



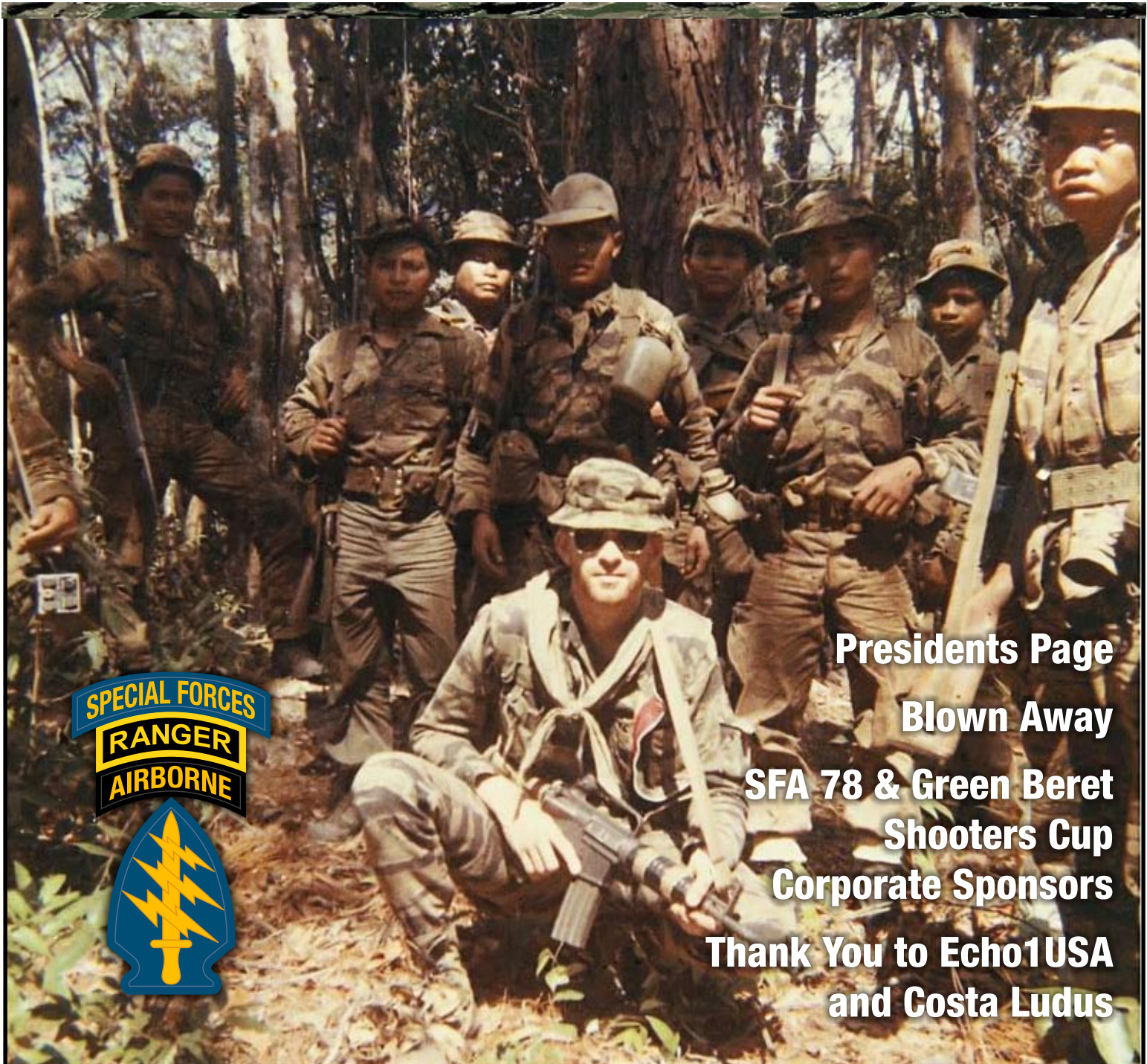
THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SENTINEL

SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION CHAPTER 78
NEWSLETTER OF THE QUIET PROFESSIONALS

THE LTC FRANK J. DALLAS CHAPTER

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 4

JUNE 2012



Presidents Page
Blown Away
SFA 78 & Green Beret
Shooters Cup
Corporate Sponsors
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Please visit us at www.specialforces78.com and www.sfa78cup.com

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COVER PHOTO: Captain Chris McClure on patrol with CIDG
Company in Central Highlands, II Corps, Vietnam in 1968.
Photo credit: Lonny Holmes

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THE PRESIDENTS PAGE

PRESIDENTS COLUMN June 2012

2012 marks the **60th Anniversary of the Special Forces** and the Special Forces Association is hosting this Special Convention in Fayetteville, NC, this June. Chapter 78 has two members who earned their 'Berets' in this **First Generation of Special Forces Soldiers** during the 1950's.



Lonny Holmes
President SFA 78

Richard Simonian joined the Army in June 1952 and completed SF Training at Fort Bragg in class 3 of the Psychological Warfare School with the MOS of Demo/Eng in April 1953. Richard Simonian left North Carolina with the original contingent of Special Forces Soldiers under the command of Colonel Banks and shipped aboard the U.S.S. Greely to the port of Bremerhaven Germany. They then traveled by train requiring one train change before their arrival in Bad Tolz. The entire contingent then marched to their final destination at Flint Kaserne, arriving in November 1953. **SGT Simonian** was assigned to SF Team FA 46. He completed 17 parachute jumps while serving in the 10th SFG and participated in training missions along the Eastern Border Countries of the Soviet Block during the Cold War. Following his military service Richard Simonian became a successful businessman in Southern California.



Richard Simonian and President and Mrs. Bush

John Creel was also assigned to the 10th SFG (A) in Bad Tolz, Germany in the late 1950's. John is presently a marathon runner with the goal of completing one marathon in each state of the union. *(Continued on page 2)*



Parachute drop in Bad Tolz, Richard Simonian on right.



Richard Simonian at Flint Kaserne.



Flint Kaserne, Germany, home of the 10th SFG(A), 1953 to 1990s.



THE PRESIDENTS PAGE



Terry Cagnolatti and U.S.C. Cadet Rory Hight.

(Continued from page 1)

Ed Barrett continues to chair the Chapter 78 ROTC Committee and has done a splendid job for the last seven years. Currently this requires coordination with five university programs; University of California at Los Angeles, University of Southern California, California State University Fullerton and San Bernardino and Claremont McKenna College. Ed's frequent and follow-up emails to their programs coordinators for the ROTC cadets name and date and location of the university awards ceremony is necessary for our members' participation. Without Ed's hard work we would not be able to participate in these ceremonies scattered all over Los Angeles and Orange County. This year we presented the Special Forces Medal of Merit, certificate, chapter coin and a copy of John 'Tilt' Meyer's book along with a check to these select students. Our presenters included **Sal Sanders, John Meyer, Mike Keele, Bruce Long, Terry Cagnolatti** and **Lonny Holmes**. A tip of the "Beret" to Ed.



M1A1 Springfield cal .308 rifle at Gun Show. Chapter 78 raffle.

Chapter 78 held this years' first fund raising event at the Crossroads of the West Gun Show at the Ontario Convention Center on Saturday and Sunday, May 12 & 13. Chapter members, **Bruce Long, Terry Cagnolatti, Tom Redfern, Mike Keele, John Joyce, Steve Cowan, Mark Miller, and Lonny Holmes** sold chapter "T" shirts, challenge coins and raffle tickets for a Springfield M1A1 Rifle and a Kimber 1911, cal .45 pistol.

John Joyce purchased a telescopic sight, mount and rail system plus a bipod for the M1A1 and located a gunsmith at the show to assemble the system. The enhanced M1A1 Rifle instantly became a "want to have weapon" and sold many more raffle tickets. These funds support the operation of the Second Annual Green Beret Shooters Cup and subsequent donation to the Green Beret Foundation.

David En, C.E.O. of JAG Precision and ECHO 1 Corporations attended the May 12 Chapter 78 meeting to present us with a check to support our Green Berets wounded in the current War on Terrorism. David sponsored a charity auction selling some of his company's products on Ebay to generate these funds. See the full page thank you in this edition of the Sentinel. David also donated a M-249 rifle for the chapter to auction off to generate further funds.



LTC (R) Jim Duffy

Jim Duffy, Chair of the Green Beret Shooter's Cup Sponsor Program, has secured LENS-SPEN Corporation as the first Military Team Sponsor. Their check will cover the cost of the team registration fee. LENS-SPEN has also donated their products for competitors' prizes. We anticipate that Jim will bring many more corporate sponsors on board prior to the October 13 "Shooters Cup." Jim is also working with Lonny in the

development of an ad in the June Sentinel on corporate sponsorship. Corporations may donate items from their product lines as prizes for our competitors or (Continued on page 3)



Kimber for Green Beret Raffle, 2012



(Continued from page 2)

funds for the sponsorship of the range, co/range fee, berm sponsors and team sponsors.

The Green Beret Shooters Cup Team led by chair **Steve Cowan** held a meeting on May 12 to discuss the years' progress and planning for the Second Annual event. Major goals at this time include advertising, locating sponsors, garnering first class teams for competition and planning the stages of the 'shoot.' **Joel Adams** is finalizing the stages which will be very competitive and require both excellent shooting ability as well as a high level of physical conditioning. This year we are considering a stage for the general public (spectators) and others to shoot for time and accuracy for a prize. Tickets sold for this single stage will help raise funds for the Green Beret Foundation. **Mike Keele** will play a role in conjunction with **Ron Jung** in target development and design of a stage platform for the introduction and awards ceremony. Beginning in June **Terry Cagnolatti** the Competition Team Coordinator will contact the top ten (10) teams from last year for early registration. His goal is to select the best possible teams for the 'Shooters Cup.' We hope to register 20 to 25 professional (military or law enforcement) teams.

Presently we are working with **John 'Tilt' Meyer** in the possibility of advertising in the coming issues of Soldier of Fortune Magazine. This magazine has a huge readership and could thus promote more spectators for the event and increase the awareness of Green Berets and the need to help support the Green Beret Foundation. 'Tilt' wrote a very fine Letter to the Editor of the July issue of the Soldier of Fortune Magazine thanking them for the article on the 2011 G.B. Shooters Cup and praising Chapter 78 for its effort to help our wounded Green Berets. He also wrote the original article, SO. CAL SHOOTERS CUP SUPPORTS WIA GREEN BERETS, for the May 2012 issue. A tip of the "Beret" to 'Tilt.'



Lonny Holmes, David En CEO of ECHO 1 and Steve Cowan

Mike Raahauges Shooting enterprises will hold its annual Shooting Sports Fair on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 1 to 3, 2012. Chapter 78 will have a booth again this year very near the fairs entrance. This is the biggest fund raiser for the chapter and we will require the help of many members to 'man' the sales booth. Come help us and enjoy the day. ♦



Lonny Holmes hard at work on chapter business.

COMING EVENTS

NO JUNE CHAPTER 78 MEETING

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July Chapter 78 Meeting: Saturday July 14, 2012, 0900 hours at American Legion Post 295.

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Special Forces Association 60th Annual Reunion, Fayetteville, NC. June 11 to 17, 2012. I hope you already registered and secured a hotel!

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SOAR XXXVI Special Operations Association 36th Annual Reunion October 22 – 26, 2012. The Orleans Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada.

.....

Lonny Holmes
D-6067
President
Chapter 78



BLOWN AWAY By Some High School Students

By Mike Keele, DFC

I was asked to speak to the 11th grade history students at the Veteran's History event at Rancho Cucamonga High School on May 3, 2012. I was completely BLOWN AWAY by the event, their reception and how I was treated. Fellow Vietnam vet Mike Stokes said he had been with the program from the start and said they could always use another speaker, so I called the coordinator, Aaron Bishop. He said lunch would be provided, and to be there by 8:30 A.M. (zero eight thirty for you purists).

When I got within a block of the school, I spotted a young man in a white dress shirt and black pants. He acknowledged my questioning gaze with a nod and pointed down the street. At every driveway into the school, I was similarly directed by other young men, until I reached the driveway to the gym building. Escorted to a parking space by yet another well-dressed young man, I parked and was getting out of my car when I heard a voice behind me say, "Hello, sir, I'm Justin. I am your escort." I had a supply of books by John Stryker Meyer for my students, and Justin volunteered to carry them for me. Now, all this was a little more than then I had expected, so Justin and I became great friends, for about one minute, until he handed me off to the next escort. In no time, a very nice young lady had my name tag and was escorting me to my own table in the gymnasium. Talk about a production! There were 253 separate tables, provided for the 278 veterans who were gathering.

But you ain't heard nuthin', yet! After coffee and a roll was brought to me, this young lady left me alone at *my table*, and over the next few minutes, a host of young, professionally presented students came by, introduced themselves and each, in turn asked if they could get me anything. There I sat with a mouthful of pastry, a cup of coffee and what must have been the most puzzled expression of my life, shaking my head, "no." I had not expected anything like this. Certainly not the number of people present or the level of respect shown by the 735 interviewing students spread across the entire gymnasium.

A color guard marched in with the Colors, and after the Pledge of Allegiance, a very well done National Anthem was performed by the school band and choir. We had introductions to some members of the local School Board, including the Superintendent. I thought there must be something wrong here. Surely somebody's *Rights must be violated by this scene, how could they be here?* Council members

waved, people cheered, and the seventy eight other contributing community members glowed with pride. So there *is hope for America*.

The kids came in two waves, about 45-50 minutes apart, three in each group. They had prepared questions, and were clearly motivated to record the stories I told. During the second session, a lunch of fried chicken with trimmin's was served, all paid for by the kids, I'm told. With the announcement by a coordinator, two of the kids at my table stood up and asked what I wanted for dessert. Again, that open mouthed, confused look came over me. When they returned with a plate of fancy treats, well, I did my share.

All this was the brain child of Aaron Bishop, who grew up in the area and settled at Rancho High School to do his teaching. He said he is mentored by John Corona of Martin Luther King, Jr. High School, who was the first to start a program in So. California. Aaron is supported in all by fellow Rancho teacher Robert Sanchez. Aaron told me his seven uncles who served in WWII were his inspiration for "Rancho Remembers," and it started with 38 vets five years ago. Aaron never got his uncles' stories, but at the urging of his wife, who never got her grandfather's story, pushed him "so the students of today would not miss out on the legacy that is leaving us." This is the fifth year and the vet count has grown to 278. The most notable vet who every participated was Walt Ehlers, who was awarded The Medal of Honor for his actions during The Normandy Campaign. This year, thirty of the original 38 vets participated. The oldest vet this year was 97. There were 2 D Day survivors, 8 Pearl Harbor survivors, two from the Bataan Death March, a witness to the Blitzkrieg in Holland and one guy with six purple hearts. Two came here from Arizona, one from Washington and ten guys who came from a group home in Barstow. All of it was funded by the student donations and contributions from the community and local businesses. Yep, America still has a future. ♦





**SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION CHAPTER 78 and the
Second Annual GREEN BERET SHOOTERS CUP**
*wish to thank our current 2012 sponsors,
who are on board as of June.*



**First Corporation
to sponsor a
2012 Military Team**

If your corporation would like to become a sponsor of the this years event,
please contact LTC (ret) Jim Duffy, Chair of Sponsor Development, at sfoda109@cox.net



SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION, CHAPTER 78 & THE GREEN BERET SHOOTERS CUP THANK **ECHO1USA** & **COSTA LUDUS**

Echo1 USA & Costa Ludus teamed up to raise funds for the wounded Green Berets in the current war on terrorism. Four Echo1 airsoft rifles, signed by Chris Costa of Costa Ludus were auctioned off on eBay. All the proceeds from the auction were donated to the Special Forces Association, Chapter 78.



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