



THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SENTINEL

SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION CHAPTER 78

The LTC Frank J. Dallas Chapter

NEWSLETTER OF THE QUIET PROFESSIONALS

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 9 • SEPTEMBER 2018



The Montagnard Political
Movements and FULRO

Two Legendary OSS -
Green Berets Presented
with Challenge Coins

Build Awareness to
Support Army and
ARSOB Recruiting



SENTINEL

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From the Editor

IN THIS ISSUE:

President's Page 1

The Montagnard Political Movements and FULRO 2

Two Legendary OSS - Green Berets
Presented with Challenge Coins 4

Cops Corner 6

SFA Chapter 78 August 2018 Meeting Presentation:
Build Awareness to Support Army and ARSOF Recruiting 9

SFA Chapter 78 August 2018 Meeting 10

COVER: MG Jack Singlaub holding the two (front & back) coins designed by Chapter 78 member John Joyce and presented by CWO2 Richard Rosencrans, an SF combat dive team veteran, and George Sternberg.



Lonny Holmes
Sentinel Editor

The August 11 chapter meeting is a prime example of the present leadership of our officers and president which is demonstrated in the quality of speakers and their presentations and the activities we are conducting. The most recent example is **LTC John Bleigh**, SF Commander of the Southern California Recruiting Battalion who gave a talk on recruiting both Regular Army and SOF applicants.

Of all 17 to 24 year old members of the U.S., only 29% are eligible candidates. For selection into SOF only a small subset of this percentage meet the strict criteria. Remember the SFQT and the few who pass this written test then the airborne and SF PT Test. The numbers are again reduced to a lower percentage. All of us as Green Berets know how few who made it thru "Selection" and less who succeeded in MOS and SF training. As LTC Bleigh stated, the "candidate pool" is getting smaller resulting in difficult times for maintaining operational battalion strength in our SF Groups. We can help by promoting the brotherhood and helping to distribute information to stimulate America's eligible to seek enlistment.

SFC David Dougherty of A Company 5th BN of the 19th SFG gave an in-depth review of the company and battalions activities in Afghanistan plus an update of the Los Al facility.

And don't forget who took the lead in adopting a new chapter coin for our twentieth anniversary and the MG "Jack" Singlaub coin and fund raising to supports its purchase.

President **John S. Meyer** has also been the active participant in recruiting new membership of both active duty, retired and former SF. Along these lines he continues to interface with the SF National Office and the Special Operations Association. Again many examples are evident: the excellent piece of history on the August 23 Assault of FOB 4 he wrote for the August Sentinel; then there is the planned memorial breakfast for families of those KIA, survivors and SOA members at the XLII SOAR in October. Tilt continues to work with all our supporting organization which includes the Board for the National League of POW/MIA Families which helps locate and return the remains of our missing.

Retired, nope, Tilt is still working hard earning a living and devoting a huge amount of time to the association and our Green Beret members. A "Tip of the Beret" to John S. Meyer. ❖

Lonny Holmes
Sentinel Editor



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John Stryker Meyer
President SFA 78

Gentlemen of Chapter 78,

There are many aspects of our Chapter that continues to draw me into it. First and foremost, the characters who are our members, from our senior Staff Sgt. (Time in Grade) to the Special Deputy Assistant to the Treasurer. In recent weeks, in addition to adding OSS/SOG Legend **John K. Singlaub** to our membership list, at the August 11 meeting we heard a detailed presentation from our newest member, SF Lt. Col. **John T. Bleigh**,

on the specifically unique challenges confronting Special Forces recruiters today. And, I enjoyed the frank candor of our next chapter member, SF SFC **David Dougherty**, of A/5/19, who is filling out his chapter membership paperwork as I write.

Last, but certainly not least, we have two unique members who give us a depth of understanding the price paid by American families to keep our country free through military service, in this case Gold Star chapter members **Jim Suber** and **Steve Bric**. I'm honored by their presence at our meetings and feel we all owe them a special nod and prayer for the supreme sacrifices their families have paid for our country. For our new members: Jim's brother **Randy Suber**'s SOG Recon Team Oregon went MIA in November 1969 in Laos, on a mission from CCN. Steve Bric's brother **Bill** was KIA Aug. 23rd at FOB 4, Da Nang, during the 1968 sapper attack at FOB 4, which later became CCN.

There is no issue that gnaws at my gut more than the MIA issue. My SOG Recon Team was wiped out twice in Laos. The second time in May '68, **Glen Lane** and **Robert Owen** remain among the 50 Green Berets who fought in SOG's secret war, listed MIA today. Thus, my gut-connection with the Suber/Bric families.

And, no where in America has anyone fought more valiantly, more consistently to bring home America's MIAs than **Ann Mills-Griffiths**, CEO/Chairman of the Board for the National League of POW/MIA Families. The League remains a staunch advocate for finding, identifying and returning as many American remains from the Vietnam War in all of Southeast Asia as possible. I've know of this woman's unprecedented dedication to the POW/MIA mission for more than 25 years, but I finally shook her hand five years ago at the SOA Reunion. Her dedication has earned her honorary SFA/SOA memberships and an SOA President's Award. Ann was a chapter guest at our 2016 Christmas party and has a standing invitation to our functions.

What's truly amazing about Ann — besides the fact that she works seven days a week, has been through three husbands in the process — is that she never mentions that her brother CDR **James B. Mills** went MIA over N. Vietnam 9/21/66, flying in an F-4 as a Radar Intercept Officer. DPAA notified her on August 14, that his remains were found and will be repatriated. Burial will be in Arlington next year.

Now the SEA MIA count is down to 1,595.

Gents, think about that gut-wrenching number for one minute.

See you at the next Chapter 78 meeting. Details below:

Date & Time: September 8, 8:30 a.m. Breakfast will be served.

Location: Embassy Suites

3100 East Frontera

(The SE Corner of Hwy 91 & Glassell St.)

The Spanish Moss Room

Anaheim, CA 92807

CRITICAL REMINDER:

Please contact Chapter Vice President Brad Welker or me to confirm your attendance. We need an accurate headcount. ❖

John Stryker Meyer

President, SFA Chapter 78

New Member of the Erickson Clan



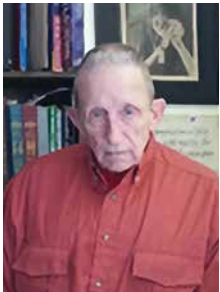
The latest word from Chapter member David Erickson — the proud father of Maude Angelica Erickson — David reports that Maude and her mother are both healthy and practicing PLFs.

Congrats to the Erickson family.

THE FORGOTTEN WARRIORS



Updates on the Montagnards



Michael D. Bengé

The Montagnard Political Movements and FULRO

By Michael D. Bengé

Before the creation of French Indochina in 1887, which ultimately encompassed today's Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos, the Montagnards lived an idyllic life centered in the Central Highlands, the mountainous region in the center of Vietnam stretching into Cambodia and Laos, who survived by hunting, fishing, slash-and-burn agriculture and generally living off the land which they occupied.

Under French occupation, the land of the Montagnards was used by the French for coffee and rubber plantations. Initially the relationship was a strained one as Montagnards were treated somewhat like indentured workers on French plantations. Also they were often rounded up to provide *corvée* labor as required for French governmental projects such as building roads. However, over time, the relationship between them improved and Montagnards were recognized and given the status of semi-autonomy by the French in what was known as Statut Particulier which gave them mechanisms of self-determination and governance. This all came to an end with the defeat of the French at Dien Ben Phu in 1954 and the Geneva Accord which gave independence to Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. The Accord also separated Vietnam into two zones separated at the 17th parallel — the North governed by the Viet Minh led by the communist Ho Chi Minh and the South led by the newly independent Republic of Vietnam initially led by former Emperor Bảo Đại who was shortly thereafter replaced by Ngô Đình Diệm who was appointed prime minister and became president of the Republic of South Viet Nam ("RVN").

When the RVN was first established, the Diem government instituted a policy of assimilation, forcing the Montagnards to take Vietnamese names. Their court systems were not recognized, and traditional dress was banned as were other customs and traditions that had been respected by the French were also banned. In addition, after the Geneva Accord many North Vietnamese refugees, as well as impoverished Vietnamese from coastal provinces in South Vietnam were resettled in Land Development Centers ("LDCs") that were located on ancestral lands of the Montagnards without their permission or compensation.

Likewise, Vietnamese migrants and planters also took the Montagnards' ancestral lands without permission, loggers were indiscriminately logging and destroying the forests that the Montagnards depended on for sustenance — all without compensation. Most of the planters and the loggers paid taxes to the Viet Cong, and many Vietnamese, especially those from the coast, collaborated with or joined the Viet Cong.

In May of 1958, a group of Montagnards headed by a French-educated Rhade civil servant by the name of Y-Bham Enuol, and other educated Montagnards, established an organization seeking greater autonomy for the minorities of the Vietnamese Central Highlands. The organization was given the name BAJARAKA (a combination of the key letters of several Montagnard tribe names including Bahnar, Jarai, Rhadé and Kaho [aka Koho]). The movement was established to raise the sense of ethnic identity among the Montagnards, counter the RVN's policies of forced assimilation under the guise of nation building, and push for the reinstatement of the Statut Particulier — the status of semi-autonomy of the highlands given to the Montagnards by the French.

Vietnamese officials at the highest level feared a unified Montagnard resistance group, especially Ngô Đình Nhu, President Diem's brother and chief political advisor, so in late 1958, the government brutally crushed the BAJARAKA movement resulting in the death of several Montagnard leaders and the imprisonment of eight of its leaders including Y-Bham Enuol.

In 1963, the leaders of the BAJARAKA political movement were released from prison. After their release, they organized a new underground front called Front de Liberation des Hauts-Plateaux Montagnard ("FLHPM" — the Montagnard Highlands Liberation Front) and Y-Bham Enuol was elected President. Soon after, Y-Bham was approached by two Cambodian Army Intelligence Colonels, Les Kossem (a Cham representing the Front de Liberation des Champa – FLC) and Um Savath (a Khmer Krom representing the Front de Liberation des Khmer Krom – FLKK) who promised Cambodian government support of safe haven, arms and supplies if the FLC and FLKK were included in the movement thus FLHPM morphed into FULRO (Front Unifié de Lutte De La Races Opprimées) which reportedly was formalized on August 1, 1964.

During this time the successful Buon Enoo project operated by the CIA's Combined Studies Division's decision and its subsequent transfer to Special Forces to operate it under the Civilian Irregular Defense Group ("CIDG") program was intended to reassert Vietnamese influence among the Montagnards. The early success of the CIDG program and its arming the Montagnards heightened fears in the RVN government as these organized Montagnard troops were a double-edged sword — they could fight the Viet Cong, or they could fight the RVN government.

CIDG forces had a number of grievances against many of the Vietnamese Special Forces contingents assigned to the various A camps. Many Vietnamese Special Forces leaders had sweetheart deals with contractors who supplied sub-

standard food and supplies for the CIDG troops and well as other forms of extracting funds from the heavy spending by the US. Often CIDG Strikers were underpaid, and indemnification payments for those killed, wounded and disabled were often shorted or not paid to strikers and family members as promised. There were also complaints from the Montagnards that the Vietnamese Special Forces leaders often talked down to them referring to them using the pejorative term *moi* — meaning savage — and refused to go on patrol with them. All of these contributed to a growing distrust between the Montagnard CIDG forces and their leaders who were primarily Vietnamese. US Special Forces advisors exerted strenuous efforts to calm the Montagnards. A primary part of their mission was to secure allegiance of the tribes to the RVN; however, by 1964, RVN obstinacy had pushed tensions to the bursting point.

At a Montagnard Congress in May 1964, the following requests from FULRO representatives were made to the RVN negotiators:

- Representation at national governmental level
- That Montagnards be assigned only to duty in the Central Highlands
- Equality at the government level
- That CIDG Strike Forces be commanded by Montagnards
- That the Montagnard languages be taught in elementary schools
- Assistance in mechanization of their farming
- Correction of and restitution for the land abuses occasioned by the LDC program which had turned much of the ancestral lands of the highlands over to lowland Vietnamese.

As there was little change that resulted from the May conference, the Montagnards decided to take things into their own hands.

During the night of September 19, 1964, under FULRO leadership, the CIDG forces Strikers at four Special Forces A-Camps (Buon Sar Pa, Bu Prang, Buon Mi Ga and Ban Don) rebelled. They disarmed and restricted US Special Forces advisors at the camps. The Bu Prang contingent killed 15 Vietnamese Strike Force leaders and 19 Self Defense Corps members including the Post Commander and his family at Three Frontiers. The Buon Sa Par element killed 11 Vietnamese, seized the district capital at Dak Mil and moved on Ban Me Thuot. The Buon Mi Ga strikers killed 10 Vietnamese Special Forces and were poised to move on Ban Me Thuot and the Ban Don troops tied up their VNSF leaders and proceeded to Ban Me Thuot.

By the following morning, the FULRO troops had seized the radio station in Ban Me Thuot with the goal of communicating with other FULRO troops. They set up roadblocks on route 14, 21 and 21B to protect themselves from RVN government troops. However, the Vietnamese were able to cut power to the radio station so FULRO troops could not use the powerful station to announce the rebellion. FULRO troops from Buon Mi Ga were poised to attack the Vietnamese 45th Regiment outside of Ban Me Thuot, but due to communication difficulties could not contact them to tell them that the radio station had been captured, so the Mi Ga troops stood down and did not attack. At a fifth camp, Buon Brieng, the CIDG had also planned to march on Ban Me Thuot, but, thanks to the efforts of the Special Forces Detachment Commander, Captain Vern Gillespie and the Strike Force leader, Y-Djon, the FULRO strikers decided against the march and this move perhaps saved

Ban Me Thuot. Special Forces personnel, primarily Major Edward Brooks, were able to talk the Montagnards into returning to their camps and standing down.

At the Buon Sar Pa camp, the Montagnard revolt lasted more than a week. Part of this was due to the actions of Colonel John “Fritz” Freund, MACV Deputy Senior Advisor to II Corps, who insisted upon conducting negotiations with the rebel leaders personally. One witness, a Special Forces Major, reported that after Freund made an initial “stump” speech in French to the assembled Montagnards, the chief interpreter said to the Major, “He [Freund] out ranks you, right? You go negotiate and we’ll keep him here as hostage.” General Westmoreland is reported to have unsuccessfully ordered Freund to get out of there, saying “we don’t need a Lawrence of the Montagnards.” In any event, negotiations at Buon Sar Pa dragged on until the Vietnamese II Corps Commander threatened to assault the camp. He was dissuaded from doing so by the MACV J-3 General DePuy and 5th Special Forces Group Commander, Colonel Spears. Special Forces threw together a task force to retake the camp and, with the assistance of a Major of Montagnard ethnicity, they were successfully able to enter the camp without shots being fired and defuse the situation. The reason they were able to get in the camp is that, unbeknownst to the Americans, among the task force members was Y-Bham dressed like the other CIDG members of the task force in tiger fatigues. Y-Bham and the FULRO rebels were allowed to leave and they crossed the border and set up headquarters at Camp Roland, a former French Fort in Monduliri Province in Cambodia. Afterward, Gen Khanh, Head of State, and General Westmoreland went to Ban Me Thuot to confer and participate in ceremonies to mark the end of the revolt.

As one of the more newsworthy events of 1964, the “revolt” got a great deal of attention, including picture spreads in magazines including *Life* and *National Geographic*. Briefly mentioned in the coverage was a reference by Major Brooks to “Third Country involvement” in the affair. That remark was never followed up in the press, but it resulted in Major Brooks being relieved from command and his career stalling out to an early retirement. Some believe that the statement referred to diplomatically sensitive Cambodia and that was why it had severe consequences on Major Brooks’ career. However, the author suggests the possibility that Brooks might have been referring to Australia as the third country since Barry Petersen, an Australian seconded to the CIA at Ban Me Thuot and several of his colleagues, were very much involved. The author was at Petersen’s house as the revolt began and trucks were being loaded with guns and ammo that headed out of town. Also, a planeload of arms and ammunition landed at the airport destined for FULRO but was seized by the Vietnamese. Soon after, the CIA pulled Petersen out of Ban Me Thuot on the request/orders of the Vietnamese.

One of the benefits of the Montagnard revolt was that it forced the RVN government to begin negotiating with the Montagnards. On 15-17 October a second Montagnard Congress was held in Pleiku from which the following concessions were promised by the RVN government:

- Withdrawal of the land ownership decrees of ‘58 and ‘59 denying the Montagnards title to tribal lands.

Continued on page 8

Two Legendary OSS - Green Berets Presented with Challenge Coins



John K. Singlaub on a 1941 Matchless G3 motorcycle used in Operation Jedburgh during WWII in Belgium, France and Holland.



Left to right, CWO2 Richard Rosencrans, the General, and George "The Troll" Sternberg.

MG John "Jack" K. Singlaub

By John Stryker Meyer

Two years ago, SFA Chapter 78 Members Doug "The Frenchman" LeTourneau and John Meyer were enjoying a delicious brunch at the Franklin, TN home of OSS/SOG legend MG (Ret.) John 'Jack' K. Singlaub when they learned a startling fact: The hard-working warrior didn't have a personalized challenge coin, according to his wife Joan. At that time, the good general was a few weeks away from his 95th birthday and pending heart surgery. "They had a lot on their mind at that time," said The Frenchman, "so I went ahead with a few initiatives."

Today, we all know, Singlaub celebrated his 95th birthday, successfully went through a heart valve replacement, and turned 96 on July 10. While the living legend went through his recuperation and physical therapy, the Frenchman ran into a few creative dead ends before turning to Chapter 78 Member John Joyce for suggestions and assistance in crafting an unique, personalized challenge coin. Together, they also made another suggestion: How about making this a Chapter 78 project? During the spring and early summer months, they teamed up with ideas while a request for donations went out to Chapter 78 members. More than a dozen chapter member responded with donations. In addition, SFA Executive Director Cliff Newman, CSM (Ret.) Robert J. "Spider" Parks, CWO2 Richard Rosencrans — an SF combat dive team veteran, and George "The Troll" Sternberg, contributed to the Singlaub coin campaign.

In true SF tradition, John Joyce, The Frenchman and Chapter VP Brad Welker worked together quietly behind the scenes crafting the unique coin before settling on a final design that honors Singlaub and his service with OSS and as Chief SOG for two years during the eight-year secret war in Vietnam. The finished product is a beauty! On one side, the MACV-SOG crest honors the tour of duty as "SOG BOSS" from 1966 to August 1968. The other side commemorates Jack's service in the OSS during WWII in Europe and Manchuria. It turns out that both Jack Singlaub and Doug LeTourneau graduated from Van Nuys High School in the San Fernando Valley, albeit, a few decades apart.

On August 2, Sternberg and Rosencrans visited Singlaub to present him with 175 Singlaub coins. "Jack and Joan loved the coins," said Rosencrans, who spoke extensively with Singlaub about several mutual acquaintances they have in Korea and Okinawa. "The coins are beautiful," said Joan Singlaub. Sternberg and Rosencrans wore their berets and Jack Singlaub broke out a black beret with the distinctive OSS jump wings on it — matching those on one side of the Singlaub coin. ❖



John K. Singlaub's wife Joan

Colonel Sully H. De Fontaine

By Lonny Holmes

Green Beret legendary Officers Major General Jack K. Singlaub and Colonel Sully H. De Fontaine were among members of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) who were recently awarded the Congressional Gold Medal. After SFA Chapter 78 members Doug “The Frenchman” LeTourneau, John Joyce (the designer of our Chapter 78 Twentieth Anniversary coin) and Brad Welker had designed the Major General Jack Singlaub Challenge Coin — setting the standard for a new coin design — I discussed the possibility of presenting a similar coin to Colonel De Fontaine, a SFA Chapter 51 member, with its president Aurelio Flores. He agreed. SFA Chapter 51 was recently renamed the Colonel Sully H. De Fontaine Chapter. Again, John Joyce was enlisted to design a similar coin for the colonel.

On Wednesday, August 1, 2018 Chapter 51 President Aurelio Flores presented Colonel Sully H. De Fontaine with “his new” challenge coin. All Chapter 51 members were ‘given’ a coin.

Colonel Sully H. De Fontaine began his military career in 1943 with the British Special Operations Executive (SOE) and the OSS and had two combat jumps into occupied territory and was wounded twice. A 1951 graduate of the Belgian Military Academy as a 2LT he served in the Korean War then emigrated to the U.S.A. following the war. He then went thru basic and advance training as an enlisted soldier in the U.S. Army then graduated from Officer Candidate School as a 2LT in 1955. Colonel De Fontaine, then a 1LT, completed the SF Officers Course in the 77th SFG. He was assigned special duty in the 10 SFGA to Budapest, Hungary in the 1956 Revolt.

Continued on page 7



Colonel Sully H. De Fontaine admires his coin.



Colonel de Fontaine and his wife, Angelique, with members of Chapter 51



Colonel de Fontaine and his wife Angelique, with his faithful companion, Sidney.

COPS CORNER



Mike Keele

By Mike Keele

I grew up in a tough neighborhood. How tough was it? It was so tough that a sign on the library wall said “Shut the f—k up.” And so it was, through the efforts of that nice lady librarian, that I met Officer Friendly, who taught me how to say “Yes, Sir” and “Yes, Ma’am.” And that after just one treatment of the strong right arm of the law, I decided that if I ever grew up, I wanted to be a policeman.

Then, after some nice Sergeants at Ft. Rucker Alabama arranged for an all inclusive tour of Southeast Asia with the First Cavalry Division (where they gave me my very own Huey helicopter to play with), that I returned to civilian life and resumed my real estate sales career. It took a while for me to get the picture, but after little more than a year of nearly starving to death, a high school buddy convinced me that being a cop was a really good idea. After all, he made more than \$800 a month, and he didn’t even have to do Kitchen Police duty. Well, that’s all it took to convince me, I’d only made \$642 in the preceding six months. Thank God for the GI Bill.

So after a short period of training (“twenty long weeks of living hell, just to work in the County Jail. Am I right or wrong”). Brad Welker, our Chapter 78 Vice President, was a stalwart member of the same academy class. He had been a Green Beret, and with nearly all our class having been in the military, he kept us together in ways that we can never repay him for. As I recall, we both initially worked in the Hall of Justice Jail, but Brad, if I remember correctly, was a day shift slug, and I hung out on PM’s.

It was just short of two years later that Brad, then I, was transferred to the Firestone Patrol Station. Here is where the real story begins, but first some background on where and what Firestone was: it was the first Sheriff’s substation established in L.A. County and it was smack in the middle of South Los Angeles. At that time,

Firestone fielded twenty-five cars on the PM shift, most of which were two man units — there being no females working patrol in those days. And it could get real exciting in the twitch of an eye.

With no seniority and no real experience save the five months it took me to get off training, I drew the day shift in Cudahy. Cudahy? Yep, I was the Sheriff of Cudahy, all seventeen streets of it, spread out over an expanse of three square miles. It was a good training ground and in about a month, I was sent to the PM shift. On one of my first PM shifts, I was lacing my boots when a “shots fired, barricaded suspect call” came out. Skip briefing and drive like a madman the seven miles to Cudahy, only to be assigned to direct traffic away from the scene. That was OK though, as Vice President Welker was one of the first on the scene, he and his partner dispatched the suspect in short order.

During those early months, legal concepts like probable cause ‘if it walks like a duck and it talks like a duck, it’s a duck’ became an elementary tool of the trade. So did the newest widget, (which was not taught to me by my training officer, Luther Smith). “Police Community Relations” or as we called it “PCR”, was not a concept easily adapted to by the old salts who formed the heart and soul of Firestone Station. It was about as well accepted in Firestone as it was in RVN.

A couple of short years later, I was working with my best Bud (your partner becomes that after a few dust-ups with the public in police work), when we responded to an “officer requests two units immediate assistance” call just a block from where we were. Wel-I-I-I, the tires never stopped smoking when we arrived at the scene of a lynching. Lynching is a term not implying a hanging, but rather the stealing a prisoner from a police unit.

When we arrived, the handling unit was inside a house, squared off with a family of fourteen. The lynching suspect turned out to be the lynchee and the family wasn’t about to let their previously arrested child go to jail. In the process of “hooking up” the teenager, Mr. Dynamic here, thinking my partner and the handling unit had the kid handcuffed, turned my back on the child, only to find myself being choked from behind by said suspect. A major donnybrook ensued, with the usual torn uniforms, skinned elbows (hardwood floors) and broken furniture. And after all the grunting, growling and snorting was done and a “code 4, suspects in custody” call was put out, who shows up looking dapper with nary a wrinkle in his uniform but our Vice President, Brad. That boy know how to land on his feet! And that’s not all!

A few months after that, my partner (same guy, different wife) and I got a call at the end of our shift. At that point in your night, you don’t want a call, you just want to go home. But it was “shots fired,” so we made all haste in getting to that call, too. The front door had a glass window, more appropriate to something separating a kitchen

Cops Corner will continue to carry stories related to or about law enforcement. Anyone interested in publishing a story about their experiences is encouraged to contact Chapter 78 Vice President Brad Welker at wbwelker@gmail.com.

from a laundry room. Inside, we could see six or eight older folks just sitting around. Nothing unusual there, but the glass had been shot out of the window. So, we invited ourselves in and asked the usual question: “What’s going on?” And the usual response: “Oh nothin.” “Well, we got shots fired call at this address” and... “Oh, it’s alright, officers, a man was making fun of my husband’s stutter and started beating him up. I was in the bedroom listening to Rev. Ike. I told the man to stop but he just kept on hitting Walter.”

“So I went back in my bedroom and got my snub nose .38 out of this dresser here, and” — “Keep your hands off the dresser, ma’am, we’ll get the gun.” — “Oh. Yeah, yeah sure. I just fired a few shots to scare him.”

By this time, Brad and his best bud had showed up and they went to the back yard to look around, since there was no evidence of a gunshot victim out front. In a mini grelb, they reported back that there was a guy dressed all in white, passed out drunk, who looked like he might have been shot in the a–rear several times. A big guy who looked like a beached whale.

We formed the opinion that Mehattibell (for lack of a better name) was going to jail. Back inside — “Anybody else shot in here?” Everybody shook their heads “no, no,” but one guy in the corner of the kitchenette was leaning over at an peculiar angle. So, in my

best PCR voice, I asked if he was alright. His lean to the right was concealing his right hand between his upper leg and crotch. “What d’ya got there, partner?” “Nothin” “Then let me see your hand, real slow.” “I ain’t moving.” Seizing the moment, I jerked this fellow to his feet in a swift, but gentle manner, while seizing his right wrist, and fully expecting to see him holding a gun. No gun, but there was some blood....

It turned out that Mehattibell was five for five, but one shot had missed the whale and gone into the little, uncooperative guy in the kitchenette. We ordered a second ambulance for John Doe, because he wouldn’t even give us a name. He was refusing medical treatment, and claimed we couldn’t make him go to the hospital. A short conference was held between the nine or so deputies there, and in the end, I chose door number three: He’d go to the hospital if he was in handcuffs, so, while he fought the ambulance crew, I handcuffed him to the gurney. “What you arresting me for, I didn’t do nothin?” “For getting in the way of a bullet, you stupid sh– sir.”

And so that’s pretty much the way it went, year after year, month after month, night after night. I lasted another year and bailed for a downtown job, writing press releases and talking at the TV cameras. Brad followed after I hooked up with a bit livelier job, doing background investigations. Brad sure looked good on camera; he always was a handsome boy. ❖

Colonel Sully H. De Fontaine continued

In the colonel's noted career he has also served in Lebanon, Algeria, Greece and in the Congo in 1960 where he led the rescue of over 200 civilians and was awarded the Legion of Merit as a 1LT. In 1963 he led an SF A-Team in Vietnam and was promoted to Captain. Returning to Vietnam in December 1964 for a year's tour he served in HHC of 5th SFG and MACV-SOG and was awarded the Bronze Star. Again, he returned to Vietnam for a third tour from January 1968 to January 1969 and was awarded a second Bronze Star. Then as a Major, followed two tours including Germany and Washington, D.C. From June 1973 to June 1975 as a LTC he was Control Team B Commander, JCRC in Thailand and was awarded the JSCM w/V, and a second Legion of Merit. Following this tour he retired.*



John Joyce, Colonel de Fontaine and Terry Cagnolatti

Sully H. De Fontaine was recalled to active duty in 1986 by ASD for CIA detail and retired as a Colonel in 1987.* ❖

**Veritas, Volume 14, Number 1, Congo Rescue 1960* by Charles R. Briscone, PhD., USASOC Command Historian

The Montagnard Political Movements and FULRO continued

- The establishment of a Junior Military School to educate Montagnard children.
- Montagnards may enroll in Thu Duc Military School if they possess a diploma for 4 years of high school. (Vietnamese must have a diploma for 6 years of high school).
- Vietnamese and Montagnard dialects will be taught in the Montagnard primary school program.
- When competing with Vietnamese for schooling or jobs, 10% will be added to the grades of Montagnard applicants.

During these negotiations, it was clear to Y-Bham that the inclusion of the FLC and the FLKK in FULRO was untenable to the Vietnamese government and impeded further fruitful negotiations and concessions on the Montagnards' grievances. The FLC advocated the reinstatement of the lands of the old Champa Kingdom from just below Hue down to and including Phan Thiet province near Saigon, and the FLKK advocated for the reinstatement of those lands below Saigon that was once part of Southern Cambodia (Khmer Krom) comprising most of the Mekong Delta. Realizing that these inclusions were a mistake, on August 15, 1968, Y-Bham announced that FULRO was formally abolished and he was re-establishing the earlier Montagnard independence movement, FLHPM (Front de Liberation des Hauts-Plateaux Montagnarda) sans FLC and FLKK.

The exclusion of FLC and FLKK from FLHPM resulted in angering Les Kosem, who sent troops to Camp Rolan to arrest Y-Bham and his staff. They were held under house arrest in Les Kosem's compound, until the takeover of Phnom Penh by the Khmer Rouge, assisted by communist Vietnamese troops, on 18 April 1975. According to the Director of the Documentation Center of Cambodia (on war crimes and genocide), Y-Bham and some 150 to 300 other Montagnards, mainly Rhade and Jarai (including families), were trucked to the National Soccer Stadium and summarily executed.

The aforementioned issues were discussed and partially implemented throughout the remaining years of RVN's existence, but when Special Forces withdrew from Vietnam, the GVN was under less pressure to deal with Montagnard affairs. As the Republic of Vietnam crumbled on April 4, 1975, there was an emergency meeting at the Ministry for the Development of Ethnic Minorities between Minister Nay Luette, his senior staff and US Deputy Ambassador George Jacobson, Ed Sprague, and Mack Prosser. Jacobson promised Minister Nay Luette that if the communists attacked Saigon, he and his entire staff and their families would be evacuated — they never were. Jacobson also told Luett that FULRO representatives and other Montagnards should flee to the jungle and set up a resistance force and continue a guerrilla action against the Vietnamese communists, and if not outright promised at that time, it was heavily implied then, and again later, that the US would provide support to them which never materialized.

After the communist takeover of South Vietnam in 1975, thousands of Montagnards were slaughtered by the communist regime while they fled their villages in the Central Highlands to the jun-

gles of Cambodia; yet some survived this ordeal. Later others escaped from the concentration/reeducation camps to join them in Cambodia; among them were a few FULRO members who managed to survive. Due to of relentless pursuit by communist forces, betrayal, inadequate supply of guns and ammunition, a paucity of medicines and food, thousands of Montagnards, men, women and children, were hunted down by the NVA and killed, or they died from malnutrition and other diseases. Not knowing the fate of their leader Y-Bham, FULRO reemerged as a military force to fight a guerrilla war against the communist Vietnamese for the next several years.

As their guerrilla war continued and U.S. support never materialized, FULRO in the jungles of Cambodia was down to three depleted battalions of freedom fighters. One battalion tried to make it across Laos to Thailand — never to be heard from again — evidently annihilated by the North Vietnamese Army who maintained a large base there and occupied the South Eastern part of Laos. A second battalion negotiated a rite of passage with the Khmer Rouge through the northern part of Cambodia only to be held captive in the Western part of Cambodia and used to fight the Vietnamese invaders. During one big battle, the Khmer Rouge faded into the jungle leaving the Montagnards to fight alone. When the Vietnamese retreated, the Montagnards fled with their families across the border to a refugee camp in Thailand. On November 24, 1986, 212 Montagnard FULRO resistance fighters and dependents arrived in North Carolina for resettlement. The third battalion, dubbed by the press as "The Lost Battalion," comprised of 417 men, women and children, was discovered by a news reporter, Nate Thayer, in the jungle in Northeastern Cambodia in 1992, and they were flown to the US to rejoin the other group of survivors in North Carolina.

After arriving in the US, the Montagnard freedom fighters, in a decision marked by language like that of Nez Perce Chief Joseph, vowed that "FULRO would fight no more," and it was disbanded. ❖

To learn more about the author, Michael Benge, see the July issue of the Sentinel. Go to <https://specialforces78.com/chapter-78-newsletter-for-july-2018//chapter-78-newsletter-for-july-2018/>

SUPPORT THE YARDS

Has your Chapter donated?

Check here: <http://vietnamemifund.org/donate.html#SFlogo>

Contribute to the Vietnam Fund which is helping Montagnards still in Vietnam.

(<http://vietnamemifund.org/donate.html#SFlogo>)

Any SFA or SOA member contributing \$100 or more to the Vietnam Fund will receive a free Commander Membership at Front Sight Firearms Training Institute in Nevada courtesy of John Turney, a former member of 5th SFG. Contact jturney@gmail.com for details.

Do you have a story about the Yards you worked with in Vietnam. Tell your story – contact Tom Turney (turney@newcap.com) for details.

August Chapter 78 Meeting Presentation: Build Awareness to Support Army and ARSOF Recruiting



LTC John Bleigh

By John Bleigh, LTC/SF Commander,
U.S. Army Southern California
Recruiting Battalion

Today's Army recruiting environment is challenging. Our Army Recruiters have a difficult task of meeting the needs of a growing Army in order to meet the demands the nation expects at the readiness levels it expects.

That national demand is increasingly present on Army Special Operations Forces (ARSOF – Special Forces, Civil Affairs, PYSOPs, and Special Operations Aviation). Like the Army, ARSOF is experiencing a tough recruiting environment and faces critical manning shortfalls if recruiting does not improve. ARSOF recruiting is fed through two approaches: qualified applicants from both the initial entry market (the 18X program for example), and a willing pool of qualified in service volunteers. While both approaches face a variety of challenges, awareness of the Army and ARSOF appears to be the most direct approach to improving our recruiting mission.

The United States Army Recruiting Command (USAREC) is responsible for the initial entry recruitment for our Army, and USAREC has the responsibility for the 18X recruiting mission. USAREC remains committed to ensuring it provides the Army with quality recruits that meet the Department of Defense benchmarks for education and aptitude. As such, every recruit who enlists must meet all the qualifications for the job which he/she enlists. Additionally, USAREC evaluates its applicants on a whole-person concept, where each individual must demonstrate the ability to meet the cognitive, physical, and social requirements of training and a commitment to completing the first term of service.

Only 29 percent of the youth today meet the basic qualifications for enlistment. Combine this with the myriad of other societal challenges, and our recruiters have a very tough mission. For example, 50% of youth admit they know little to nothing about military service. The prosperous economy, low unemployment rate, and enticing offers from many corporations compete against the Army's offered benefits. The Army, and military in general, continues a trend of being a family business where 79% of recruits have a relative who served. However, with our country facing a 35% decline in veteran population over the next 30 years, we will continue to see an increasing disconnect between our society and

the military as only 1% of the population currently serves. United States Special Operations Command (USASOC) is concerned that the initial entry market is unaware of ARSOF and will not try out for initial entry Army Special Operations contracts (i.e. 18X).

Therefore, informing the American population of the benefits of an ARSOF Career and expanding awareness of ARSOF is crucial to bolster ARSOF recruiting in the initial entry market. Promoting Army service in general is equally important, because if awareness of the variety of careers in the Army declines, fewer qualified applicants will join the Army, which hurts ARSOF's ability to complete the in-service recruiting mission in the next 2-3 years, further compounding the problem.

The ARSOF in-service recruiting mission is executed by the Special Operations Recruiting Battalion (SORB). The SORB works directly for USAREC to provide the in-service recruiting of qualified applicants to USASOC. Effective ARSOF in-service recruiting depends upon a large pool of both a qualified and willing population of Soldiers. While little can be done to increase the in-service qualified population, increased awareness of ARSOF can increase the willing population so that ARSOF can assess and select a larger population of qualified personnel.

In 2017, USASOC conducted a survey of the Army to help determine how to increase the willing population. The survey found that the top motivators to joining ARSOF were: 1) opportunities to attend advanced training; 2) serving with Soldiers who want to be there and want to perform; and 3) opportunity to conduct unique and relevant real world missions. Likewise, the top perceived barriers to joining



SF LT. Colonel John Bleigh from the U.S. Army Recruiting Command in Southern California presented the facts on the current availability of candidates for both regular army and special operations soldiers at the August meeting of Chapter 78.

SFA Chapter 78 August 2018 Meeting

ARSOF were: 1) hardship on home and family life / loss of normal family life; 2) high physical and time demands; and 3) frequency of deployments (OPTEMPO too high). Most importantly, the survey highlighted that Soldiers in the Army are unaware of the missions, work environment, and career opportunities in ARSOF. However, those Soldiers who had served near ARSOF on deployments, or had more exposure to ARSOF by being stationed at Ft. Bragg, Ft. Carson, or Ft. Campbell were more aware of ARSOF and more willing to try out for ARSOF. In short, knowing someone in ARSOF makes a Soldier more pro-pensed to join. This makes ARSOF Soldiers (and our veterans) the most important recruiting tool.

Awareness remains the critical first step to improving our Army recruiting. Building awareness is the crucial shaping operation to ensure we have a qualified and willing population to join the Army. Awareness of ARSOF is important for both the initial enlistment, and for planting the seeds that will later provide future in-service recruitment.

What are the ways in which we can help? Engage prospective recruits, convey both Army and ARSOF opportunities, and prompt a commitment to volunteer. Engage key civilian influencers of prospective candidates, to increase understanding of both Army and ARSOF opportunities. Help your local Army Recruiters with access and placement to key influencers and areas of interest, especially schools and colleges, in order to build engagements that reach prospective applicants and their families to generate support for the Army and ARSOF. Spread our reputation, our climate and culture of professionalism, and our Quiet Professional ethos.

Other tools on-line:

- For potential recruits: www.GoArmySOF.com or SMS/text referral system (text ARSOF to 462-769).
- As a veteran, be a community partner for your local recruiting station by registering at www.goarmy.com/CP as a Soldier For Life and Green Beret, spread our story, and assist in our recruiting mission.

References:

1. USASOC Young Presidents' Organization brief on recruiting best practices 26 APR 18
2. USASOC ARSOF Recruiting Support Program OPOD JAN 18
3. USAREC Approved Talking Points



- 1 SFA Chapter 78 President John S. Meyer with the meetings two speakers, LTC John Bleigh and SFC Dave Dougherty
- 2 SFC Dave Dougherty, an SF ODA member of A Company, 5th BN, 19th SFG especially trained for air to ground interdictive support, is also a policer officer and member of a SWAT Team, and has multiple missions in Afghanistan.
- 3 Chapter 78 Treasurer discussing the treasurer's report.
- 4 Coffee after the meeting, LTC (R) Gary MacNamara, Len Fein, John S. Meyer, and SGM (R) Bob Crebbs.
- 5 "What did you say? Let me write that down!" says Mike Keele to Hamm Salley and LTC (R) Dave Thomas.