

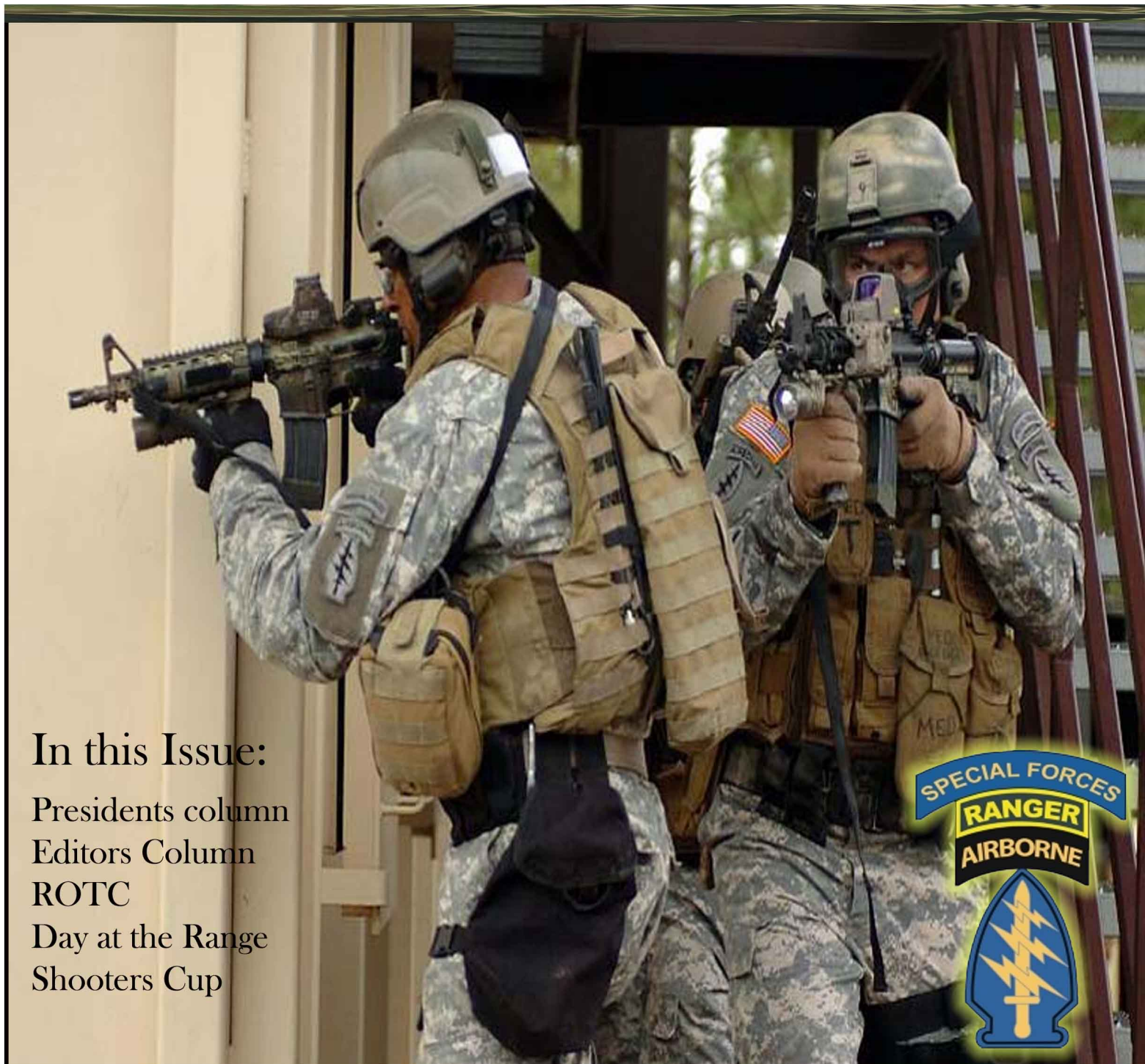


THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SENTINEL

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The Presidents Page



Lonny Holmes
President SFA 78

PRESIDENTS COLUMN **May 2011**

Monday, April 18 members of the Chapter 78 Shooters Cup group met with 4 cadets of the California State University Fullerton ROTC program. Led by Chairman Steve Cowan we gave them a lesson of SF type shooting and timed them on one the scenarios while John Joyce videotaped and took still pictures for our new Special Forces Shooters Cup website (<http://sfa78cup.com>). They were led by Cadet Battalion Commander LTC Zach Hartley. His team consisted of the Ranger Challenge leader, David Downey, Don Kidwell and Vince Ranzi. In the following week John up graded the website with a PayPal account, and an interview with Green Beret Foundation CEO Aaron Anderson. Many thanks and a tip of the Beret to Terry Cagnolatti who coordinated with the Santiago office, our bank and webmaster.

In this edition I have asked Cadet LTC Zach Hartley to write a third installment on a series of articles about the CSU Fullerton ROTC Program. These articles give our members a better understanding of the cadet programs. We hope to continue our close relationship with CSUF after his graduation and commissioning in June.

With graduation nearing at the local universities we are again involved attending the ROTC Award Ceremonies at five local programs. To begin with I wish to thank ROTC Committee Chair Ed Barrett for his long effort in coordinating the 5 programs, obtaining the names of the cadets for the annual SF Awards, which includes Chapter 78 Certificate, Special Forces Medal of Merit, Chapter Challenge Coin, and a copy of John Stryker ('Tilt') Meyers book, "On the Ground: The Secret War in Vietnam." I also thank those members who are making the presentations to the cadets, Mike Keele, Terry Cagnolatti, Bruce Long, Jack Lawson and LTC (Ret.) Jack Eckles. In the next school year we hope to form a closer relationship with several of these universities such as we are currently forging with CSUF.

A sad item that I want to address is the faux army put together by David Deng who recruited a large group of immigrant Chinese nationals in Southern California. Calling himself the "supreme commander" he charged members of his "army" \$300 to \$450 to join plus an annual renewal fee. According to both the Los Angeles Times and the Army Times this membership would assist them in getting American Citizenship. Deng called his army the "U.S. Army/Military Special Forces Reserve." Currently he is being held in lieu of \$500,000 bail and was scheduled to be arraigned in superior Court. An important point to note is that as far as I can find out by call calling members of the local Chinese community, NO Chinese members of the Mike Force, Chinese Nungs or Vietnamese Commands are involved.

Arlington National Cemetery has recently been noted to have an old archaic method of accounting and administration for burial of our soldiers. There are problems in locating specific soldiers and confusion in who is actually buried where in 211 grave sites (miss labeling). Despite having formed a congressional sub-committee to look into matters not much has been accomplished other than
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The Presidents Page

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Arlington National Cemetery



firing several administrators. However, I am sure there is a high cost to tax payers in this investigation. Today that is changing due to and 11th grade high school student from Stafford, VA. Richard "Rickey" Gilleland III who took it upon himself to address the situation regarding burials from the current conflicts: Iraq and Afghanistan. He has created the only digitized record of these veterans at Arlington. His website www.preserverandhonor.com is the superb testimony of what one man can do, even a junior in high school. His site includes names, dates, locations, photographs, links to obituaries and newspaper accounts; for all Iraq and Afghan soldiers interned in Arlington, which include about 10% of all those killed in the current wars. This wonderful program cost the tax payer not one red cent. In my eyes Rickey Gilleland III is also a hero.

Lonny Holmes
SFA 78 President.



www.preserveandhonor.com

PreserveandHonor.com was created by the great, great, great grandson of a soldier who fought at Gettysburg and it is inspired by the words of President Lincoln. In a letter to a war widow Lincoln wrote "I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom."

It is the objective of PreserveandHonor.com to provide a virtual place for loved ones and friends to both locate the graves of the fallen and reflect on the memory of their sacrifice. We strive to create an accurate and continually updated listing of the burials at Arlington National Cemetery for those who served in the Global War on Terror.

Media Coverage

View our Press Page to see some of the media outlets which PreserveandHonor.com has been featured in. Also, don't forget to "like" our Facebook Page.



Editors Page:

US Special Operations forces kill Bin Laden

United States Joint Special Operations Command Forces put an end to Osama Bin Laden

After almost a year of surveillance and planning, the U.S. sent its top intelligence officials and one of its Tier One Special Operations teams to the terrorist's compound on Saturday and put an end to Bin Laden's reign of terror.



- Summer 2010, military and intelligence officials learned of a "high-value" target in Pakistan. According to the New York Times, a large house in a suburb north of Islamabad at the end of a long dirt road with no phone and no internet
- Officials found the compound by tailing Bin Laden's personal courier.
- March 2011, over five national security meetings President Obama ironed out the details for a strike on the house.
- The President rejected original proposal to bomb the compound without more proof. He wanted proof Bin Laden was dead, not a pile of rubble.
- The SEAL's held two rehearsals last month to prepare.



Navy DEVGRU Team in Afghanistan

• One chopper is said to have "stalled" above the compound. NBC reports that the chopper stalled because of a lack of air due to the high walls of the compound. Other theories are that it hit something or was shot down. In any event, the SEALs abandoned it and conducted the raid.

- President Obama said: "We shared our intelligence on this compound with no other country, including Pakistan."
- 8:20 a.m. Friday April 29, before he left to tour tornado torn Alabama, the President gave orders for the CIA and military Special Forces to strike.
- The raid was planned for Saturday but rescheduled due to weather.
- As the operation prepared to start Friday, American officials at the consulate in Peshwar were evacuated, leaving only essential staff.

From Ghazi Air Base in Pakistan, the modified MH-60 helicopters made their way to the garrison suburb of Abbottabad, about 30 miles from the center of Islamabad. Aboard were Navy SEALs, flown across the border from Afghanistan, along with tactical signals, intelligence collectors, and navigators using highly classified hyperspectral imagers.

- One of the United States tier-one counter-terrorism teams, DEVGRU led the assault. The SEALs hit the compound at 3:30 p.m. and were gone by 4:15.
- After bursts of fire over 40 minutes, 22 people were killed or captured. One of the dead was Osama bin Laden, done in by a double tap to the left side of his face. His body was aboard the choppers that made the trip back. One had experienced mechanical failure and was destroyed by U.S. forces, military and White House officials tell National Journal.
- The President monitored the operation all day from the White House Situation Room.
- The compound has 12-18 foot high walls and two security gates.
- The attack against the highly fortified compound lasted 40 minutes.
- Residents of the compound had been burning all of their trash and although the property was valued \$1 million neither of the couriers had a reported income.
- Two couriers and their families lived at the compound with Bin Laden and his youngest wife, as well as Bin Laden's son, who was also killed.
- No American forces were killed, though the U.S. lost one helicopter due to mechanical issues. The chopper was blown up by the American team.
- A woman, used as a human shield by Bin Laden's forces was killed.



Editors Page:

The end of Osama Bin Laden; Continued

Were it not for this high-value target, it might have been a routine mission for the specially trained and highly mythologized SEAL Team Six, officially called the Naval Special Warfare Development Group, but known even to the locals at their home base Dam Neck in Virginia as just DevGru.

This HVT was special, and the raids required practice, so they replicated the one-acre compound at Camp Alpha, a segregated section of Bagram Air Base. Trial runs were held in early April.

DevGru belongs to the Joint Special Operations Command, an extraordinary and unusual collection of classified standing task forces and special-missions units. They report to the president and operate worldwide based on the legal (or extra-legal) premises of classified presidential directives. Though the general public knows about the special SEALs and their brothers in Delta Force, most JSOC missions never leak.

Under a variety of standing orders, JSOC is involved in more than 50 current operations spanning a dozen countries, and its units, supported by so-called "white," or acknowledged, special operations entities like Rangers, Special Forces battalions, SEAL teams, and Air Force special ops units from the larger Special Operations Command, are responsible for most of the "kinetic" action in Afghanistan.



DEVGRU Operator



SEAL Team
Personal Kit





"Up and Coming Leaders"

C/LTC Zackary Hartley

Battalion Commander, CSUF ROTC "Titan Battalion"

There is no mistake that ROTC is making the future leaders of tomorrow today. ROTC and West Point are the only two Officer programs in the United States Army that spend up to four years on small unit tactics and leadership development, as well as social etiquette and military bearing. ROTC has the distinct advantage of allowing Cadets to have lives outside of ROTC and work with many different kinds of people. By teaching to follow first, then lead, ROTC's Cadets are the up and coming leaders of America's Army.

While most of the senior Cadets are getting ready to commission, all other classes are preparing to shift into new roles as the semester ends. Most of the freshman Cadets have been spending the whole semester observing the juniors and following their orders. Soon they will be able to take on new and challenging responsibilities, by being Team Leaders or Class Leaders. The sophomore cadets have been able to take on view many different leadership styles for two years. They will soon be put in leadership positions (anything from Squad Leader to Company commander) that will be evaluated. Many will also be participating in summer training. Cadets Vince Renzi, Don Kidwell, Gabe Perez, and Robert Santa Ines are all prime examples. They grew up in the program and showed great discipline, as well as physical prowess. By being on the Ranger Challenge team, their names were submitted for different Army Schools. They will be attending Airborne School this summer in Ft. Benning, GA and Gabe Perez will be going to Air Assault School. Robert "SI" Santa Ines has been on the Ranger Challenge team for two years now and has won Cadet of the Year for Titan Battalion in 2010. He was selected to go to the Special Forces Combat Diver Qualification Course in Key West Florida, one of two Cadets in the history of Titan Battalion.



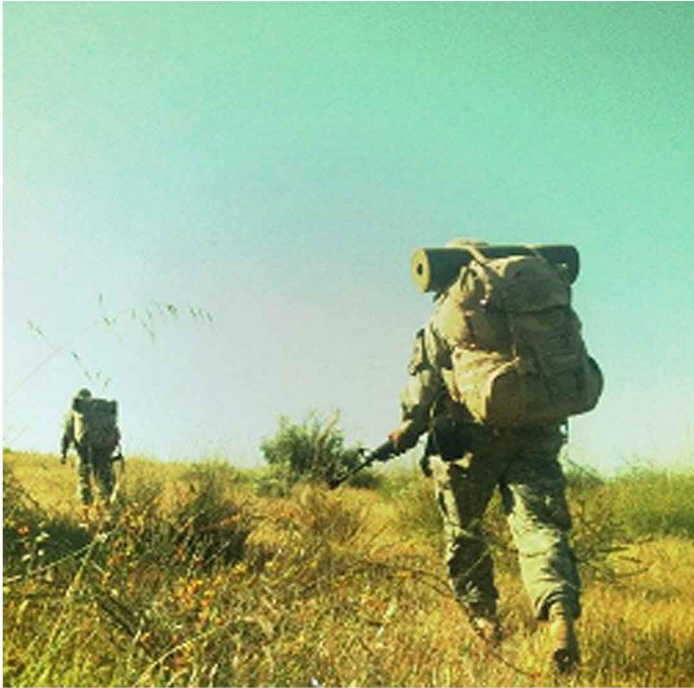
The juniors, while getting ready for the Leadership Development and Assessment Course, are also getting ready to take over for the seniors. Junior Cadet David Downey has taken over the role of Ranger Challenge Captain and has overseen training for this semester. He also helped plan the trips for the German Armed Forces Badge for Proficiency and the Bataan Death March. While being more versed in battle drills and Operations orders (OPORDs), Cadet Downey has been helping his fellow classmates by sending them training aids and working with them one on one. The juniors also have to write and brief their own OPORDs for their final project. They will also sit in on the weekly training meeting for the seniors and cadre in order to see and experience what goes on in planning the semester schedule.

Immediately upon commissioning, many of the seniors will leave for their Basic Officer Leadership Course. They will learn the trade for their branch, but some will have little idea of what their soldiers expect when they finally arrive. I was able to attend the 14th Battle Command Conference on April 21, 2011 at West Point. This conference centered around the ability to lead a combat-hardened platoon as a brand new LT in a demanding environment, as well as what Company Commanders and others expect from them. Officers and NCOs (from Brigade Commanders down to Platoon Sergeants) just returning from combat were able to attend and gave great advice to the Cadets. I was able to take four pages of detailed notes for the seniors, as well as underclassmen, and distribute this knowledge to those who requested it. Soon I will commission and head to training, but I am confident knowing the Titan Battalion ROTC Program will be in good hands with these leaders.

Vince, Don, Dave, and I all participated in the practice Shooter's Cup and learned a lot from Terry, John, Lonny, and Steve.



ROTC





Chapter 78 Annual DAY AT THE RANGE



Chapter 78 Members, don't miss out on a great day of fun and shooting. Tom Redfern is hosting the Day at the range. It will be this Saturday, May 7th 2011 at the Burbank Revolver & Rifle Club. www.brrc.org

We will be having a barbeque following shooting activities. Please talk to Tom for additional details.



Chapter 78 Members at last years Day at the Range

Special Forces Association Chapter 78

Shooters Cup

08OCT2011

Please view our website for complete details
www.sfa78cup.com



Click the image for a preview

We are moving forward quickly with the Chapter 78 Shooters Cup. Several sponsors have joined our team to include In and Out Burgers, Glock and Remington to name a few. Over the next four months we will be sponsoring booths at local gun shows and soliciting donors and sponsors. We will be raffling off a special edition Glock 19 with the Special Forces Crest engraved on the slide.

A fundraiser for The Green Beret Foundation
sponsored by Special Forces Association Chapter 78





Special Forces Association Chapter 78

There will be no meeting this month due to the Day at the Range.

