



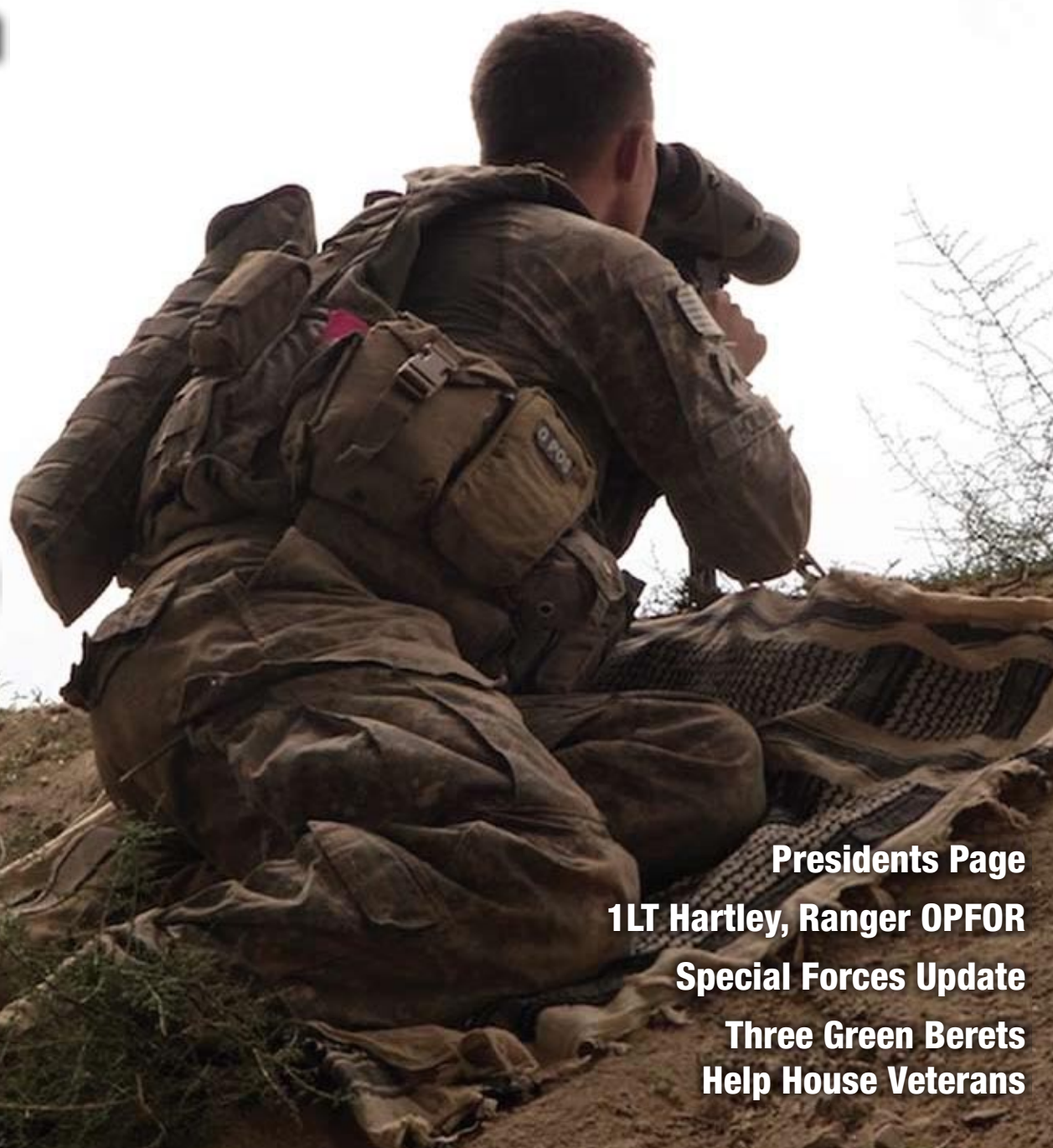
THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SENTINEL

SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION CHAPTER 78
NEWSLETTER OF THE QUIET PROFESSIONALS

THE LTC FRANK J. DALLAS CHAPTER

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 3

MARCH 2013



Presidents Page

1LT Hartley, Ranger OPFOR

Special Forces Update

**Three Green Berets
Help House Veterans**



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IN THIS ISSUE:

Presidents Page 1-2

1LT Hartley, Ranger OPFOR 3

Special Forces Update 4

Three Green Berets Help House Veterans ... 6

COVER PHOTO: Looking for 'bad guys' in Afghanistan, 2010

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THE PRESIDENTS PAGE



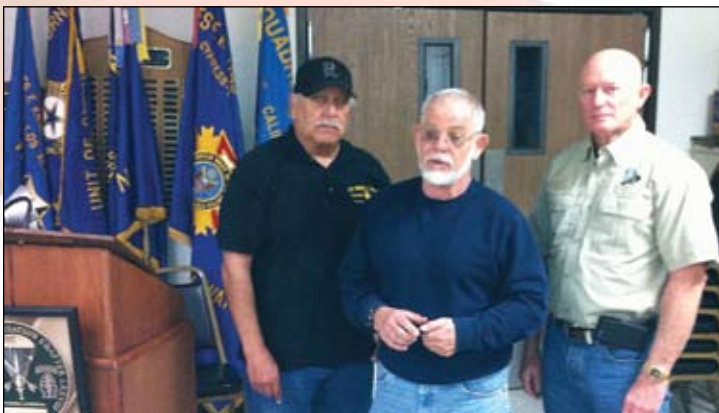
Lonny Holmes
President SFA 78

PRESIDENTS COLUMN MARCH 2013

University graduation is nearing and their ROTC programs will begin having their awards ceremony's in April and May. For the past 14 years we have been actively supporting UCLA and USC. Several years later we added California State University Fullerton and Claremont McKenna and California State University San Bernardino. Claremont KcKenna and CSUSB are usually held together with a

formal dinner setting in the Marian Miner Cook Athenaeum, Claremont, California. This year UCLA is starting early and will have its ceremony on Tuesday evening April 2, at the Morgan Center Press Room. **Ed Barrett** is coordinating with all five schools and will present us with the ROTC candidate's names and further dates for Chapter 78's presentation. I encourage you to volunteer to participate in presenting a certificate, SF Medal of Merit, Chapter Coin and a check for \$200.00 to these students. It is desired that **two** chapter members attend each ceremony. Please take photographs and email them to me so we may keep the Chapter 78 ROTC website page up to date. **Terry Cagnolatti** will help Ed in forming these four presenting "teams." **John Joyce** is a graphics master and produces our unique SF 78 Certificates.

During February's chapter meeting **Kenn Miller** was voted in as an "Honorary Chapter 78 member." Many of us know Kenn since he is a friend and has attended chapter meetings and events over the last five or six years. Kenn served in 101st Airborne Division LRRP detachment, Company F, 58 Infantry (LRP). In 1969 F/58 LRP became L/75th Ranger. Early in his RVN tour he attended the

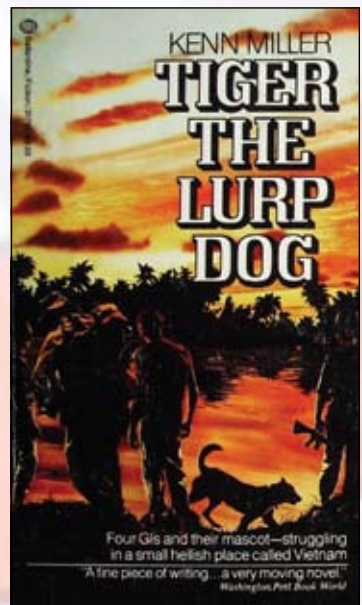
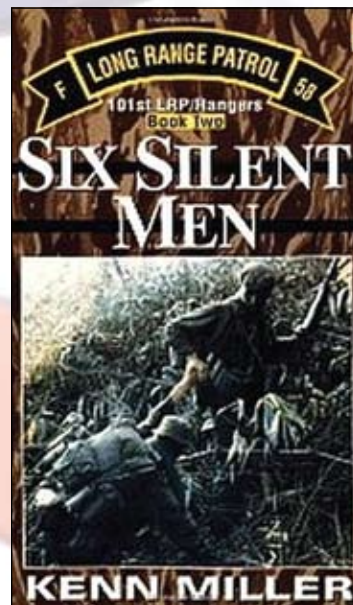


Kenn Miller, center, was elected in as an honorary member of SF Chapter 78 with Terry Cagnolatti, left, and Lonny Holmes, right.

MACV Recondo School in Nha Trang and met Ramon Rodriguez. Kenn, like many dedicated soldiers of the time, extended his tour three times and earned a Bronze Star and Purple Heart among other decorations. Years later he authored two books, "Six Silent Men," about recon and a second book "Tiger the LURP Dog". A "Kenn Miller" page will soon be added to our chapter website and you may read more about him. Welcome aboard Kenn.

Chapter 78 members, I am looking for articles for both the April and May editions of the Sentinel. I need articles and photographs 15 days prior to the publishing month. The Sentinel belongs to all members so please help me with interesting article from your training, combat or life experience. In this edition, **Bruce Long** wrote an update on SF Selection, Qualification, Training, Command Structure, MOS and Team designation (to bring all us 2nd generation SF guys in line with the 21st Century). **1LT Zack Hartley**, formerly Cadet Battalion Commander of the California State University Fullerton ROTC Program and a participant in our GBSC training in 2011 presents a nice article on his transition to active duty and his current position. These make interesting reading and add to the popularity of the Sentinel. Please dedicate some time and thought to supporting your chapter's premier publication.

Speaking of writing, **Mike Keele's** article on the Second Annual Green Beret Shooters Cup is in the April issue of the Soldier of Fortune Magazine, page 68 to 71. SOF Magazine continues to give the GBSC nice coverage thanks to owner and publisher **LTC Robert K. Brown**, (Ret). A tip of the "Beret" to both for their support. (Continued on page 2)



Kenn Miller's books are great contributions to the story of the Long Range Reconnaissance Patrols.



THE PRESIDENTS PAGE

(Continued from page 1)

Former Chapter 78 member Jim Weldon still keeps in touch from his new home in Texas and he recently sent me this significant change in SF training (paragraphs below). Makes me wish I was starting all over. This policy change was excerpted from the USASOC News Service.

To increase the U.S. Army Special Forces Command (Airborne) units proficiency in MFF, the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, is prepared to incorporate military free-fall training into the Special Forces Qualification Course. This initiative will increase the regiments collective forced-entry and global-response capabilities.

This initiative will institutionalize MFF operations by investing in the Military Free-Fall School at Yuma Proving Ground in Yuma, Arizona, which is the U.S. Special Operations Commands proponent for military free fall.

The school is restructuring the Military Free-Fall Parachutist Course so that it will offer sufficient annual training slots for all SFQC candidates while maintaining allocated slots for qualified Special Forces personnel already assigned to operational units. Beginning in February 2013, the MFFPC will transition from a four-week to a three-week course.

The first week will remain the same, consisting of vertical wind tunnel body-stabilization training, MC-4 parachute packing and an introduction to MFF operations. The remaining two weeks will encompass a jump profile of three airborne operations per training iteration, totaling 30 MFF operations per course encompass-

ing various conditions and equipment loads.

In fiscal year 2013, SWCS plans to host up to 358 Special Forces Soldiers through the MFFPC. By fiscal year 2015, with the addition of 18 MFF instructors and dedicated aircraft, the MFFPC will reach its optimal throughput of 1,026 MFF parachutists, including 766 Special Forces Soldiers. When fully manned and equipped, the Military Free Fall School will conduct 19 MFFPC classes each fiscal year with 54 students in each class. ♦

Lonny Holmes
SFA C-78

UPCOMING EVENTS

Chapter Meeting

March 9, 2013

American Legion Post 295, Cypress, CA.

Raahauges Sports Shooting Fair,

May 31, June 1-2, 2013.

Chapter 78 will have a booth supporting the GBSC

Special Forces Association Annual Convention

San Antonio TX, June 26 to June 30, 2013

For further information visit www.specialforcesassociation.org or a copy of your "DROP."

NOTE: The GBSC Committee schedules their monthly business meeting on Friday, the day prior to the chapter meeting. Steve Cowan, Chapter 78 Vice President and Shooters Cup Director, chairs the meeting.



Members of 5th Special Forces Group Vietnam, "Project Delta" B-52, 45 years later



1LT Hartley sports the SFA Chapter 78 hat during platoon operations at NTC.

1LT HARTLEY, RANGER OPFOR

Ever since I can remember, I wanted to be an Infantry Officer. My name is 1LT Zackary Hartley and I commissioned in Spring 2011 through the California State University, Fullerton ROTC Program. Following graduation from Biola University, I immediately moved to Fort Benning, Georgia, in June of 2011. At the Infantry Basic Officer Leader Course, I was trained on everything from Basic Rifle Marksmanship, Advanced Rifle

Marksmanship, Machine Guns Orientation, Operations Orders, Urban Operations, and Patrolling Operations. Following my graduation in October 2011, I attended Ranger School and graduated in December. After Block Leave, I attended the Stryker Leader Course, the Squad Designated Marksman Course then was assigned to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

The 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment is assigned as the Opposing Force (OPFOR) for the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California. It has a dual mission of training America's forces in a simulated combat environment as well as training to deploy in support of ongoing operations. The 11th ACR trains non-stop year round conducting month-long rotations ten times a year plus conventional unit training. The current Op tempo requires the 11th ACR to serve as a contemporary operating environment force (COE-OPFOR), but also can cover down on whatever the Rotational Unit

(RTU) needs. This could be anything from Afghani National Army, Afghani Uniformed Police to Taliban, Town Population and Guerilla Fighters. This provides 11th ACR Soldiers with a unique opportunity to gain a wide array of technical and tactical knowledge from all different areas of operations within the Army.

When I arrived to 1st Squadron, 11th ACR in March of 2012, I was assigned as the Squadron Assistant Operation Officer (S3) for two month before moving down to take over as Platoon Leader for 1st Platoon (the "Inmates"), Alpha Troop. Since taking over the Platoon, I have participated in two Bradley Gunneries. I was also able to compete for and earn the Expert Infantryman Badge in August. But the absolute biggest challenge and blessing for the 11th ACR are the Rotational Operations.

Rotations provide combat leaders with a unique opportunity to fight against much larger forces. Typically the 11th ACR OPFOR conduct lanes where they are outnumbered 3-to-1 and the OPFOR will be overwhelmingly successful. I've executed Situational Training Exercises (STX lanes) where one of my squads of dismounted Infantry OPFOR destroyed a Company of Mounted Soldiers and where my OPFOR Platoon destroyed a Combined Arms Battalion. This is in large part due to the knowledge of the terrain, the constant rotational training on combat vehicles, good planning and communication, and the aggressiveness of junior leaders.

Being a Platoon Leader for the 11th ACR requires quick learning,
(Continued on page 5)



1st Platoon, Alpha Troop, 1/11ACR The Inmates



1LT Hartley waits to jump from a C-130J on 5 February 2013



SPECIAL FORCES UPDATE

By SGM (Retired) Bruce Long

In April 1987 Special Operations Command was activated at MacDill Air Force Base in Florida. This was in response to the Goldwater / Nichols Defense Reorganization. It also called for a Four (4) Star Command be activated to prepare Special Operations Forces (SOF) to carry out assigned missions and, if directed by the President or Secretary of Defense (SECDEF), to plan and conduct Special Operations. Congress then mandated Title 10 Authority & Responsibilities.

Strategy, Doctrine, tactics, train assigned forces, Validate, Standard equipment, promotions, retention, Combat Readiness, develop equipment, etc, etc, etc,

After 911 President Bush expanded SOCOM's responsibilities to include synchronizing with Department of Defense plans against global war on terrorist networks. SOCOM has approx 157,000 troops, this includes civilian personnel.

Under this Command you have US Army Special Operations Command (USASOC located at Ft. Bragg). The Naval Warfare Command Located in Virginia, Marine Corps Special Operation Command (MARSOC) located at Camp La Junc. Air Force Special Operations Command located at MacDill. These combined

units are referred as a Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC).

What's not mentioned are the Rangers and the Army's 160th Aviation Brigade (known as the Night Stalkers) on what a large role they play.



There are Ten (10) missions that they are responsible for:

1. Special Reconnaissance
2. Direction Action
3. Unconventional Warfare
4. Foreign Internal Defense
5. Counterterrorism
6. Counterinsurgency
7. Security Force assistance
8. Counter-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction
9. Information Operations,
10. Activities specified by the President or SECDEF

SF Units

There are a total of seven (7) Special Forces Groups. Five active, and two National Guard SF Groups.

- 1st SF GP located at Ft Lewis Washington
(one Battalion Okinawa)
- 3rd SF GP located at Ft Bragg, NC
- 5th SF GP located at Ft Campbell, KY
- 7th SF GP located Eglin Air Force Base, FL
- 10th SF GP located Ft Carson CO
(one Battalion Stuttgart Germany)
- 19th SF GP located Draper UT
- 20th SF GP located Birmingham, AL

Their 'Over the World' Area of Operations (AO)

Each Group consists of four Battalions; and there are four Companies to a Battalion and six Operational Detachments to a Company. This does not include the HQ element which is your B Detachment.

General Region Assignment

- 1st GP Pacific Rim places like Australia, New Guinea, Cook Islands, Russia, India, Korea, Thailand, just to name a few.
- 3rd GP Northern Africa
- 5th GP Middle East, Persian Gulf, Central Asia, and Southern Africa.
- 7th GP They get the land mass of Latin America South of Mexico, Central America & South America. The Caribbean sea.
- 19th GP Southwest Asia (shared with 5th GP), as well as the Pacific (that's shared with 1st GP).
- 20th GP (with 7th GP)

(Continued on page 5)



A night tactical jump.



1LT Hartley, Ranger OPFOR (Continued from page 3)

flexibility, resilience, strength, character, a positive attitude and charisma. The job is extremely difficult due to the dual mission of the 11th ACR and the harsh environment of the desert. But



Then 2LT Hartley is pinned his Expert Infantryman Badge by his Platoon Sergeant in August 2012

through all that, some of the best Soldiers and leaders are stationed within the unit. Despite the current budget cuts, the 11th ACR will continue to lead the US Army into the future with their realistic training environment and skills as proficient Soldiers. ♦

— 1LT Hartley is currently assigned as Platoon Leader for 1st Platoon, Alpha Troop, 1/11 ACR. He is training for the 2013 30th Annual Best Ranger Competition, where he will represent the 11th ACR with his Ranger Buddy, 1LT Dennis Caserza. They train and work out 6-8 hours a day as well as fulfill their Platoon Leader duties. 1LT Hartley's lifetime goal is to submit a packet to be a Platoon Leader for the 75th Ranger Regiment following the competition and 1LT Caserza wants to attend Special Forces Assessment and Selection in the Fall 2013. 1LT Hartley frequently attends SFA Chapter 78 events and is a huge supporter of the Chapter.



2013 Best Ranger Competition 11th ACR representatives 1LT Hartley, 1SG Tahbo (Coach) and 1LT Caserza

Special Forces Update (Continued from page 4)



Bruce Long at a daytime tactical jump.

General SF Assessment, Qualification and Training

SFAS 20-21 days

Qualification

1. Course Orientation & History
Phase one, 7 weeks
2. Language & Culture
Phase two, 24 weeks
3. Small Unit tactics
Phase three, 13 weeks
4. MOS Training, 14-50 weeks
5. UW exercise four weeks
6. Graduation Phase 6
SF Tab, Green Beret and the Yarrowborough Knife Serialized.

Advanced Skills: Combat Diving, Military Free-Fall (HALO) Unconventional Intelligence gathering, Sensitive Site Exploitation,

Advanced Mountaineering, Sniper Skills.

As of 2013 HALO training to BE provided to all SF personnel, just another skill Identifier.

SF MOS Designation

In 2007, the United States Special Operations Command reorganized the numbering system to reflect the expanding size

and responsibilities of special operations forces. Here's how it works:

The first number is the SF Group

Each SF Group has four battalions, numbered 1 through 4

Each Battalion has three companies with A-Teams: A, B, C, which correspond to 1, 2, and 3.

Each company has six ODA teams, numbered according to specialty.

High Altitude Low Opening Parachutist = 4 (generally)

Combat Divers = 5 (generally)

Numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 varies. Examples given include but not limited to; Advanced special operations techniques, maritime operations, and mountaineering. Specializations are determined by the nature of a Special Force Group's area of responsibility.

Therefore, ODA 5134 is:

5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) / 1st Battalion / C. Company which specializes in HALO insertions. Special Forces

Motto: **The Quiet Professionals** ♦

— This article was outlined from the 60th Anniversary of the United States Army Special Forces Yearbook and for further information on SF Assessment, Selection, SF Qualification Course and SF Advanced Skills. Please see the Academic Handbook 2012, published by the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School. I also refer interested readers to The Special Warfare Magazine, April - June 2012, Volume 25, Issue 2.



THREE GREEN BERETS HELP HOUSE VETERANS

While most people ate, drank and engaged in holiday merriment during the Chapter 78 Christmas party two years ago at the Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club in Corona Del Mar, unconventional soldier and entrepreneur Richard Simonian was engaged in an intense conversation about a topic near to his heart:

How could he and his company Santiago Communities Inc., help veterans find affordable housing? Not stick houses, but manufactured homes that are less expensive and easier to maintain.

Since that time, Santiago Communities Inc., has partnered with a non-profit organization, Affordable Community Living which offers the Veterans Affordable Housing Program and has provided over \$150,000 in funds for the program. The non-profit has also added two Chapter 78 members and Vietnam War Green Berets to its Board of Directors : Jim Duffy, who was wounded as the team leader of Detachment 109 in the Thoung Duc District southwest of Da Nang, and John Meyer, who served two tours of duty with MACV-SOG.

Through Veterans Affordable Housing Program 70 veterans have been placed in manufactured homes throughout many of the 40 manufactured home communities that Santiago Communities oversees in five western states.

Sixty years ago, Richard Simonian completed training to become a Green Beret, dedicated to the Special Forces motto "De Oppresso Liber" – to free the oppressed. He dedicated three years of his life to that mission during those pioneer days of the Green Berets. Today, he and two fellow Green Berets, Jim and John are on another mission: *They are working together under Richard's leadership to place a roof over the heads of veterans who might otherwise end up homeless or living in less-than-desirable conditions with relatives.*

This new effort has been accomplished despite a languishing economy, unavailability of business credit and ever-increasing taxes. In the Green Beret spirit of adapting to changes, when the economy threw curses at Richard and his staff, they improvised and adapted to move forward.

"I simply wanted to make a difference in the lives of veterans," Richard said recently. "God has blessed me and I wanted to give something back."

Vietnam-era veteran Lorenzo R. Almada is one of the 70 veterans assisted through Veterans Affordable Housing Program. Lorenzo and his wife were living in a garage, having lost their home, their jobs, their car and all part-time income. "We were hurting," Lorenzo said, until a friend told him about the new affordable housing program for veterans. Today, Lorenzo and his wife live in a three-bedroom manufactured home in an Orange County.



"I was so impressed with the program, that I asked Richard if I could help him to get more veterans into it," Lorenzo said.

"What is truly unique about all of this is the fact that we have a for-profit company committed to helping veterans without any governmental programs," said Jim. "We always hear companies talking about helping veterans," said John. "Richard, in his SF spirit, gets it done and strives for more ways to help veterans."

That assistance comes in many different ways. After a woman's husband died suddenly, because she was living in a manufactured home community under the affordable housing program, staff assisted her in remaining in her home and helped her obtain food.

Such service to a widow is one more example of how Richard works to honor veterans and their loved ones.

**For more information about the
Veterans Affordable Housing Program**

888-923-VETS (8387)

www.VeteransAffordableHousing.org

