



THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SENTINEL

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Lebanon, 1983 –
A Special Forces Mission
Invisible Armies – A Book Review
Trojan Battalion Army ROTC
Awards Ceremony
Mike Force Association



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COVER PHOTO: Missile launch in Afghanistan. Photo
by Hans Halberstadt, a professional military photographer
and author.

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THE PRESIDENTS PAGE



Lonny Holmes
President SFA 78

PRESIDENTS COLUMN MAY 2013

In March, I called **Brad Welker** and asked him to give a talk on the current aspects of terrorism. At our April chapter meeting Brad spoke about Terrorist Activity: Recognition and Reaction, which is one of the presentations he has given in major cities of the U.S.A. over the past several years as a speaker for the National Transportation Institute on Antiterrorism issues.

Talk about timely. However, the downside is now that the federal governments budgets have been cut, presentations like Brad's have been deleted secondary to the reductions in funding! I would suppose that there are other programs that are less critical that might be removed from the federal payroll to help continue lectures such as Brad's to stimulate the awareness of American Society to one of today's major issues.

SFA National President, **Jack Tobin**, has sent chapter presidents e-mails regarding the proposed changes to Article XVI of the SFA Constitution that will alter how we may vote in the future elections. Essentially, I believe the change as proposed will make elections easier. You will find the "Official Ballot" in your copy of the Spring DROP. Vote now! The ballot must be postmarked no later than 31 May 2013.

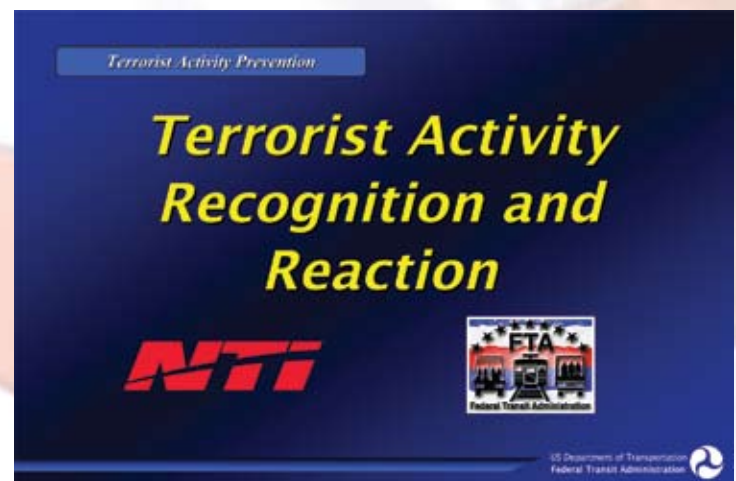
The call for articles for The Sentinel has produced two large manuscripts from **Ken Miller** and **Chris Martin**. Ken's discusses aspects of Mao and guerrilla warfare, and Chris writes about his 1983 Special Forces mission (MTT) to Lebanon. Due to their length both will appear in serialized form over several issues each. Thank you. I look forward to more members writing about their military or civilian careers for inclusion in our newsletter. These articles can also be added to their members "bio's" on our SFA 78 website.

Tom Redfern is hosting the annual chapter "Day at the Range and BBQ" on Saturday May 11. Many members have already signed up and paid \$15 per person which will cover the cost of the meal as well as use of the range. If you have not signed up or paid your fee and plan on attending please call Tom. A head count is required so the correct amount of food can be purchased. He will be doing the cooking as usual so plan on arriving early to enjoy another great day at the range. For the location of the range I refer you to the April issue of the Sentinel which has a map

and directions. Note, the Sentinel is also posted on our website, www.specialforces78.com. **Gary MacNamera** will be reloading some ammunition, I believe in 9mm and possibly other calibers for the event. Gary has an extensive history in all aspects of the shooting sports as a competitor, reloader, and organizing police and military competitions. I don't suggest that you challenge him to a shoot off for your car's pink slip. Speaking of good shooters, **Ed Barrett** mentioned that he will return with his Browning Hi Power 9mm pistol. Remember several years ago he was shooting at the steel targets off hand at 120 yards and getting constant hits. Well, that's good MACV-SOG training! Remember this is a family event so bring your wife and children or close friend.

Raahauge's Shooting Sports Fair is getting close! Chapter 78 members will be manning a booth on Friday May 31 thru Sunday June 2. Many members signed up at the April chapter meeting to help us staff the event, however I still need support on Saturday and Sunday. Call or e-mail **Lonny Holmes** to be included in this chapter event that supports the Green Beret Shooters Cup. Funds generated from these three days pay for the "Cups" operational costs in October. John Joyce will bring his "bikini girls" on Saturday which is a big draw and has increased sales each year. John is also doing the graphics for the brochures and procuring the raffle tickets.

Speaking of the Green Beret Shooters Cup, **Terry Cagnolatti**, the Team Coordinator is already receiving requests for 'new' teams to enter the Third Annual 'Shoot.' The word of this exciting competition is really getting around the law enforcement community (e.g. Air Marshall's from LAX). One of Terry's goals is to retain the top shooting teams each year while expanding the overall number of competing teams to thirty. (Continued on page 2)



Brad Welker's presentation at April's chapter meeting.



THE PRESIDENTS PAGE

(Continued from page 1)

The Director of the "Shooters Cup," **Steve Cowan** continues to lead by looking at innovative ways to advertise and support the operation of the event. Steve also leads team recruiting from the active duty military. **Jim Duffy**, chair of Corporate Sponsor Committee, has amassed a huge list of potential supporters for this year. The event is slowly coming together. ❖

Lonny Holmes
SFA 78

UPCOMING EVENTS

Raahauges Sports Shooting Fair, May 31, June 1-2, 2013

See their website for time and exact location.

<http://www.raahauges.com/sports-fair.php>

14995 River Rd, Corona, CA 92880 | 951-735-7981

Special Forces Association Annual Convention San Antonio TX, June 26 to June 20, 2013

See your issue of the "DROP" or go to their website www.specialforcesassociation.org for registration and hotel information.

US Army Special Forces Command Memorial Day Ceremony

Wednesday, 22 May, 2013

Meadows Field at 1000 hours.

Annual SFA Memorial Day Picnic Green Beret Memorial Grounds, National HQ and 1-18 Team House, Monday 27 May, 2013

The picnic will kick off at 1300 with a demonstration jump by the Special Forces Association Parachute Team.



"Green Beret Shooters Cup Championship Belt Buckle." Possible prize for the 2013 winning team, designed from major cowboy rodeo championship belt buckles. Date to be adjusted.



At the UCLA ROTC Awards Ceremony, Chapter 78 members, Lee Martin (right), and Ken Miller (center), present a Special Forces Medal, Ribbon and Challenge coin to ROTC Cadet Jeffrey Jarvi.

LEBANON 1983

A SPECIAL FORCES MISSION



Christopher Martin

By Christopher Martin

Green Beret Medic, Sgt. Chris Martin just completed a deployment with his team in Denmark in March of 1983 on a commo exercise called Viking. On his return to the U.S.A. Chris was temporarily assigned to ODA 232, a SCUBA Team, for a mission on the Flintlock Exercise. Finishing Flintlock and rejoining

his original team, Colonel Potter, the 10th SFG(A) Commander alerted several teams including Chris Martins that mission training would start immediately for Lebanon.

On July 7, 1983 Chris Martin, senior medic of ODA 235, and ODA's 231 and 234 composed Military Training Team 3 (MTT). MTT 3 when combined with two other recently deployed MTT's totaled over 100 SF personnel in Lebanon in mid 1983. They left Fort Devens, Massachusetts for transit to Beirut Lebanon via a circuitous route thru New York JFK airport and Frankfurt Germany. From Germany they flew via Middle East Airlines to Beirut. On arrival they were required to wear western business attire despite a temperature of 95 degrees with a 95% humidity. Traveling by bus to their destination in West Beirut, the Cadmos Hotel, they passed the Sabra and Shatila Palestinian Refugee Camps. Eye opening and the beginning of an adventure.

The Hotel Cadmos which would be home to MTT 3 was a five story structure with underground parking. Not a five star hotel, it was however much nicer than the quarters of the Marines at the Beirut Airport. The hotel was also prepared for combat having an



The Cadmos Hotel, on the far left, in West Beirut.

eight foot berm surrounding and topped with concertina wire and a 106mm recoilless rifle aimed out the main entry way. Importantly, the hotel had a fully stocked restaurant and bar.

C.O. of ODA 235, CPT. Neely held the first briefing on the following day of their arrival and issued weapons; Browning 9mm semi-automatic pistols. Some team members also received French submachine-guns. Immediate duties started with roving guard duty and manning LP and OP at night around the Cadmos. For the first several days, Chris and his MTT toured all U.S. Facilities in and around Beirut. The Marines stationed at Lebanon at this time lived under much harsher conditions and were under orders "not to return fire under any circumstances."

MTT 1 and MTT 2 of the 10th SFG(A) that preceded SGT Martin's were conducting their training at the Beirut airport on small infantry tactics. Initially Chris teams were to provide mechanized infantry training to the Lebanese using brand new M113's. Assigned Lebanese officers who could speak both English and Arabic,

(Continued on page 5)



View of the Mediterranean Sea from atop the Cadmos Hotel.



SGT Chris Martin and members of ODA 235 on top of Cadmos Hotel, Beirut, Lebanon



INVISIBLE ARMIES

By Max Boot

A Book Review By Lonny Holmes

Invisible Armies: an Epic History of Guerrilla Warfare From Ancient Times To The Present by author Max Boot covers an immense amount of guerrilla warfare, insurgency and counter-insurgency actions from 2334 B.C. to the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. For both current and former Special Forces Soldiers (Green Berets) this is the “definitive work on unconventional warfare” and is a must read for military practitioners and scholars.

Max Boot writes in a style that is easy to read, however this is a true academic work with chapter summaries, implications, a large section of notes and a very broad bibliography. These all lead to further study and learning for the military specialist in unconventional warfare.

The structure of this volume is divided into eight “books” with each covering a specific era with chapters in each time period devoted to individual actions. Early “books” titled *Barbarians At The Gate* (The Origins of Guerrilla Warfare), *Liberty Or Death* (The Rise of the Liberal Revolutionaries), *The Spreading Oil Spot* (The Wars of Empire) and *The Bomb Throwers* (The First Age of International Terrorism) demonstrate a slow but progressive transition in insurgent and counterinsurgent action. Reading the first four books develops a broad background of the theory and tactics of guerrilla warfare which lead to a better understanding of the conflicts of the nineteenth to twenty first centuries.

Later “books” like *Sideshow* (Guerrillas and Commandos in the World Wars), *The End Of Empire* (The Wars of “National Liberation”) and *Radical Chic* (The Romance of the Leftist Revolutionaries) detail the major insurgent and counterinsurgent episodes of the twentieth century. Most readers will have some familiarity with these actions and Mr. Boot will significantly expand your understanding on these conflicts. Included are excellent discussions on actions of “Tito,” the OSS, Wingate’s Raiders, General Templer in Malaysia and Arafat in Palestine. The final book, *God’s Killers* (The Rise of Radical Islam) deals with the middle east’s current problems which “transition from politically motivated to religiously motivated insurgency – from leftist to Islamist extremism.” This has been our military and political problem for 12 years and their appears to be no end in sight.

Examples of the twentieth and twenty first century notable leaders include Mao Zedong, T.E. Lawrence, General Vo Nguyen Giap, Edward Lansdale, Fidel Castro and General Petraeus who all have had a significant impact on guerrilla warfare.

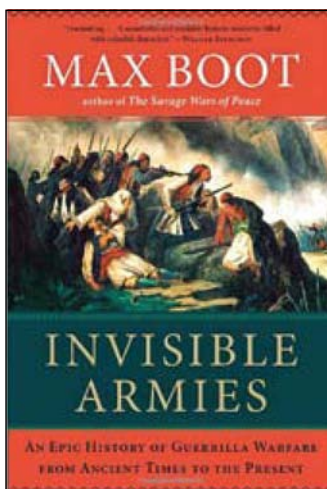
Understanding the ancient wars and comparing them to modern conflicts demonstrates how insurgent and counterinsurgent actions have become more complex with each side becoming more dependent on technical and external support for furthering their cause.

In today’s conflicts this cannot be better stated than by the use of the world mass media and the recruiting of ‘soldiers’ and arms from foreign nations. Popular media communication forms like television and the internet play a ever increasing role in today’s actions and make the difference between much smaller numbers of insurgents, with fewer tactical weapons in today’s battles. Insurgents have turned a defeat into a political win such as the 1968 Tet Offensive. Terrorists continue to do so in the Middle East conflict. Today’s insurgent (and the terrorist) leaders are highly motivated and well versed on use of modern advanced technology.

Sanctuaries offer the insurgents a safe haven to train, organize and resupply (and hide) which has played a major role in the conflicts from Vietnam (Laos) to Afghanistan (Pakistan) and now Syria (Iraq).

Insurgencies post 1945 (resolved) have a 39.6% victory, with a draw between warriors at 15.3%. These figures in themselves are an eye opener.

Max Boot’s credentials are impeccable and he is the Jeane J. Kirkpatrick Senior Fellow in the National Security Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations. His previous books; *The Savage Wars of Peace* and *War Made New*, also set high standards. *Invisible Armies* may be the most important book written in the field of unconventional warfare. ❖



Max Boot

Invisible Armies by Max Boot
Liveright Publishing Company, 2013
750 pages
Charts, tables, photographs
ISBN 978-0-87140-424-4



Rappelling class from the top of the Cadmos Hotel

(Continued from page 3)

they began training in a mountainous area which was dominated by pro-U.S. Christian Militias. Troublesome, to the east were Syrian troops with their Russian advisors. Shortly on orders from their battalion commander the mechanized infantry training was changed to MOS specific topics for the Lebanese.

Chris and his junior team medic, George Machado, would conduct an eight week basic medical course for Lebanese soldiers. Chris wrote the lesson plans and took care of the administration while George found supplies, training aids and helped locate a hospital in Christian East Beirut as a base of operation and provide class rooms. Initially both had to train eight officer cadets as their counter-parts; six were Maronite Christian, one Greek Orthodox and one Druze. A paradox developed. All the Lebanon medic students were Muslim being taught by a mix of Americans and Lebanese in a Christian Hospital. Typically, SF keeping a low profile can do just about anything!

Training went well until fighting renewed between the Christians and Muslims that coincided with government political issues. The Druze were firing on the Marines and Chris and his MTT took rounds from supposedly "pro-Iranian and pro-Libyan radicals." Training halted! Intelligence reported that the Amal Militia was planning an attack on the Cadmos Hotel!

"August 31, all hell broke loose!" A Mosque across the street from the Cadmos Hotel announced to the Muslim faithful that it was time to "drive the infidel out." A large arms cache was observed being unloaded into the mosque. Battle plans for the SF in the Cadmos went immediately into effect. Mortars were fired from near the former Holiday Inn over the Cadmos into the Mediterranean Sea. Later in the day "members of the CIA sent word that an attack on the hotel was imminent." The MTT pulled out of the hotel and relocated to the American Embassy several hundred yards away. Mortar fire chased Chris and his detachment down the road to the embassy.

Returning to their hotel the next day it was clear to Command that the Cadmos was not a suitable location as an headquarters. The MTT was rapidly moved to the Hotel Montemar in the town of Juneah about 10 miles north. Fortunately for the SF this was a pro U.S. Christian town. Because of the hostilities, training had to resume in the mountains. The teams doing training at the airport also had to relocate because of daily shelling.

Medical training classes resumed in late September. MTT 4 arrived from Fort Devens and began participating in all aspects of the mission. MTT 3 was due to return to the U.S. on January 19, 1984.

Sunday, October 23, 1983, the U.S. Marine Barracks at the airport was destroyed by a car bomb. The blast woke up members of Chris's team who were still asleep-15 miles away at the Montemar Hotel. Chris and other SF Medics volunteered to go and help the Marines, however command denied their offer.

All personnel were issued FN FAL 7.62 rifles. Hotel Montemar denied fortifying the hotel so all SF moved to the mountains or ranges and erected G.P. large tents.

Finally the Marines were allowed to fire back-and they did so with 155mm HE rounds. The U.S.S. New Jersey was off shore and also was allowed to fire it's 16 inch guns. The Marines then received no further incoming fire. Chris Martin's team commander looked for volunteers to visit the U.S.S. New Jersey! Chris and members of his A-Team jumped at the chance and were lifted by CH-46 to the ship. Over Beirut they observed first hand the devastation to the destroyed marine barracks. It was "an awesome sight that I will never forget." They stayed shipboard over night due to inclement weather and ate in the "officers mess and bunked with the regular sailors."

Team members made trips into the city for civilian food, hot showers and a night in a hotel. One night in a hotel Chris was awakened by the sound of A-6 fighter-bombers flying around like bumble bees. The Navy decided to attack terrorist camps in the Bakaah Valley and two aircraft were shot down. Of the ejecting pilots, one was taken prisoner, the other landed in the Bay of Juneah, just outside their hotel.

By December 14, members of MTT 3 were out of a job having completed their missions. MTT 4 was to continue with their own mission. Chris Martin, his A-Team (ODA 235) and all members of MTT 3 would be home for Christmas. ♦

Chris Martin retired from the U.S. Army and the Special Forces. During the current War on Terrorism Chris also served with Special Forces in Afghanistan. He was awarded the Combat Medical Badge, Bronze Star and Purple Heart among other awards and decorations. Chris is a Long Beach CA police officer and a SFA Chapter 78 member who is active in the Green Beret Shooters Cup which garners funds for the Green Beret Foundation.



TROJAN BATTALION

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<https://www.facebook.com/MikeForceAssociation>