Chapter Christmas Party

34 people attended. Special guests were LTC Amy Burrows, PsyOps instructor at CGSC, and LTC Wayne Surrett, president of the CGSC student class of 2017-2018. LTC Surrett formerly served as Group Command Surgeon for 10th SF Group and surgeon for SFUWO (Combat Diver School at Key West).

Chapter member and OSS Jedburgh veteran William T. "Bill" Thompson attended along with his step-daughter Lundy Mays. Bill turned 96 last August 27th. Bill and Lundy had planned to attend this year’s SOF Ball/Formal, until his recent passing. See his obituary on page 5.

Chaplain Gary Sanford and his wife Linda attended and gave the pre-meal prayer. COL(R) Roger Donlon presented Chapter 29 coins to LTC Burrows and LTC Surrett. LTC Burrows was honored for her commitment and service supporting our chapter over several years and for her work on behalf of the annual SOF Ball/Formal. LTC Surrett was honored for his long service in SF and for his willingness to support Chapter 29 while he is attending CGSC, despite the heavy workload he is carrying as class president while also working on an MBA degree concurrent to his CGSC coursework.

It was announced that Roger and Norma Donlon will be traveling to Maine soon to serve as Co-Grand Marshalls for the Wreaths Across America caravan that will take over 245,000 wreaths down from Maine to Arlington National Cemetery for placement on graves prior to Christmas. Roger and Norma will both be speaking many times to different groups at stops along the way. As a Gold Star Wife, Norma will also participate in a joint US-Canadian ceremony at the US-Canadian border to honor Gold Star families of both nations.

Chapter member Tom Rendall recently returned from a period of active duty in Korea. Tom provided a situational update on the military and political situation on the Korean Peninsula just before the entrees arrived.
Incendiary Email Rocks SWC
Have Standards Really Been Abolished in the SFQC?

And email was sent out on 16 November to various accounts throughout SOCOM. The email then appeared in SOFREP, in the public domain, on 17 November. The SOFREP article was titled “Careerism, Cronyism, and Malfeasance in SWCS: The End of SF Capability” and was written, supposedly, by a SWC instructor. It was a scathing accusation of diminished standards within the SFQC that has been caused, according to the email, by ambitious officers seeking promotion points and padded OERs.

The email claims that a cancer is destroying SF operational capability and states that “SWCS has devolved into a cesspool of toxic, exploitive, biased and self-serving senior officers” and “sycophantic, and just-as-culpable (senior) enlisted leaders.”

The email claims that SFQC cadres are seeing more and more trainees passing the course and getting their tab due to lowered or missing standards and metrics and that cadres are ordered to keep silent.

Responses to the emails and articles were immediate and mixed. Many were the responses of “Told you so!” and “Been going on for years!” Others responded by pointing out that SWC cadres, and cadres from other courses and schools, have been making similar claims since the dawn of organized warfare.

Critics claim that the email focused much on the SFOC, the Officers Course, the current iteration which has been around since 2011, and the officers commanding SWC, which suggests that the author has an axe to grind for officers.

MG Kurt Sonntag, Commanding General of the USJFKSWCS, issued a statement with the SF community that contained: “I can assure you the current pipeline is the best, most challenging, and relevant training since the SFQC began.”

The Parker era was the last time that SWC had a similar situation, broad accusations of lowered standards, in the early 2000s.

Key to this issue is that SWC is not meeting SF manpower requirements for the past couple years, at a time when SWC needs to be exceeding past needs.

There are always a few dirtbags who make it through the SFQC, and get sorted out in the SFGs. But, does anyone know of an SFQC class, or the majority of an SFQC class, ever passing that was incapable of doing the SF mission(s)? If so, please share.

Whether senior officers and NCOs are damaging the SFQC and SF operational efficacy and legacy probably depends in large part on one’s attitudes about senior officers and NCOs.

SWC officers and NCOs are constantly tweaking and adjusting training structure, approaches and standards to meet the needs of the SFGs and the current world stage and battlespaces. Change is a constant.
SF Manpower Shortages

Many in SF are claiming that few fully manned ODAs exist now in the SFGs, that ‘ghost teams’ are becoming more prevalent, that both SF recruiting and reenlistment are way down.

SF has always been challenged to meet its manpower requirements, but many are saying this is dire.

SORBA, the Spec Ops Recruiting Bn, was formed to address this and became very active and ambitious in FY17.

SWC needs to produce 550 SFQC grads, at a minimum each Fiscal Year, for SF to remain operationally healthy. In FY16 there were 426 and in FY17 422 new SF men. At that rate there will be 250 SFQC grads in FY18 and 243 grads in FY19 and the Regiment will be around 42 ODAs short by FY21.

Abusive training cadres have been an issue. One cadre got his tab pulled year before last for such. Training needs to be tough and demanding, but abuse is counterproductive.

MG Sonntag claims that the standards have not changed, but that the approach to training needs to change, to match AOs.
Membership Renewal

Yes, it’s that time.

Send in your renewals anytime now. You have until the end of the month. We are now, in January. At the end of this month, 31 January, 2017, your renewal will be late and you will receive orders to report to the Late Renewal Penal Platoon.

It takes only a couple minutes to fill out the renewal form, write the check and stuff it all in an envelope. The renewal form is attached at the end of this newsletter.

Orders to report to the LRPP will be issued in early February. Flights and buses will be departing for Camp MacKall several weeks later. Make sure that you are not on one of those. Plan ahead. Renew your SFA membership. Or start working out. Hard.

Remember: Send your renewals to Chapter 29, in KC, not SFA National, at Bragg.

11,000!

SFA total membership went over 11,000 members in 2017. Yes, 11,000 members! Let’s keep it above 11K. Renew Today!

Clarification:

LRRP=Long Range Recon Patrol
LRPP=Late Renewal Penal Platoon
Bill Thompson, RIP

William (“Bill”) Tyler Thompson, 96, died Thursday morning, December 28, 2017 in hospice care at Twin Oaks Health & Rehab, Lansing, KS. The funeral will be held Saturday, January 6, 2018 at First Christian Church, Leavenworth, KS, with visitation from 10:00 am to noon and the service beginning at noon. He will be buried in Leavenworth National Cemetery (VA) Monday, January 8, time to be determined. The family request that memorial gifts be donated to the Leavenworth Chapter of the American Red Cross in lieu of flowers.

Bill was born August 27, 1921, in Cleveland Heights, OH, the son of Lloyd W. and Marjorie Tyler Thompson. He graduated from Shaw High School in 1939. Due to his parents moving and financial considerations related to those moves, his college credits come from Kent State University, Northwestern University, The University of Minnesota and Duluth State College. He also received credit for several courses taken at the University of Iowa while in military service.

In June, 1942, he entered service in the US Army. He was recruited by the Office of Strategic Services and after training in the Washington, D.C., area shipped to England on the Queen Mary. One of the elite “Jedburghs” of the OSS, predecessor of the modern Special Forces, his three-man team jumped into the High Alps region of France in August 1944 and worked with the French resistance until the end of 1944. He then served the last year of the war in China with an OSS Special Operations team. He was discharged as a Master Sargent in December of 1945.

After the war he finished his BA degree in Music Education at Kent State where he met Myrtle (“Pic”) Wirth, to whom he was married in September 1946. After teaching four years in Michigan he accepted a position with the Chamber of Commerce in Overton, TX. He came to Leavenworth, KS in 1971 as Chamber manager after working in similar positions in Port Arthur, Brenham, Childress, and Hereford, TX.

He retired from Chamber management in 1979. He was asked to head the local Chapter of the American Red Cross in 1983, which he did for 8 years. He is survived by three children, Tyler B. Thompson (Paula) of Midland, MI, Kerry I. Thompson (Marlene Thom) of Melrose, MA, and Bryan L. Thompson of Clovis, CA. He is survived by grandchildren Joy H. Ferguson, Paul T. Thompson, Nathan S. Thompson, Christopher W. Thompson, and Carlee Pic Thompson and great-grandchildren Dillon Thompson and Westley Kerry Thompson. Myrtle (Pic) died of cancer in 1991. In May of 1992 he married Bonnie Lee Mays, a widow. They shared twelve happy years of travel, community service, and companionship until Bonnie died of lung cancer in 2004. Lundy Mays of Leavenworth, KS, Bonnie’s daughter, has been Bill’s best friend, companion, and caring helper since Bonnie’s death. The rest of Bill’s family recognize and deeply appreciate Lundy’s selfless service in support of her stepfather.

Bill belonged to the First Christian Church of Leavenworth. He was active in the Leavenworth Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors, Rotary Club (past president), Special Forces Association, Special Operations Association, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Red Cross board and the National Red Cross Disaster Assistance organization, and served at 17 national disasters. He was an active amateur radio operator, extra class, and was active in the Army Military Affiliate Radio network where he was State Director for Kansas and later Training Director. He was a member of the Pilot Knob Amateur radio Club, the Old Old Timers Club, the Quarter Century Wireless Club, Ten Ten International, and the net of former OSS radio operators known as the Comm Vets. He and Bonnie delivered meals on wheels and books on wheels. He served on the board of the Leavenworth Public Library for eleven years and as its chairman for 2 years. He also served as a member of the City of Leavenworth Board of Panning and Zoning.

Needless to say, Bill will be missed and remembered by many.
SFA Elections

Gentlemen, I know some of y’all are SFA members, it is time to elect officers again. Nick Panarella, current DROP Editor, has submitted a slate, and they are good men, however, Gary Koenitzer and the current Board have done Yeoman’s work, after the hurricane they spent countless hours on the HQ site cleaning up, and getting the SFA back on the road. They have also expanded the membership to over 11,000 (when I was elected President there was less than 7500). Gary and the Board have expanded the membership in the Groups and established superb rapport with the command groups.

Even if you don’t think much of me, these guys have done a great job and need to be re-elected. Please pass the word on every possible forum.

Thank you

Jack Tobin
(Former SFA President)
“Croich Honorah”

Chapter Officers
TERRY “BULLET” BUCKLER
Chapter President
“MAD MIKE” NEER
Vice President
SAM “RICO” RATCLIFFE
Vice President-Ops
ROY “ROGUE” WILLIAMS
Treasurer
BARRY “EASY” ESTELL
Secretary
JEFF MOTHER FORKER
Membership and Newsletter Editor

CALENDAR
8 Jan - Chapter BOD meeting, Delta Systems, 1700hrs.
13 Jan - Chapter Breakfast at Pegah’s, 5354 Roberts St, Shawnee, KS - 0830hrs.
5 Feb - BoD meeting at Delta Systems, 1700hrs.
10 Feb - Chapter Breakfast at Pegah’s, 0830hrs.
5 March - BoD meeting at Delta Systems, 1700hrs.
7 April - Annual KC SOF Ball, Westin Crown Center.

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SFA Presidents Update

All,

I cannot Thank the Chapters enough for their efforts. From Veteran's Day events to supporting your members and the communities has been nothing but outstanding. As I read emails and newsletters, I was not only impressed but proud of the Brotherhood. The efforts to ensure “Green Berets “are never forgotten and to continue to be remembered while our forces are currently deployed is unbelievable.

It was a year ago in the winter drop I sent the message of our National Headquarters being damaged by Hurricane Mathew. Since then we are recovering, and the Headquarters is completely operational. We are beginning phase 2 an upgrade of the grounds. To those in Texas and Florida the support continues after this year’s hurricanes. Our loss of a member’s wife in Las Vegas was devastating and cannot Thank enough those that supported him and his family and continue to do so. Prayers.

I attended the recruiting summit with Jim Blanchard, Ike Slaughter (28), Chris Wilkerson (r-18), Tom Galbicsek (62), Earl Howell (6). We will be supporting efforts for the Special Operations Recruiting Command (SORB). They have asked for our Chapters to support efforts to recruit. The pool of recruits that look to go to Special Forces or can qualify if getting smaller. There will be a separate email reference this in the coming weeks. However if your Chapter is having an event and would like SORB assistance contact

Major Chris Haynes SORB S-3 @ Christopher.haynes4.mil@mail.com or CW5(R) Doug Frank @ douglas.frank01@gmail.com. I recruited Doug to assist.

If anyone is in Fayetteville, feel free to contact me. The Special Warfare Center and Schools Commander has given every Green Beret an open door to Camp McKall. He also said if he is available he will be brief the Q-Course and other advance courses, if not his designated representative.

We are financially and administratively stable. Please tell your members to go to our website to see National Minutes, Financial Reports and more.

The Special Forces Association has grown to close to 11,000 members and 86 Chapters over the past few years. We may have 87 with new members coming by the end of the year. The SFA growing!!!!!

Do not forget next years conference in El Paso, Chapter 9 has got it ready for all of us to enjoy this premier event!!!

De Oppresso Liber
Gary Koenitzer
President
Special Forces Association
MG (ret.) Grange to Speak in Topeka

Gen. Grange will speak about the St. Lazarus and Osprey reconstruction teams and their "Bells of Ninevah" Project in the Kurdish villages of Teleskof and Baghofa, north of Mosul, and how they helped over 400 Christian families in returning to their destroyed homes.

David L. Grange is CEO of Pharm-Olam International; a Houston based Clinical Research Organization, which provides global clinical development services in over 40 countries to Pharma and Biotech organizations. He has served in that capacity since February 2017 charged with expanding the company through mergers and acquisitions, partnerships and internal growth.

Grange served 30 years in the U.S. Army leading from platoon through division level. Highly decorated during his military career, Grange served as a Ranger, Green Beret, Aviator, Infantryman and as a member of classified special operating units. While serving in the Pentagon as a General Officer, he was the Director of Army Current Operations, Readiness and Mobilization. Additionally, he served as Director of Military Support, providing oversight for natural and manmade disasters and coordinating all military support throughout the United States. Grange commanded the 75th Ranger Regiment and the First Infantry Division (the Big Red One). During combat operations he was awarded three Silver Stars and two Purple Hearts.

Grange attended the Army’s Infantry, Special Forces, Ranger, Airborne, Scuba, Air Assault, and Aviation training; the USMC Command and Staff College; the British Special Air Services (SAS) Course, the SFOD-D Course, and the National War College.
Diane Kiper to Ukraine

A SPECIAL MISSION FOR A SPECIAL FORCES WIFE

After invading Crimea in February 2014 and annexing the region in March, Russian President Vladimir Putin sent troops into eastern Ukraine in November 2014. The fighting between Russians and Ukrainian forces seeking to stop the intervention has not stopped, and 1.6 million Ukrainians have become refugees.

Ukrainian military casualties as of June, 2017, are 2,197 killed and about 8,000 wounded. Approximately 500 veterans have committed suicide. An additional 500 are estimated to have killed themselves either prior to deployment or while fighting. One Ukrainian official is quoted as saying solutions for “Ukrainian post-war veteran syndrome” are bleak.

On 24 October Diane Kiper (left in photo), wife of SF LTC (Ret) Rich Kiper, left for Kiev, Ukraine, where she joined two other women. One was Carolyn Grube, widow of a retired Army colonel, and the other was retired Army Colonel Linda Sheimo. All are associated with Olive Branch, International, a humanitarian organization that serves military organizations internationally. From Kiev they traveled to Kropyvnytskyi to speak with Gold Star mothers and wives of Ukrainian soldiers, some of whom were from a special operations unit fighting Russians in eastern Ukraine.

Diane is uniquely qualified for this task. She has a Master’s degree in Marriage and Family Therapy, is a Licensed Clinical Marriage and Family Therapist who has been in private practice for seventeen years, and has counseled with US military families where one spouse is suffering from PTSD. She is the wife of a retired Special Forces soldier who served in combat in Vietnam. She also is a committed Christian who met with Ukrainian wives and soldiers on two previous trips. She and Rich traveled to Kiev in 1999 to help establish a chaplaincy in the Ukrainian military. Increasing numbers of families and soldiers dealing with the effects of war, so is Ukraine. Military family support in Ukraine is not as extensive as in the U.S. The difference is that we have developed a system to try to deal with those effects. In Ukraine there are few such support mechanisms. The mission of the group was captured succinctly by COL (Ret.) Sheimo: “The pain of war and losing loved ones is the same throughout the world.”

(Continued)
Diane Kiper to Ukraine
A SPECIAL MISSION FOR A SPECIAL FORCES WIFE

As a result of contacts from those trips, Diane and the others were asked to bring “Spiritual First Aid” to women who are desperately trying to cope with the effects of the war. “I saw that our military sisters in Ukraine are now seeing the reality of war in their own backyard,” said Carolyn. They need spiritual and emotional counseling as well as practical help to meet the needs of their husbands, their children, and their marriages.

As Diane stated, “Our desire is to let them know God loves them, and so do we.”

In addition to the spiritual and ministerial components of the trip, the women presented medical supplies to the doctor for the Ukrainian 3d Special Operations Forces Regiment. Among those supplies were trauma dressings, compression bandages, and revolutionary devices to control severe bleeding. A retired U.S. Army officer whose company manufactures these new devices donated them to the Ukrainian Army.

Just as our military is facing increasing numbers of families and soldiers dealing with the effects of war, so is Ukraine. Military family support in Ukraine is not as extensive as in the U.S. The difference is that we have developed a system to try to deal with those effects. In Ukraine there are few such support mechanisms. The mission of the group was captured succinctly by COL (Ret.) Sheimo: “The pain of war and losing loved ones is the same throughout the world.”

By Richard Kiper
RIP, Jerry Rutledge

Long time chapter member Jerry Rutledge died recently. Chapter president Terry Buckler received an email from Jerry’s wife, Ruthie, letting him know of Jerry’s passing.

Ruthie sent: “Terry, just a note to let you know Jerry passed away last Sunday. Comforting to know he is no longer in pain and with JESUS Ruthie”

If you would like to reach out to Ruthie, to share condolences, her email is saguaro2r@yahoo.com

Buckler to Bragg for Joe Murray Service

Terry Buckler traveled to Ft Bragg and Fayetteville last week to honor Joe Murray, a retired SF SGM and Son Tay Raider.

Numerous Son Tay Raiders, like Terry, attended the Ft Bragg service in honor of Joe. Those ST Raiders remain tight, a brotherhood within a brotherhood.

Joe died 23 Dec of cardiac issues. He was in his 70s, was a Son Tay raider, lived in the Fayetteville area. Anyone have details?

Joe was the only WIA o the Son Tay Raid. He was shot in the leg.

Joe was buried 4 Jan, Wed of this week, at the Sandhills State Veterans Cemetery in Spring Lake

He is survived by his wife, Carolyn Diane Murray; daughters, Melissa Willard and Victoria Gill; four grandchildren and other family.
Green Berets Set Record Straight on 60 Minutes

Three U.S. Army veterans, including two SF veterans, appeared on CBS 60 Minutes in November, 2017, to talk about a “friendly fire” incident in 2014 in which five soldiers, including two SF soldiers, were killed by a U.S. Air Force bomb. Their reason for going on the show was to “set the record straight.”

There is a strong resistance within SF culture to talking to civilian media. We are the “Silent Professionals.” We don’t blab or talk out of turn, unless we feel the strong need to set the record straight or clear our name. That was why Derrick Anderson went on 60 Minutes.

Capt. Derrick Anderson was the detachment commander of the 5th Group team that had the 500-pound bomb dropped on it and the U.S. Army blamed him for the deaths of the five men.

But, Anderson, and the other two mean who appeared on 60 Minutes, who also were there, contest the Army ruling that Anderson was negligent.

Anderson was joined by Brandon Branch and Henry Montalbano, both of whom we there. They all claim that it was faulty Air Force targeting systems, and an incompetent JTAC, that caused the accident, not faulty leadership on the part of Anderson.

Senior leadership and politicians often jump and rush to quick and clean conclusions and rulings in efforts to deal quickly with messy and distasteful situations and events. There have been many officers and NCOs who have experienced similar to what Derrick Anderson has, such as Fred Galvin and Clint Lorrance, two other men viewed by many as political scapegoats.

To see the entire 60 Minutes episode, go here:

https://www.cbsnews.com/videos/friendly-fire-aly-raisman/
Mike Neer Injured in Bike Accident

Chapter member Mike Neer was injured in a motorcycle accident in November. According to Mike, he turned corner, the bike fishtailed counterclockwise, he corrected the slide, but laid the bike down.

Mike broke 8 ribs broken, 6 are plated to aid in healing. Walking was a challenge for a few weeks, with “modest pain.” Other injuries were a skinned knee, injured ankle, bruised hip and side. No profuse bleeding. Mike said the surgery hurt more than the accident.

Mike said that sleeping was fitful for a few weeks afterward, that getting sufficient rest was a challenge, due to the pain. He said that after a few days he was walking normally.

Mike reported on 30 December: “Have reached the normal time for full knitting of broken bones. Staples came out at about 10 days. Have restarted my PT with cardio training and resistance training. Full range of motion with no apparent limitations. Challenge now is to regain any loss of and improve endurance. Have some permanent metal in my body but on our latest air travel it didn’t trigger metal detectors at airport security.”

Good copy. Go Mike.

Leavenworth Veterans Day Parade

Chapter 29 members attended the Leavenworth, Kansas, annual Veterans Day Parade. Chapter 29 participates in the parade each year. This year’s parade was irregular in that it was held on a Saturday. Usually the parade is held during the week.

After the parade chapter members always convene to a local tavern, usually Grinders, formerly called The High Noon Saloon, to share news, toasts and camaraderie.
“12 Strong” Screenings in KC

Mark Nutsch has shared the update times and locations below the KC/KS area pre-screenings of 12 Strong:

- **Jan 13** - Ft Riley AAFES Theatre, 5pm.
- **Jan 13** - Ft Leonardwood AAFES Theatre, 2pm.
- **Jan 13** - Whitman AFB, AAFES Base Theatre, 7pm.
- **Jan 14** - Leavenworth, Landing Four Theaters, #4 theatre seats 230, 7pm. My wife and I will be at Ft Campbell for a screening that day with 5th SFG and 160th SOAR.
- **Jan 18** - Kansas City area screening, Legends AMC 14 theater.

The official movie release date is 19 January.

Mark Nutsch and his family will be attending the January 18 showing at Legends in west Kansas City. Mark has a vested interest in this movie, as he commanded the first ODA inserted into Afghanistan.

“12 Strong” is based on the Doug Stanton book by the same name which tells the story of Task Force Dagger, the first SF teams into Afghanistan in 2001.

The movie focuses on one team, the first team into Afghanistan, which was Mark Nutsch’s team, ODA-595. Thus, Stanton’s book and the movie are derived from the true story of Mark’s team. Just how derivative the movie gets is where the controversy begins.

The controversy also involves how the producers of this movie used SEAL technical advisers, instead of the actual SF men who were there, some of whom offered their services as technical advisers.

The movie stars Chris Hemsworth, the actor who plays Thor, as the Mark Nutsch-based character, the detachment commander, Michael Shannon as the WO/XO, Michael Pena as the team sergeant, Danny Devito as the Junior Medic and Kim Kardashian as General Dostum.

Divided are the opinions within SF as to whether the movie is worth the time to see. Mark will see it. We, the editors, will see it. Many will see it just to give themselves something to gripe about. Likely, there will be a review in the next newsletter.
**SF Dates - January & February**

**January** (a busy month)

4 - **Nate Chapman**, 1st Gp, first American KIA by hostile fire, Taliban, in GWOT, Afghanistan, 2002.

6 - **474th Infantry Regiment** activated, 1945.

The First Special Service Force was deactivated on 5 Dec 44 and the 474th Infantry Regiment was activated on 6 Jan 45.

The 474th Infantry Regiment consisted of:

- 684 Officers and men from the original 1SSF
- 434 Officers and men from the 1st, 3rd and 4th Ranger Battalions
- 900 Officers and men of the 99th Infantry Battalion, (made up of Norwegian Americans)
- 156 Officers and men of the 552nd antitank company
- 1,064 Infantry replacements to the First Special Service Force and the 474th Regiment.

6 - **24th SFG** activated, 1961.

8 - **38th SF Co.** activated, 1964.

15 - **UNPFK** activated, 1951

15 - the Army formally recognized the Office of the Chief of Psychological Warfare, or **OCPW**, the first organization of its type in Army history, 1951. Brig. Gen. Robert A. McClure, OSS veteran, was head of the OCPW, and was also a founder of Army Special Forces.

16 - **TF 160** activated, 1985

18 - **Mosby’s Rangers** begin operations, 1863

21 - **13th SFG** deactivated, 1966

24 - **SOG** activated, 1964.

31 - **17th SFG** deactivated, 1966

31 - **24th SFG** deactivated, 1966

31 - **2nd SFG** deactivated, 1966

**February**

10 - **16th SFG** deactivated, 1966.

24 - **MARSOC Det 1** assembled, 2006

14 - **Craig B Wolford**, the first man from the 5th SFG to be killed in Vietnam. Det A4 at Tra My, 1963
SF MoH Recipients

Listed below are all the Special Forces soldiers who have received the Medal of Honor, RVN through GWOT:

1. Eugene Ashley Jr
2. Gary B. Beikirch
3. Roy P. Benavidez
4. William M. Bryant
5. Brian L. Buker
6. Jon R. Cavaiani
7. Drew Dennis Dix
8. Roger Hugh C. Donlon
9. Gary Ivan Gordon
10. Looren D. Hagen
11. Charles Ernest Hosking Jr
12. Robert L. Howard
13. John J. Kedenburg
14. Franklin D. Miller
15. Robert K. Miller
16. Jose Rodela
17. Randall David Shughart
18. George K. Sisler
19. Humert Roque Versace
20. Charles Q. Williams
21. Gordon Douglas Yntema
22. Fred William Zabitosky
23. Gary M. Rose
24. Melvin Morris

Menton Day Celebration

No chapter or KC Menton Day group celebration was held, to the best of these editors’ knowledge. But, we are certain that chapter members and SF men and others of sterling character and granite constitution, raised glasses in toast and recognition on that most excellent day - 5 December.

Menton Day recognizes that day in 1944 when the 1SSF, the 1st Special Service Force, was deactivated in Menton, France. The end of the war was five months off, but the tempo of operations and the needs of the infantry divisions demanded the dissolution of several SOF units, in particular the 1SSF and most of the Ranger Battalions, four of which were mauled at Anzio too badly to continue operations.

Every year SF recognizes Menton Day and the 1SSF, one of SF’s modern SOF unit predecessors and part of our WW2 lineage.
Permanent US Base in Israel

The United States is opening a permanent military base in Israel. This is big news as the U.S. has never had a permanent military base on Israeli soil. The main reason for this is Israeli determination to maintain their military and political autonomy.

The U.S. base will be composed of Army Air Defense units, to defend against missile and rockets attacks. It will be located in southern Israel neat the desert capitol of Beersheba. Ground breaking ceremonies were held on 18 September. Numerous U.S. and Israeli officials and military personnel attended.

The base is being called Site 883 Life Support Area, an odd name for an ADA base, but points for originality.

The activation of this base leads these editors to wonder if other bases might be planned, possibly for other purposes, other than missile defense, possibly for Special Operations, and joint operations and training of U.S. SOF and the many Israeli SOF units. We will keep our ears to the ground.

Annual Christmas Ruck

Sixteen total ruckers showed up this year on Saturday, the 9th of December. Several left and several joined the ruck en route.

Chapter member Al James showed up to do the ruck this year, as did Aaron Crossley.

The original date was 16 December, but had to be changed to 9 December, which make many, who planned to attend, unable to attend.

The ruck started on the lawn below the Liberty Memorial, then went to the Union Station, then to the KCPAC and Power & Light District and finally the Crowne Center and the Mayor’s Christmas Tree, with various “reindeer games” along the way. Total distance was just over 5 miles. Total fun was incalculable. $105 was raised for the GBF.
Annual KC SOF Ball/Formal

The Annual KC SOF Ball/Formal will be here soon, on 7 April, 2018, at the Westin Crown Center, here in Kansas City. Mark your calendars.

The KC SOF Ball is one of the big annual events for the KC SF and SOF communities and the SFA in general. Many people, SF men and VIPs, fly in from all over to attend the KC SOF Ball. The KC SOF Ball is a big event for everyone in the SF and SOF communities in and around Kansas City.

The KC SOF Ball began in the early 1980s by SFA Chapter 29. The first years it just involved chapter members and whatever other SOF guys in the area who showed up. Eventually, the chapter began inviting the SF officers attending the Command General and Staff College. That grew into inviting all the SOF officers, and the entire SOF Cell at CGSC. In the early to mid 1990s Chapter 29 began partnering with the SF officers at CGSC in hosting the KC SOF Ball.

The purpose of the SOF Ball is to bring together all SF and SOF in the KC AO, to see old friends and to meet knew friends, to connect and network and to eat some good food and share some toasts and have some fun. Music is provided each year, in the form of a band or a DJ, and the last few years have involved ceremoniously filling a “grog bowl” with deposits from representatives of each SF Group and representatives of various other SOF units.

So plan now on being at the Westin Crown Center on the evening of 7 April, 2018. If not, the regret of missing that glorious evening will haunt you for years to come.

Notices, in the forms of emails containing flyers and invitations, are forthcoming in the next few months. Be alert. The world needs more lerts.
Maples Bronze Bust Displayed

by Rich Kiper

The sons of COL William Darden Maples followed him into military careers. Son Cameron is stationed at Ft. Leavenworth, and his brother, Austin, is stationed at Ft. Riley.

After the passing of their father in August 2016, the family began looking through his records and were surprised at what they found.

COL Maples started out enlisted, went to OCS and arose to the rank of colonel. He completed the Special Forces Qualification Course then served three tours in Vietnam with SF, as well as in Laos, Venezuela, Panama, other Central American areas, Africa, and Southwest Asia. He also served in Infantry assignments in the U.S., Germany, and Spain.

Maples was awarded two Silver Stars, two Bronze Stars for Valor, three Purple Hearts, three Vietnamese Gallantry Crosses, the Combat Infantryman’s Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, the Special Forces and Ranger tabs, Military Freefall Badge, as well as other U.S. and foreign medals and wings.

After retirement Maples was advisor to the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets. He often hosted veterans at no charge at the hunting and fishing lodge that was his business.

U.S. Army Special Forces soldiers served as pall bearers and honor detail for COL Maples’s funeral in LaFeria, TX.

To honor their father, the family commissioned a bronze bust, which was unveiled at a ceremony at The Depot on December 14.

Attending were co-workers of sons Cameron and Austin, and members of the Kansas City chapter of the Special Forces Association.
US Troops to Report Afghan Abuse

New U.S. military policy is training U.S. troops to report child sexual abuse by Afghan army and police members.

“Bacha Bazi” is a tradition in Pashtun culture. Men of culture demonstrate their status and power by having one or more “bacha bazi,” boys dressed as women who provide sexual favors and dance at parties and are passed around amongst warlords or other powerful men.

This is a dramatic departure in protocol for the United States, which has a tradition of keeping out of host nation culture and traditions, in order to be better build rapport and to not seem ....

This policy change likely has much to do with the disgust in which U.S. troops have long regarded the practice of Bacha Bazi. That disgust has in recent years spread back to the United States, to citizens and to members of Congress, many of whom have began asking questions in terms of how much we can tolerate within foreign cultures.

In 2011, SF SFC Charlie Martland was disciplined for assaulting an Afghan police chief who was keeping a boy chained in his room as a sex slave. Senior officers claimed that Martland had “caused a catastrophic loss of rapport.”

But, word spread throughout SF and support for Martland grew. Members of Congress also came to support Martland. Senior officers initially planned to take his tab and put Martland out of the Army. But, he remains in U.S. Army Special Forces to this day, his career intact.

That the Army has adopted this new policy is a dramatic and ambitious change, and possibly a dangerous one.

SF might be most at risk of this new policy, as SF is the unit that is most embedded with ANA and other Afghan units. SF teams are often deployed to remote FOBs with Afghan army and police units upon whom they are dependent for mutual security and support. As we all know, good rapport with local “indig” is often essential to effective operations and even, often, survival. But, there are some things Americans, even SF men, simply cannot tolerate even in the interest of rapport.
Message From Spike

We received an email from Jim “Spike” Speicher. He and Kaki are living now down in Florida. He says that he has attended some SFA Chapter LX meetings, but is staying a Chapter 29 member.

Spike says he made it through the cancer issue and now is looking at possible back surgery. “Does it ever end?” he asks, in good humor. He has a severely pinch sciatic nerve which the doctors will try to alleviate with injections. Wish Spike luck.

Spike says he will keep us posted on his health and the status of Florida sinking into the ocean and says to “Say hi to everyone for me.”

If you would like to contact Spike, contact these editors and we will give you Spike’s contact info.

Message from Kari Bales

Terry Buckler received an email last month from Kari Bales in regards to support from some chapter members for her family. Her husband, SSG Robert Bales, is in Leavenworth prison for actions in Afghanistan. Keri and their children moved to Leavenworth to be near Robert.

Said Kari:

“I am humbled by the generosity that you and the gentlemen of the Special Forces Association Chapter 29 have shown our family. You have helped make our Christmas time so special. It is comforting to know that there are people that support us, your caring keeps our faith and hope alive.

I would love to come and meet you all at one of your upcoming chapter meetings to be able to thank everyone in person.

Merry Christmas to you all!!

Thank you, Sincerely,

Kari Bales”
Stolen Valor: Fake SF SGM
Forced to Shut Down Sham Org

An SF poser was recently exposed by Guardians of the Green Beret and forced to shut down his high-profile veterans non-profit in New York.

Papotia Reginald Wright founded and ran the 8th Special Forces Regiment in New York and claimed to be a retired SF Sergeant Major. The truth is that he was an Army truck driver in the 1990s and never rose above the rank of SP4.

Wright attracted many veterans to his organization, legitimate officers and NCOs, dedicated much of their time and energies supporting the groups efforts and events.

But Wright's group also attracted other posers, many of whom also claimed honorary ranks and honors. Some of these posers never served in the military.

Many of us tend just to ignore posers. There are just too many of them and the time and energy required to go after them is too much. But, there are lines and thresholds to be crossed for all of us, regardless of our levels of apathy and tolerances.

We each need to know what is our threshold, where we draw the line and when we say, “OK, hold on a damn minute. This is just too much.”

Stolen Valor cases are usually defined as those posers who are benefiting financially from their lies and deceptions, such as in a business or political office, or in ways that they are impacting a significant number of people, such as was the case with the 8th SF Regiment in New York.

There are resources out there to help, such as Guardians of the Green Beret, where SF brothers are available to help and guide us in how we go about identifying and dealing with posers.

To contact The Guardians of the Green Beret:

http://guardiansofthegreenberet.com
https://www.facebook.com/groups/SFPoserPatrol/
Special Forces Association
Chapter XXIX
12426 W. 62nd Terr.
Shawnee, KS 66216
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM
(Not for new members)

Dues pay period is from 1 October through 31 January. Any annual members who have not paid their dues by the grace period will be placed in an Inactive roster and will be removed from the mailing list.

I. ___________________________________________ hereby apply for renewal of my (Print Last Name, First Name, MI) (Membership Number) membership in Chapter ________ of the Special Forces Association and submit the following information:

CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING BOXES:
__ Annual Dues. Enclosed is a check or money order for $40.00 for a one-year renewal of my membership. Note: Annual renewal is $40.00 if paid before 30 January of each year.
__ Reinstatement. Enclosed is a check or money order for $45.00, which includes a $5.00 reinstatement fee along with the $40.00 annual renewal fee. Note: annual renewals are $45.00 after 30 January of each year.
__ Life Membership. Enclosed is a check or money order $440.00 for a lifetime membership. The $440.00 fee applies to members in good standing only.
__ Reinstatement for Life Membership. Enclosed is a check or money order $475.00 for reinstatement and lifetime membership of which $440.00 is the life membership fee and $35.00 is for reinstatement.
__ Life Membership (65 and over). Date of Birth ___________. Enclosed is a check or money order for $320.00 for a lifetime membership. The $320.00 fee applies to members in good standing only.
__ Reinstatement for Life Membership (65 and over). Date of Birth __________. Enclosed is a check or money order for $345.00 for reinstatement and a lifetime membership of which $320.00 is the life membership fee and $25.00 is for reinstatement.

Current mailing address:

__________________________________________________________
Address City State Zip + 4
Home Telephone: (______) ______-_________ Work Telephone : (______) ______-_________
Email Address: ___________________________
Date of Birth: ______________ Retired Rank/Rank at Separation: ________________________

SFA Form-02 (revised 30-JAN-2017)
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
Special Forces Association
Chapter XXIX
12426 W. 62nd Terr.
Shawnee, KS 66216

MEMBERSHIP TYPE
____ Decade Membership
____ General Membership
____ Associate Membership

Last First MI Age

____ Life Membership

Mailing Address

City State Zip (PLUS-FOUR) SSN

E-mail Address Telephone

Awarded- Prefix - "3", Suffix "S", 5G, 18/180 Series MOS on ___________________ (give skill identifier and/or MOS, and date awarded)

Total years and months of service to Special Forces and/or Special Forces related Units _______ Years _______ Months

SF ASSIGNMENTS - UNIT INCLUSIVE DATES UNITS INCLUSIVE DATES

If retired, rank at Retirement: _______

MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATIONS
1. Membership may be granted to a person who is or has been a member of the United States Army Special Forces, to include the United States Army Reserve and the United States Army National Guard Special Forces Units, has completed Special Forces Training and has been awarded a Special Forces prefix 3, suffix S, and/or Special Forces Tab and MOS, and if discharged, has received an Honorable Discharge. Special Forces MOSs are those awarded upon completion of Special Forces Training. Membership qualification lineage includes all units officially listed on the First Special Forces lineage certificate are acceptable for membership. Also acceptable, and grandfathered for general membership, are First Special Service Force, OSS, and UNPIK-6240 of Korea. The Ranger units of WWII and the Ranger Company's of Korea are acceptable for Associate membership. Assignment to a MTOE slot or other position calling for a SF MOS or identifier does not necessarily indicate SF qualification. Associate membership requirements for non-SF qualified personnel are described below.

2. DECADE MEMBER: Decade membership may be granted to a person who is or has been a member of the US Army Special Forces, including the US Army Reserve, and the National Guard Special Forces Units for a minimum of ten years, who has been awarded a Prefix "3" or the Suffix "S," 5G, 18/180 series MOS, or SF Tab and, if discharged, has received an Honorable Discharge. Decade membership may also be granted to members who have a combination of 10 years Special Forces duty and SFA membership. (Documentation is required and should leave no doubt that the applicant is qualified for Decade member status)

3. GENERAL MEMBER: Membership may be granted to a person who is or has been a member of the US Army Special Forces, including the US Army Reserve and the National Guard, who has been awarded a Prefix "3" or the Suffix "S," 5G, 18/180 series MOS, or SF Tab and, if discharged, has received an Honorable Discharge. There is no time requirement for general membership. (Documentation is required and should leave no doubt that the applicant is qualified for General Member status.)

4. ASSOCIATE MEMBER: Associate membership may be granted to a service member not qualified as above, but who is or has been assigned or attached to a Special Forces Group and has contributed significantly to the accomplishment of its mission. Applications for Associate membership are subject to the approval of the Membership Committee. Proof of assignment and significant contribution to Special Forces must accompany the application. A minimum of two letters of recommendation from SF/SFA members with first-hand knowledge of the applicant’s significant contribution are required. SSN is requested in the event additional information is required as authorized below. Incomplete applications or applications submitted without supporting documentation will be returned as incomplete.

AUTHORITY FOR RELEASE OF INFORMATION AND RECORDS
I hereby authorize and consent to the release of information and records bearing on my military service to the Special Forces Association. The information will be used for the purpose of determining my qualifications for membership. I further certify that the execution of this form is voluntary and shall be valid for one year after my signing.

Signature ___________________________ Date: _______________
Witness ___________________________ Date: _______________

I understand that Special Forces Association membership entitles me to all the rights and privileges specified in the provisions of the Special Forces Association Constitution. Enclosed is a check or money order for $50.00, payable to the SFA for the initiation fee ($10.00) and first year dues ($40.00). To maintain my membership, I will pay the annual dues of $40.00 no later than 30 January each year. If paid after 30 January, I must pay an additional $5.00 reinstatement fee (total of $45.00). Lifetime membership is available to members in good standing at a cost of $440.00 ($475.00 if dues are not current). All qualified new members must pay a total of $480.00 for a new Lifetime membership. Age 65 or over, $360.00. If already a member (cost $320.00 if in good standing; $345.00 if delinquent).

Revised 21 January 2010