosnia in December 1995, where several soldiers eventually distinguished themselves by conducting some of the first combat operations of the Global War On Terror in 2001. The Group also led the US Military into Kosovo in 1999, with Trojan Warriors being decorated for conducting some of the first Joint Russian/American Combat Operations in Kosovo against KLA insurgents in 2001.

On 2 September 1994, the 2nd Battalion, 10th SFG moved from Fort Devens, Massachusetts, to Fort Carson, Colorado, followed by 3rd Battalion on 20 July 1995. The group headquarters moved to Fort Carson on 15 September 1995, ending a twenty-seven year presence in Massachusetts. A Group Support Battalion was activated on 6 January 2006 and a fourth operational battalion was activated on 19 August 2010.

The Group is affiliated with Special Operations Command-Europe and SOCAFRICA, continuing to conduct Joint Combined Exchange Training and Foreign Internal Defense/anti-terrorist operations as part of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM - Trans Sahara. Such activities have included training the military forces of Senegal, Mali, and Mauritania. The 1st and 3rd Battalions also participated in training in Senegal in 2006, along with the 352d Special Operations Group USAF. 10th SFG has also deployed numerous times in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM (OEF) and Operation IRAQI FREEDOM (OIF), principally to Iraq, since the start of the War on Terrorism.

10th SFG along with officers of the CIA's Special Activities Division linked up and were the first to enter Iraq prior to the invasion. They organized the Kurdish Peshmerga to attack and defeat the Ansar al-Islam, a terrorist organization allied with al-Qaida. This battle was fought in critical terrain controlled by Ansar al-Islam in northeastern Iraq. Kurdish forces and their 10th SFG advisors soundly defeated the terrorists and uncovered a chemical weapons production plant at Sargat, the only facility of its type discovered in the Iraq war.

Three Silver Stars and six Bronze Stars for Valor were awarded in this engagement. 10th Group then organized and led the Peshmerga against Saddam's Army in the north. In a series of battles along the Green Line, the US-led Kurdish forces prevented Saddam's divisions, to include thirteen armored divisions, from redeploying to Baghdad to contest the Allied invasion force coming from the south. The 10th Group teams assisted their Kurdish allies in recapturing and controlling the key cities of Mosul, Kirkut and Tikrit.

10th Special Forces soldiers are currently conducting operations and training missions in Europe, Africa, Iraq and Afghanistan. These soldiers continue the legacy of professionalism, honor, and elite capabilities that is the hallmark of the 10th Special Forces Group. ❖



In 2004, Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) teach mounted infantry tactics to soldiers from the Malian Army in Timbuktu, Mali. U.S. Army Special Forces, assigned to Special Operations Command Europe, are training selected military units in Mali and Mauritania on mobility, communications, land navigation, and small unit tactics. (Staff Sgt. Edward Braly, USAF)



A U.S. Soldier from the 10th Special Forces Group participates in a small unit tactical training exercise held in the Boeblingen Local Training Area located near Panzer Kaserne, Boeblingen, Germany in 2019. (U.S. Army photo by Jason Johnston)



July 29, 2009, soldiers of Company B, 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), stand in formation following a valor award ceremony in which two received the Bronze Star Medal with "V" device and four received the Army Commendation Medal with "V" device. Three other Soldiers also earned the Bronze Star for valor. (U.S. Army)

Read their story of valor "Two Days of Hell, Nine Men of Valor" at [https://www.army.mil/article/26085/two\\_days\\_of\\_hell\\_nine\\_men\\_of\\_valor](https://www.army.mil/article/26085/two_days_of_hell_nine_men_of_valor).



# Veterans Canine Intelligence Academy

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Andy McTigue facilitating a training session at Baker Ranch Park.

Visit [www.veteransdogtraining.org](http://www.veteransdogtraining.org) to see more photos of training conducted weekly at Barker Ranch in Lake Forest.

Scroll down on the home page to view the video of Andy explaining the program and its mission.



Left to right, Bear, Jonathan, Andy and Selkie all attended the September 17 meeting of Chapter 78.

Veterans Canine Intelligence Academy is a nonprofit 501(C)(3) organization dedicated to assisting veterans and first responders, **nationwide**, with disabilities and their families free of charge with the following:

- Training their own dog as a service dog to assist them with their disability enabling them to live a better life.
- Locating a dog for them to train as a service dog.
- Veteran Administration benefit issue.
- Through association with Veterans Legal Institute of Orange County assist in Landlord - Tenant or employment issues associated with a service dog.
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[www.veteransdogtraining.org](http://www.veteransdogtraining.org)

Telephone: Andy McTigue  
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(949) 293-3243

E-Mail: [VETSCIA@GMAIL.COM](mailto:VETSCIA@GMAIL.COM)



The Veterans Canine Intelligence Academy was featured on ABC Channel 7 Eyewitness News

Watch the interview at <https://abc7.com/veterans-orange-county-canine-intelligence-academy-abc7-salutes/3252570/>

See Veterans Canine Intelligence Academy in action!



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## SFA Chapter 78 September 2022 Chapter Meeting

Photos by Rick Carter, How Miller, and Debra Holm



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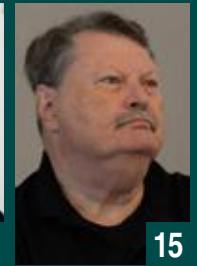
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**1 2 3** Veterans Canine Intelligence Academy, headed by Andy McTigue, along with Jonathan and service dogs Selkie and Bear, presented information about the program; **3** Chapter President Greg Horton; **4** Chapter member Jim Lockhart presented the SF Lineage and Honors charts he has designed and hopes to be making available for framing for those interested; **6** Sentinel editor How Miller discussed how Scott Man recently sought out the Sentinel to review his recently released book *Operation Pineapple Express*; **7 – 19** Time was taken in the meeting to pay tribute to Bruce Long, past Chapter President, who passed away the Wednesday before the meeting. Richard Simonian lead

off by expressing his appreciation for Bruce's work as President and the effect he had on the Chapter during his tenure. Many Chapter members were able to visit with Bruce in his final days, either physically at his home or by phone. Chapter members Mike Keele, Kenn Miller, Si Rangel, Art Dolick, Al Roth, Len Fein, and Tom Turney all shared stories and memories about Bruce. Also present were Thad Gembacz, Steve Bric, Ham Salley, Mike Jameson, and Mark Miller; **20** Mark Miller and Mike Jameson catch up after the meeting; **21** Al Roth and Steve Bric exchange information; **22** Art Dolick and his wife Lonny; **23** Greg Horton and Secretary Gary Macnamara