

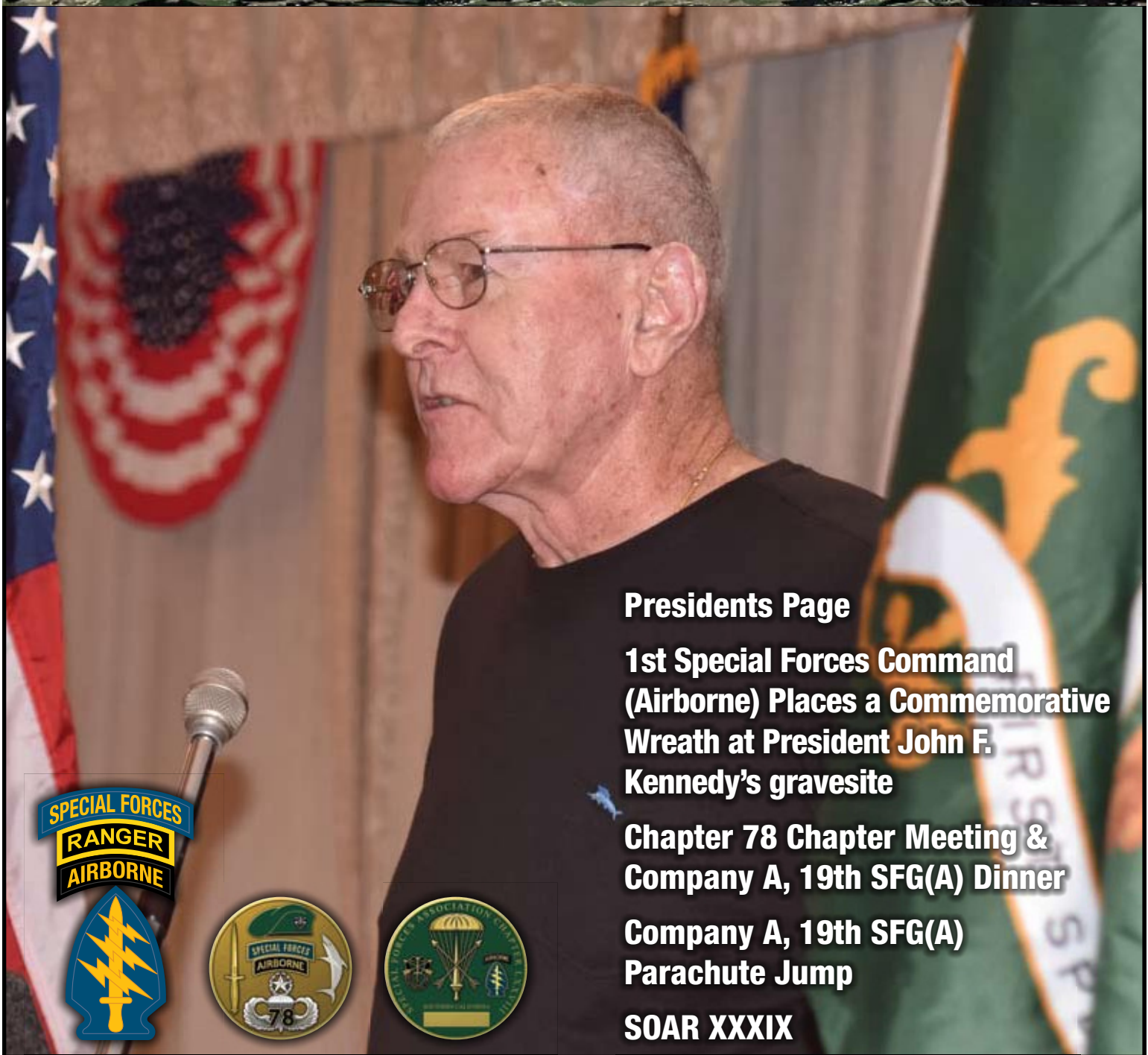


THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SENTINEL

SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION CHAPTER 78
NEWSLETTER OF THE QUIET PROFESSIONALS

THE LTC FRANK J. DALLAS CHAPTER

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 11 NOVEMBER 2015



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1st Special Forces Command (Airborne) Places a Commemorative Wreath at President John F. Kennedy's gravesite

Chapter 78 Chapter Meeting & Company A, 19th SFG(A) Dinner

Company A, 19th SFG(A) Parachute Jump

SOAR XXXIX





Lonny Holmes
Sentinel Editor

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

This issue of the Sentinel has an eclectic collection of photographs ranging from the parachute jump of A Company, 19th SFG(A), Chapter 78's monthly meeting, our dinner honoring members of both the SOD-North and Company A, to several chapter members attending the SOAR XXXIX Banquet in Las Vegas, Nevada. There is also a special page

of the honoring of President John F. Kennedy at Arlington Cemetery by Special Forces Command.

Chapter 78 wishes to thank **Cliff Newman**, Administrative Director of SFA National, for his support for giving the keynote address at the dinner honoring SF members of SOD-North and A Company. Cliff also garnered the invitation for the Chapter to attend the Special Forces Wreath Laying Ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery – thus allowing **Bob Shaffer**, a former SF 1st Lieutenant who served at Plei Djereng, Vietnam, to attend the ceremony and provide photographs and a summary of "Green Berets" honoring President John F. Kennedy for the Sentinel.

At the SOAR POW-MIA briefing in Las Vegas, Cliff Newman also delivered a personal account of searching for remains of SF Special Operation Personnel in Vietnam. Cliff was working in conjunction with our administrations POW-MIA Committee and members of the current government of Vietnam. This remains a long term project which has had some positive results in recent years.

Chapter President **Bruce Long**, **Mike Keele** and **Lonny Holmes** attended the SOAR XXXIX Banquet along with their wives. Rumor has it that **Ed Barrett** may have attended. Special Operations Association Immediate Past President and Chapter 78 member, **John Stryker Meyer** attended and was very active with his administrative responsibilities. **Major General Jack K. Singlaub** gave a short speech on being an American Patriot after presenting SOA 35 year pins. However we did miss "Tilt" Meyer at the superb dinner. 'Work called.' Members of the Las Vegas Vietnamese Community led by SOA member **Jimmy Tong** provided the entertainment following dinner, which consisted of a singing and dancing group who sang "God Bless America" and other tunes.

As a reminder to all chapter members, the Editor of the Sentinel is looking for stories about its members in combat, on training missions or even 'tales' while attending grueling SF advanced programs. Photographs are of course requested to support their great stories. The Sentinel will consider stories of SF who are not chapter members, such as the story of A-102 in the October issue. ❖

Lonny Holmes
Sentinel Editor

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COVER PHOTO: Cliff Newman, Administrative Director of SFA National (and a SF DMOR) Photo by Lonny Holmes.

All photos of the Chapter 78 Meeting and Company A, 19th SFG(A) parachute jump and dinner (pages 3-5) were also taken by Lonny Holmes.

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THE PRESIDENTS PAGE



Bruce Long
President SFA 78

PRESIDENTS COLUMN NOVEMBER 2015

A Company, 5th Battalion 19th Special Forces Group and SOD (North) conducted an Airborne Operation onto Drop Zone Anderson located on the Joint Forces Training Base in the city of Los Alamitos, CA. Seventy personnel exited a CH 47 J model (new aircraft for the CANG). The jump was totally successful as there were no injuries.

Lonny Holmes, Editor-in-Chief of the Sentinel, took over four hundred photos of the days' jump.

As some of you know, A Company minus (-) just returned from Morocco, North Africa after a forty-five day deployment conducting FID Operations. This mission consisted of the ODB and two ODA's.

Chapter members who were present for the jump included **Lonny Holmes, Mike Keele, Kenn Miller, Mark Miller, Dennis DeRosa** and **Bruce Long**. Dennis also brought his three year old grandson Dyllin, who was dressed in a camo uniform. *Future Green Beret?*

Our Chapter meeting was held at the Fiddler's Green Club main banquet room, located south/West of the drop zone. The meeting was short, as the chapter was preparing for the evening festivities. **Mark Miller**, our Sergeant of Arms, led us in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by our invocation, conducted by **Richard Simonian**.

Our special guests were **Cliff Newman** and his wife Karen who flew in from Fayetteville, N.C. Cliff spoke later this evening during dinner.

Special Note: **SGM Hank Eylicio, MSG Boodaghian, MSG Foley** and **SFC Pugh** from A/5/19 were present and are current members of the Chapter.

With great pleasure **Mike Keele** was presented with his Special Forces Association 'Honorary Life Membership Card'. The card is made of metal, and silver in color. Mike has been one of the biggest contributors to the Chapter. He has done more for the Chapter than most of our membership.

MSG Boodaghian was presented with his Official SFA Chapter 78 Coin as one of the new members of the Chapter.

Additional funds were collected towards our open bar this evening, giving us a total of \$1,200 that the Chapter will donate. We also received an additional \$200 that was deposited into our general fund.

Gary MacNamara gave an update on his meeting with LTC Waters who is the OIC of the California State University Fullerton ROTC program regarding the pending development of an

obstacle course. After a short a discussion, it was agreed there needed to be some minor legal clarification, which he will handle, and Gary will advise the Chapter at the November meeting. For the most part the Chapter membership feels this is something worthwhile, not only for the CSUF ROTC Program, but it supports the continued SFA Chapter 78 involvement with higher education and the promotion of the Special Forces Community.

Our next main discussion was the upcoming Veterans + Labor that is to be sponsored by the Orange County Employees Association. This event will be held at the OC fairgrounds on 11/11/15 from 1000-11500 hrs. **Lee Martin, Mike Keele, John Joyce, SFC Rob Pugh** from A/5/19 and **Bruce Long** will be in our own booth promoting SFA Chapter 78. Mike and Lee will be promoting the Veterans Affordable Housing Program. For SFA Chapter Members who wish to attend this event, or want more details, visit www.veteranandlabor.com.

After the meeting was adjourned, at 1700 hrs., Personnel from A/5/19 and SOD (North) began to arrive for the festivities. A buffet dinner was served at 1815 hrs. Our total 'head count' for this event was one hundred and twenty eight.

After dinner **Richard Simonian** was recognized as the benefactor of this event.

Col Michael J. Wise, Commander, of Special Operational Detachment (North) was presented with his SFA Chapter 78 Coin. COL Wise is a 'Life Member' of SFA.

MAJ Trent and **SGM Hank Eylicio** were both asked to say a few words and were followed by **COL Wise** and **CSM Beetham**, all promoting the continued relationship and cooperation with SFA Chapter 78.

Special Forces Association Administrative Director **Cliff Newman**, our guest speaker, gave a 'One Over The World' bio of his career with SF. Cliff made the first Special Forces Combat HALO Jump during the Vietnam War.

Jim Duffy (LTC, SF Ret) then oversaw the raffle of numerous prizes that were given to members of A/5/19 and SOD (North)

The next Chapter meeting will be 11/21/15 at the Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club. 1601 Bayside Drive Corona Del Mar, CA 92625. Business/Breakfast meeting at 0830 hrs. General meeting at 1000 hrs.

Any questions please feel free to contact me. ❖

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

1ST SPECIAL FORCES COMMAND (AIRBORNE) PLACES COMMEMORATIVE WREATH AT PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY'S GRAVESITE



Bob Shaffer

By Bob Shaffer

At noon on 20 October 2015, more than two hundred visitors, including both active duty and former Green Berets as well as other members of the US Armed Forces and civilians, witnessed the annual Special Forces wreath-laying ceremony at President John F. Kennedy's gravesite at Arlington National Cemetery.

Under a bright autumn sun, the visitors paid tribute to the American president who authorized the "Green Beret" as the official headgear of the U.S. Army Special Forces and declared it to be a symbol of excellence and a badge of courage. The assembled visitors were reminded of President Kennedy's additional com-

ments that "I am sure the Green Beret will be a mark of distinction in the trying times ahead," words that are as appropriate now as when he voiced them more than half a century ago.

In remembrance of President Kennedy's support for the Green Berets, the U.S Army's John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School at Fort Bragg, North Carolina is named in his honor.

The Kennedy family was represented at the wreath-laying ceremony by Dr. William K. Smith, the late president's nephew.

Following the placement of the wreath in front of President Kennedy's grave, a Moment of Silence, and the playing of "Taps," the ceremony concluded with the U.S. Army band playing and a vocalist singing of "The Ballad of the Green Beret" and the Army Song ("As the Army Goes Rolling Along"). ❖



1



2

- 1 Distinguished guest Dr. William Kennedy Smith, 1st Special Forces Command (Airborne) Commander, Maj. Gen. James E. Kraft, and senior enlisted adviser Command Sgt. Maj. Brian C. Rarey pay respect to President John F. Kennedy's gravesite.
- 2 Commemorative wreath placed by 1st Special Forces Command (Airborne) at President John F. Kennedy's grave-site at Arlington National Cemetery Oct. 20, 2015.
- 3 Honor Guard before the ceremony, with Robert E. Lee's Arlington home on hill above.



3

CHAPTER 78 CHAPTER MEETING & COMPANY A, 19TH SFG(A) DINNER

October 17, 2015



1 Bruce Long presenting a Chapter 78 "Coin" to Colonel Michael J. Wise, Commander, Special Operations Detachment-North

2 CWO (Ret.) Sal Sanders and MSG (Ret.) Art Dolick, both long time SFA C-78 members and SF Soldiers. Sal is also a retired attorney.

3 Former A Co Team Sergeant of 9511 and 9516 MSG(R) Billy McLain, A Co SGM Hank Eylicio, and Former A Co SGM(R) Joe Witty.

4 Colonel Michael J. Wise, Commander, Special Operations Detachment-North and Cliff Newman, SFA National Administrative Director

5 Cliff Newman, John Stryker Meyer and Richard Simonian

6 SF LTC (Ret.) Dave Thomas, CEO of Special Forces Gear, member of SFA C-78 and long time Chapter supporter.

COMPANY A, 19TH SFG(A) PARACHUTE JUMP

Joint Forces Training Base, Los Alamitos, CA • October 17, 2015



❶ Green Beret A Team members of A Company, 19th SFG (A), 'chuted up and ready to jump.



❷ Kenn Miller, A Company 19th SFG (A) SGM Elyicio and Mark Miller

❸ CSM Beetham, Colonel Wise of Special Operations Detachment-North and Major Trent, Commander of A Company, 19th SFG (A), on the Drop Zone. *Note:* Major Trent was an 18D, then a military PA before attending the SF Officers Course and commanding an SF A Detachment, then rising to company commander.



❹ SFA Chapter 78 member Lonny Holmes speaking to members of A Company, 19th Special Forces Group (A) prior to their jump.



❺ The two "jump aircraft" used, Boeing Ch-47 Chinooks.

6 Drop Zone Safety Officer, CPT Broome calling in wind direction and velocity to 'chopper crew to facilitate a safe jump.



7 'Chuting up to jump.



8 "Green Berets" loading the aircraft. The "rotors" are actually turning.



9 Two SF Jumpers

10 Company A, 19th SFG (A) soaring with the "eagles" (actually it was a Red-tailed Hawk).

11 "Ready to P.L.F."



SOAR XXXIX

Las Vegas, Nevada • October 19–23, 2015



❶ Cliff and Karen Newman

❷ Major General John K. Singlaub and wife. General Singlaub was a member of the OSS in WWII, a founding member of the CIA, Special Ops in the Korean War, and the first MACV-SOG Commander in Vietnam, then Chief of Staff of all U.S. Forces in Korea.

❸ Dancers, singing “God Bless America” led by Jimmy Tong, MACV-SOG H-34 Pilot.

❹ SGM John R. Martin and Lonny Holmes, SF A Team members 48 years ago in South East Asia.

❺ Mike and Cora Keele

❻ Lonny and Nilda Holmes

