



THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
SENTINEL
SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION CHAPTER 78
NEWSLETTER OF THE SILENT PROFESSIONALS

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APRIL 2011



In this Issue:

Presidents column

Editors Column: US Army Special Forces
in Popular Culture

ROTC

Day at the Range

Shooters Cup





Please visit us at www.specialforces78.com

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In This Issue:

- 3 Presidents Pages
- 4 -6 Editors column
- 7 Chapter Minutes
- 8 ROTC
- 9 Day at the Range
- 10 SFA 78 Cup
- 11 Meeting info and Map

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The Presidents Page



Lonny Holmes
President SFA 78

PRESIDENTS COLUMN **April 2011**

ROTC Awards Ceremonies are rapidly approaching and we will need volunteers to present the Special Forces Medals of Merit, Certificates and the Chapter 78 Challenge Coin to the 5 programs we honor; the University of California at Los Angeles, University of Southern California, California State University Fullerton and the combined programs of Claremont McKenna and California State University at San Bernardino. We will also give a signed copy of John 'Tilt' Myers book, *Boots on the Ground* to each cadet. I will call for volunteers at the chapter meeting on April 9th. It makes more of an impression if we have 2 or 3 chapter members present.

The Claremont McKenna and San Bernardino program will have a reception and dinner! We began supporting the ROTC at USC in 1998, and let's continue the spirit. Choose a program and help us out.

Speaking the ROTC programs, California State University Fullerton Cadet Battalion Commander LTC Zachery Huntly has written the second of three articles for the Sentinel. In this month's edition he provides us with the education details of the junior and senior years of an ROTC Cadets training and includes several highlights such as competing for the German Armed Forces

Badge for Proficiency. Few cadets get the chance to compete, fewer succeed.

The 'Ripple Effect' the short film about an ODA in Afghanistan has been nearly completed in 'post production,' and will be premiered at the Newport Beach Film Festival on April 29. I will have more details at Saturday's meeting so members may attend. The big "premiere" will be at the Directors Guild held in Hollywood, in early May. This viewing will have very limited seating due to guild members and other professionals; however our chapter advisors have been invited. Velvet A. Smith, the films' director and screenplay writer mentioned that DVD's will be available soon to chapter members.

Chapter 78's new web-site is up and running and Terry Cagnolatti along with the webmaster continue to fine tune its pages. Now is your time to submit a bio and pictures.

Steve Cowan and John Joyce continue to put in a lot of long hours on the Chapter 78 Special Forces Association 'Shooters Cup' event which is scheduled for 8 October. They have been working closely with Andrew of Grid 35 which is the same company that constructed the Chapter 78 website, and now we have a free standing "Special Forces Association Shooters Cup" website. This dedicated site should be up and open to public viewing by Saturday, April 9, 2011. It includes pictures, videos, and general information as well as a donation site. Speaking of donation, the Shooters Cup is beginning to generate interest and garner product specific donations. Presently we have one Glock 17 pending engraving which we will sell raffle tickets to generate money for the event. Glock Corporation may also donate a second pistol. I tip my Green Beret to the Shooters Cup Committee for their hard work. Steve will also be consulting with Dave Thomas of Special Forces Gear in the design of Shooters Cup 'T' shirts and a large logo banner.

Lonny Holmes
SFA 78





Editors Page:

I came across this interesting article recently and thought it quite fascinating..

United States Army Special Forces In Popular Culture

Members of the U.S. Army Special Forces will emphatically assert that the "Green Beret" is a hat and not the man who wears it. Nevertheless, for a time in the 1960s the Green Berets and the men who wore them became a national fad emerging in a wide variety of popular culture referents. After a decline in popularity during the 1970s — coinciding with the American public's backlash against the Vietnam War — the Green Berets gripped the popular imagination again beginning with the Rambo film franchise in 1982. They continue to appear as both major and minor referents in popular culture — especially in Hollywood movies and television — often serving as a shorthand signifier for a "shady," "covert," or at least highly "operational," military background for a fictional character. As a dramatic device, this can "cut both ways" — i.e., lead an audience to either admire or fear (or both) a character.

SOLDIERS OF THE NEW FRONTIER

Although the U.S. Army Special Forces were created with a low profile in 1952, and the green beret was not officially authorized, things changed dramatically with President John F. Kennedy. He wanted to challenge Communist influence and wars of liberation in the recently decolonized Third World, and bolster pro-American regimes with the U.S. Army's own special forces and counter-guerrilla fighters.

On 12 October 1961, Kennedy visited the U.S. Special Warfare Center, where his aide, Major General Chester V. Clifton (and friend of the SWC Commander, BG William P. Yarborough) informed Yarborough that the President was keen on the Special Forces — but would not visit the SF base unless they were wearing their green berets. The Army, having previously forbidden the green beret, allowed the soldiers to wear them, lest JFK not visit.[1] The Special Forces displayed their capabilities, impressing the President; so often, in the next years, that they referred to it as "Disneyland." President Kennedy's visit was topped with a Bell Aircraft pilot (dressed in Army fatigues) flying with a rocket belt to the President, and saluting him.

Kennedy approved of the Green Beret, and the U.S. Army authorised it. In 1962, he called the green beret, "a symbol of excellence, a badge of courage, a mark of distinction in the fight for freedom." Special Forces soldiers in berets and dress Greens were President Kennedy's cortege in 1963. An SF beret was photographed atop his grave at Arlington National Cemetery.

EARLIEST MEDIA

The 1st Special Forces Group on Okinawa provided a number of troopers to act as extras in director Samuel Fuller's *Merrill's Marauders* (1961) and were credited at film's start. On U.S. television, a March 1962 episode of *Surfside 6* is titled "The Green Beret" and featured SF training. Henry Fonda appeared in, and narrated, a 1962 "Special Forces" episode of *The Big Picture* series of U.S. Army-produced films that found their way to U.S. television. In 1963, a Green Beret appeared in the episode "In Praise of Pip" of *The Twilight Zone* though the U.S. Army told the CBS television network to not name Southeast Asian country where the story occurred. The Green Beret's first Hollywood appearance is in the futuristic thriller film *Seven Days in May* (1963) wherein Andrew Duggan is a Special Forces officer loyal to the U.S. President, not the traitorous JCS Chief Burt Lancaster; the film also gave the U.S. filmgoer a first glimpse of the M16 rifle.

Mattel toys made "Guerrilla Fighter" playsets in 1962 containing a commando green beret with an interesting tin "Guerrilla Fighter" badge depicting the crossed arrows insignia of the Special Forces, (formerly worn by the 1st Special Service Force, and before that the U.S. Army Indian Scouts) and a jungle knife in front of a parachute. The set also contained the Mattel Dick Tracy automatic cap firing "tommy gun" or "Scattergun" (the Dick Tracy cap firing but no longer water firing riot shotgun) toy weapons, both now in military camouflage plastic, a military camouflaged poncho, and in some sets, a rubber Ka-Bar knife and a tripwire booby trap. Mattel later made the "M-16 Marauder", in 1966, which appeared in *The Green Berets* film wherein an enraged John Wayne smashes one against a tree.

The public was fascinated with this new type of soldier of the New Frontier, and the Army reluctantly gave journalists' access to many of Special Forces often top secret missions. One writer was Robin Moore, who used his connections with Harvard University classmate Robert F. Kennedy to write a book about the Special Forces. The U.S. Army agreed on the condition that Moore (then 38 years old) complete the Basic Airborne Course and SF training before being allowed to visit the Special Forces in South Vietnam.



Editors Page:

United States Army Special Forces In Popular Culture continued:

Robin Moore successfully completed the courses and was allowed to live with the soldiers in Special Forces and their South Vietnamese, Montagnard, and Nung allies. His book, *The Green Berets*, was published in 1965, but, because he mentions the American presence in North Vietnam and Cambodia, he published *The Green Berets* as a novel. The U.S. Army was upset by the book; the reading public was not and it became a best selling book, especially its paperback edition in 1966.

At the time of Moore's book and the increasing U.S. Military involvement in the Vietnam War, Special Forces Staff Sergeant Barry Sadler wrote a song with Robin Moore and recorded it under the title the "Ballad of the Green Berets." It became the number-one-single-record in the U.S. in 1966. In addition to the single, Sadler released an album *Ballads of the Green Berets* with Sadler's photograph of him in a green beret appearing on the single, the LP, and on the paperback cover of Moore's *The Green Berets*. SSgt. Sadler later recorded an additional, but lesser, song "The A-Team" and released two more long-playing albums, then wrote his autobiography, *I'm A Lucky One*.

"Ballad of the Green Berets" had many cover versions ranging from Ennio Morricone and Duane Eddy to "Drugstore records" on labels such as Diplomat and Wyncote records. Hanna-Barbera Records released a children's LP *The Story of the Green Beret* available to members of the G.I. Joe club. The album was a tie-in with the release of the G.I. Joe Green Beret "action figure" (doll) that had appeared in 1966. The exciting record had an album cover of Special Forces in action and a picture of the Medal of Honor. The record started off with a cover version of "Ballad of the Green Berets" but was a spoken account with sound effects of Colonel Pat Lawrence (Mike Road) taking two small boys (Andy and George) to visit Fort Bragg, North Carolina, to learn about the training and capabilities of *The Green Berets*. The album then featured an exciting account of the Battle of Nam Dong where Captain Roger Donlon received the first Medal of Honor in the Vietnam War.

A less successful song was Nancy Ames' "He Wore The Green Beret" with a flip side of "War is a Card Game". Dickie Goodman pitted the two fads of 1966 against each other in *Batman & His Grandmother* where the Caped Crusader went up against the Green Beret.

Robin Moore also wrote a 1965 *Tales of the Green Beret* newspaper comic strip with artwork by Sgt. Rock (comics) Joe Kubert that was also published in paperback. It later became a Dell Publishing American comic book in 1967 replacing their earlier *Jungle War Stories* and *Guerrilla War* comics. When DC Comics's Larry Rock (brother of the Sergeant), the replacement in *Our Fighting Forces* for the Marines Gunner and Sarge and their dog Pooch proved unpopular, DC replaced him with a Green Beret named Captain Hunter in 1966. Captain Hunter's adventures featured him hunting for his twin brother, a pilot shot down and captured by the Viet Cong. Other war comics put in their own Green Beret characters, such as Lightning Comics' Todd Holton-Super Green Beret.



Fightin' Army
Comic Book 1966



Green Beret
GI Joes



Editors Page: United States Army Special Forces In Popular Culture continued:

Children of all ages could also enjoy Philadelphia Gum "Men of the Green Beret" trading cards of photographs of the Special Forces in action with a stick of bubble gum. The artwork on the box was by famed artist Norm Saunders of Mars Attacks fame. Aurora Models came out with a model of a Green Beret soldier.

With all the interest in the men of the Green Berets, a film version seemed a long time in coming. Columbia Pictures had bought the film rights to Robin Moore's book before publication, using the title, *The Green Berets*, for a screenplay about the training of an SF Team and their deployment in Southeast Asia, but dropped the idea, because of the U.S. Army's many conditions and the U.S. public's dissatisfaction with the Vietnam War. Producer David L. Wolper then bought the rights to *The Green Berets*, and dropped the idea for reasons like Columbia Pictures. Although he later produced *The Devil's Brigade* (1968) with Utah-based National Guard SF soldiers as extras, wearing attractive, but imaginary red berets.

Thus, it fell to John Wayne to buy the rights and ask President Lyndon Johnson's help in obtaining the assistance and cooperation of the Pentagon in filming the book. The Army set strict conditions, forbidding Moore to work on or be associated with the film, though the film trailer has the caption "TOLD TOUGH - LIKE THE BOOK". Despite Wayne's box office prestige and public interest in *The Green Berets*, the film was rejected by Universal Pictures and Paramount Pictures. Wayne's preferred film composer, Elmer Bernstein, refused to write the score. Wayne used his Batjac Productions money to make the film, which Warner Bros. profitably released to some public protest.

John Wayne's version of Robin Moore's *The Green Berets* begins with a choral version of the "Ballad of the Green Berets" heard behind Wayne Fitzgerald's titles that segue to an SF A-Team putting on a "Disneyland" show for journalists, including skeptical David Janssen. From SF Colonel John Wayne, reporter Janssen wangles a trip to the Vietnam War, and, eventually, participates in a large-scale battle, based on the Battle of Nam Dong, in the event, Janssen tells Wayne "If I write what I feel, I'll be out of a job". Wayne tells Janssen he'll always have one with them.

The last third of the film is Green Beret expertise in a commando mission to abduct a North Vietnamese General who has been seduced by the sister-in-law of an ARVN Special Forces Colonel Jack Soo Wayne's counterpart. The climax is a superb demonstration of combatives by former-Tarzan Mike Henry killing a horde of Viet Cong who attack him, even impaling one on a low tree branch. The martial arts inspired many film producers.

DECLINE

As the public wearied of the Green Berets, so did the American Regular Army. The 1969 "Green Beret Murder Case" in which Colonel Robert Rheault and several of his men were tried for assassinating a Communist spy was used as a discrediting tactic against the Special Forces..[2] The case also contributed to the plot of the movie *Apocalypse Now* in which a Green Beret Colonel accused of the same offence has gone rogue.

RAMBO

In 1972, author David Morrell published *First Blood*, a novel that features a former member of the Army Special Forces named John Rambo. The novel focuses on the struggle Rambo faces when he attempts to return to civilian life following the end of his tour of duty in Vietnam, and he eventually turns to violence. In 1982, a film adaptation of the novel was released, starring Sylvester Stallone. The film altered many aspects of the novel, including excising the self-loathing characteristics the protagonist possesses in the novel. The film was a box office success, and spawned a series of three additional films.

ONGOING REFERENCES

Special forces soldiers (or, usually, former SF soldiers) continue to appear as both major and minor referents in popular culture — especially in Hollywood movies and commercial television — often serving as a short-hand signifier for a "shady", "covert", or at least highly "operational", military background for a fictional character. As a dramatic device, this can "cut both ways" — i.e., lead an audience to either admire or fear (or both) a character.





Special Forces Association
Chapter 78 – Membership Meeting
March 12, 2011



Call to Order 1005 by Lonny Holmes President

Pledge of Allegiance - Robert Crebbs

Invocation – Richard Simonian

Members Present Steve Cowan (M-12798), Bruce Long (D-7464), Aaron Anderson(), Lee Martin (Guest), Ed Barrett (M-11188), Jack Lawson (D-3955), Mike Keele, John Meyer (M-238), Gary Macnamara (M-12789), Sal Sanders (A-1986), Jim Duffy (D-7596), Jean Ramos, Richard Simonian (D-7920), Ramon Rpdriquez (D-1979), Mark Miller (D-8296), Terry Cagnolatti (M-9747), Lonny Holmes (D-6067), Al Watts (A-2238), Brad Welker (M-2319), John Joyce (M-11877), John Creel (M-10080), Robert Crebbs (D-4499), Tom Redfern (D7907)

Treasurer's Report: Presented by Richard Simonian

Secretary's Report : Presented by Tom Redfern Minutes as stated in March Sentinel

Guest Speaker: Introduced by Al Watts - Dr. Lopez from the VA Long Beach Hospital

Dr. Lopez is a psychologist dealing with PTSD – Presented a discussion on PTSD, what it is, what happens, triggers, why it happens, symptoms, therapy, How to get help. PTSD is a severe, prolonged reaction to traumatic stress. The group had a very open discussion about PTSD and events that triggered PTSD. The VA conducts peer group therapy sessions. Dr. Lopez was presented with a chapter coins and the thanks from all for her extremely informative presentation.

Introduction from guest Grant Lee Martin – former 5th Gp., Boy Scouts Long Beach

Announcement – Day at the Range May 7th 2011

Challenge Cup – Steve Cowan – Update on 2011 Challenge Cup October 8th, 2011

Emails going out – A Face Book Page is being set up. Chapter 75 will be coming and Roger Donlon Medal of Honor recipient will be the guest of honor at the Challenge Cup.

Web Site Update – John Joyce & Terry Cagnolatti – 2-3 weeks site will be updated. The web site tech reps presented the new web site and all the changes that make it stand out.

Meeting Adjourned at 1135

Tom Redfern
Secretary
Chapter 78
Special Forces Association



Cal State Fullerton ROTC

By Cadet LTC Zackary Hartley



ROTC involves four years of tough military training, schooling, and officership. It's during the junior and senior years that Cadets really kick it into high gear. Learning and adapting are critical, because within two years, those cadets will be leading a platoon of Soldiers and will put all of their training and knowledge to the test. The Cadets understand just how important and how responsible they will have to be when they are thrust into those positions.

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LDAC is a 29 day course (located in Ft. Lewis, Washington) that all ROTC MSIII Cadets have to attend in order to commission. There the Cadets are evaluated on physical fitness, garrison leadership, as well as on squad and patrolling exercises. They conduct Field Leadership Reaction Courses, Confidence Courses, Water Confidence Courses, the gas chamber, and other team building exercises. The Cadets will receive 6 evaluations from different Cadre (2 Garrison, 2 STX, 1 FLRC, 1 Patrolling). From there, the Cadets are given an overall rating of an E, S, or N. Once the course has been completed, the cadets will be ranked in a national Order of Merit List with all other ROTC Cadets in the nation. Based on how well a Cadet does, that determines his or her branch and post.

The senior year, the MSIVs learn about ethics, support forms, supply, cultural awareness, finances, as well as officer development from seasoned NCOs. They will also have to create Operations Orders (OPORDs) for the battalion's labs, brief them, and be graded on how well the operation went. They will spend many hours



outside of ROTC planning and prepping for these missions. It helps them to understand time management, soldier care, and good quality training. The seniors also serve in Cadet Officer leadership positions, such as Executive Officer, S1, S4, as well as the Command Sergeant Major. They also mentor the lower classmen and help develop their skills as leaders.

Recently, three major events occurred that Titan Battalion participated in. University of Las Vegas, Nevada hosted the annual competition for the German Armed Forces Badge for Proficiency on March 12-13. This badge includes track events, swimming, shooting, and a 7.5-mile ruck march with 33 lbs. Based on their performance, Cadets could earn a gold, silver, or bronze medal. On the 23rd, Major General Mark McDonald (Commanding General of Cadet Command) visited Titan Battalion and as Battalion Commander, I gave him a brief on our program. Titan Battalion sent eight Cadets to the 22nd annual Bataan Memorial Death March (White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico) on the 27th. The 26.2 mile grueling course is known to be one of the hardest marathons in America. Include a 30 knot headwind that forced even the most seasoned runners walk, and you've got a course that is almost impossible. All Titan Battalion Cadets completed it with 35-lb rucks on. As I passed Mile 16, the water point was manned by a SFA Chapter in New Mexico! As the Battalion Commander, I participated in all three events, knowing that the only true leader is one who leads by example. The Cadets that Titan Battalion is producing are some of the finest men and women I've ever worked with and we appreciate every day what SFA 78 did/does for us.





Chapter 78 Annual DAY AT THE RANGE



To all Chapter 78 Members. Tom Redfern is again setting up the Day at the range. It will be on 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

To be held at
Mike Raahuage Shooting Enterprises
Corona, CA

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





Special Forces Association Chapter 78

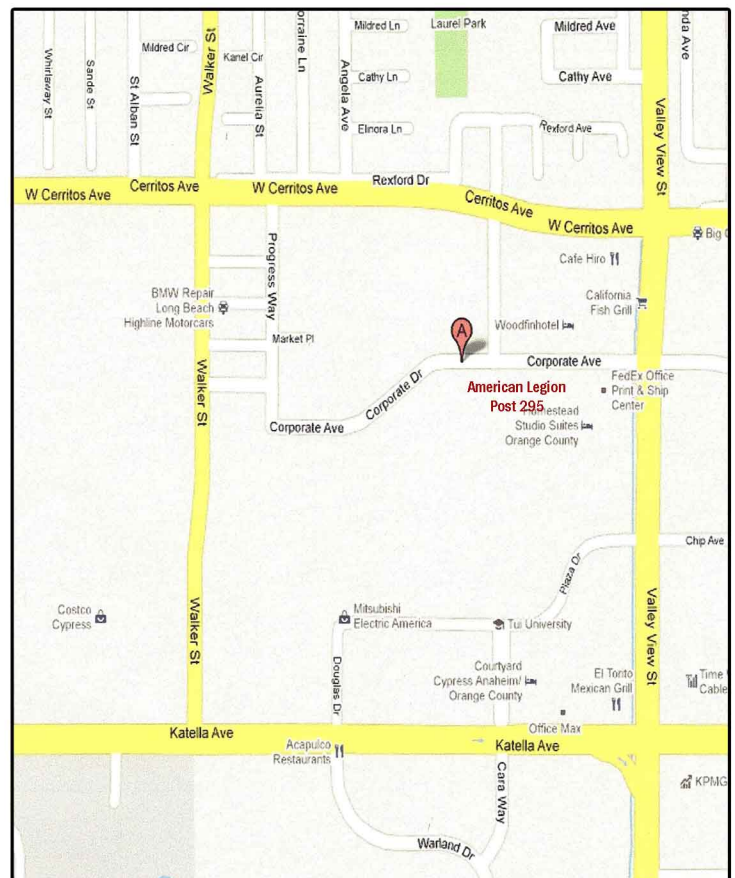
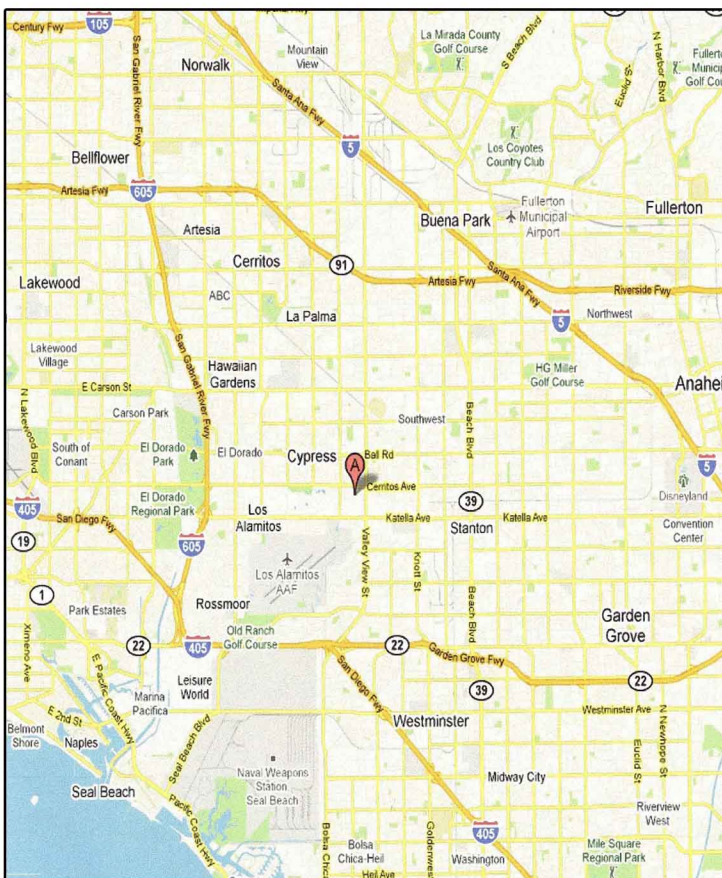
Next meeting

April 9, 2011 0900 Hrs

We will be discussing plans for next months Day at the Range and our progress so far on the Chapter 78 Shooters Cup for October 8th.

5646 Corporate Way Cypress, CA 90630

Map to the Post 295



Raffle, guest speakers, breakfast and more.

American Legion Post 295