



# THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SENTINEL

SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION CHAPTER 78  
NEWSLETTER OF THE QUIET PROFESSIONALS

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## VOLUME 2 ISSUE 7

## JULY 2011



Presidents Page  
Shooters Cup Updates  
Monthly Minutes  
Special Article by Velvet Smith





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(From left: Nguyen Cong Hiep, team interpreter; Chau Tuan, grenadier; John S. Meyer, One-Zero; Nguyen Van Sau, Zero-One; Cau, Son; Douglas L. Lefebvre, One-Two; Hung and Lynne M. Black Jr., One-One.)

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## The Presidents Page



**Lonny Holmes**  
President SFA 78

### **PRESIDENTS COLUMN** **July 2011**

Velvet Andrews Smith, the Director and Screenplay writer of the "Ripple Effect," a film about an A-Team in Afghanistan, attended Chapter 78's June 11 meeting. She brought members a copy of the film on DVD and 2 boxes of Macanudo Hampton Court Cigars which were the same as used in the movie. Following a presentation and discussion on the making of the "Ripple Effect" we presented her with a Shooters Cup Challenge Coin and several 'T' shirts with the Shooters Cup logo for her and her husband Kirk, the films editor.

On Memorial Day I attended the ceremonies in Washington, DC at the Wall. There were multiple speeches by invited guests of the government and I even ran into an old friend who was speaking, Diane C. Evans, who gave a short talk on the Woman's Vietnam Memorial. We had met in the late 1980's when she was touring the country raising money to develop the woman's memorial and I was chair of a national veteran's caucus. I was surprised to note that the 'mall' was not packed with visitors. However on Sunday May 29, there was barely standing room only along the entire mall and all the memorials. It seemed that all America turned out for the holiday one day early, and all were very friendly and very courte

ous. What a change from our returning from the Vietnam War..

Chapter 78 had its first ever fund raising activity on June 3 to 5 at Raahauges 19th Annual 2011 Sports Fair. Our chapter had a booth near the entrance which was a prime location to get the attention of all the visitors. Total attendance was between 10,000 to 15,000, over the weekend. Steve Cowan, Bruce Long, John Joyce, Brad Welker, Terry Cagnolatti and wife Juliette, and I in rotations staffed the sales booth from 8am to 6pm daily. Aaron Anderson of the Green Beret Foundation stopped by on Saturday and brought some GBF shirts and brochures. We sold 1350 raffle tickets, about 75 'Shooters Cup Challenge Coins, and a fair number of event 'T' shirts. Total sales generated about \$4800 for the Shooters Cup. Raahauges proved to be a good start for our initial effort.

Now we are expanding our efforts and have rented booths at two gun shows over the summer. Both of these shows have a high attendance so we may be able to further generate the funds required to host the 2011 Special Forces Association Chapter 78 "Shooters Cup" on October 8. For these shows we need your help. We found that it takes a minimum of 3 chapter members to 'man' the booth. Many of the interested purchasers want to also speak with members about the army and Special Forces. This is a good public relations event as well as a fund raiser. So please sign up for a specific show and date at the July meeting. See the dates and locations below.

Crossroads of the West GunShows  
July 30 and 31  
Ontario Convention Center  
Ontario, CA

August 20 and 21  
Orange County Fairgrounds  
Costa Mesa, CA

Lonny Holmes  
SFA 78





## The Presidents Page

SFA President Lonny Holmes visited Washington DC on Memorial Day and reunites with former SF Team mates



Bob Shaffer, Gene Williams, Lonny Holmes, Jack Williams, Memorial Day 2011.



Gene and Jack Williams, Lonny Holmes, Bob Shaffer, 2011.



Gene and Jack Williams, Lonny Holmes, Gordon Deniston, DC 2011.



Jack Williams, Lonny Holmes, Vietnamese Restaurant.



WWII War Memorial, parachute bronze, 2011. Lonny, Jack and Gene Williams, Bob Shaffer.

## SFA 78 Fundraiser at Mike Raahuage's Gun Show



SFA 78 Booth



SFA 78 Members; Terry Cagnolatti, Steve Cowan, Bruce Long, Aaron Anderson, Lonny Holmes working the booth.



Bruce, Lonny and Terry give a thumbs up for positive performance after selling the 500th raffle ticket.

Lonny Holmes, President  
Chapter 78







## CARING FOR AMERICA'S QUIET PROFESSIONALS



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*They gave their all for us, now here is your chance to give something back to them. Please donate now*

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The liberties we enjoy as Americans don't come without a cost. The Special Forces bear the burden of having the highest number of wounded personnel of any other U.S. Special Operations Forces (SOF) proponent. The Green Beret Foundation serves these quiet professionals who bravely serve the American people and its freedoms.

In an effort to fill the gaps in support left by the boundaries of other organizations, the GBF facilitates assistance to our wounded, ill and injured Special Forces soldiers and their families. We do this by providing resources to ease the burdens of some of the financial hardships that arise in their time of need as well as improving the quality of life for the soldier and the family.

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# Special Forces Association Chapter 78

## Shooters Cup

### 08OCT2011

Please view our website for complete details  
[www.sfa78cup.com](http://www.sfa78cup.com)



Click the image for a preview

Chapter 78 event organizers have been busy this month. Springfield Arms just signed on with us as a sponsor and we will be having tables at several local gun shows June-August to promote our event and sell raffle tickets for the Glock 19, event T shirts and coins. Please contact a Steve Cowan, Lonny Holmes or John Joyce to purchase any of these items. October is rapidly approaching and we need your help to raise money.

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





Special Forces Association  
Chapter 78 – Membership Meeting  
June 11, 2011

Call to Order 0950 by Lonny Holmes President

Pledge of Allegiance - Robert Crebbs

Invocation – Richard Simonian

Chapter 78 Members Present: Bruce Long, Aaron Anderson, Ed Barrett, Mike Keele, John Meyer, Gary McNamara, Sal Sanders, Jim Duffy, Jean Ramos, Richard Simonian, Ramon Rodriguez, Mark Miller, Terry Cagnolatti, Lonny Holmes, Al Watts, Brad Welker, Robert Crebbs, Tom Redfern, David Sullivan, Jack Eckles,

Guests: G. Lee Martin & Henry Santo

Treasurer's Report: Presented by Richard Simonian  
Secretary's Report : No meeting last month (May 2011)  
Tom stated that the day at the range was success, after expenses \$175.00 was raised for the chapter.

Guest: Velvet Smith was introduced. She wanted to thank the chapter and everyone who assisted with the making of "The Ripple Effect". DVD's and cigars were given out to each chapter member.

National Convention: Jim Duffy will represent the chapter at the SFA National convention being held later this month in Florida. The chapter gave Jim \$500 to help with his travel expenses. Jim presented a convention sample coin and will purchase for anyone interested. Jim will also invite Ron McCann & Cliff Newman to our annual Christmas party.

Terry Cagnolatti: Update on the Web site & Sentinel. The Sentinel goes around the world. Web site updating is very easy, need more bios and photos.

Shooters Cup – Bruce, Aaron, Lonny, Terry and Steve did a great job at Raahauges Gun Fair this June 3,4,5. They sold raffle tickets, t-shirts and coins raising over \$4600 for the up coming shooters cup.

There are two more gun shows coming up. The first will be at the Ontario Convention Center on July 30 & 31. The second one will be at the O.C. Fair Grounds August 20 & 21. We need chapter members the help at each event. There will be volunteer sign up sheets for each event. The gun shows are an excellent venue to sell our raffle tickets, coins and t-shirts.

Raffle for Glock: Concern should a chapter member win the raffle. Noted that only 2500 tickets will be sold so there is a good chance that a Chap 78 member could win. It was decided & voted on that should a chapter member win the raffle prize, Richard S. would purchase a second gun to be given to the Chapter winner at the Christmas Party. A non-chapter member will win the first gun.

Winner of the raffle will have their picture taken with Col. Donlon

High Point shooter will win a pistol – may have several more for the cup.

Shooters Cup: Build on this first event. ROTC will be involved in training and volunteering to help at the Shooters Cup. Need lots of PR for sponsors & contestants.

Chapter members training ROTC cadets.

Gary McNamara to contact ammo vendors for donations.

Contact food vendors – supply food for event

Need to lock in by August. Time for Teams to commit. Team names, t-shirt size, and special t's for the competitors.

Cup rules on line next 2 weeks. Ammo bring their own. The cup committee will be meeting soon.

Motion for Adjournment. Approved

Meeting adjourned at 1140

Tom Redfern  
Secretary





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Chapter 78 Members Terry Cagnolatti, Steve Cowan, Lonny Holmes and Brad Welker with Director Velvet Smith

## A Reflection on RIPPLE EFFECT

By

Velvet Andrews Smith  
Writer/Director/Producer

I wrote the first draft of the script for *Ripple Effect* in 2007. In the spring of 2010, I was one of only eight women chosen from across the nation to make a short film for the American Film Institute's Directing Workshop for Women. This elite Fellowship was created to promote the careers of emerging female directors in the TV/Film industry. I set out to make the highest quality film possible, with a focus on telling an authentic, compelling story. That also meant I needed the technical advice of real Green Berets. Since then, I've had the honor of getting to know some members of Special Forces Association Chapter 78.

*Ripple Effect* is a fictional story about an SF ODA conducting a MEDCAP in a remote village of Southern Afghanistan. The 18D makes a connection with a young Afghan boy by helping the boy's father, who has been fatally wounded by the Taliban. However, the visit is cut short when the ODA observes signs of an impending ambush. They rapidly begin to depart from the village before civilians are caught up in the potential crossfire. The boy realizes the ODA convoy is heading directly into the path of an I.E.D. He risks his life to stop them, just before the bomb is detonated, narrowly missing them all. Back at the FOB, the 18D convinces the Team SGT and Team Leader that the boy faces certain death by the Taliban in retribution for helping the Americans. With the father's critical medical condition, the ODA returns with a MEDEVAC, airlifting the boy and his father to safety.

In my search for technical advice, I first dealt with the Los Angeles Film Office of the U.S. Army Public Affairs. After going through several military channels, the Department of Defense granted me approval to film at Fort Irwin. However, they wanted me to change my script to involve a Combat Brigade Team. My story had been tailored to the unique nature of the Green Berets. Therefore, I would have to forego the military support of my production and make it happen on my own.

In May of 2010, I contacted Lonny Holmes, President of the Special Forces Association Chapter 78. Lonny was the first person to offer real technical advice and support. I met with Lonny, Steve Cowan, Terry Cagnolatti and Brad Welker to talk about the script.

They were full of insight, and took time to answer my endless questions. I asked about technical details and team dynamics. I wanted to know as much as I could, including how real Green Berets talk and think. As I listened to their personal experiences, I realized that each Green Beret has traveled on a personal journey that far surpasses the boundaries of life as we know it in the United States. Getting to know them has given me a greater appreciation for Green Berets as individuals, and as a whole.

In July, after six weeks of auditions, the actors had been cast. I thought it would be useful if the actors could meet with real Green Berets. Lonny organized a meeting, and Chapter 78 members from all over Southern California met with us at AFI. The meeting gave the actors some real connections to the world of the Green Berets. John Stryker Meyer was gracious enough to give us all copies of his incredible book, *On the Ground: The Secret War in Vietnam*. The actors left that meeting feeling inspired and motivated.

Steve Cowan was especially generous with his time and attention to detail during the entire process of pre-production. I asked for his feedback on dialogue and different situations in the script. After I found a film set in Valencia, CA, Steve drove for several hours to scout the location with me and again later with the cast and crew. He explained to us how an ODA would act in the scenario of this village, including standard protocols and how security perimeters would be set up. We inspected the Humvees that I was renting for the film, and requested that the turrets be built up (when we first saw them, they were nothing more than a single metal shield and a .50 cal). Steve also met with my Production Designer more than once, all in an effort to achieve the finest details, such as what we might see inside a Humvee, or what the FOB would look like. When I called some of Hollywood's legendary costume rental houses, I was given the wrong information as to which uniform Green Berets wear. Thankfully, I found one costume house that had the multi-cam uniforms. Steve was there for the cast fittings to help make sure everything was as accurate as possible. He was also a tremendous asset helping to select the prop weapons. We even asked the prop house to paint the guns (desert color instead of gun-metal black), all in an effort to create authenticity.

In late July 2010, it was time to shoot the film. Lonny, Steve, Terry and Brad were all there in the hot desert, filming from sun up to sun down. Their presence proved to be invaluable. Despite meticulous planning, things change by the moment when filming. They were there when we needed advice. They were there when I needed someone to drive Humvees on some tight hillsides, or when I needed a few more guys to wear the SF uniform. They were there with us for every moment.

We stayed connected during the months of post-production. When we finished the film in May 2011, they joined us for the Premiere at the Director's Guild of America. It's been an honor making this film with them, and getting to know them. They've been an essential part of bringing *Ripple Effect* to life; and for that, I'm deeply grateful.







## Special Forces Association Chapter 78

Next meeting

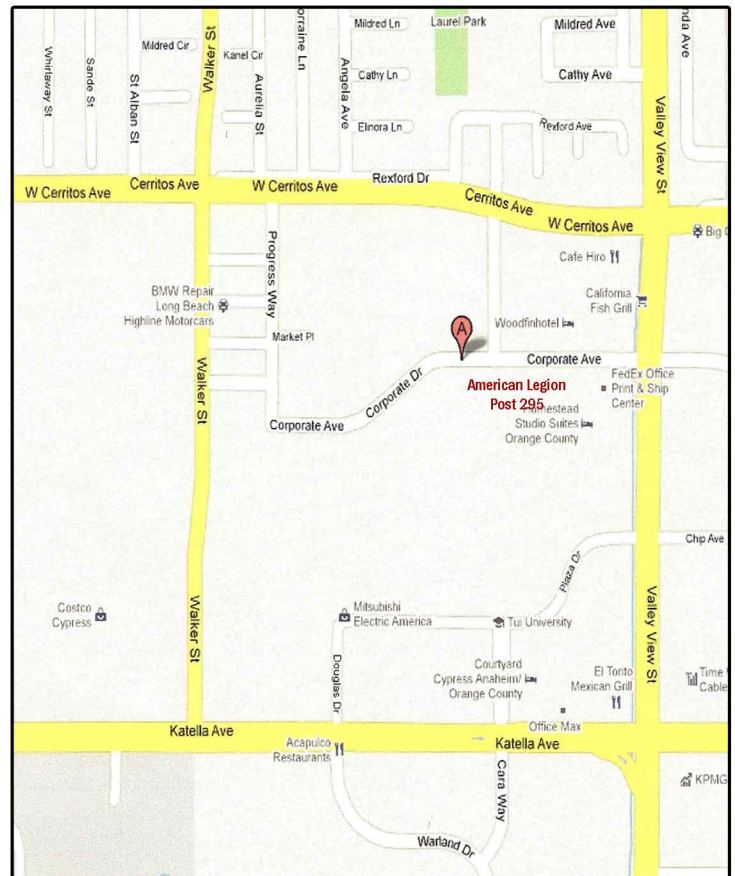
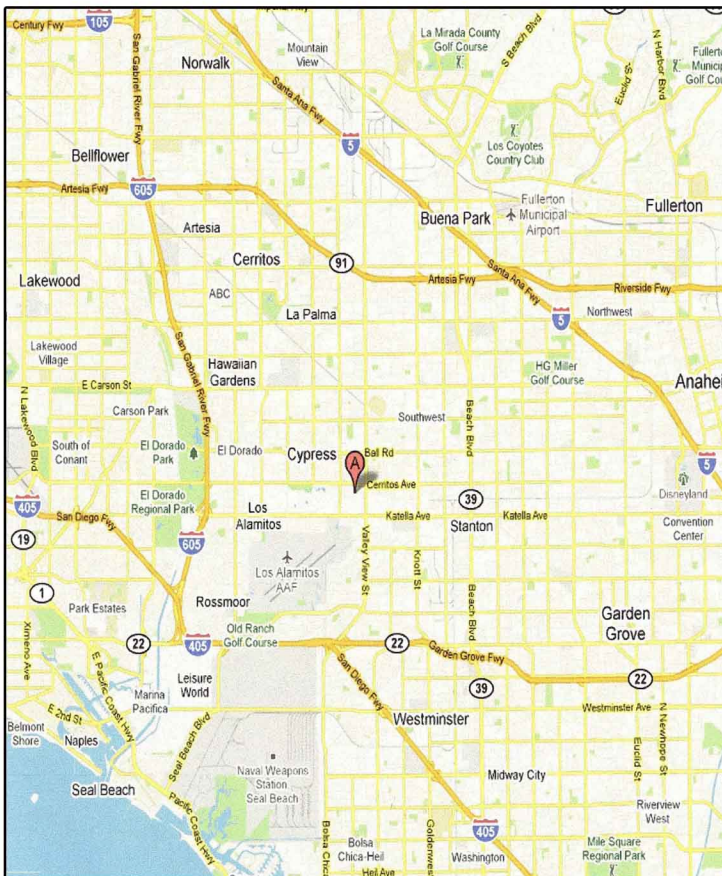
# Saturday July 9th, 2011

## 0900hrs

Special Guest Larry Serra, MAC V SOG, will be giving a presentation. Guests to include: Phil Babb, the NILO at Ha Tien the year before me; Mike Williams, a former naval intel officer who is now FBI and on the local joint terrorism task force; and an SF/SOG fellow whom you might know, Bob Koch from Temecula.

5646 Corporate Way Cypress, CA 90630

### Map to the Post 295



Raffle, guest speakers, breakfast and more.  
American Legion Post 295