



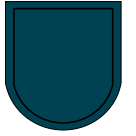
# THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SENTINEL

SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION CHAPTER 78

The LTC Frank J. Dallas Chapter

NEWSLETTER OF THE QUIET PROFESSIONALS

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 8 • AUGUST 2019



# D-DAY

75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



75th Anniversary of D-Day:  
A Normandy Experience

Change of Command  
Colonel Leroy R. Barker, Jr. Relinquishes  
Command of the 6th Recruiting Brigade

Celebrating 98



# SENTINEL

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 8 • AUGUST 2019

## From the Editor

### IN THIS ISSUE:

President's Page ..... 1

Change of Command Ceremony  
Colonel Leroy R. Barker, Jr. Relinquishes Command  
of the 6th Recruiting Brigade ..... 2

D-Day 75th Anniversary: A Normandy Experience ..... 4

Celebrating 98 ..... 14

SFA Chapter 78 July 2019  
July's Keynote Speaker: Author Annie Jacobsen ..... 16

Doug LeTourneau — There Must Be a Story ..... 17

Green Berets Invited to Dinner at the Las Vegas  
Water Grill June 2019 ..... 18

**COVER:** A road winds between ancient and virtually impenetrable Norman hedgerows where the 82nd paratroopers fought in the days following D-Day 75 years ago. Jack William's story beginning on page 4 of this issue describes his experience at the celebration of the anniversary of D-Day in Normandy.

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

### CHAPTER OFFICERS:

<b>President</b> John Stryker Meyer / D-238	<b>Sergeant At Arms/ Quartermaster</b> Mark Miller / D-8296
<b>Vice Presidents</b> Don Deatherage / M-13962 Brad Welker / M-2319	<b>Coordinator of ROTC Program</b> Ed Barrett / M-11188
<b>Secretary</b> Gary Macnamara / M-12789	<b>Chaplain</b> Richard Simonian / D-7920
<b>Treasurer</b> Richard Simonian / D-7920	<b>Sentinel Editor</b> Louis (Lonny) Holmes / D-6067
	<b>Immediate Past President</b> Bruce Long / D-7464



Funding for the SFA Chapter 78 Sentinel is provided by

### VETERANS AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAM

A program of American Veterans Assistance Group

888-923-VETS (8387) • [VeteransAffordableHousing.org](http://VeteransAffordableHousing.org)

**MISSION STATEMENT:** The Sentinel will provide interesting and meaningful information relative to the Special Forces experience — today, yesterday and tomorrow. Articles will be published that were written by knowledgeable authors who will provide objective and accurate accounts of real world experiences.

The Sentinel is published monthly by Special Forces Association Chapter 78, Southern California. The views, opinions and articles printed in this issue do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Army or the United States Special Operations Command, the Special Forces Association, or Special Forces Association Chapter 78. Please address any comments to the editor, "Sentinel" to [dhgraphics@earthlink.net](mailto:dhgraphics@earthlink.net).



Lonny Holmes  
Sentinel Editor

The 75th anniversary of D-Day in Normandy, France, was a major international event with U.S. President Donald Trump delivering the keynote speech. Active duty soldiers from the United States and from other NATO country commands all played a significant role in the ceremonies. American paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division as well as representatives from other active duty airborne units were frequently observed.

Former Green Beret Jack Williams pens the feature story in this issue of the Sentinel looking at the history and this years celebration of the D-Day anniversary. Jack and his twin brother, Gene, both served in 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Viet Nam in the 1960s as commo men; Jack at Ben Het and Dak To in II Corps in 1968 and Gene at Ban Don in 1966, then as a MACV-SOG 1-0 of RT Delaware at FOB 2 in Kontum in 1968. At the celebrations of D-Day, Gene who speaks fluent French interpreted for the family with the people of Normandy.

Members of the Williams family joined them in the celebration which included Jack's son Lear, a Naval Academy graduate who became a Marine fighter pilot with multiple tours in combat, now a major. Lear is the fourth direct generation of Williams to serve in the military. His grandfather, Lt. Gene Williams was a pathfinder in the 82nd Airborne Division, 508th PIR, and jumped into Normandy on the night of D-Day. Lear's great-grandfather, SGT Jewell Williams, served in WWII in Company C, 345th light tank corps in the battle of St. Michael and Meuse-Argonne, France, where he was wounded. Further in the Williams military family history were great-great-grandfathers serving in the War of 1812 and Indian Wars. Gene continues to serve in the U.S. Government with many years (decades) of overseas assignments.



Lonny Holmes  
Sentinel Editor

SGT Jewell Williams



John Stryker Meyer  
President SFA 78

Chapter Members,

The first MOH recipient in the Vietnam War **Col. (R) Roger H.C. Donlon** and his wife of 50 years Norma have done nothing but give back to our country ever since President Johnson draped the Blue and White cloth award around his neck with the Army MOH in 1964 – 55 years ago. Roger and Norma will return to San Diego County August 19 in support of a major fundraising event that will benefit the Wreaths Across America program

and Ft. Rosecrans and Miramar national cemeteries in San Diego.

“Tilt, this is one project where Norma is running point and I’m supporting her in this outstanding effort,” Roger said. The Donlon team will arrive in San Diego on the evening of August 19, appear for a Jocko Podcast interview August 20 — which is slated to be posted Wednesday August 21 and finally will attend the August 22 breakfast fundraiser at the Town and Country Resort and Hotel in San Diego. Norma Donlon, who is a Gold Star wife, became an ambassador for Wreaths Across America three years ago because it honors veterans in a unique way at Christmas in national cemeteries and it’s a vehicle to educate youngsters about American veterans history. I’m going to ask our Chapter to purchase one table for \$600 to support them. Individuals can purchase tickets for \$75. Email Bre Kingsbury at: [bkingsbury@wreathscrossamerica.org](mailto:bkingsbury@wreathscrossamerica.org).

Hang on for the next chapter meeting August 10 at the Embassy Suites because I guarantee that our guest speaker, former A Team **Capt. John Vislosky** will not only provide insights into the various forms of threats to our country from cyber attacks, to EMP and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles but we’ll also be exposed to his quick wit and humor. As a “Risk Assessment Specialist” he will present an overview of current threats to the Nation’s Critical Infrastructure Industry, or simply, the CII. It is composed of Utilities,

Petrochemical Companies, and Railroads. John will outline the various forms of threats to them. He has teased me with some tidbits from CII issues, and it’s a chilling assessment.

I first met John and his beautiful, talented wife Betty four years ago through the SOA, where they stepped up to help the SOA’s BOD in fundraising and other efforts. As soon as I heard about him being a West Pointer, The Frenchman and I immediately began ragging on him and in the true SF spirit, the black-belt martial artist fired back without missing a beat, earning our respect. The SOA BOD was so impressed with John, they bestowed honorary membership upon them.

Sadly, Chapter 78 Member **Doug “The Frenchman” LeTourneau** died July 24 in San Antonio, TX at the VA. He suffered a heat stroke Friday July 19, drove himself to the VA Saturday, began having complications with the gall bladder, liver, etc. The SOG Recon man died shortly after 10 p.m. Wednesday July 24. Funeral services will be in Agoura, TBA. Meanwhile, please send condolences to Doug’s sister and brother-in-law: Lee and Diane Carter, 12629 Red Hill Ave., Tustin, CA 92780.

Planning to attend our August 10 meeting? If so, please e-mail **VP Don Deatherage** at: [drdeathca@gmail.com](mailto:drdeathca@gmail.com), no later than Thursday August 8, midnight. We need an exact head count.

At the end of the year, Chapter elections will be held. We’re looking for someone to run for president. ❖

### Meeting details:

**Time:** 8:30 a.m., August 10, Breakfast will be served.

**Location:** Embassy Suites  
**3100 East Frontera, Anaheim, CA 92807**  
**(The SE Corner of Hwy 91 & Glassell St.)**

John Stryker Meyer  
President, SFA Chapter 78



Chapter 78 member LTC Bleigh and Colonel Leroy Barker, Jr., at the Change of Command Ceremony for the 6th Recruiting Brigade on July 19, 2019. Photo by Lonny Holmes



Special Forces Chapter 51 presented this plaque made by Chapter 78 member John Joyce of Excalibur to Col. Barker at the Change of Command Ceremony.

# CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY

## Colonel Leroy R. Barker, Jr. Relinquishes Command of the 6th Recruiting Brigade



**ALWAYS FORWARD**



Lonny Holmes

By Lonny Holmes

Major General Frank M. Muth, the Commander of the U.S. Army Recruiting Command, presided at the ceremony as Colonel Leroy R. Barker, Jr. relinquished Command of the 6th Recruiting Brigade at its headquarters in North Las Vegas, Nevada on Thursday, July 18, 2019. Colonel Benjamin R. Luper will now take command of the Brigade.

Colonel Barker a long time Green Beret will now become the Deputy Commanding Officer of 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington. Colonel Barker comes from a Green Beret Family as his father was a Special Forces Soldier in the 1st Special Forces Group stationed at Okinawa, Japan, where his Team Sergeant, MSG Ed Davis, took the team on a combat tour in Viet Nam. Ed remembers the colonel as a small infant.

For the past two years Colonel Barker has attended many of the weekly meetings of Special Forces Association Chapter 51 in Las

Vegas where he had many conversations with members from the Viet Nam era. Colonel Barker, his father and Ed Davis attended the Special Operations Association Convention (SOAR) last year in Las Vegas meeting with old friends and teammates.

Also in attendance at the Change of Command Ceremony were several members of SFA Chapter 78 to include LTC Bleigh and Lonny Holmes. Colonel Barker was LTC Bleigh's commanding officer since the LTC is a Battalion Commander of a recruiting facility in Southern California.

Special Forces Chapter 51 presented a Green Beret plaque designed by John Joyce of SFA Chapter 78 to Colonel Barker at the conclusion of the ceremony. ❖

### About Colonel Leroy R. Barker Jr.

Colonel Leroy R. Barker, Jr. relinquishes command of the U.S. Army's 6th Recruiting Brigade on 18 July 2019. Upon graduation from the United States Military Academy at West Point, NY, he was initially commissioned in the Military Intelligence Corps and subsequently assessed into the Special Forces Branch. He has served in a variety of command and staff positions in both Conventional and Special Operations Forces throughout the United States, PACOM, AFRICOM, and CENTCOM Areas of Responsibility.

Command assignments include Infantry Battalion Scout Platoon Leader at 4th Infantry Division, two Special Forces Detachments in 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne), Special Forces Company Commander, Security Force Assistance Team Commander while assigned to the 2nd Stryker Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division at Joint Base Lewis-McChord and Kandahar, Afghanistan, and a U.S. Army Special Operations Command battalion.

Staff assignments include Mechanized Infantry Battalion Assistant Intelligence Officer, Division G2 Training Officer, Civil Affairs

Battalion Intelligence Officer, Special Forces Battalion Assistant Operations Officer, Special Forces Company Executive Officer, Joint Task Force Assistant Operations Officer, Brigade Executive Officer, Brigade Director of Security and Counterintelligence and as Deputy Commander of a CENTCOM Joint Task Force in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

COL Barker is a graduate of the Military Intelligence Officer Basic Course, the Infantry Officer Advanced Course, the Special Forces Qualification Course, the Combined Arms Services and Staff School, Command and General Staff College, and the Army War College.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal with OLC, DMSM with 4 OLC, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal with OLC, and Army Achievement Medal. He has also earned the Special Forces Tab, Combat Infantryman's Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Military Freefall Badge, Combat Diver Badge and the Army Recruiter Badge.



1



2



3



4



5



6

- 1 The entire 6th Recruiting Brigade in Las Vegas. Note the photos of the KIA from the State of Nevada. Photo by Bruce W. Parker, 6th BDE A & P Specialist, U.S. Army.
- 2 Colonel Leroy Barker was just presented with the Legion of Merit by Major General Frank M. Muth.
- 3 The official passing of the “flags” in the Change of Command Ceremony. Colonel Leroy Barker, facing, Major General Frank M. Muth on right facing the colonel.

- 4 Colonel Leroy Barker Jr. preparing to pass the flag to Colonel Benjamin R. Luper, the incoming commander.
- 5 Left to right, Fred Horne, Colonel (R) John Alexander, Colonel Leroy Barker, Ed Davis, and Colonel (R) James Hanke, President of SFA Chapter 51
- 6 The “Floating Beret” display presented as a gift from the 6th Recruiting Brigade, Las Vegas, NV, made by Bruce W. Parker and John Fisher from Elizabethtown, KY.

# D-DAY 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

## A NORMANDY EXPERIENCE



Jack Williams

By Jack Williams

Gene and Jack Williams, 5th Special Forces, Vietnam 1966-1968, spent a week covering the pageantry of the 75th anniversary celebration of D-Day in Normandy June 1-9, 2019. And ...

...What an event...replete with innumerable reenacting venues, exhibits, museums, symposiums, visual extravaganzas, and glorious reunions. The vast spectacle included a multitude of parachute jumps, crowds of visitors on the beaches and drop zones and cemeteries, innumerable dignitary speeches. It featured hundreds of major and minor memorial ceremonies that took place over 70 miles of beach front and in hundreds of villages and towns 10-20 miles inland Normandy. The magnitude of the celebration cannot be adequately conveyed in text because it was so overwhelming. The sense of it can only be hinted at and shared by using pictures and visuals.

One of the more compelling aspects were the omnipresence of thousands of period vehicles throughout the region: jeeps, trucks, armored cars, half-tracks, tanks, supported by tens of thousands of period dressed reenactors. These reenactors were from countries all across Europe and the world. It was a little jarring to meet a convoy of WWII jeeps with proper markings manned by twenty Germans all dressed as 101st Airborne troopers!

Here are some pictures to illustrate the background mood of the region that week.

Gene Williams in front of St. Mere Eglise church with Steele's parachute on steeple.



Two WWII Harleys, fully authenticated. One Norman town had a parade featuring 60 such cycles.

Pictured below, is a Jeep and M8 "Greyhound" U.S. armored car.



At left and below, the parade in Bayeaux with its exhibition of vehicles and WWII reenactors.



The central square at Ste. Mere Eglise was filled every night with hundreds of American soldiers, paratroopers from various U.S. Army and other NATO country commands who were detailed to Normandy for demonstration jumps. How would you have liked to have been assigned that "hardship" two-week detail when you served?



Every night the same scene unfolded in the Ste. Mere Eglise square. It was a Mardi Gras type ongoing revelry attended by hundreds of active American paratroopers from various commands assigned to make jumps that week for the spectators.



At left, in the square of Ste. Mere Eglise, a French family dressed in period clothes is presenting a welcome bouquet of flowers to their liberators... in this case it is 1st Sgt. Ben Boyce, of 2/503.

Above, a period-dressed WWII American WAC nurse is joined by active U.S. paratroopers in a beer joint on the main square in Ste. Mere Eglise. It is good to know that paratroopers still act like ... well... paratroopers.



# DAKS OVER NORMANDY



One of the highlight events of the season was the “Daks Over Normandy” paratrooper jump. It featured the largest collection of C-47 Dakotas assembled in the last 60 years. Thirty-seven Daks flew from England across the channel and dropped 250 volunteer period-dressed reenactors on DZ “N” near Caen (a British DZ during D-Day). Tens of thousands witnessed the drop.

As in the original D-day jump, the planes arrived strung out, scattered, and dropped sticks all over the place to the delight of tens of thousands of spectators. Though the Daks over Normandy was only one of several large scale paratrooper jumps during this 75th anniversary period, it was the most publicized because of the use of period aircraft and volunteer jumpers. And it was a very good show.





The ceremonies, memorial presentations, cocktail parties were too numerous to list much less attend. But some of the memorials events were especially important to those celebrating the memory of the U.S. paratroopers and their jump into Normandy.

One excellent ceremony was in Picauville. It dedicated a monument, pictured above, to the crews and paratroopers of five C-47s that were shot down during the U.S. D-Day night jump. The event was attended by hundreds who were brought to the site in long convoys of period vehicles manned by fully accoutered reenactors. The convoys themselves were amazing to behold.



Other widely attended ceremonies included one at the La Fiere causeway for the 507th PIR and the 325th GIR. It was conducted at the Iron Mike statue across the Merderet River from the monument shown here at left. See the hills in the background? On June 9th, U.S. 82nd Abn paratroopers ran through heavy fire across the entire 800 yards of the causeway in a deadly assault because the entire valley on either side was completely flooded. Seeing the site will cause one to stop and ponder about what kind of men these were.



Pictured at left, another ceremony capped off by a paratroop drop was held at the Chef Du Pont causeway and museum for the 508th and 507th PIR. The memorial at this site to the 508th PIR is quite impressive. This was the “other” causeway across the Merderet and was the site of another desperate battle during the early days of the invasion. The history of the causeway attacks by the 82nd Abn Division are eloquently described in Gen. S.L.A. Marshall’s great book, *Night Drop: The American Airborne Invasion of Normandy*.

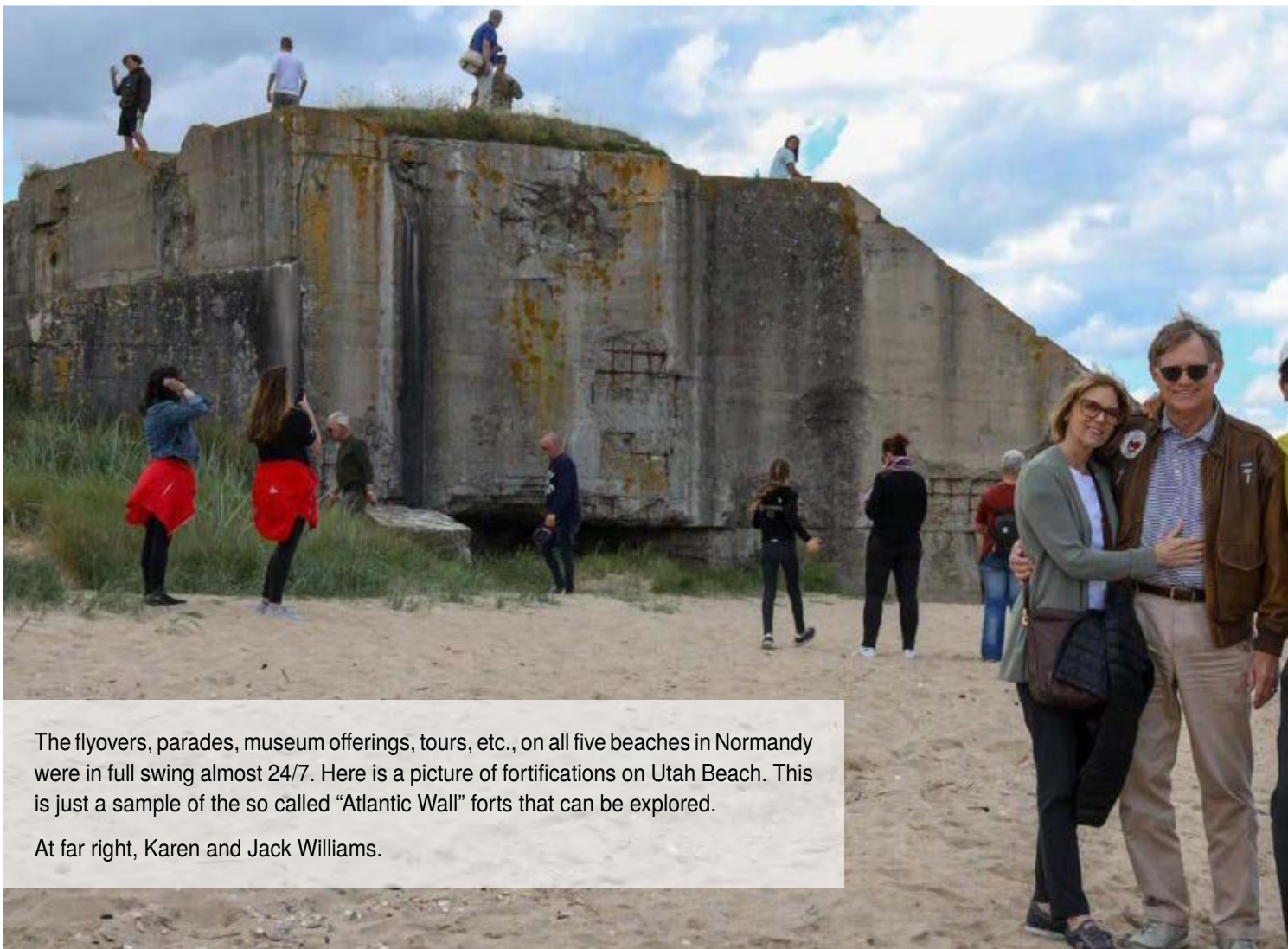


Another ceremony was held at the inland town of Pretot to dedicate a monument to Col. Louis Gonzaga Mendez and the 3/508th PIR for their attack and liberation of the town on 20 June 1944. As part of the ceremony a plaque was installed honoring Lt. Gene H. Williams, commander of pathfinder stick “Chalk 18,” who was KIA in that attack. The picture at left shows the monument, twin ex-SF sons Jack and Gene Williams, and grandsons Lear and Patrick Williams with the mayor of Pretot town (two grandsons, Cedric and Christopher are not in the picture). The dedication was attended by over 150 people including high ranking military, church, and government officials.

All of the cemeteries in the region were bursting with visitors, including the five German ones. The large British Cemetery in Bayeux was visited repeatedly by entire battalions of active British paratroopers.



MAJ Lear Williams and ex-Vietnam SF Jack Williams at Colleville-sur-Mer American Cemetery on the day after the presidential speeches.

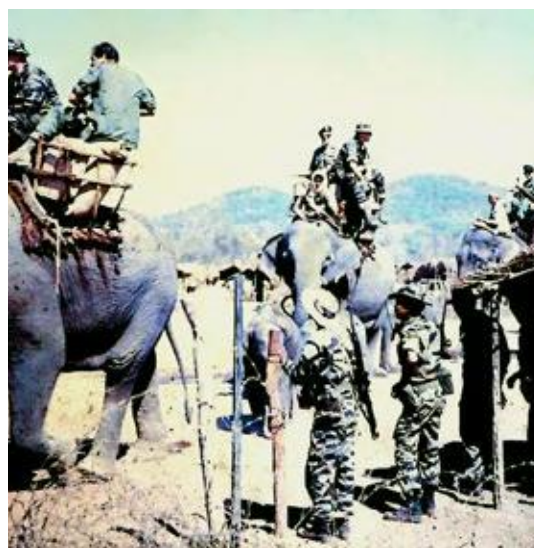


The flyovers, parades, museum offerings, tours, etc., on all five beaches in Normandy were in full swing almost 24/7. Here is a picture of fortifications on Utah Beach. This is just a sample of the so called “Atlantic Wall” forts that can be explored.

At far right, Karen and Jack Williams.

The restaurant scene is wonderful in Normandy. One marvelous thing kept happening ... the happenstance meeting of interesting peoples in those restaurants was definitely a bonus. One evening we were preparing to dine when we heard a conversation about Special Forces personnel from the only other table being served. Upon inquiry, we found the table was occupied by COL (ret) Mark Mitchell, formerly commander of the 5th Special Forces Group, now an advisor on Special Warfare missions to the Secretary of the Army.

COL (then CAPT) Mitchell was awarded a DSC in Afghanistan for leading the famous Special Forces team of horse-mounted soldiers assisting Abdul Dostum's Northern Alliance during the fight to overthrow the Taliban Government. He was on horseback, calling down B-52 JDAMS in support of Dostum's cavalry charges ... truly an epic 21st Century warfare moment. Ex-Vietnam SF Gene Williams trumped him by showing pictures of an SF elephant patrol leaving his A-233 camp in Vietnam.



Above left to right, COL (ret) Mark Mitchell, Vietnam SF Gene Williams, and defense contractor Ken Miller in Normandy

Left, SF members of COL (then CAPT) Mitchell's team of cavalry with Dostum in Afghanistan.

Right, Gene Williams SF team A-233 Ban Don, Vietnam, 1966 — the SF elephant patrol leaving camp.



MAJ Lear Williams, USMC, is pictured with (former Lt.) Bill Miller who landed on Utah Beach on D-Day with the 4th Infantry. The day before this photo was taken, Mr. Miller was positioned immediately behind President Trump during his speech at the U.S. Cemetery.



Another interesting meeting is shown in this picture. This is Mgr. Jean-Charles Descubes, at right, the retired Archbishop of Rouen, Primate of Normandy, conversing with MAJ Lear Williams, in the foreground. As a young boy on D-Day, the Monseigneur assisted hiding a paratrooper with a broken leg who landed in his village square. He had wonderful stories to tell of that time and when he served as Archbishop, he held perhaps the oldest Catholic Bishopric in France and was a voter in the College of Cardinals.



M. Dominique Francois is a prolific French author whose works include regimental histories of the 508th, 507th, 82nd Airborne and many other books. He is pictured with ex-SF Gene and Jack Williams.

Another chance meeting introduced us to Madame Benedicte Coste Leclerc de Huteclocque, granddaughter of General Leclerc who commanded the 2nd French Armored Division that was first into Paris. She attended the ceremony in Pretot and is close friends with the daughters of General Eisenhower and Patton. She had

some interesting stories about the battle in Pretot. It seems children who were hiding in her Chateau emerged so coated with red dust from the brick cellar, dust generated by the intense artillery, that they were named the "red indians" by the rescuing paratroopers.

The visits to the beaches, museums, the symposiums, accounts and visuals were supplemented by the beauty of the Norman countryside, the food, wonderful bread and Norman butter, and quiet peace of the airborne drop zone area. That battlefield is actually quite compact, perhaps only about a 5x8 mile rectangle of bocage hedgerows. You can spend a week walking the airborne

battlefield with S.L.A. Marshall's book in hand and appreciation of what was accomplished will grow large.

Walking the bocage at night looking at the terrain with the eyes of a small unit Vietnam SF veteran brought home the scale of the achievements of the D-Day paratroopers. How anyone could assemble and fight in that terrain is still an open question. But they did...



Above, hedgerows surround every football sized field today. Getting through these in daylight was just barely possible. At night...

Right, a photograph taken by Lt. Gene H. Williams showing the hedgerow terrain and 82nd paratroopers in Normandy. The picture is from film developed when Lt. Williams' camera was returned after he was KIA. The picture was taken in Normandy on Hill 30, probably June 11, 1944. Note the parachute in the background.



The most important take away from the attendance at this 75th anniversary of D-Day event is this .... If you have a chance to go to Normandy, try to go during an anniversary. The omnipresence of the reenactors with their vehicles, the individual town events, the paratrooper jumps, ceremonies, and general amazing aura and atmosphere will be an ongo-

ing spectacle for decades and decades. And using AirBNB, renting a farmhouse in the countryside will just enhance the experience and is highly recommended.

You all now have been briefed on Normandy, are privy to all the S-2 data, and have your orders ... so, stand in the door! ❖

# Celebrating 98



John Stryker Meyer

By John Stryker Meyer

Chapter 78's elder statesman and living spec ops legend Major General (R) John K. Singlaub had a busy 98th birthday in his Franklin, TN home on July 10.

Col. (R) Andy Anderson and Col. (R) Tim Slemp stopped by the Singlaub home to offer greetings and salutations from several mutual Green Beret and spec ops friends and associates they've known over the years. "I told him that as a fellow Green Beret I'm honored and proud to call John Singlaub a friend" said Anderson.

"Colonel Slemp gave Jack happy birthday wishes and said that General Singlaub 'is the quintessential spec ops legend, beginning with fighting the Nazis in occupied France, spec ops in Korea and as Chief SOG during the Vietnam War and that I'm fortunate and proud to call you friend,'" said Anderson.

While they were in the home, Anderson received telephone calls wishing Singlaub Happy Birthday from: Admiral (R) Eric Olsen; Lieutenant General (R) John Mulholland; Major General Jim Linder, chief of staff at SOCOM, and General Rick Clark, SOCOM commander. "All of those phone calls made me happy, I assure you," Singlaub said a few days later. "I was pleasantly surprised receiving so much attention. It's nice to be remembered."

They weren't the only visitors, besides family members and nearby neighbors who have befriended Jack, his wife Joan and their daughter Debra over the years. A contingent of past and present members of the 5th Special Forces Group stopped by to pay homage to Singlaub's personal involvement with the Jedburgh team in Europe during WWII without realizing that it was his birthday.

"We didn't realize it was his birthday, to be honest," said BG (R) Scott Brower, the former commander of 5th Group. "We stopped by his residence to share an unique bottle of red wine that commemorated the Allied invasion of Europe, D-Day June 6, 1944." An Army veteran Larry Carroll, a fellow staff member at Austin Peay State University, had acquired the wine appropriately named "6.6.44". "We talked it over with ourselves and said who would it be more appropriate to share such a wine with, than our living spec

ops legend, Maj. Gen. John K. Singlaub. He was there in Europe on that historic day June 6, 1944....so we stopped by, shared the wine with him and left without ever realizing it was his birthday.... now that I know that, I'm going back to get a piece of cake,"

"All in all, it was a wonderful day to celebrate Jack's birthday," said Joan Singlaub. "We all enjoyed the company, the excitement of the day and the numerous phone calls. And, of course, we enjoyed the Chapter 78 birthday cards that were signed by the Green Berets and members of Jack's SFA chapter." ❖



Retired Special Forces Colonels Andy Anderson, right, and Tim Slemp center, flash the combined number of "98", honoring MG (R) John K. Singlaub's 98th birthday on July 10, the general's birthday. Pictured with them is Joan Singlaub in their Franklin, TN home. Photo courtesy of Col. (R) Andy Anderson





Past and present members from the 5th Special Forces Group visited MG (R) John K. Singlaub on his birthday July 10 to share a most unique bottle of red wine, which commemorated D-Day, June 6, 1944, when allied troops hit the beaches at Normandy, France to retake Nazi-occupied countries in Europe.

"When I received this bottle of wine," said past 5th Grp commander Brigadier Gen. (R) Scott E. Brower, second from left, "we thought that there would be no one more appropriate to share it with than our living legend, Major General retired, John K. Singlaub, who was fighting behind enemy lines as an OSS agent. Funny thing, we didn't realize it was his birthday, or we would have sang *Happy Birthday* to him."

Other 5th Group soldiers joining Singlaub in his house on July 10 were left Specialist Luke Boyd and past 5th Special Forces Grp. commander Col. Jay Powers, far right.

Photos by Debra Satterfield



## July's Keynote Speaker: Author Annie Jacobsen



Brad Welker

By Brad Welker

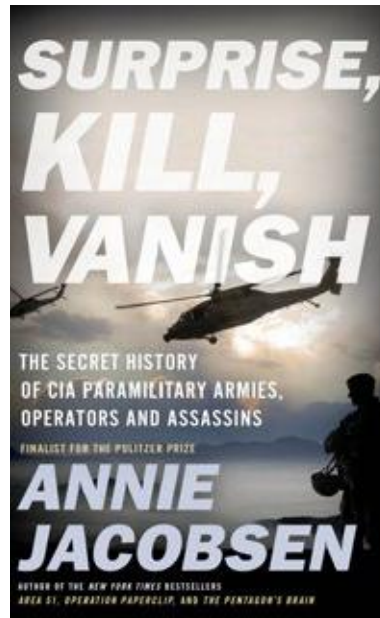
The keynote speaker for our last meeting was the New York Times best-selling author and journalist Annie Jacobsen. She quickly captured our rapt attention as she discussed the five books she had written. She briefly discussed her book *Area 51*, billed as an uncensored history of America's top-secret military base, as well as *The Pentagon's Brain* a history of the Defense Products Research Agent.

Her delivery was well received by the Chapter Members, one of whom said of it, "I still don't believe in Unicorns but Area 51 may contain evidence of aliens."

The gist of her presentation concerned her latest book, *Surprise, Kill, Vanish: The Secret History of CIA Paramilitary Armies, Operators, and Assassins*. She introduced many members to their initial exposure to theory of the Tertia Optio, the three options of government leadership. First option is diplomacy, an option that did not work well in 1939. The second option is war, generally a terrible idea. The third option is the covert elimination of leaders or prominent members of the opposition.



Lonny Holmes (left) and Brad Welker (right) with Annie Jacobsen. Annie is holding her book *Phenomena* that has photo's of Colonel John Alexander, whose article *Then the Hood Went to Hell* appeared in the [July 2019 Sentinel](#).



**SURPRISE, KILL, VANISH:**  
*The Secret History of CIA Paramilitary Armies, Operators, and Assassins*  
by Annie Jacobsen  
560 pages  
Publisher: Little, Brown and Company  
To purchase visit [anniejacobsen.com](http://anniejacobsen.com)  
Available in print, audio and electronic formats

She expertly related the various ways in which many of our past President's created a system that allows the names of those individuals to be placed on a kill-or-capture list, like those targeted by drone strikes.

Special Forces iconic CSM Billy Waugh is prominently featured in the book.

Annie was kind enough to remain afterwards and answer questions. Many members expressed their desire to purchase her books either in electronic or hardcover form. ❖



Kenn Miller, Maj. Jim Morris and Mark Miller with Lonny's custom Randall Knife designed by Jack Williams.

# Doug LeTourneau — There Must Be a Story



Mike Keele

By Mike Keele

Having known Doug for six or eight years, it always amazes me that he can tell such glorious stories, almost always needing to have someone else fill in the details for him.... like the one about a Bright Light mission he didn't have time for at our monthly meeting in July.

There's Doug at the Special Operations Association Reunion a few years ago in Las Vegas, where he had Jack Kull, a civilian DoD's Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency guy who goes around the world giving statistical and search efforts information on our federal government's POW/MIA program. Doug was wound up and Jack looked a little green — he's a civilian, you understand. The Bright Light had RT Idaho, with Lynne M. Black Jr., as the One-Zero — team leader, and Doug his One-One. They were trying to recover the remains of the pilot and observer, who were both hopelessly pinned inside an observation airplane's wreckage. The NVA had allowed RT Idaho to be inserted without opposition, hoping to bag the whole team and the recovery helicopter. The team was getting low on ammunition but the NVA seemed well supplied, and an argument broke out between Doug and his One-Zero about what to take back as proof of identity of the casualties. You'll have to get the rest of the story from Doug, 'cause I'm not qualified to tell it.

Doug grew up a Southern California boy, ridin', ropin' and working livestock for the movie studios. For a while, he made a living on

the pro rodeo circuit, but one day, he picked up a copy of the newly written book penned by Robin Moore, *The Green Berets*. He was about to turn 21, and was dead meat for the draft, so he barged in on a hapless Army recruiter and insisted on signing up to become a Green Beret. There was some discussion about stages of qualification and having to volunteer for every phase, but Doug won out and hearing about SOG, quickly ingratiated himself to their recruiter upon reaching RVN.

Doug has stories about everything, including being the last man out of FOB-1 in Phu Bai, I Corps, when they shut down that operation at the start of 1969. On one mission his PRC-25 took four rounds, but still worked, so it remained his principal comms device, just for luck. On another mission, Doug, easily bored, was running through the radio frequencies when he found one with Vietnamese being spoken. His interpreter told him it sounded like the NVA had ST Idaho set up for an ambush. Doug notified Covey and Covey relayed information to Idaho that they must not make their retrograde movement in the only direction that looked open to them. The team was desperately fighting a brush fire that the NVA and hand grenades may or may not have set during the fire fight, but were taking full advantage of. King Bee showed up just in time to prevent ST Idaho from having its goose cooked for Christmas, and another chapter could be written.

At the end of Doug's tour, he approached the Commanding Officer of CCN, and pointed out that he had over-stayed his tour. That was solved when the good Colonel wrote his orders on a napkin, which was enough to get Doug back to the world.

You can hear these and other stories of daring-do by Doug and Tilt by tuning in to YouTube and bringing up [Jocko's podcasts #180, #181, #182 and #186](#). ❖



After the meeting Chapter 78 members with the meeting's keynote speaker, author Annie Jacobsen. Left to right, Doug LeTourneau, Lonny Holmes, John Stryker Meyer, Annie Jacobsen, Brad Welker, and Thad Gembacz.



# Green Berets Invited to Dinner at the Las Vegas Water Grill

The Water Grill held a pre-opening special event on July 15 for invited guests to an extravagant dinner to access the restaurants food and service prior to its opening for the public. Chapter 78 member Tom Turney is a member of the Board of Directors of the parent corporation, King's Seafood Company, and garnered invitations for Brad Welker and his daughter Jill, Lonny and Nilda Holmes, and Fred and Letty Horne who are members of SFA Chapter 51.

The service, decor, atmosphere and attitude of the staff was beyond first class. We had the good fortune to have a very nice table adjacent to a private room where the "Las Vegas food critics" were evaluating the restaurants "status" as a new upper echelon seafood establishment. This provided us with some nice entertainment!

Our six dinners were chose by the "host" and from the appetizers to the desert they were excellent. Nilda and I had an appetizer called "WILD BIGEYE TUNA" which consists of avocado, pressed watermelon, yuzu tobiko watermelon – soy nikiri which was one of the very best appetizers we ever had! Her main course was a huge Maine lobster. The other meals were as equally exotic and they provided cocktails and wine.

Thank you Water Grill and Tom Turney.



1



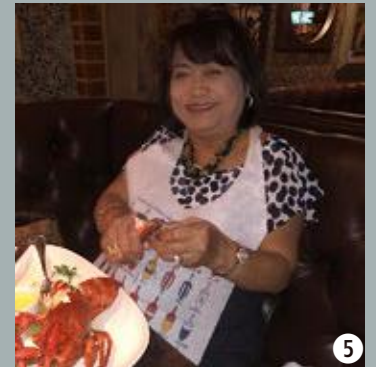
2



3



4



5

1 Fred and Letty Horne, Brad Welker and daughter Jill, Nilda and Lonny Holmes

2 King's Seafood Company President & COO R.S. Thomas, Chapter 78 member and Sentinel Editor Lonny Holmes and King's Seafood Company Founder, President & CEO Sam King

3 Fred Horne and wife Letty.

4 Brad Welker and daughter Jill.

5 Nilda Holmes, wife of Lonny Holmes, enjoying her lobster dinner.