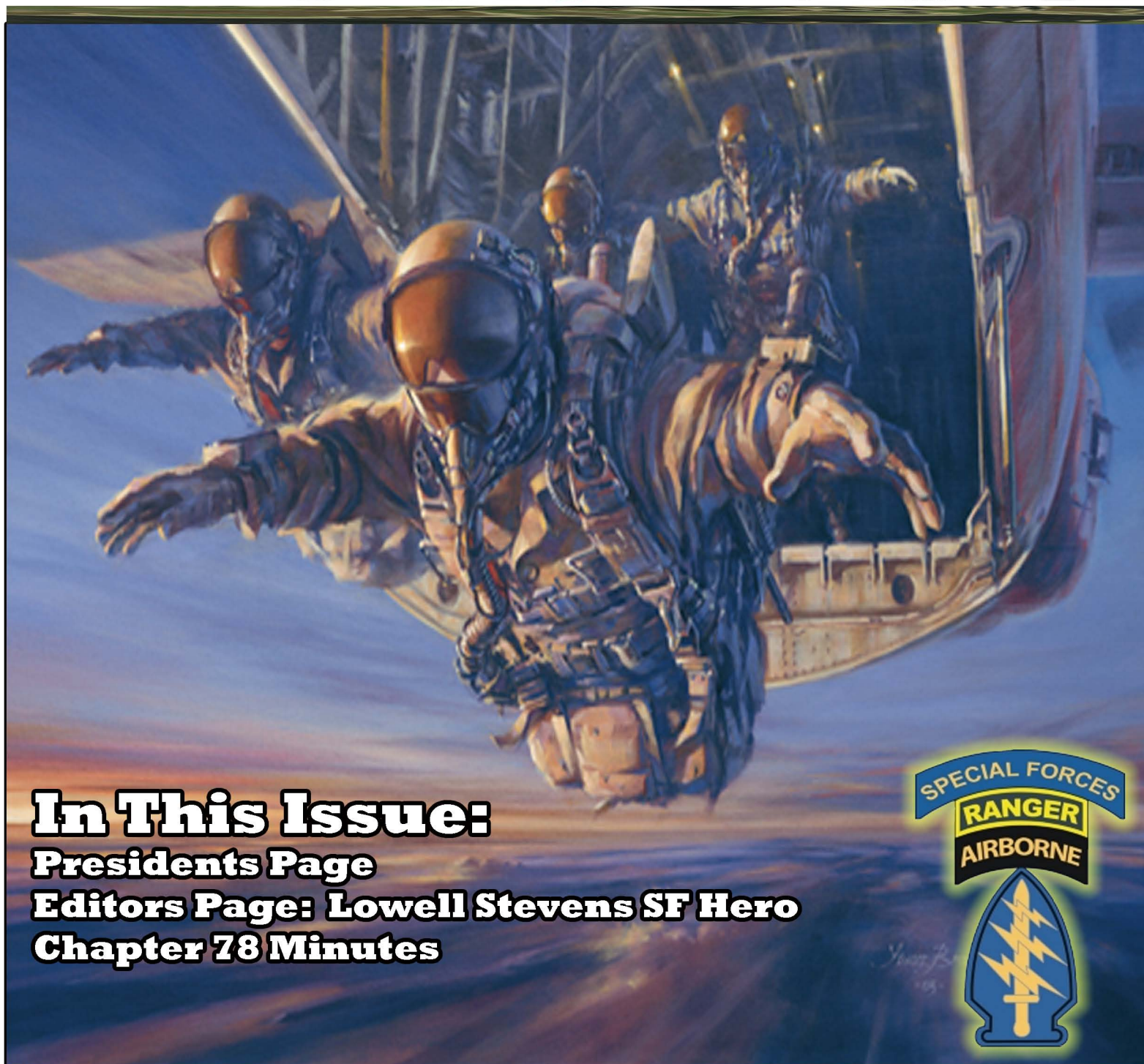




THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SENTINEL

SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION CHAPTER 78
NEWSLETTER OF THE SILENT PROFESSIONALS

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 2 FEBRUARY 2011



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Please visit us at www.specialforces78.com

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The Presidents Page



Lonny Holmes
President SFA 78

February 2011 Presidents Column

At January's chapter meeting we asked you, the members, what we should plan for the New Year for Chapter 78 activities. The initial response was very good both with verbal and written suggestions. They were to repeat and continue The Day at the Range, our annual Christmas Dinner, and have a chapter picnic. Richard Simonian suggested having the chapter return to the Chino Air Show which he sponsored the chapter about 3 years ago and provided space in the airplane hangar for a short chapter meeting and catered lunch. Steve Cowan who retired from the 1st SFG (A) last year and joined our chapter offered a daring proposal: organize a Chapter 78 Action Pistol Challenge Cup for various SF Teams, Law Enforcement Officers and Navy and Marine Special Ops Personnel.

Since January we have pushed ahead and perused some of the ideas. Richard will sponsor the chapter to attend the Chino Air Show this summer. The date and time will be available soon.

Tom Redfern agreed to put together another Day at the Range for the chapter, in the late spring, to avoid the hot summer months. Tom will also host a Bar B Q so be prepared for a great time with your friends and family. Once Tom has established the date with his club he will notify the chapter.



Steve Cowan and I formed a small team to develop the concept of the Chapter 78 Action Pistol Challenge Cup. Steve is the team leader and has moved forward rapidly in planning and designing the event. We visited several local shooting ranges and have selected Raahague's Range which is in Corona, a short distance from the Prado Olympic Range. Raahague's has the most to offer and is large enough to accommodate our plans, is reasonable in price, and accessible to all in LA and Orange County. Steve has designed a series of documents related to the Challenge Cup and I propose that we continue our efforts to develop and hold this event. We will require a lot of support from chapter members to complete this challenging event.

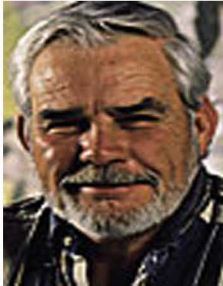
Yes, we will continue the Annual Christmas Dinner at the Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club. Reserve Saturday evening, December 17, 2011 on your calendar.





Editors Page:

This month's editors page is about a real SF Hero who we recently lost.



FAYETTEVILLE - Lowell Wesley Stevens Sr., 69, of Fayetteville, made the leap into eternity on Wednesday, Jan. 26, 2011. Lowell arrived on this earth as the first child of a coal mining family on July 8, 1941, in Putney, W.Va. The coal mining camp of Putney was located at the head of a 16-mile hollow and no longer exists. He was the son of the late Elmer and Opal Young Stevens. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, Larry; and his sister, Jean. He was named after both of his grandfathers, Lowell H. Stevens and John Wesley Young. Lowell was the first one in his family to graduate from high school, but had only two options after doing so; go to work in the coal mines, which had killed his dad, or join the U.S. military. His father had served as a machine gunner in Europe during the last stages of World War II with the 376th Infantry Regiment of the 94th Infantry Division and was immensely proud of his Combat Infantryman Badge. On July 29, 1959, Lowell entered the U.S. Army, having enlisted for Airborne unassigned. He graduated from Jump School in February 1960, and six years later he was a master parachutist. Later on, he added HALO and HALO Master Wings to his chest. From December 1959 to May 1963, he was a proud member of the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Ky. In May 1963, he volunteered for Special Forces training and completed the course with MOS 112 (Heavy Weapons Infantryman) in November of that year. In November 1963, Lowell was assigned to the 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne) located on Okinawa and performed the duties of the Heavy Weapons man on A-Detachments. He served on Detachment A-312 from Company C on a six month TDY mission to South Vietnam from June to December 1964. From May to July 1965, he was a squad leader in the Recon Platoon of the 1st Battalion, 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment. In October 1965, Lowell was assigned to the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) in South

Vietnam. Between this date and August 1972, Lowell completed a total of 71 months with the 5th Group in Vietnam. His duties included serving on A-Camps, MACV SOG, Mike Force company commander, and instructor at MACV Recondo School. He served for a total of six years and five months in Vietnam. After Vietnam, he was assigned once again to the 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne) on Okinawa for 18 months. In April, he was assigned to the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Fort Bragg. During the last eight years of his military service, he preformed the duties of the team sergeant on Operational Detachments. In his opinion, nothing in the Army was greater or more important than the team sergeant on an ODA. After retiring from the Army on March 1, 1980, he was an owner and operator of a new Peterbilt truck, leased to trucking companies that specialized in hauling steel and machinery until July 1983. During these 3 1/2 years, he traveled the continental United States and visited with his rig all but two of our states. He enjoyed seeing our country from the vantage point afforded him by the cab of his truck. In July 1983, he started work on Camp Mackall as the range control representative. He took an intense interest in the history of Mackall and for more than 27 years, he endeavored all but daily to learn the rich history of the "home of the Airborne during World War II." He said many times that his service in Vietnam and his time at Camp Mackall defined his life and provided a degree of contentment that few men ever realized. On Sept. 1, 2010, Lowell retired from civil service on Fort Bragg with more than 47 years of enjoyable service with the federal government. Although he did not like to enumerate the awards he received while in the Army, it is customary to do so, so here it goes: Silver Star Medal (three awards), Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal (six awards), Purple Heart (two awards), Combat Infantryman Badge, Expert Infantryman Badge and a handful of "I was there" awards. He was most proud of his Vietnam Campaign Medal, which indicated that he was awarded 16 campaigns out of a total of 17 awarded for the entire Vietnam War. He is survived by his sister, Frances Stevens James and husband Cecil, of Thomson, Ga.; his wife of more than 35 years, Emiko; son, Lowell Jr. and wife Lauri; daughters, Natalie Stevens and husband Bart Palmer and Cheryl Stevens Mericle; two grandsons, Chance Palmer and Brandon Stevens; and two granddaughters, Brooke Stevens and Chasity Palmer, all of Fayetteville. Memorial services will be held at Rogers and Breece Funeral Home chapel in Fayetteville on Monday, Jan. 31, 2011, at 12:30 p.m. Interment will follow at Sandhills Veterans Cemetery in Spring Lakes with full military honors. Services entrusted to Rogers and Breece Funeral Home of Fayetteville.

Published in Fayetteville Observer on January 30, 2011





CHAPTER 78 – Southern California

General Business Meeting Minutes

January 8th, 2011

Meeting Location: American Legion Post 295, Cypress CA

Call to Order: 1000 by President Lonny Holmes

Pledge of Allegiance: Ed Barrett

Invocation: Richard Simonian

Members Present: Ed Barrett (M-11188), Terry Cagnolatti (M-9747), John Du (A-3257), Jack Eckles (M-7239), Len Fein (M-9697), Lonny Holmes (D-6067), John Joyce (M-11877), Bruce Long (D-7464), John Meyer (M-238), Mark Miller (D-8296), Tom Redfern (D-7907), Al Roth (M-3989), Sal Sanders (A-1986), Richard Simonian (D-7920), Al Watts (A-2238), Brad Welker (M-2319) Steve Cowen

Guest Attendees: Mike Keele

Secretary's Report: No Meeting December 2010.

Treasurer's Report: Presented by Richard Simonian

Old Business: The Christmas Dinner/Party was a huge success. Comments suggested that the 2010 Party was the best ever. Committee members John Joyce, Richard Simonian, and Terry Cagnolatti did a great job. The singer Andrea Miller was a big hit. Ron McCan attended and thought it was 1st Class. National is aware of what we do as an active chapter.

Newsletter – John Joyce would like to get articles/photos from the members about themselves or experiences in Special Forces. John would like to add more pages. The newsletter (Sentinel) goes out to over 300 people including Chapter members, SFA Chapters and SOA. Trying to be the #1 SFA Newsletter. Chapter 60 puts out a good newsletter. Our goal is to increase circulation, which will open fund raising opportunities. Oakley may be coming on board as a sponsor.



Brad suggested a newsletter article – “What happened after SF, various careers – “What ever happened to” article. Articles should include a photo.

February 10th is the due date for the next DROP article. Lonny & Terry are working on it.

The WEB page committee will be meeting in the next few weeks. Terry is chairing that committee.

New Business:

Activities Agenda for 2011. All members were asked to submit their ideas for Chapter Activities

1. Day at the Range
2. Chino Air Show
3. SFA National Convention
4. SOA Convention – John Meyer is running for President of SOA in 2011
5. Chapter 12 Picnic
6. Newport Film Festival (The Ripple Effect)
7. Dedication of General Yarbrough Statue at Ft. Bragg
8. Challenge Cup Pistol Match

There was a brief discussion about Col. Banks – his history

John Meyer introduced his guest Mike Keele. A motion was made to make Mike an honorary member of chapter 78. 2nd by John Joyce. Unanimous Approval.

Motion for Adjournment. Approved

Meeting adjourned at 1100

Tom Redfern D-7907
Secretary, SFA Ch 78



Special Forces Association Chapter 78

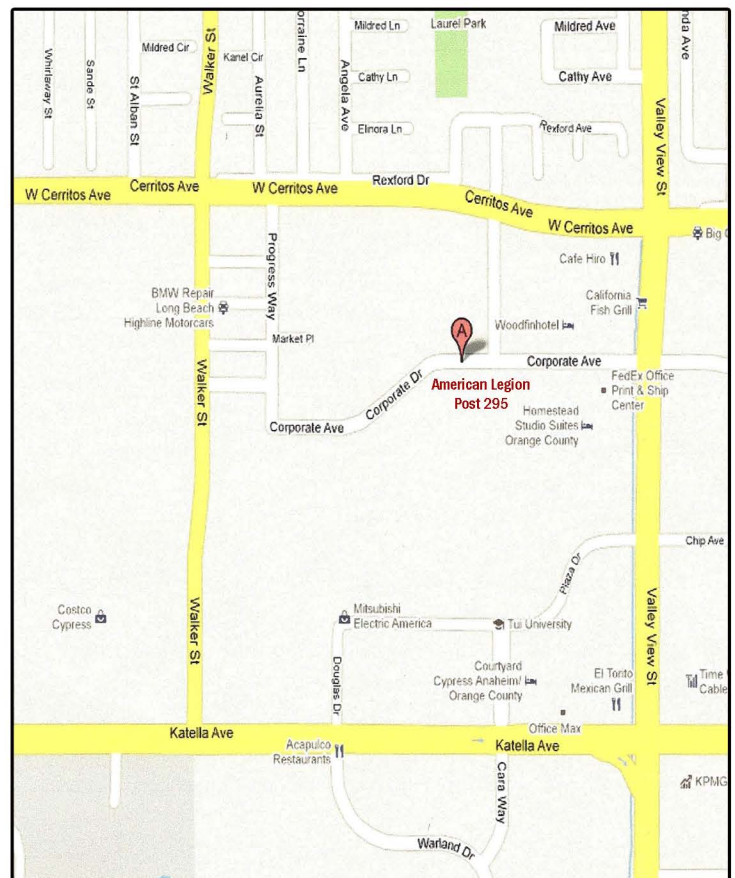
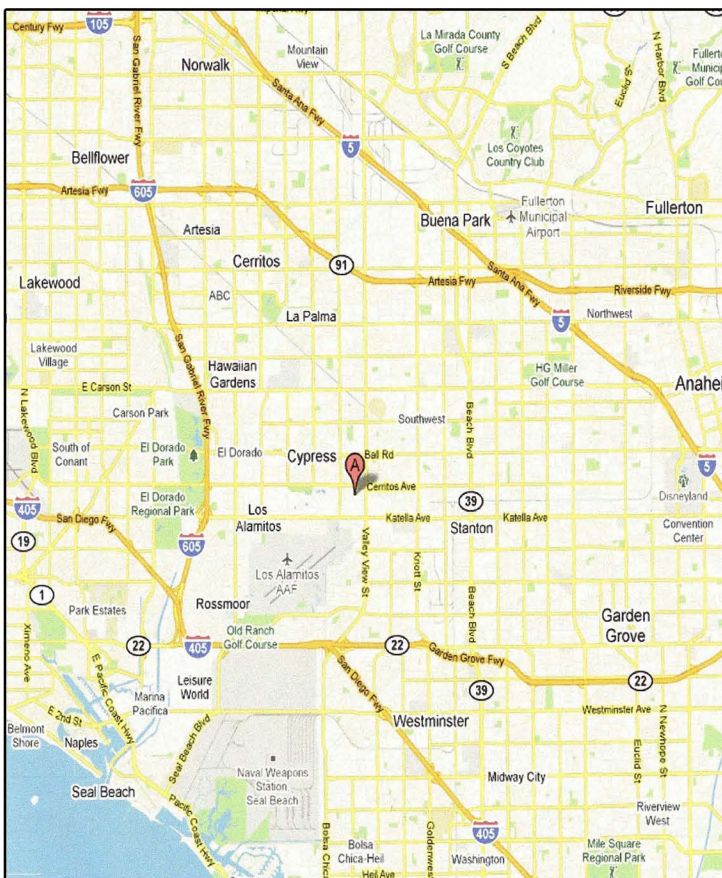
Next meeting

February 12, 2010 0900 Hrs

American Legion Post 295

**5646 Corporate Way
Cypress, CA 90630**

Map to the Post 295



Raffle, guest speakers, breakfast and more.