

From the President | November 2024



Aaron Brandenburg
President SFA Ch. 78

This month I want to give some compliments to the SFA National Board of Officers (NBO) and all of those involved in the Hurricane Helene and Milton recovery planning. First and foremost, I want to extend our deepest sympathies to those affected by the recent hurricanes. As I sit here, in Sacramento, CA, I am glued to the television watching the destruction unfold. I am inspired by the collaboration between the SFA and the Special Forces Charitable Trust (SFCT) in this time of destruction and turmoil in the Southeast.

Chris Wilkerson, the President of the Special Forces Association (SFA), has proven to be an outstanding leader during the recovery efforts following Hurricane Helene. His dedication to the community has been evident through the swift and effective actions taken by his team to address the immediate needs of those affected by the disaster. At the forefront of the collaborative efforts between the SFA and the SF Charitable Trust is Chris's ability to mobilize resources and inspire volunteers. Chris has not only aided in the recovery process but has also fostered a sense of unity and resilience among those effected. His vision for a supportive and collaborative approach has laid a solid foundation for long-term recovery while making a positive impact within the SF community.

With the Search and Rescue (SAR), emergency resupply and recovery process in full stride, Chris and team began parallel planning and synchronizing help before Hurricane Milton made landfall last night, 9 October 2024. Chris and his teams strategic planning and organizational skills have been central to the relief initiatives, ensuring that support reaches the most vulnerable communities in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene and Milton.

While SFA Vice President Pete Tingstrom has also played a pivotal role in the Hurricane relief, he has brought his expertise and operational acumen to the forefront in relation to the SFCON 2024 Cruise.

Pete has played an instrumental role in organizing the SFCON 2024 cruise, exemplifying his commitment to promoting community engagement and teamwork. His visionary leadership transformed the event into a unique opportunity for attendees to connect, network, and share invaluable insights in a dynamic and relaxing environment. Pete's attention to detail ensures that every aspect of the cruise not only delivers a memorable experience but also fosters meaningful connections among participants.

While the Tampa area begins its recovery process this morning (10 OCT 24), Pete's approach to the SFCON 24's uncertainty created by hurricane Milton is a supportive and an inclusive atmosphere that truly shines. His optimism and realistic style of leadership is void of "smoke and mirrors," in turn reassuring attendees that the flow of information is truthful and current. SFCON 2024 is a highlight on the calendar for members and supporters alike, as we come together to celebrate achievements and discuss the future of the organization.

Together, Chris and Pete exemplify the power of teamwork in overcoming challenges, as they leverage the strengths to provide far-reaching assistance. Their partnership not only symbolizes hope for those affected but also highlights the importance of collaboration in disaster recovery efforts, reinforcing the commitment to the SFA and enhancing the community's resilience. Well done Chris, Pete, NBO, and wholehearted thank you to the volunteers helping those in need.

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Aaron Brandenburg,

President Special Forces Association Chapter 78

SFA Chapter 78 Monthly Meeting

November 16, 2024

Breakfast – 0800 • Meeting – 0830

Courtyard by Marriott

5865 Katella Ave, Room A, Cypress, CA 90630

Chapter 78

Christmas Party

Saturday, December 14, 2024

Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club

1601 Bayside Dr, Corona Del Mar, CA 92625

1400 Cocktail Hour • Program Start Time 1500

With guest speaker to be announced

Libations • Raffle • DJ and Dancing

COST

\$40.00 per person, same for guests

Special Note: Members of C/1/19 \$10 per person.

Please mail your check payable to SFA 78 **to arrive no later than 12/6/24** to:

Santiago Corp, PO Box 11927, Santa Ana, CA 92711, Attn: Liz Rios

DRESS

Men: SFA Green Blazers, White Shirt with Regimental Tie,

Dark or Gray Slacks, or Sport Coat with Tie

Ladies: Cocktail Attire

If you haven't sent your check in before December 3rd, please email me your name and guest name so we can have an accurate head count. Please make sure your check arrives on or before the 6th.

QUESTIONS??? Feel free to call or text Aaron Brandenburg (719) 963-3948

or send an email to abrandenburg443@gmail.com