



# THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SENTINEL

SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION CHAPTER 78  
NEWSLETTER OF THE QUIET PROFESSIONALS

THE LTC FRANK J. DALLAS CHAPTER

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 3

MAY 2012



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Day at the Range and BBQ  
Remembering Johnny  
Shooters Cup**



Please visit us at [www.specialforces78.com](http://www.specialforces78.com) and [www.sfa78cup.com](http://www.sfa78cup.com)

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COVER PHOTO: The extraction picture for the Recon Team in the article "Remembering Johnny."

Photo credit: Bill Quigley, crew chief of the chase aircraft

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# THE PRESIDENTS PAGE

## PRESIDENTS COLUMN

May 2012



**Lonny Holmes**  
President SFA 78

our DROP mast head as the LTC Frank J. Dallas Chapter.

However since the formation of Chapter 78 we have not had an official biography on LTC Dallas. **LTC Dallas wife, Josephine** contacted me and I requested his bio for the chapter. **Colonel (R) Jim Boatner** his son-in-law contacted me and forwarded the official bio and picture in full dress uniform. Please go to [www.specialforces78.com](http://www.specialforces78.com) and read the bio and following citation on his Silver Star that was awarded for heroism in WWII. LTC Dallas served in 3 wars and was one of our early leaders in the development of the modern Special Forces.

Saturday April 14 chapter members participated in our **Third Annual Day at the Range and BBQ** which was hosted by member **Tom Redfern**. Tom is a long member of the Burbank Revolver and Rifle Club and provided the venue for this fun day with chapter members and their families. This year Tom donated all proceeds from the event to Chapter 78 and provided the ranges fees, targets and BBQ lunch to our members and family's. He was also the chef in charge. A tip of the Beret to Tom!

Following a heavy spring rain (rare in CA) the day was sparkling clear but cold and somewhat windy for those long range shooters. Members arrived with a vast assortment of weapons, from high end competition and combat pistols, rifles, shotguns and even a massive Elephant Pistol belonging to **Terry Cagnolatti**. You must see the picture of Terry firing this true masterpiece. Terry's wife, **Juliette**, shot nearly every weapon she could get her hands on. Continuing the Cagnolatti tradition, Juliette took many photos, some of which are in this issue of the Sentinel.

Early arrivals included **Bruce Long** who helped Tom set up the Range. **Steve Cowan** brought his son and daughter and

**Lonny Holmes** hitched a ride since he cannot drive due to a broken right foot. **Gary McNamara** also an early arrival opened the range with **Joel Adams** who brought two Smith and Wesson .22 cal target pistols along with traditional service and military pieces. Gary scored continuous hits on steel targets from the off handed position (NRA) with little difficulty. His hits on paper targets (all 10 X ring) with all types of pistols left nothing to the imagination. Joel's shooting was also spectacular, but expected from the Chief Range Master for Los Angeles County District Attorneys' Office. Joel's wife **Allison** and Juliette both enjoyed the day.

**Paul Turpin** provided lessons to his wife and showed members his custom Para Ordnance pistol with SF and team logo. This Para Ordnance pistol is a true must have for members. Paul will contact Para and see if we can purchase a similar pistol with SF 78 Green Beret Shooters Cup logo for members and possible prizes for the 2012 Cup.

**Dewey Lund** was invited by **Mike Keele** and both enjoyed the Day at the Range. **Ramon Rodriguez** came with his daughter **Carla** and son **Anthony** and brought along a very fine vintage AK 47. **Chris Martin** who is also a member of the Long Beach Police department brought his wife **Deanna**, son **Trevor** and daughter **Jessica**.

During the BBQ lunch Steve Cowan and Lonny Holmes distributed 1200 raffle tickets to members who were present to sell for the Second Annual Green Beret Shooters Cup. Both will be hot items; a high end Kimber 1911 .45 cal pistol with tactical rail, and a Springfield M1A1 .308 rifle. Tickets are \$2.00 and \$3.00 respectively. The funds raised from the raffle will support the operational cost of the GB Shooters Cup and the rest will be donated to the Green Beret Foundation. We still have 8,800 tickets to sell!

**The Ninth Annual G. I. Film Festival** will be held in Washington D.C. from May 14 to May 20. "The GI Film Festival presents both classic and premier films celebrating the heroic stories of the American Armed Forces and the worldwide struggle for freedom and liberty. This unique film festival will be held in Washington, DC just before the Memorial Day weekend to honor the courage and selflessness of American troops. The GI Film Festival includes 31 film screenings and presentations by award-winning Hollywood actors and directors and panel discussions with soldiers, journalists, authors, and filmmakers." (Continued on page 2)



## THE PRESIDENTS PAGE

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**"Ripple Effect"** written and directed by Velvet Andrews Smith has been selected to be viewed on May 20 beginning at 1730 hours at the Naval Heritage Center. Members of Chapter 78 participated in the production of this film and subsequently the Ripple Effect has received several awards and is currently rated 5 Star in Bravery, Courage, Honor and Sacrifice by the GI Film Festival. Immediately following the film will be the "Best of Film" Awards.

The Ripple Effect is also scheduled for a World Premiere in Seattle Washington in May and is again pending an award.

For further information about the GI Film Festival go to [www.gifilmfestival.com/2012](http://www.gifilmfestival.com/2012).

Many of these 31 films selected by the Film Festival are truly excellent in the portrayal of American Soldiers. One of these is the **"Horse Soldiers of 9/11"** produced and directed by Alex Quade and narrated by Gary Sinise. The movie is of course about SF and the early Afghanistan War and also includes the development of the 18 foot tall Horse Soldier Sculpture, now residing in the city of New York.

Any SF member who resides on the East Coast or has the means to attend the festival will truly enjoy the experience and have a chance to meet many of the actors, directors, producers and other members of the military who will attend. ❖

**SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION 60<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL REUNION** will be held in Fayetteville, NC, June 11 to 17, 2012. Register for the convention and your hotel asap! For further information see your copy of the "DROP" or [go online](http://go online).

Note: we may have a Chapter 78 booth at the reunion to display our chapter items. Chapter members who will attend please let me know if you can help staff our booth. **Jim Duffy** will be our lead at this event.

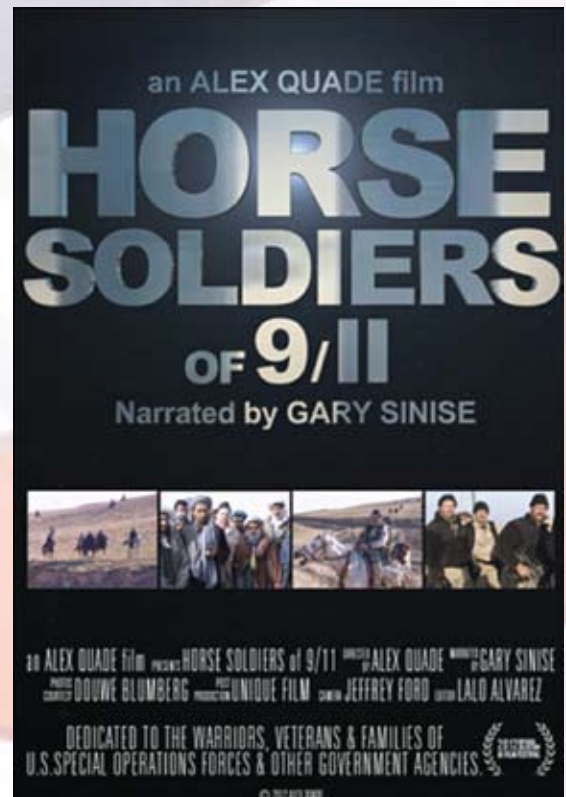
**SPECIAL OPERATION ASSOCIATION REUNION "SOAR" 2012** has been moved to October and will be held in the Orleans Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, NV.

For information see their website <http://www.specialoperations.org/>.

Lonny Holmes  
President  
Chapter 78



The award winning "Ripple Effect" will be shown on May 20 at the GI Film Festival in Washington DC.



Alex Quade's "Horse Soldiers of 9/11" is just one 31 films screening at the GI Film Festival.



## 3RD ANNUAL DAY AT THE RANGE AND BBQ



Tom Redfern host of The Day at the Range preparing the BBQ.



Terry Cagnolatti with his Elephant Gun.



Steve Cowan and daughter.



Paul Turpin instructing his wife.



SF likes western weapons also.



Ready on the Range



Ramon Rodriguez's daughter Carla and son, Anthony.



Juliette Cagnolatti shot many weapons Saturday.



Dewey Lund, Mike Keele and Ramon Rodriguez.



Juliette Cagnolatti and Mrs. Joel Adams.



Steve Cowan, Tom Redfern and Terry Cagnolatti.



Gary McNamara and Joel Adams.





## REMEMBERING JOHNNY

### Forty Four Years Ago, March 27, 1968

By Mike Keele, DFC

**W**e were flying at about 10,000' with heavy cloud cover below and Laos to our front. I had switched my intercom over so I could hear the UHF radio. A desperate sounding voice was whispering into his URC-10 survival radio, pleading "hurry, please hurry." He had contact with the Covey aircraft in the Prairie Fire A.O. They gave us a vector from FOB-1 in Phu Bai to a tiny spot in a ravine on the West side of the A Shau Valley. A Spike Team was trapped by NVA or Pathet Lao troops, and the situation was tense.

After crossing the mountains on the East side of the A Shau, we dropped below the clouds and flew VFR towards our objective. We passed over the A Luoi air strip, then Northwest towards a narrow ravine near the Laotian border. I was the crew chief on a UH-1H helicopter, co-owned by me and the First Cavalry Division (Air Mobile). Having extracted Spike Team Idaho from another A Shau Valley target the previous day, we knew about the reception the enemy had waiting for us.

Our aircraft was commanded by CW-2 Ron "Guts" Gutwein who regularly proved that his nickname was more than just a moniker: He had guts and was a very good pilot. George Phillips was the right seater and Wayne Carroll was my door

gunner. He had volunteered to return to FOB-1 after his Huey was shot up just days before, also working out of FOB-1. We were Sky Troopers from the First Cavalry's Company B/229th Assault Helicopter Bn.



George Phillips kept assuring the Green Beret on the URC-10 that we were almost there. He kept replying with "hurry! Please hurry." We entered a ravine with a large rock outcropping on its south side and headed west. Almost immediately, we saw purple smoke. Phillips transmitted "roger, I see your purple smoke." We began to flare immediately as we could see several men right below us in tiger fatigues, firing furiously towards the rock outcropping. Two or three of them were in a semi-circle shooting and reloading as fast as they could. Another team member was waving an orange panel to get our attention. The gunfire was an almost continuous roar. We were told to get the "strings" out as the jungle was too thick to land, so Carroll and I

began playing out the ropes. We next heard the Green Beret say with great desperation "I didn't pop any smoke. I'm over here, over here." We were struck with the thought that we had fed the "strings" and their precious McGuire rigs out to the enemy. Guts held a hover as the indigenous were very rapidly getting into the McGuire rigs. By the *(Continued on page 5)*

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time they were rigged up, our pilots had spotted the American, and we hovered the 50 meters to his location. He was hooked in a jiffy and we turned 180 degrees to leave.

The enemy gunfire we had been ignoring now became problematic. The enemy had used the team as bait, hoping to bag a Huey, its crew and the team in one sweep. Now they concentrated on shooting us down before we could get out of the narrow confines of the ravine where we were unable to maneuver, and were moving at very slow speed. While they did not shoot us down, they did shoot us up. Phillips had no communications, but the aircraft was otherwise doing its duty. I pointed my M-60 back and fired at the enemy position until Covey ordered me to cease firing. I did so only reluctantly, but found that he had a motive. Fast movers were inbound and they bombed the whole area.

After getting a communications cord to Phillips, I took stock of our situation. There were some bullet holes in my bird, but she didn't seem to be leaking fuel or hydraulic fluid – that we could see. It was at this time that a check of the team hanging below the aircraft revealed we only had five men on the strings I was dumb-founded. To that point, things had been happening too fast during the rig-up to confirm that we had all six team members in tow. We were missing somebody and I was grief-struck at the possibility that I hadn't done my job.

We made our way to the East side of the mountains where a Fire Base had room to set the team down. They had been gesturing for us to land and put them inside, but the rugged jungle terrain left us no choice but to fly east until we found a clearing. The load at the end of the strings was causing us to oscillate like a pendulum, we were most anxious to get our cargo on the ground. They were swinging fore and aft very hard, so the pilots decided to break their swing by having them hit some trees while we hovered over them. Once we landed, we found some very angry indigenous troops in a jumble of arms and legs and yelling incomprehensibly. The Green Beret who had been our radio contact was yelling "what are you bitching about, you're alive, ain't ya?" He then turned to us, and jerking his thumb over his shoulder, said "he's just pissed 'cause he broke his leg." He also confirmed that we had lost a man. Thus ended a mission which haunted me for 40 years. I had no idea whom we had left behind. Not his name, where he was lost, or how this had come to pass.

In 2008, I met SOG author John "Tilt" Meyer, author of *Across the Fence and On the Ground*. He steered me to internet sources and personal friends who filled in some of the blanks.

The missing Green Beret was Corporal Johnny C. Calhoun, whom nobody seemed to know. Tilt had arrived at FOB-1 in May, 1968 and he had never heard of Johnny Calhoun. In 2010, I was introduced to Pat Watkins, CSM (retired) who had been a One-zero at FOB-3. Johnny was assigned to FOB-3 in Khe Sanh, and he was sent to FOB-1 to lead a "composite team" when FOB-1 ran out of operational teams and the show had to go on.

The team had been inserted a couple of days earlier, near the Laotian border near Tabat. They were ambushed at first light the day before we extracted them and had been running for the 27 hours since Johnny Calhoun had been wounded. He had pulled the pin on a grenade and folded himself around it, effectively booby trapping himself. Then he ordered the team to leave him. Johnny's fate was unknown and a Bright Light Mission was readied. There was no evidence that he was still alive, so the mission never got off the ground. Johnny would have been 68 this year and his family still lives in rural Georgia. He is still listed as MIA. Johnny C. Calhoun was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his selfless act. ❖







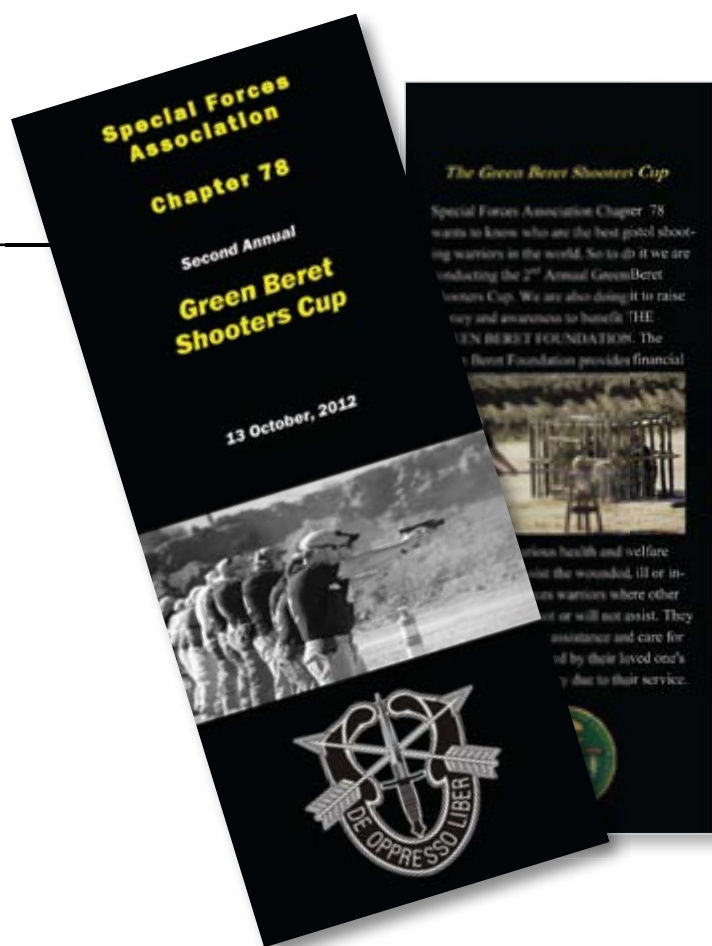
**Special Forces Association • Chapter 78**

**Second Annual**

## **Green Beret Shooters Cup**

Visit [sfa78cup.com](http://sfa78cup.com)  
for more information and registration.

Click on the image below to download  
the Green Beret Shooters Cup brochure.



### *The Green Beret Shooters Cup*

Special Forces Association Chapter 78 wants to know who are the best pistol shooting warriors in the world. So to do it we are conducting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Green Beret Shooters Cup. We are also doing it to raise money and awareness to benefit THE GREEN BERET FOUNDATION. The Green Beret Foundation provides financial



serious health and welfare of the wounded, ill or injured warriors where other assistance or will not assist. They provide assistance and care for the injured by their loved one's service.

### *What is the Special Forces Association*

The Special Forces Association (SFA) is a non-profit 501(c)(19) Veteran Service Organization consisting of a National Headquarters, 85 separate chapters and almost 10,000 active members located throughout the United States and eight countries around the world. The SFA National Headquarters is located in Fayetteville, North Carolina and near Ft. Bragg, which is the home of the US Army Special Forces Command, the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School, and two of the five active duty Special Forces Groups. Membership in the SFA is limited to active duty and former Special Forces qualified personnel.

### *What is the Green Beret Shooters Cup*

The Green Beret Shooters Cup is a 5-6 event team pistol shoot. Events will test the team's accuracy, speed, physical stamina and target selection. Teams consist of 5 shooters per team with a goal of 20 teams this second year. Invitations will be extended to the South West Region Special Forces Association Chapters, USASOC, MARSOC, NAVSOC, LAPD, LA County Sheriff's Department and other Local, State and Federal law enforcement agencies. Teams must be active duty or reserve military, law enforcement, or fraternal military organization. Make no mistake this is a team event, teams will be

scored as a team, and the team with the lowest cumulative time wins.

### *What we are asking for:*

We are actively seeking support in the form of monetary or a product donations from our local community and the industry that helps protect our warriors in harm's way. The Green Beret is called the "quite professional" that does not mean those same professionals should suffer their injuries quietly. With your help we can ease the burden placed on them and their families.

You can help us cover our operating cost by sponsoring a team, sponsoring a team, donating products as prizes and raffle awards or just help us cover the cost of the range for the day.



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