



# THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SENTINEL

SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION CHAPTER 78  
NEWSLETTER OF THE SILENT PROFESSIONALS

**VOLUME 1 ISSUE 9**

**DECEMBER 2010**



**IN THIS ISSUE:**

**PRESIDENTS COLUMN**

**VETERANS DAY WITH THE DUCKS**

**FOR THE GREEN BERET FOUNDATION**

**EDITORS COLUMN**



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

## CHAPTER OFFICERS

President  
Louis (Lonny) Holmes  
D-6067

Vice President  
Ramon Rodriguez  
D-1978

Vice President,  
Lost Commandos  
Thai Van Tong  
A-2527

Vice President, Nungs  
John Du  
A-3257

Secretary  
Len Fein  
M-9697

Director at Large  
Brad Welker  
M-2319

Director at Large  
Sentinel Editor  
John Joyce  
M-11877

Director at Large  
Lou Smith  
D-6535

Treasurer  
Richard Simonian  
D-7920

Sergeant At Arms/  
Quartermaster  
Art Dolick  
D-1765

Coordinator of  
Special Events  
Mark Miller  
D-8296

Coordinator of  
ROTC Program  
Ed Barrett  
M-11188

Chaplain  
Rob Richmond  
D-7306

Immediate Past  
President  
Terry Cagnolatti  
M-9747

Asst. Secretary  
Tom Redfern  
D-7907

## In This Issue:

- 3 Presidents Page
- 4 Chapter 78 Minutes
- 5 Veterans Day with the Ducks
- 6 Editors Page

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





## The Presidents Page



**Lonny Holmes**  
**President SFA 78**

### Christmas Presidents Column 2010

Merry Christmas and Happy New year to all chapter members and their families and I hope the New Year will bring health and prosperity to all. This year we will be celebrating together our 10th Annual Chapter 78 Christmas Dinner at the Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club. The host committee led by Richard Simonian has put together a very fine evening which will include entertainment during dinner followed by awards to the chapter member of the year and The Order of Saint Maurice to select individuals. A highlight of the evening will be the Annual Newport Beach Yacht Club Christmas Boat Parade. Again we will have door prizes and a raffle/silent auction. Chapter Newsletter Publisher and Editor John Joyce has put together a short film on the making of the movie, "Ripple Effect" which we will present. Velvet Smith the Films Director and Screenplay writer and several members of the cast will be present.

Chapter 78 has been busy this past year with many members participating in new events that included A Day at the Range, Veterans Day at the Honda Center watching a Ducks Hockey game. I thank Aaron Anderson of the Green Beret Foundation for inviting our members to the Ducks Game. Chapter member, Ramon Rodriguez was named Ducks Veteran of the Day, and awarded a plaque by the COO Tim Ryan. The chapter has also continued to support 5 Southern California University ROTC Awards Programs, which include, University of California at Los Angeles, University of Southern California, Claremont McKenna, California State University San Bernardino, and California State University Fullerton.



Ramon Rodriguez CSM(Ret), Chapter 78 Gives a Chapter 78 coin to Ducks COO Tim Ryan.

Velvet Smith contacted Chapter 78 seeking support on her script development for the movie Ripple Effect. Members Brad Welker, Steve Cowan, Terry Cagnolatti and Lonny Holmes responded and offered her sound advice and subsequently provided military technical direction during the filming.

The National Special Forces Association and Special Operations Association Annual Conferences were attended by many chapter members. For those who had not visited Fort Bragg and Camp McCall since the 1960s' we were in for a big surprise on the construction of the new facilities. These were great opportunities to renew old friendships and catch up on current Special Forces news. SF Faculty members demonstrated that this is a new era, tougher standards, better training, and improved equipment. Equipment that we old Vietnam SF'ers never even dreamed about.

The New Year will bring SF Chapter 78 new opportunities for involvement by our members to support the local community ROTC programs and the wounded warriors-such as Aaron Anderson new Green Beret Foundation. A major goal will be fundraising for these endeavors. New membership is a must with a specific goal of recruiting Special Forces men from the Iraq and Afghanistan War. This younger generation of Special Forces Soldiers will help bring the association into the 21 Century with new style and panache. Lastly I want to thank all members who have served in the current War on Terrorism, and those members who have sons and daughters who have or are serving.



LH.



## *SFA Chapter 78 Minutes For November 13th, 2010*



SFA President Lonny Holmes

### GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

**Meeting Location:** American Legion Post 295, Cypress CA

**Called to Order:** 10:00 AM by President Lonnie Holmes

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Ramon Rodriguez

**Invocation:** Richard Simonian

**Members Present:** Ed Barrett (M11188), Terry Cagnolatti (M-9747), Lonnie Holmes (D-6067), John Joyce (M-11877), Bruce Long (D-7464), Tom Redfern (D-7907), Ramon Rodriguez (D-1978), Richard Simonian (D-7920), Jim Weldon (D-8104), Brad Welker (M-2319), Jack Eckles, Robert Crebbs

**Guest Attendees:** Jean Ramos (Honorary Member)

**Secretary's Report:** Presented by Terry Cagnolatti, Motion to accept by Ramon Rodriguez, Seconded by Brad Welker Approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Presented by Richard Simonian, Motion to accept by Ramon Rodriguez, Seconded by Ed Barrett, Approved.

**Old Business:** The Christmas Party will be Sunday 12-18-10 at the Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club in Newport Beach. Veterans Day with the Ducks was discussed, and Ramon Rodriguez was awarded the Ducks Veteran of the Day Award. Ramon received a standing ovation!

**New Business:** A motion was made by Brad Welker to have the VIP attendees Christmas Party fees be paid by Chapter 78. The motion was carried and accepted.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 11:00 motion by Ramon Rodriguez, seconded by Ed Barrett.





Ducks COO Tim Ryan, CSM (Ret) Ramon Rodriguez and SSG (Ret) Aaron Anderson, the Green Beret Foundation and Member Chapter 78.



## Veterans Day with the Ducks; A fundraiser for the Green Beret Foundation

The NHL Hockey Team, The Ducks of Anaheim, held a Veterans Day celebration at the Honda Center in Anaheim, CA. A portion of the proceeds from the game were donated to the Green Beret Foundation.

Many Chapter 78 members were in attendance to support Aaron Anderson, founder of the Green Beret Foundation and a Chapter 78 member himself.

Chapter 78 Member CSM (Ret) Ramon Rodriguez was honored during the game as the "Veteran of the Day", and was awarded a special Ducks Veterans Day Jersey. Ramon was given a standing ovation by the crowd.



Ramon with Ducks Mascot "Wild Wing"



Ramon with the Ducks Jersey



Ramon presenting Ducks COO Tim Ryan with a Chapter 78 coin.





## Editors Page:

I have added this column to our monthly newsletter and it is titled: Special Forces; Past, Present and Future. These articles will look at events or things surrounding Special Forces. This article deals with current organization of Special Forces..



### Special Forces Operational Detachment

U.S. Army Special Forces are divided into five active duty (AD) and two Army National Guard (ARNG) Special Forces groups. Each Special Forces Group (SFG) has a specific regional focus. The Special Forces soldiers assigned to these groups receive intensive language and cultural training for countries within their regional area of responsibility (AOR). Due to the increased need for Special Forces soldiers in the War on Terror, all Groups—including those of the National Guard (19th and 20th SFGs)—have been deployed outside of their areas of operation (AOs), particularly to Iraq and Afghanistan. A recently released report showed Special Forces as perhaps the most deployed SOF under SOCOM, with many operators, regardless of Group, serving up to 75% of their careers overseas, almost all of which had been to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Basic Element - SF Operational Detachment-Alpha (ODA) composition:

A Special Forces company consists of six ODAs (Operational Detachments Alpha) or "A-Teams." The number of ODAs can vary from company to company, with each ODA specializing in an infiltration skill or a particular mission-set (e.g. Military Freefall (HALO), combat diving, mountain warfare, maritime operations, or urban operations).

An ODA consists of 12 men, each of whom has a specific function (MOS or Military Occupational Specialty) on the team, however all members of an ODA conduct cross-training. The ODA is led by an 18A (Detachment Commander), usually a Captain, and a 180A (Assistant Detachment Commander) who is his second in command, usually a Warrant Officer One or Chief Warrant Officer Two.



Members of Operational Detachment Alpha 3336, 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne) recon the remote Shok Valley of Afghanistan where they fought an almost seven-hour battle in a remote mountainside village.

The team also includes the following enlisted men: one 18Z team sergeant (Operations Sergeant), usually a Master Sergeant, one 18F (Assistant Operations and Intelligence Sergeant), usually a Sergeant First Class, and two each, 18Bs (Weapons Sergeant), 18Cs (Engineer Sergeant), 18Ds (Medical Sergeant), and 18Es (Communications Sergeant), usually Sergeants First Class, Staff Sergeants or Sergeants. This organization facilitates 6-man "split team" operations, redundancy, and mentoring between a senior specialist NCO and his junior assistant.



A Special Forces company commander meets with village elders in Afghanistan.