



# SENTINEL

NEWSLETTER OF THE QUIET PROFESSIONALS

SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION CHAPTER 78

The LTC Frank J. Dallas Chapter

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 9 • SEPTEMBER 2022

**Celebrating Seven Decades of  
US Army Psychological  
Operations Excellence**

**REACHING OUT  
Psychological Operations in  
Operation IRAQI FREEDOM**



# SENTINEL

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 9 • SEPTEMBER 2022

## From the Editor



US ARMY SPECIAL OPS COMMAND



US ARMY JFK SWCS



1ST SF COMMAND



1ST SF GROUP



3RD SF GROUP



5TH SF GROUP



7TH SF GROUP



10TH SF GROUP



19TH SF GROUP



20TH SF GROUP



8TH SF GROUP



11TH SF GROUP



12TH SF GROUP

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**FRONT COVER: FRONT COVER:** Soldiers from the 9th PSYOP Bn., 4th PSYOP Group, conduct a leaflet drop over a village in Iraq. PSYOP Soldiers use leaflets to disseminate important information to the local populace, including information about upcoming humanitarian assistance missions. (Photo Credit: U.S. Army)



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How Miller  
Sentinel Editor

The PSYOP leaflet drop on our cover is in honor of the PSYOP theme of this issue. But we start off with a letter to the editor that brought up an issue in the realm of the more untraditional "PSYOPS."

Chapter 78 member and military hero, MG "Jack" Singlaub, who attained 100 years of age, was finally interred at Arlington National Cemetery on 19 August.

Our "sister unit" National Guard C/1/19 had a change of command ceremony this month, attended by dignitaries and SFA members. Here is a brief introduction to their new leadership team who are enthusiastic about continuing and deepening the relationship with Chapter 78.

We have a combined book review by two men (Kenn Miller and Greg Walker) who have known Jim Morris a long time, and all three declare their friendship. Despite the obvious conflict of interest, they have come up with a review that gets to the heart of Jim Morris' new book, *Dreaming Circus*.

Army PSYOPS, in its modern form, began about 70 years ago and shares a common, intertwined role and history with SF. We share first a USASOC article written by Christopher Howard, which brings us from formation to current USAJFKSWCS and its mission. I'd like to add that on our A team from 1969-70 we had a 3rd officer, 2LT William Weunsch, who was our civil affairs officer.

Then we present an example of PSYOP accomplishments by way of an article by Cheryl A. Walley and Michael R. Mullins which appeared in ARSOF's very first issue of *Veritas* magazine. They describe some of the efforts during Operation IRAQI FREEDOM and how they helped the mission to succeed.

On July 5th, President Biden awarded four Medals of Honor, one each to an infantry squad leader's son, a tanker, an airman, and a Green Beret. The exploits of all these brave men, described by Joe Lacdan, is inspiring. Maj John Duffy's exploits were also covered by a CBS news segment that is informative and very heartening: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vo8U2nR91Qw>. I also recommend: <https://www.army.mil/medalofhonor/duffy/?from=features> about his life and service.

And before the back cover pics of our chapter meeting, there are a couple of pages about opportunities to get involved, and a final reminder of SFACON 2022.

Enjoy. ❖

How Miller  
Sentinel Editor

# From the President | September 2022



Gregory Horton  
President SFA Ch. 78

Greetings! This was another outstanding month for our Chapter. Because of Richard's fiscal guidance and management, the Chapter was able to meet its goal of again providing California SFQ Candidates a Lifetime SFA Membership upon their graduation at Ft Bragg. This class had 11 Graduates from California and they all joined the roll of Lifetime Members of the Special Forces Association as part of Chapter 78! As a bonus for us, the Honor Graduate was also from California. The SFA picked up the tab for his membership, and

which will be with Chapter 78 too! Congratulations to all, good luck on your new career, and welcome to our Chapter.

The August 20 meeting was well received by the Chapter attendees. Richard gave a report on our new relationship with the SFA Museum. We will have a plaque in the entrance foyer honoring Chapter 78 and a place where we will put 500 copies a month of our very own *Sentinel*. This will mean an addition of Assistant Editors to the staff.

Debra Holm gave an update of the Team House platform and the Chapter website. We had over 2,000 hits on our Chapter website for the month of July alone, and they were made predominately by those who are 18-35 age group. I think that this is an outstanding statistic, and we are hopefully helping out with the Army's recruiting effort. This is especially important because of the recruiting difficulties now. I read a stat that they will probably be 10,000 people short of their targeted goals, and I am pleased we can provide some assistance.

Once again, I reminded the Chapter that there is still time to register for SFACON 2022 in the month of September, but they need to sign up ASAP. You can get all of the details and even register online at <https://www.specialforcesassociation.org/sfacon/>

The Board will begin to assemble a planning committee for our annual Christmas Party to be held at the Corinthian Yacht Club on December 10, 2022. The Committee will be responsible for arranging the opening ceremony, raffle gifts, and contracting the DJ. I will be sending out a Chapter wide request for assistance soon.

It is alarming to read and hear about all the home invasion robberies occurring in Orange and Los Angeles Counties. Like other areas in the nation, we are not immune to the uptick in criminal activity. I felt that a class on home defense was in order. I chose "Armed Home Defense" from the NRA Personal Firearm Defense series with Rob Pincus as the chief instructor. We covered several topics such as immediate action plans, the use of lethal force, securing your home, storage and securing your firearms for best availability, and several additional topics. We had great input from members in the audience.

Having been in Law Enforcement for 40 years, I enjoyed the "Communications with Law Enforcement" and "Immediate Aftermath of a Home Defense Event." Gary Macnamara (another LEO Veteran) and I were able to give real world examples from a LEO perspective. Also because of the wide spectrum of experience in our Chapter, several members were able to bring up great points and salient examples.

We had a visitor, Tom Callister, who brought up a very excellent organization for community and individual safety. The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program educates volunteers about disaster preparedness for the hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. CERT offers a consistent, nationwide approach to volunteer training and organization that professional responders can rely on during disaster situations, allowing them to focus on more complex tasks.

We will have an article in the upcoming *Sentinel* that covers the CERT Program in further detail. For the time being, here are three links for your viewing pleasure!

Los Angeles County CERT  
<https://ready.lacounty.gov/cert/>

West Orange County CERT  
<https://westcountycert.com/>

FEMA CERT  
[https://community.fema.gov/PreparednessCommunity/s/cert-trainings?language=en\\_US](https://community.fema.gov/PreparednessCommunity/s/cert-trainings?language=en_US)

Like I said, we had an excellent meeting with great discussions. Once again:

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

## Our Next Chapter Meeting 17 September 2022

**TIME:** Breakfast 0800 — Meeting 0830

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

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

Greg Horton SGM (Ret)  
President  
SFA Chapter 78

**Dates of Remaining 2022 Chapter 78 Meetings • MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

September 17 • October 15 • November 19 • December 10 – Chapter 78 Christmas Party

# Letters to the Editor: THE OTHER PSYOPS

By How Miller  
*Sentinel* Editor

It so happens that we have been getting more letters to the editor. Most of them have been very much appreciated compliments. Thank you all for them. It warms our hearts to see that we are doing something worthwhile. We've had some that have brought up individual questions that we often were able to answer.

This month, however, we have received somewhat dueling letters that refer to another kind of "PSYOPS." Greg Walker mentioned in his article about the incredible Mike Echanis, that he had a small part in the 2009 movie "Men Who Stare at Goats", which I personally have not seen yet.

John Alexander, who was involved in the real story the movie is very loosely based on, wrote us an email. John has contributed to the *Sentinel* in the past, including on this subject in his article "The Army Gets Weird" which appeared the [December 2020 Sentinel](#)

John Alexander's email:

"If interested, Mike Echanis played a part in George Clooney's "The Men Who Stare at Goats." He was used as an excuse as the goat killer by a BS artist who fed the story to Jon Ronson who wrote the book. When I challenged him, he wrote back that it was Echanis who had killed the goat... In real life, it was the late Guy Savelli using dim mak at Ft Bragg that actually did kill the goat at the med lab. A really wild story. Many think Clooney played me (but a composite) while Jeff Bridges did play my departed friend, Jim Channon (of First Earth Battalion fame).

"I usually say that Ronson took about 5 percent truth to write the book — and then they made the movie. Later I did talk with Greg Heslov (Clooney's partner) who knew it was nonsense. That said, some weird shit really did happen."

*John Alexander*

We showed this to Greg Walker who replied:

Hi,

"I appreciate Mr. Alexander's letter and trust this will clear up some misconceptions...

"In this 2009 interview with the author of the book, Mr. Ronson, he clearly states his 1st hand awareness of Guy Savelli's claim to have killed the goat.

RAZ: "Were you ever able to witness members of this unit stop a goat's heart by staring at it?"

Mr. RONSON: "What I did see – I discovered that the main goat starrer was a man called Guy Savelli. And I said, is it true that you managed to kill a goat by staring at it? And he said yes."

NPR, *All Things Considered*, "Author Interviews — Walking Through Walls and Staring At Goats," November 8, 2009, <https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=120227954>

"Mike Echanis' name was tied to the film as were so many other urban myths simply because of the work he was doing on Smoke Bomb Hill and at Little Creek, Virginia in not only martial arts but meditation and pain/bleeding control based on the precepts of Hwa Rang Do.

"Special Forces (and the SEALs) have a long history of exploring holistic and non-clinical options meant to enhance the Green Beret or SEAL's capabilities. *In Search of the Warrior Spirit* by Strozzi Heckler describes a formal project conducted at 10th Group along similar lines. It was titled Trojan Horse.

"Otherwise, *The Men Who Stare at Goats* took great liberties with projects like the First Earth Battalion and its stated mission statement. Today, the U.S. SOF community continues its exploration of holistic options for the care and treatment of its wounded, injured, or ill, to include the amazing work done at the individual Group THOR Centers. Also, meditation and its impact when done properly and consistently, has produced calmer, more focused, and effective SOF operators.

"And Mike Echanis was at the forefront of exploring and demonstrating the "how this works" as well as "why this works".

"But he taught with a sense of humor, as illustrated in this picture taken during one of three courses taught to the Navy SEALs (SEAL Team 2) at Little Creek / Camp A.P. Hill. Mike introduced meditation and additional "mind control" (which meant learning to control one's own mind) to the Teams as well as Special Forces."

"And he enjoyed fussing with any media or photographers who were invited to observe training, as is obvious in the picture (see below)."

John Alexander is interviewed as a part of this 6 minute YouTube presentation: <https://getsmartyplants.com/knowledge/the-true-story-behind-the-men-who-stare-at-goats/>.

Please keep those "cards and letters" coming in. ❖



# MG John “Jack” Singlaub Interred at Arlington National Cemetery



Formal formation prior to burial. (Photos courtesy Ken Bowra).

By How Miller, Sentinel Editor  
Photos by Ken Bowra

MG (R) Singlaub, SFA Chapter 78’s former oldest member, was finally laid to rest, appropriately, at Arlington National Cemetery, on 19 August, 2022. SFA President Kevin Harry attended the ceremony on behalf of Chapter 78.

From his time on a Jedberg team with the OSS in WWII (he was, in fact, the last living Jedburgh), through being SF’s CHIEFSOG during the Vietnam War, Jack’s life was filled with clandestine activities, right up through his 100th birthday. He was truly an American Hero.

*The New York Times’* Richard Goldstein wrote in the January 31, 2022 edition,

“General Singlaub trained resistance fighters in German-occupied France and rescued Allied prisoners of war held by the Japanese during World War II. He conducted intelligence operations

during the Chinese Civil War and in the Korean War while assigned to the C.I.A., and he commanded secret Army forays into North Vietnam and neutral Laos and Cambodia during the 1960s to ambush Communist troops.”

“A sturdy 5-foot-7 with an enduring military brush haircut, General Singlaub seemed fit for combat long after his last war. He was “the kind of guy you’d like to have on your side in a barroom brawl,” Pat Murphy, an acquaintance and the publisher of *The Arizona Republic* at the time, told *The New York Times* in 1986.”

We are all better off for Jack having lived among us. He will be missed by many. ❖

For Richard Goldstein’s *New York Times* article visit <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/01/31/us/john-k-singlaub-dead.html>.

Read about MG Singlaub in our tribute to him in the [March, 2022 Sentinel](#).



The U.S. Army Caisson Platoon, a specialty unit of the “The Old Guard” (3rd United States Infantry Regiment), provides the caisson and riderless horse for funerals at Arlington National Cemetery. This is the caisson at MG Singlaub’s ceremony, and the riderless horse before heading to the gravesite.



The riderless horse, with reverse boots, follows the caisson when they march from the chapel to the gravesite. This horse’s name is Sergeant York.

# Change of Command — C Company, 1st Battalion 19th SFG (A)



At top, SGM Kweichang “KC” Wachholz-Yee serves as Company C guidon bearer in the Change of Command ceremony on August 8, 2022, at the Joint Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos, CA. Below, SGM Wachholz Yee presents the guidon to outgoing company commander MAJ Robert “Bob” Ashely, who will present it to the new company commander MAJ Dillon Fike.

By How Miller

Our sister SF National Guard organization, C Company, 1st Battalion, 19th SFG (A), otherwise known as C/1/19, or as some of us old timers would refer to as the Flying Boxcars, have had some planned leadership changes. At a Change of Command ceremony on Monday, August, 8, 2022, MAJ Bob Ashley handed over command to MAJ Dillon Fike. Besides the active duty dignitaries and others, two Chapter 78 members attended to show our support, Vice President Dennis DeRosia and Mike Jameson.

The traditional handing-over ceremony was accompanied by some words by the outgoing and incoming company commanders. Dennis talked for a while with MAJ Fike after the ceremony, and they both were looking forward to continuing the warm and robust relationship between our chapter and his company. Fike mentioned that he had recently spent time with a line infantry company. He is now very happy to be back in SF and gave Dennis an unusual challenge coin (pictured). Later, after a text conversation he sent this by email:

“Dennis,

Thanks for reaching out. Have copied KC, our SGM, We are excited to continue our relationship with you guys. I’m drinking from a firehouse with this new admin life and the new balancing act with my other life in the sheriffs office.

Not sure how you guys were integrated with us before as far as social events and gatherings; I have been out of the company since 2018. Have you guys been in contact with our full time staff in the past?

Looks like our October Drill lines up with your meeting. If we are local during that drill, we can link up and talk SOF and what’s going on, exchange some war stories and drink some whiskey!

*Dillon”*

Also present was the new C/1/19 Company Sergeant Major Kweichang Wachholz-Yee often referred to as “KC”. He sent this to Dennis:

I live in the Sacramento area (Stockton), but I work in Santa Clara for Santa Clara PD. I’m stoked to be in the SGM seat and I really want to honor our lineage and our history. I would like to start with having some of you guys out to SFREs.

We do them in Los AI and at Fort Hunter Liggett.

8-11 September at Fort Hunter Liggett and 18-20 November at Los AI. For Los AI, the best day to attend is the 19th or 20th and for Hunter Liggett probably the 10th. *[Ed Note: our meeting is scheduled for 19 Nov]*

You guys are welcome any and all of the time at anything we do. Any insight I can glean from your leadership experiences is welcome as well. We are humbled by all the dirty deeds done dirt cheap before we were even twinkles in our daddy’s eyes yet.

Let me know if I can help with anything.

Kweichang Wachholz-Yee “K.C. Yee”  
MSG(P)

Company Sergeant Major  
C Company, 1st Bn, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne)



Left, MAJ Fike presented Ch. 78 VP Dennis DeRosia with this unusual challenge coin. Right, the ceremony was complete with the JFTB Los Alamitos band.

Attending on behalf of the 19th GRP was the 1st Battalion Command Sergeant Major Gordon Lindley:

Dennis,

It was great to meet you.

Absolutely. I am the 1/19th CSM and will be heading to a Special Operations Detachment in the Fall. However, I serve as the Senior Guard Enlisted Advisor at the 1st Special Forces Command (A).

My view is that being on the team never ends. From the SFQC to become an 18-series to time on an ODA to command and staff positions, we need to continue the team/family mindset that makes Special Forces special. Enabling the operators is valuable to mission success. Including Special Forces alumni is a critical piece too. Whether reminiscing/sharing time with stories and camaraderie to supporting current training to reaching out for mentoring, every level is critical.

My bio sketch is attached.

Again, it was great to meet you and my apologies for departing the ceremony shortly after conclusion. Busy schedule: Utah to Texas to Utah to North Carolina.

If you need anything, reach out to my work or personal contact information.

DOL

V/r,

Gordie

Gordon Lindley

CSM, USA

Command Sergeant Major

1/19th Special Forces Group (ABN)

Senior Enlisted Guard Advisor

1st Special Forces Command (ABN)

Besides CSM Lindley's recent tour in support of Operation Inherent Resolve in Baghdad, he has multiple deployments to Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, Iris Gold, and Desert Spring. Somewhere in there he served in Kobane, Syria.

He has held every leadership position from Squad Leader to Special Forces Battalion Command Sergeant Major. He is the recipient of a



Both outgoing company commander, MAJ Bob Ashley and incoming company commander, MAJ Dillon Fike spoke during the ceremony.



Left to right, Chapter 78 Vice President Dennis DeRosia, MAJ Dillon Fike, and Chapter 78 member Mike Jameson

bronze star, a purple heart and a bunch of other medals or ribbons, and has graduated from far too many military courses to list here. And he has a Bachelors of Arts Degree in Political Science and Communications from West Virginia University.

Our new full time C/1/19 liaison will be MSG Lopez. We hope to meet him soon. We are hoping he will be able to give us frequent updates on the company's activities, how we can help them, etc.

Welcome to these gentlemen, and we hope get to know them better as well as more of the team.

# Book Review

## ***THE DREAMING CIRCUS: Special Ops, LSD, and My Unlikely Path To Toltec Wisdom* by Jim Morris**

By Kenn Miller and Greg Walker

### **A War Story**

Among the many published books written by American Vietnam veteran Jim Morris is *War Story*, now a classic milestone in modern military literature. Vietnam became central in Morris' life at the time. He would serve three tours, be wounded four times, and would devote himself as a civil rights advocate for Vietnam's Mountain people, the Montagnard, with whom he lived and fought with during the war.

"I loved Vietnam more than any other place, for the beauty and strangeness of it. I always had a weird feeling in Vietnam, as though I was in the presence of exotic, occult happenings, as though I had arrived in a place where spirits prowled and sorcerers plucked at strings that controlled natural laws. I felt valid there, as though this were my place and my time and was where I counted. I was happy." – *War Story*

But even without his hard-won accolades in the world of writing Jim would be famous, or should we say legendary, in the Special Forces community. His combat actions, his wounds, his visible and invisible scars... Not many men would return to Vietnam after having his left nut shot off, for which he received one of four Purple Hearts, and keep going back until after absorbing a crippling wound while attempting to rescue a comrade in the A Shau Valley while with Project DELTA.

### **Becoming Healthy Can Be The Ultimate Crazy Adventure**

"Throughout my career my best books have been when I had some crazy adventure and described it. My spiritual quest was a certified crazy adventure. Also, I wanted to give people a heads up that there is more to the universe than our usual paradigm allows for, and, for those in distress that help is there if you look for it."

"I had two audiences in mind. The first if vets with PTSD or other problems. I wanted them to know that there was more help than that from conventional sources. I've tried a bunch of these and for me the winner was the Toltecs in the person of don Miguel and his apprentices. For somebody else it might be something else. People from many professions have studied Toltec wisdom, but the largest single category by far is clinical psychologists, who use it in their practice every day. But I don't think they tell that to other psychologists." – Jim Morris

### **The Va Catches Up With Jim Morris**

"The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has launched clinical trials to study the effectiveness of psychedelic drugs including MDMA and psilocybin as a treatment for military veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder, addiction and other serious mental health issues. Building on previous research that has shown the



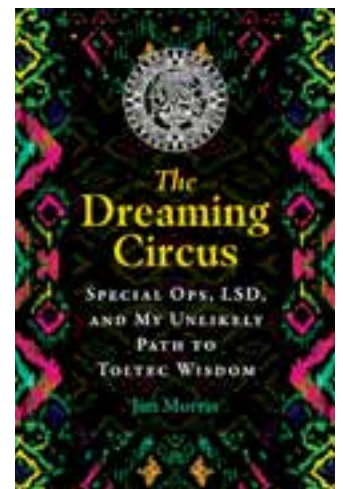
"My second week in Vietnam before I'd been shot at and lost 30 pounds."  
— Jim Morris (photo courtesy Jim Morris)



Al Rockoff from Ang Snoul, Cambodia, and Jim Morris. "Rock" was played by John Malkovich in the 1984 movie [The Killing Fields](#). (Photo credit: Haney Howell, courtesy Jim Morris)

[\*The Dreaming Circus Special Ops, LSD, and My Unlikely Path to Toltec Wisdom\*](#)

By Jim Morris  
Bear & Company (August 9, 2022)  
288 pages





potential for psychedelics to treat serious mental health conditions, the VA is now conducting at least five studies to gain more insight into the promising drugs, according to a report in *The New York Times*.

“This is a watershed moment,” said Dr. Rachel Yehuda, the director of mental health at the James J. Peters Veterans Affairs Medical Center in the Bronx, who is leading one of the studies. “This is a time for a lot of hope.”

A.J. Herrington “VA Studying Psychedelics As Mental Health Treatment For Veterans” *Forbes*, 06/24/22

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/ajherrington/2022/06/24/va-studying-psychedelics-as-mental-health-treatment-for-veterans/?sh=13d700d86c0d>

Morris has championed veteran healthcare, particularly emotional, mental, and spiritual healthcare, for decades. *Dreaming Circus* is an intensely personal story, a story many who read it will recognize as having components of their own. “Emotionally, I was blank,” he writes. “No acknowledged feelings. I had failed at everything, lost my war, couldn’t get published, blown two marriages and was blowing another. My friends had graduated and moved on. I didn’t much like anything, and I didn’t much like anybody. Emotional blankness was a cover for despair.”

Jim’s introduction to LSD introduced him to the world of options and alternatives in the healing process. “LSD freed up a lot of feelings, including the realization that there were three scenarios possible in my [first] marriage: (a) I was going to go nuts and be locked up in some snake pit mental hospital or (b) I was going to kill myself or (c) I was going to get the fuck out of there, but not without a lot of guilt.”

His journey begun, Morris takes us into the world of Toltec wisdom, a journey that sees him become a Toltec shaman under the guidance of Carlos Castaneda and Don Miguel Ruiz, the latter the author of *The Four Agreements*, “a powerful code of conduct that can transform our lives to a new experience of freedom, true happiness, and love.”

## A Love Story

Jim Morris takes the reader into the darkness of military connected moral injury and then, slowly, and carefully, walks beside the reader as he reveals what has worked in his life, for him, and he believes can and will work for others.

The most touching chapter of *Dreaming Circus* is Chapter 37 titled “Caregiving.” “I’d already been married four times. That was the most shameful fact about me.” Morris then describes his loving marriage with Myrna, who became terminally ill after their many years together. Anyone who has worked closely with the terminally ill, of which the Special Operations community-at-large has suffered above average numbers, especially over the course of the Global War on Terrorism, knows the deep-seated commitment and courage that is demanded in the role of caregiver.

“What Myrna had always wanted was someone who had her back, someone who loved her for herself alone, without the beauty, without the accomplishments, someone who just loved wild, pirate, complicated Myrna...After a lifetime in a revolving door, I needed



Myrna and Jim Morris – “Myrna was the most magnificent person I had ever known, and nothing I or anyone else could do for her was half enough.” – Jim Morris (Photo courtesy Jim Morris)

to love someone right, at least once. There were moments that passed between us that were sublime beyond the telling, moments we would look at each other and know who and what we were.”

## “Alone, Not Lonely”

Jim Morris, in his early eighties now, has become the multi-generational poet laureate of not only the Special Forces community, but of those multi-generational wounded, injured, or ill warriors of the U.S. Special Operations community. His story is the story of so many of us who, as Medal of Honor recipient Franklin D. Miller wrote in his book *Reflections of a Warrior...*

*“We didn’t fit the mold. We just didn’t fit in. We were renegades used to operating independently, with few people pulling our strings. We disregarded the established rules and created our own courses of action, never questioning the morality of what we did to survive and complete the mission.”*

And as Morris shares with us as he brings this beautifully written and deeply loving story to a close – “I’m in the right place, doing the right thing.”

“None of us can see the future. We have our intuition, we have our Self-trust, and we have our emotions — information — that can help us make the best choices possible. This is what healing is all about; developing choice and trust in the tools we use to truly live our impermanent life, no matter what may come.”

~ *How to Do the Work*, Dr. Nicole LePera



# Celebrating Seven Decades of US Army Psychological Operations Excellence

*The following is excerpted from the USASOC Historian's Office article penned by Christopher E. Howard. The article shows the continuous development of today's US Army Special Operations Forces from the origins of ARSOF in Psychological Operations. Virtually every aspect of today's modern Special Operations has its roots in the original PSYOP concepts and organization. It is a rich historical tapestry which we now celebrate after seven decades of growth and success.*

By Christopher E. Howard

USASOC History Office May 3, 2022, "U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School: Seventy Years and Counting" [https://www.army.mil/article/256328/u\\_s\\_army\\_john\\_f\\_kennedy\\_special\\_warfare\\_center\\_and\\_school\\_seventy\\_years\\_and\\_counting](https://www.army.mil/article/256328/u_s_army_john_f_kennedy_special_warfare_center_and_school_seventy_years_and_counting)

In April 1952, with war raging on the Korean Peninsula and Cold War divides deepening globally, the U.S. Army formally established the Psychological Warfare (Psywar) Center at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Assigned to the Third U.S. Army, the Psywar Center absorbed all psywar-related functions and personnel previously located at Fort Riley, Kansas. Then-Brigadier General Robert A. McClure, the Army's Chief of Psywar, selected Colonel Charles H. Karlstad as the Center's first commander. A combat veteran of two World Wars, and former Chief of Staff of the Infantry Center at Fort Benning, Georgia, Karlstad was the right man for the job.

Early Psywar Center missions included conducting individual training and supervising unit training for Psywar and SF; testing and evaluating equipment; and developing doctrine, tactics, techniques, and procedures for Psywar and SF, the Army's unconventional warfare (UW) specialists. Assigned units were the 6th Radio Broadcasting and Leaflet Group, the Psychological Warfare Board, and 10th SF Group.

The latter was the first of its kind, having been activated June 11, 1952. That October, the Center added the Psychological Warfare School, consisting of Psywar and SF departments. The Army approved the Center and School's insignia design on November 28, 1952, which is still in use today. In December 1956, the Army renamed the Psywar Center and School as the Special Warfare Center and School.

During the early 1960s, the Special Warfare Center and School grew in response to the massive expansion of SF and increasing U.S. involvement in Vietnam. Much of this growth occurred under the leadership of Brigadier General William P. Yarborough. The Center added counterinsurgency operations courses and created an Advanced Training Committee to develop methods of infiltration and exfiltration, such as military freefall and underwater operations.

In 1964, the Center was redesignated as the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center. This was to memorialize the recently slain President, who was an avid supporter of Army Special Operations Forces (ARSOF). A year later, the Center consolidated all unit-level dive training into the SF Underwater Operations course, conducted at Key West, Florida. In May 1969, the Center was renamed the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Center for Military Assistance, and the School was renamed the U.S. Army Institute for Military Assistance.

On September 15, 1971, the U.S. Army Civil Affairs School transferred from Fort Gordon, Georgia to Fort Bragg, coming under the Center, alongside SF and PSYOP. A year later, the Center was assigned to the new U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC), becoming the Army's proponent for ARSOF.



Meanwhile, SF regrouped amid post-Vietnam War force reductions, refining its mission and how it trained. One result of this was the implementation of the Robin Sage UW exercise in 1974, which replaced earlier UW exercises such as Operation Snowdrop, Cherokee Trail, and Gobbler's Woods.

The 1980s were a period of revitalization and transformation for ARSOF, and the Center was deeply involved in this process. In 1982, it became an independent TRADOC activity, under the name U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center. Concurrently, the Army activated 1st Special Operations Command, which assumed command of operational ARSOF units, allowing the Center to focus on special operations training and doctrine.

In 1986, the Center was redesignated once more, taking its current name of U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School. It reorganized into six training departments: SF; Special Operations Advanced Skills; Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape (SERE), based on the Vietnam-era POW experience of SF officer James N. 'Nick' Rowe; Foreign Area Officer; CA; and PSYOP. It established a Noncommissioned Officer Academy (NCOA) in 1987, later named in honor of Master Sergeant David K. Thuma.

The following year, the Center initiated a three-week Special Forces Assessment and Selection (SFAS) course to test SF candidates physically and psychologically, prior to entering the SF Qualification Course. In 1989, 1st Special Warfare Training Group was activated, initially consisting of three training battalions and one support battalion.

In June 1990, USAJFKSWCS was reassigned from TRADOC to the U.S. Army Special Operations Command (USASOC), activated on 1 December 1989 to control of all components of ARSOF, less forward deployed units. During this decade, the Special Operations Academic Facility (now Bank Hall) opened, military freefall training relocated from Fort Bragg to Yuma Proving Ground, Arizona, and foreign language training was instituted as part of CA, PSYOP, and SF qualification.

In the two decades since the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the United States, USAJFKSWCS expanded and evolved to meet the growing demand for ARSOF, imposed by the Global War on Terrorism. Organizational changes included the activation of the Special Warfare Medical Group (SWMG); the creation of the Special Warfare Education Group and SF Warrant Officer Institute (SFWOI); and the activation of additional battalions under 1st SWTG.

Additionally, CA and PSYOP instituted their own assessment and selection courses, modeled off SFAS. In 2012, the Army designated USAJFKSWCS as the U.S. Army Special Operations Center of Excellence.

Today, USAJFKSWCS consists of the Special Warfare Center, SFWOI, NCOA, and three training groups: 1st SWTG, 2nd SWTG, and SWMG. Combined, they offer over one hundred separate courses to CA, PSYOP, SF, Allied, and Sister Service students, from assessment and selection and military occupational specialty qualification, to foreign languages, advanced skills, and leader development. After seventy years, USAJFKSWCS continues to provide the Nation with highly trained, educated, disciplined, and adaptive ARSOF Soldiers, capable of operating in a complex, multi-dimensional world. ❖

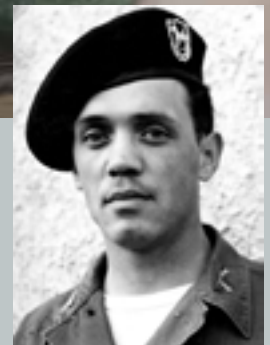


Colonels Charles H. Karlstad (Psychological Warfare Center & School Commandant) and Aaron Bank (Center Executive Officer), along with Lieutenant Colonels Lester L. Holmes (6th RB&L Group commander) and John O. Weaver (Chief of the Psywar Division of the Army General School at Fort Riley, Kansas) pose by the Headquarters sign on Smoke Bomb Hill, Fort Bragg, NC. (US Army Photo)



#### From Ham Salley:

The 10th Special Forces (SF) Group was born in June 1952 at Fort Bragg, NC. In 1955, the 10th Group adopted the Trojan Horse Badge, designed by assistant S-3 and "A" team leader Capt. Roger M Pezzelle while he served with 10th Group in Bad Tölz, Germany. They began wearing the badge on their Green Berets in 1956. It adorned their berets until 1962 when it was replaced by the SF distinctive unit insignia and beret flash (below right).



CPT Pezzelle  
(U.S. Army)



Read the more about this story at [https://arsof-history.org/articles/v5n4\\_trojan\\_horse\\_page\\_1.html](https://arsof-history.org/articles/v5n4_trojan_horse_page_1.html)



## REACHING OUT

## Psychological Operations in Operation IRAQI FREEDOM

By Cherilyn A. Walley and Michael R. Mullins

From Veritas, Vol. 1, No. 1, 2005

[https://arsof-history.org/articles/v1n1\\_reaching\\_out\\_page\\_1.html](https://arsof-history.org/articles/v1n1_reaching_out_page_1.html)

Psychological Operations (PSYOP) is potentially one of the most powerful tools the military possesses. Conveyed to foreign audiences in a variety of ways, PSYOP messages support U.S. goals and objectives, whether they be offensive, defensive, or peaceful in nature. Properly applied, PSYOP can wear down an enemy's resolve to fight, diffuse a tense standoff between would-be attackers and U.S. troops, and ensure fair distribution of humanitarian aid. PSYOP activities leading up to and during Operation IRAQI FREEDOM (OIF) used a number of means to deliver coalition messages to the Iraqi military and the civilian population. Two of the more notable methods of distribution were radio and television broadcasts of coalition programming and leaflet drops.

A large part of the PSYOP in OIF activities consisted of media broadcasts directed at the Iraqi people, both military and civilian. Both the Special Operations Media System-Broadcast (SOMS-B) and the EC-130E Commando Solo proved to be capable and valuable broadcast platforms. Working independently and in concert, the SOMS-B and Commando Solo teams successfully delivered their messages to critical audiences throughout Iraq.

The SOMS-B consists of two primary subsystems: the Mobile Radio Broadcast System (MRBS) and the Mobile Television Broadcast System (MTBS). Between the two subsystems, the SOMS-B can broadcast via AM, FM, and short wave radio, as well as television. The Joint PSYOP Task Force made up of elements of the 4th PSYOP Group initially set up a SOMS-B in Kuwait in mid-December 2002 and immediately began to broadcast messages throughout southern Iraq. In the beginning the SOMS-B unit broadcast radio messages for five hours a day, but by February transmission times had extended to eighteen hours every day. When combat operations began on 19 March, the SOMS-B broadcasts provided PSYOP support twenty-four hours a day.<sup>1</sup>

CPT Robert Curris, the commander of the SOMS-B element, requested additional SOMS-B equipment be brought into theater to supplement his unit's capability. The new unit, a SOMS-B "light" comprised of just the MRBS, accompanied 3rd Infantry Division north to Baghdad. A third SOMS-B arrived from Romania and began broadcasting from Baghdad International Airport (BIAP). With three systems established between Kuwait and Baghdad, combined with daily Commando Solo broadcasts, almost all of Iraq had access to coalition messages via AM, FM and short wave radio.<sup>2</sup>

The EC-130E Commando Solo aircraft also played a significant role in broadcasting PSYOP messages. Based in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, the Air Force National Guard's 193rd Special Operations Wing (SOW) is home to the Commando Solo Aircraft and is tasked with providing aerial transmission of PSYOP messages. The Commando Solo platform can broadcast on the commercial AM/FM and short wave radio bands,



The Special Operations Media System-B (SOMS-B) consists of a Mobile Radio Broadcast System (MRBS) and a Mobile Television Broadcast System (MTBS). With the SOMS-B, the 4th Psychological Operations Group is able to broadcast messages on AM, FM, and short wave radio bands, as well as television signals. (U.S. Army)

VHF/UHF television bands, and military VHF/HF/FM frequencies. Having such comprehensive broadcast capabilities in an aircraft enables the 193rd SOW to support military operations worldwide. As the 193rd SOW is the only unit in the Air Force dedicated to this mission, the Commando Solo crews truly do support global operations, and OIF was no exception.<sup>3</sup>

A detachment of the 193rd SOW, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Gerald Otterbein, arrived in the region on 24 March 2003. The detachment consisted of one EC-130E Commando Solo aircraft, two full EC-130E crews of eleven people each, two support C-130s, and associated staff and support personnel. The Commando Solo detachment brought into theater aerial television transmission, AM/FM/HF radio broadcast, and “net intrusion” (military radio net interruption) capability, all of which allowed wider distribution of PSYOP messages.<sup>4</sup>

The 193rd SOW detachment was fully operational within forty-eight hours of arriving in theater. Under the tactical control of the Joint PSYOP Task Force (JPOTF) in Qatar, the detachment was given areas to target with the television and radio broadcast tapes that the Commando Solo crews received from the 4th PSYOP Group at Fort Bragg. The Army PSYOP liaison attached to the 193rd SOW, Sergeant (SGT) Dennis Relyea, reviewed the taskings and planned and coordinated all broadcast plans with the detachment’s Operations Officer, LTC Kevin Satow.<sup>5</sup>

Flight planning proved to be a delicate undertaking. The 193rd SOW initially flew missions outside Iraqi airspace, but still close enough that it could transmit to the majority of western Iraq. The JPOTF urged LTC Otterbein to broadcast to cities north of the Euphrates River, which would require flying over western Iraq, making the aircraft vulnerable to attack. The EC-130E mission called for it to orbit in “tracks” for long periods of time. The EC-130E is also an extraordinarily heavy

aircraft, lacking the maneuverability necessary to react quickly to threats. While transmitting, the aircraft also normally trails a four hundred-foot long wire antenna that is invisible at night, which further reduces maneuverability. Major (Maj) David Redclay, an aircraft commander in the 193rd, explained that with the antenna deployed, the aircraft “can make one reaction from a threat. If there’s a follow on, second one, you’re going to the guillotine the aircraft or cut the wire and then our AM broadcasts are done.” Further risk lay in the fact that the aircraft’s APR-47 missile warning system was inoperative. In short, the 193rd SOW would not conduct flights over hostile areas until the Joint Special Operations Air Detachment (JSOAD) and 193rd SOW detachment intelligence officers decided the threat was at an acceptable level.<sup>6</sup>



The EC-130E Commando Solo aircraft has the ability to broadcast on commercial AM/FM and short wave radio bands, VHF/UHF television bands, and military VHF/HF/FM frequencies. Such versatility allows the Air Force National Guard 193rd Special Operations Wing, based in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, to distribute psychological operations messages over vast areas. (U.S. Army)

## TRANSLATED EXCERPT OF A COMMANDO SOLO BROADCAST

*“People of Iraq. The standard of living for Iraqis has dropped drastically since Saddam came into power. Every night, children go to sleep hungry in Iraq. The sick suffer from ailments that are easily treatable in the rest of the world.*

*“Saddam has built palace after palace for himself and has purchased a fleet of luxury cars—all at the expense of the Iraqi people. This money would be much better suited to build libraries and schools. This money would have gone a long way to provide better food and medicine for the people of Iraq. The amount of money Saddam spends on himself in one day would be more than enough to feed a family for a year.*

*“The Oil for Food program was set up by the UN to provide relief aid to Iraqis who had fallen into poverty due to Saddam’s leadership. Only 25 billion dollars out of the available 53 billion were ever applied for. Much of the food and equipment purchased under the Oil for Food program was stored away in warehouses, never to reach their destinations. Saddam illegally resold much of this equipment for his own profit. Saddam has exploited the Oil for Food program to illegally buy*

*weapons and materials intended to produce nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons and for lavish gifts for his elite regime members.*

*“The countless pictures and billboards of Saddam that litter the landscape of Iraq do nothing to help the people of Iraq. Saddam has built monuments to promote his legacy at your expense. These lavish monuments serve as a constant reminder to the Iraqi people of money that would have been better spent on the welfare of the Iraqi people.*

*“How much longer will this corrupt rule be allowed to exploit and oppress the Iraqi people?”*



During the early days of OIF, Commando Solo crews flew broadcast-intense missions over Iraq. Besides radio broadcasts, the EC-130E transmitted such television programs as “Towards Freedom TV” in support of coalition goals. (U.S. Army)

With clearance from the JSOAD, the detachment advanced operations to an area north of the Euphrates River in the first week in April. The JPOTF added television broadcasts to the unit's mission the following week, giving the EC-130E crews more responsibility than usual. One of the first broadcasts from the new coalition television service called "Towards Freedom TV" included an interview with opposition group members, information on humanitarian aid deliveries, and a feature on Iraqi culture and arts. Another contained a joint message from George Bush and Tony Blair to the Iraqi people. The programming was outsourced to World Television, a production company in Iraq, which transmitted the programming by satellite daily to the 4th PSYOP Group at Fort Bragg for approval and distribution. Once approved, 4th PSYOP Group transmitted the program by satellite to Qatar, where it was transferred to videotape for broadcast from both the EC-130E Commando Solo and SOMS-B units.

Of the increase in the EC-130E's workload, MAJ Redclay observed, "I've never run this many frequencies and missions out of the back end as an aircraft commander . . . Usually it's two tasks, and a third one if you get around to it." Despite the pressure of extended missions over Iraq, the members of the 193rd SOW detachment remained focused. LTC Otterbein stated, "We're aware of the impact we have on the theater battle . . . If we get one person to put his gun down and surrender, think about how many Americans that might have saved."<sup>7</sup>

The 4th PSYOP Group turned to the air for more than electronic broadcasts; it also made liberal use of leaflet airdrops to spread important PSYOP messages. Between 12 December 2002 and 18 March 2003, U.S. forces dropped over twenty million PSYOP leaflets into Iraq. By mid-April the total exceeded forty million. The 4th PSYOP Group, who orchestrated the entire PSYOP effort of the war, designed the leaflets and delivered them to U.S. Navy aircraft carriers by computer, where they were printed and packed in canisters typically holding sixty thousand leaflets each. Naval F-18s stationed aboard aircraft carriers, including the USS Harry S. Truman, USS Theodore Roosevelt, and USS Constellation, then dropped the leaflet bombs in targeted areas throughout Iraq.<sup>8</sup>

The Army performed its share of leaflet drops, as well, giving deployed PSYOP personnel an opportunity to participate in the air distribution end of the PSYOP campaign. Between 14 and 23 April 2003, C Company, 9th PSYOP Battalion, conducted over ten static-line leaflet box drop missions over Baghdad in support of 3rd Infantry Division. The missions were typically conducted with blacked out UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters flying at approximately 3000 to 5000 feet above ground level, carrying two drop boxes containing fifty thousand leaflets each. The first two missions over Baghdad were carried out by SGT Lizabeth Lee and Corporal Jennifer Salkiewicz, both from the Product Development Team, C Company, 9th PSYOP Battalion. The PSYOP personnel on board each helicopter took into account wind direction and velocity, the size and weight of the leaflets, and the altitude the boxes were being dropped from in order to compute wind drift. With accurate calculation, the drops delivered the necessary density of leaflets over the targeted areas within the city.<sup>9</sup>

One of the more successful leaflet efforts orchestrated by the 4th PSYOP Group addressed the need to protect Iraq's petroleum production and processing facilities. Leaflets urged Iraqi citizens and



UH-60 Black Hawks were used for early static line leaflet drops over Baghdad. SGT Lizabeth Lee and CPL Jennifer Salkiewicz of C Company, 9th Psychological Operations Battalion conducted two such missions in mid-April. (U.S. Army)

soldiers to remember that oil was a vital part of the nation's economy, and the destruction of the oil infrastructure would negatively impact their families. The combination of the PSYOP leaflet program and the advancement of combat operations is credited with preventing Iraqi forces from perpetrating the kind of environmental devastation that was committed in 1991, when they set oil fields ablaze in Kuwait.<sup>10</sup>

Major General Victor E. Renuart, CENTCOM Director of Operations, discussed the PSYOP impact in his 10 April 2003 Operation IRAQI FREEDOM Briefing: "We mentioned the 40-some-odd million leaflets. And the people have said, 'Well, so what do they really do for you?' Well, let me give you an example. As we were going back into the oil fields with the U.K. engineers, U.S. engineers, Kuwaiti engineers, and returning the Iraqi oil workers back to the sites, we were interviewing the staff of the Iraqi oil industry. We noticed that many of these wells had, in fact, been wired to be destroyed. And we also noticed that many of them, even though there were explosives set in place, had the valves turned off, so that, even if you had an explosion, it wouldn't necessarily damage the oil well. And we said, 'You all were here. You watched this happen. How did they do this?' And they said, 'We read your leaflets. We heard your broadcasts. We understand that keeping the oil infra-



Leaflets advertising "Information Radio" comprised an important part of the multimedia campaign to promote coalition-sponsored radio programming to the Iraqi people. (Photo credit: U.S. Army)

structure was important to our future. And so while we complied for our own protection with the regime, we ensured that true damage to the oil fields would not occur.”<sup>11</sup>

The 4th PSYOP Group seldom used only one method of disseminating PSYOP messages. Radio and television broadcasts were coordinated with leaflet drops as often as possible, in order to reach the maximum number of people and reinforce the messages. The PSYOP efforts surrounding the coalition’s “Information Radio” program is a prime example of broadcast-leaflet coordination. While the radio programs were obviously a broadcast media distributed by SOMS-B and from the EC-130E Commando Solo broadcast platform, leaflet drops were used to advertise the programming and encourage Iraqis to tune into Information Radio for accurate and pertinent news.<sup>12</sup>

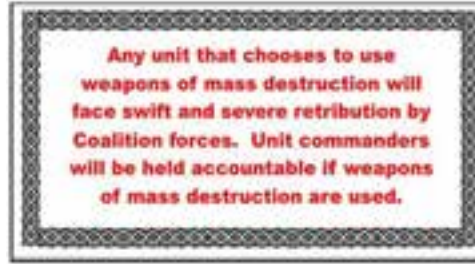
Under the direction of 4th PSYOP Group at Fort Bragg, PSYOP efforts in OIF took many forms and met many needs in the early days of the war. Whether urging cooperation with coalition forces or providing much needed information about the new government, PSYOP messages advanced the coalition’s cause and saved lives. The close cooperation of all branches of the U.S. military allowed for the widest possible distribution of PSYOP messages. Coordination of diverse media—from radio and television to printed leaflets—reinforced important messages and helped the messages reach diverse segments of the population. PSYOP still plays an important part in the stabilization and rebuilding efforts going on in Iraq today, and will continue to be a vital component of U.S. military strategy in years to come. ❖

## Endnotes

- 1 Captain Robert Curris, 8th Psychological Operations Battalion, 4th Psychological Operations Group, interview by Lieutenant Colonel Robert W. Jones, Jr., 23 June 2003, Fort Bragg, NC, tape and transcripts, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.
- 2 Captain Robert Curris, 8th Psychological Operations Battalion, 4th Psychological Operations Group, interview by Lieutenant Colonel Robert W. Jones, Jr., 23 June 2003, Fort Bragg, NC, tape and transcripts, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.
- 3 Paul Hart, “The Most Deployed Unit in the



The 4th Psychological Operations Group produced leaflets urging Iraqis to preserve their oil resources by not sabotaging pipelines or refineries. By all accounts, the leaflets were instrumental in preventing widespread destruction of the oil infrastructure. (U.S. Army)



While usually informative and designed to encourage positive behavior, some leaflets deliberately targeted enemy troops and warned them against hostile action toward coalition forces. (U.S. Army)

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- 4 Lieutenant Colonel Michael Schellhammer, “Psychological Operations (PSYOP) in Joint Special Operations Area-West,” 9, USSOCOM History Office Classified Files, MacDill Air Force Base, FL.
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- 10 Major David A. Converse, “Operation Iraqi Freedom, Psychological Operations Field Collection Team, Operational Assessment,” 34.
- 11 Major General Victor Renuart, Director of Operations, “CENTCOM Operation Iraqi Freedom Briefing,” 10 April 2003, <http://www.centcom.mil/CENTCOMNews/Transcripts/20030410.htm>.
- 12 Converse, 33.



# President Honors Four at the White House with the Medal of Honor

By Joe Lacdan

Army News Service, July 6, 2022

[https://www.army.mil/article/258219/president\\_honors\\_four\\_at\\_the\\_white\\_house\\_with\\_the\\_medal\\_of\\_honor](https://www.army.mil/article/258219/president_honors_four_at_the_white_house_with_the_medal_of_honor)

WASHINGTON — Four U.S. Soldiers who risked their lives to defend fellow service members and allies in the jungles of South Vietnam finally received the nation's highest military honor, about 50 years after their heroic actions.

During a ceremony at the White House Tuesday, President Joe Biden awarded the Medal of Honor to Vietnam War veterans Spc. 5 Dennis

Fujii, Spc. 5 Dwight Birdwell, Maj. John Duffy and Staff Sgt. Edward Kaneshiro, who died in battle and received it posthumously.

"It's been a long journey to this day for those heroes and their families," Biden said to the recipients and their loved ones during a ceremony in the White House's East Room. "And more than 50 years have passed since those Soldiers have proved their mettle. But time has not diminished their astonishing bravery, their selflessness ... or the gratitude that we as a nation owe them."

Each of the Soldiers had their previous awards upgraded. ❖



## Staff Sgt. Edward Kaneshiro

When a superior North Vietnamese force attacked two squads of his platoon on Dec. 1, 1966, Kaneshiro, an infantry squad leader, knew he had to react. He told his squad to take cover as he engaged the enemy force alone in the Kim Son Valley village. Armed with six grenades and a rifle, the Oahu, Hawaii, native suppressed gunfire from a nearby trench with one grenade, then leapt into an enemy bunker and dispatched two squads with more grenades and another with his rifle.

Staff Sgt. Edward Kaneshiro (U.S. Army photo)

His actions helped the trapped squad members eventually evacuate the village.

Kaneshiro continued to serve in the Army until March 1967 when he was killed by enemy gunfire. He left behind his widow, Mitsuko, and five children. Mitsuko passed away on April 10, 2022, at age 90. Kaneshiro's son, John, accepted the award on his behalf.



John Kaneshiro, son of former Staff Sgt. Edward Kaneshiro, receives the Medal of Honor from the president Joe Biden on July 5, 2022. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Henry Villarama)

"Today his memory lives on in the lives he saved, and the legend of his fearlessness and the hearts of his family that he left behind," Biden said. "I know that no award could ever make up for the loss of your father, for not having him there as you grew up, but I hope today you take some pride and comfort in knowing his valor is finally receiving the full recognition that it always has deserved."





Former Spc. 5 Dwight Birdwell (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Henry Villarama)

### **Spc. 5 Dwight Birdwell**

During the Tet Offensive on Jan. 31, 1968, Birdwell and his unit felt the full extent of an enemy force attack, as enemy rounds disabled his tank commander and several vehicles in his convoy.

After Birdwell moved his tank commander to safety, he entered the commander's hatch and fired upon the attacking enemies until he exhausted the tank's ammunition.

"He knew his vehicle was the first line of defense," Biden said. "He sustained fire, drove back the attackers and created a place of relative safety for the injured men."

Birdwell refused medical attention after the machine gun he recovered exploded and injured him. Biden said that even after receiving orders to take medical

treatment for his wounds, Birdwell snuck out of the medevac helicopter and continued fighting. Birdwell finally agreed to be evacuated after treating fellow troops and after reinforcements had arrived.

Birdwell, a member of the Cherokee Nation from Oklahoma, continues a long tradition of Native Americans serving in the armed forces. He went on to have a successful career in law, first serving as a member of the Cherokee Nation Supreme Court, then as its chief justice and finally as an Oklahoma City attorney.

"I'm grateful for all you've given to our country and at long last ... your story is being honored as it should have been," Biden said.



Former Spc. 5 Dennis Fujii (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Henry Villarama)

### **Spc. 5 Dennis Fujii**

In the midst of a rescue operation of South Vietnamese troops on Feb. 18, 1971, enemy fire brought Fujii's helicopter to the ground.

A second helicopter successfully evacuated all U.S. troops except for Fujii, who waved the chopper away for the safety of his fellow service members after enemies directed gunfire at him.

Fujii, a crew chief, underwent a harrowing 17 hours as he remained to treat wounded allies while enemy fire prevented subsequent attempts to rescue him.

Finally, a helicopter rescued Fujii before enemy rounds forced it to crash-land at a friendly camp. The native of Kauai, Hawaii, remained there for two more days before finally being evacuated.

"Today, Spc. 5 Fujii, we remember and we celebrate just how many people you've helped," Biden said. "We will forever honor your commitment to your crew, your allies and your country."

Fujii was later inducted into the Army Aviation Museum's Hall of Fame.



Retired Maj. John Duffy (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Henry Villarama)

### **Maj. John Duffy**

Duffy, known by his call name "Dusty Cyanide," had already suffered two injuries during enemy attacks in the days before April 14, 1972. A senior advisor to the Republic of South Vietnam, Duffy had already lost his commander and battalion command post.

Over the course of two days, April 14-15, Duffy would lead the defense of Fire Support Base Charlie. Refusing to be treated for injuries multiple times, Duffy directed airstrikes against enemy forces while exposing himself to hostile rounds.

During an afternoon assault, Duffy directed gunfire on a friendly position that had been compromised. Finally, after an ambush attack the following morning,

Duffy led the survivors to an evacuation point. He then directed U.S. gunship fire to establish a landing zone and then proceeded to treat the wounded.

After 29 years of military service, Duffy went on to have a successful career as a writer and poet, publishing six books and even earning a Pulitzer Prize nomination.

"He is the definition of a warrior-poet," Biden said. "Thank you Maj. Duffy for all that you've inspired in others."



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## SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION 2022 CONVENTION



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## Visit [SFAcon.com](http://SFAcon.com)

By Debra Holm

August 15 marked the one year anniversary of the fall of Kabul — the day that everything changed for the residents of the ACL refugee communities. Because of their service to the United States government, and the Afghan military, the men were targets for death after the Taliban takeover. They and their families were forced to leave everything behind, escaping with not much more than the clothes on their backs. Separated from their home and extended families, they have since faced the difficult task of rebuilding their lives.

Life here is very different for them, to say the least. This is especially true for the women. The women are able to work outside the home here and to be educated. Nadia helps them daily by explaining the intricacies of unfamiliar customs and culture, facilitating English classes, and assisting their children with school.

Nimo works with the men and on the mounds of legal paperwork for the community members, both for incoming and those already settled into the ACL communities at Mojave, Ridgecrest, and Palm Springs. He handles many of the tasks necessary for bringing new families

into the community. He also is responsible for picking up donations that can not be shipped to the community. And like his wife Nadia, he makes himself available to community members to answer questions and to help them get through unfamiliar situations.

Community members have been working hard and have made gains. 99% of them have obtained driver's licenses. This was no simple task — there were no tests in their language. The children have been eagerly working on their English skills— returning to school without Nadia to translate for two out of five days a week.

Nimo has put out a call for televisions and DVD players for the community. DVD players because it is difficult to get a signal from antennas due to the location of the parks, and community members do not have access to cable or internet in their homes. Nadia explained that watching television is extremely helpful when learning English. She said that watching television was essential when she learned English as a child after coming to the U.S. with her parents.

A full up-to-date list of community needs and contact information is available on our chapter website (see below). ❖

A full list of community needs and contact information is available at:

<https://www.specialforces78.com/acl-afghan-refugee-housing-project/>



**Ukraine War-Impacted**

**Children's Project**

**A Chance to Help the Children of Ukraine**

**#UkraineKidsCamp**

Children ages 8 to 18 will attend a beautiful and secluded summer camp at a secure location in Europe for one week, with three meals daily, medical support, and 24/7 personal care. Staffed by a group of American and European volunteers, supported by Jacob's Generation professional camp staff, chaperoning mothers, and counselors will work around the clock to care for these children and create fun, healing experiences for each of them.

To donate funds for this effort visit

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/yhu53-Ukraine-Children-Trauma-Respite-Camp>



**Save Team 11**



**A DIGITAL DUNKIRK**

Operated by Active Duty and National Guard Green Berets, dedicated to providing for the health, welfare, and Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) assistance of the National Mine Reduction Group, their families, and other Afghan allies.

**Visit [saveteam11.org](https://saveteam11.org)**  
Read their latest update.  
Learn how you can help.



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1. Chapter President Greg Horton presented "Armed Home Defense" from the NRA Personal Firearm Defense series.
2. Greg's and Chapter Secretary Gary Macnamara's added LEO real life examples expanded the scope of the information provided by the video and encouraged additional input from the audience.
3. Jim Cragg discussed proposed future firearms training events for the National Guard and Boy Scouts.
4. Nimo updated the group on the ACL Afghan community.
5. Guest Tom Callister
6. Chapter member Len Fein encouraged the group to consider revisiting the idea a tour of the USS Iowa and active meeting opportunities.
7. Chapter members Jim Lockhart and Ham Salley
8. Chapter member Jim Duffy
9. Chapter member Sal Sanders
10. Chapter members Jim Cragg and Don Deatherage
11. Chapter Treasurer Richard Simonian and member Art Dolick.
12. Tom Callister presented wasp spray as an alternative to pepper spray to be used in the home for protection.



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