



# THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SENTINEL

SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION CHAPTER 78  
NEWSLETTER OF THE QUIET PROFESSIONALS

THE LTC FRANK J. DALLAS CHAPTER

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2013



**Presidents Page**

**Special Forces National  
Convention 2013**

**3rd Annual Green Beret  
Shooter's Cup**

**First Special Service Force  
Awarded Congressional  
Gold Medal**

**Memorial Day 2013,  
Washington D.C.**

**3rd Annual Green Beret  
Shooter's Cup Sponsors**





## CHAPTER OFFICERS

### President

Louis (Lonny) Holmes  
D-6067

### Vice President

Steve Cowan  
M-12798

### Secretary

Tom Redfern  
D-7907

### Director at Large

Brad Welker  
M-2319

### Director at Large

John Joyce  
M-11877

### Director at Large

John "Tilt" Stryker Meyer  
D-238

### Treasurer

Richard Simonian  
D-7920

### Sergeant At Arms/ Quartermaster

Mark Miller  
D-8296

### Director of the Green Beret Shooters Cup

Steve Cowan  
M-12798

### Coordinator of ROTC Program

Ed Barrett  
M-11188

### Chaplain

Richard Simonian  
D-7920

### Immediate Past President

Terry Cagnolatti  
M-9747

## IN THIS ISSUE:

Presidents Page ..... 1-2

Special Forces National Convention 2013 .... 3

3rd Annual Green Beret Shooter's Cup ..... 4

First Special Service Force Awarded  
Congressional Gold Medal ..... 5

Memorial Day 2013, Washington D.C. .... 5

3rd Annual Green Beret Shooter's Cup  
Sponsors ..... 6

**COVER PHOTO:** Three who served in SF in RVN, Gene Williams (A-teams & MACV-SOG). back row: twin brother Jack Williams (A-Teams) & Lonny Holmes (A-Teams and Mike Force).

**CORRECTION:** New Chapter 78 member, Charley Gage was Special Forces engineer (18 C), not a medic as listed in the July issue of the Sentinel.

**Funding for publication and printing  
of the Special Forces 78 Sentinel  
is provided by**



**VETERANS AFFORDABLE  
HOUSING PROGRAM**

**888-923-VETS (8387)**

**VeteransAffordableHousing.org**



## THE PRESIDENTS PAGE

### PRESIDENTS COLUMN AUGUST 2013

In this issue is a page from the newsletter of the First Special Services Force, **"The Spearhead"** which sent to me by **Cliff Newman**, administrator of SFA National Office. The First Special Service Force is awarded the **Congressional Gold Medal**. It's about time! The **Devil's Brigade** definitely deserves it. The FSSF ranks with the OSS, both of World



**Lonny Holmes**  
President SFA 78

War II in our historical lineage. How many members are surviving after more than 68 years since the close of World War II? Out of about **1800 original members there are two hundred thirty survivors**. Less than 150 individuals have been awarded the Congressional Gold Medal since its inception in 1776; the first was awarded to General George Washington. This is the highest civilian award in the United States and ranks equally to the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

We have two months until the Third Annual Green Beret Shooter's Cup! The "Cups" working staff met in early July to continue to plan this years event and leading the discussions were **Cup Director Steve Cowan** and **Joel Adams, Chief Range Master**, who together design the five scenarios. Their ideas are to continue to improve and upgrade each scenario by making them more realistic to environmental and stress issues found by law enforcement officers and military while on duty. This year as a 'hint' as to what competitors may expect, Steve suggests they all wear long pants!



Steve Cowan, GBSC Director



GBSC Board Member Mike Keele

Just as important as the scenarios is the logistical planning which is led by **John Joyce** and he is following the suggestions we garnered from last years end of event report. These issues focused on 'man - power,' that includes range masters, operational staff, contracts,

and layout of the central registration and awards area. With John's planning this years event should look and operate more professionally. In the near future look to see photographs and diagrams of 2013 Cup.

**Jim Duffy** continues to pursue all options for corporate sponsorship; monetary and product donations and establishment of booths at the "Cup" to demonstrate and show their products. Presently, Jim is working with several corporations who may set a new standard by demonstrating their products during the event. This may involve three different methods of demonstration; weapons used in a competitive scenario, a weapons firing demonstration at a specific berm such as the public shoot and a corporate sponsored competition using their weapon. These are a work still in progress but with Jim's history of "getting the job done" my bet is he will set a higher standard this year. Kudos to Jim!

Most importantly of course are the teams who compete. "The Teams" recruitment and registration are all on the shoulders of  
*(Continued on page 2)*



Bruce Long and John Joyce at GBSC Board Meeting held in John's Tier 1 corporate office



Green Beret Shooters Cup Board meeting, Jim Duffy, Joel Adams, Terry Cagnolatti, and guest Fritz Saalmann



## THE PRESIDENTS PAGE

(Continued from page 1)

**Terry Cagnolatti.** Again to say the least, Terry is also raising the level of competition by who he chooses as we enter into the final days of recruitment. The top ten teams from the previous year are guaranteed a spot. Many departments are requesting more than one team, several want three or more. Our goal is to have a wide diversity from law enforcement departments, not just a lot of teams from the largest or best know agencies. He is currently working in a widely expanded range and has applications or met with such agencies as the Air Marshals and U.S. Forestry Service (Federal Police) as well as several new local departments. The toughest to recruit are active duty SF and Seals. For these types of teams we are using a multi-disciplinary approach. This approach includes all members who may know active duty SF or SEALs, outside sources such as SFA President Jack Tobin, and corporate sponsors who may know or have contact with potential Tier 1 operators. This continues to be an ongoing project that may not provide results until the final weeks prior to the "shoot."

**Bruce Long** who is the candidate for chapter presidency beginning in 2014 is active in all aspects in this years planning. Hopefully he can again arrange to have the City of Corona Mayor attend and open the competition. **Mike Keele** who as an Honorary Chapter Member who was deeply involved in planning and running the two previous GBSC's continues to play a major role in multiple areas for the continuation on the 'Shooters Cup.' I must add that Mike is the **only** honorary member who has ever been so involved in helping and promoting our Chapter and especially the "Cup." A tip of the "Beret" to Mike.

Speaking of elections, Terry Cagnolatti is Election Committee Chair and is seeking candidates for the offices of president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and sergeant at arms. Contact Terry for nominating a member or self nomination.

I want to thank chapter member **Brad Welker** who for the previous three meetings has provided a "first class" power point lecture series on current issues of terrorism, counter-terrorism and W.M.D's. This updated many of our retired members. Brad's son, **SSG Ryan Welker** who was home on leave also attended the July meeting. SSG Ryan's photograph is on the cover of the March 2012 Sentinel graduating from Jump School. He is currently assigned to the 5th SFG(A) at Fort Campbell, KY. One of his previous assignments was as a intel sergeant in Japan.



Brad Welker, Chapter 78 member

SF Chapter 69 in Idaho is producing a 60th year SF patch. Included on this page is a picture of the patch which is an updated version of the 50 year patch. Jack Frost of their chapter is taking orders and the first shipment of the patches will be available toward the end of September. Contact him directly for orders. ❖

Lonny Holmes  
President  
SFA C-78

### SPECIAL FORCES 60TH ANNIVERSARY PATCH

— NOW AVAILABLE FOR ORDER —



To order contact  
Jack Frost at  
[jlyfr2@gmail.com](mailto:jlyfr2@gmail.com) or  
call 208-454-8361.  
Minimum order of 6  
at \$7.00 each.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Chapter Meeting

Saturday, August 10, 2013

American Legion Post 295, Cypress, CA

### Third Annual Green Beret Shooter's Cup

Saturday, October 12, 2013

Raahauges Range, Corona, CA



### Special Operations Association

Reunion SOAR XXXVII

October 21 to 25, 2013

Orleans Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas NV.

For registration visit [www.specialoperations.org](http://www.specialoperations.org).



# SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION NATIONAL CONVENTION 2013

## SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS



**By Jim Duffy**  
**Chapter 78 Member**

I arrived at the Hyatt Hotel across from the Alamo on June 24th to represent Chapter 78 and meet up with some friends from Army Special Forces I have known up to over 45 years. Included in that is a Force Recon Marine assigned to Detachment A-109, Thuong Duc, Vietnam. On the

25th attended a BBQ hosted by Barry Archer, a I Corps Mike Force Commander which supported A-109 during a three month siege. Also present were a number of SF Mobile Strike Force and A-109 soldiers. Also, in attendance was Major General (Ret.) Patrick Brady, a CMH awardee for a series of rescues during which he used 3 helicopters which sustained 400 hits to rescue over 60 wounded. In two tours in Vietnam he flew over 2,500 combat missions and rescued 5,000 wounded. Saw Dannie Chapa again and met Al Graham, both of whom were assigned to the classified SF MTT 404-67X to Bolivia in 1967 to train the 2nd Ranger Battalion which captured Che Guevara. I missed a couple of other BBQ events due to food poisoning. The Riverwalk area and The Alamo with an SFA Wreath Laying Ceremony were impressive. Experienced a meal at DICK'S Last Resort on the Riverwalk.

The President and General Membership Meetings were well orga-



**Greg Beila, Al Graham, Dannie Chapa and Jim Duffy. Dannie Chapa was on the SF MTT that captured Che Guevara in Bolivia.**



**Jim Duffy presenting a Chapter 78 "Coin" to Major General Patrick H. Brady, MOH**

nized with an excellent slide/photo presentation and Guest Speakers for The Green Beret Foundation, Vietnam Memorial Fund and the Center for Terrorism Studies. Details of these presentations can be viewed on the SFA Website [www.specialforcesassociation.org](http://www.specialforcesassociation.org). Emphasis continuously placed on the use of "the Green Berets" to offset "Special Forces" being opted by a variety of other services and units. The Chapter Presidents will receive a copy of the presentations and a new DVD on the Green Berets produced by USM4 which offers a percentage of product sales on the SFA website. Jack Tobin, the SFA President was instrumental in USM4/Liberty Ammo commitment to be a sponsor for the Chapter 78, Green Beret Shooters Cup on October 12, 2013.

Spoke with Jen Paquette, Executive Director of the Green  
(Continued on page 4)



**Jim Duffy with SFA President Jack Tobin**



## 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL GREEN BERET SHOOTER'S CUP EVERY YEAR WE GET JUST A LITTLE BIGGER



Green Beret Shooters Cup Trophy with 2011 winning team members; what team will win the trophy for the Third Annual GBSC?



**By Steven Cowan  
Director GBSC Team**

As the 3rd annual Green Beret Shooters Cup approaches we are steadily improving our stages of fire to reflect what those of you who carry a fire-arm for a living may face while on duty. Well sort of! We cannot ever recreate the actual stress of being on duty but we can substitute it with something else. So this year we have upped the physical stress for some events and added a couple more mental stressors to the rest. As you are all aware we keep the stages of fire unavailable until the day of the competition but I can tell you long pants would be a good idea this year. We have hopefully designed a challenging course of fire that our competitors and the spectators will appreciate.

We are excited by efforts of the national office to help get an ODA from a Group to compete this year. It is our hope that in the

future each SFA region will support an ODA from the Group closest to them and we can start a national competition and maybe a little friendly chapter rivalry, but that is way down the road. We have also thrown around several ideas about expanding to a two day event while incorporating a civilian competition and an elite class. We may also be considering a new venue based on feedback from this year. So be on the lookout for bigger changes in the next couple of years.

When I look back to December 2010 when this event was dreamed up, and think about how far we have come, I am truly inspired by everyone's support and hard work. The GBSC staff and Chapter 78 have really pulled together an event that they should be proud of. It is very exciting to watch as other pick up the cause with their events to help support the Regiment. It is hard to believe that this went from my bruised ego because a Green Beret stated that he was the "Sh!t" several months after my retirement. So, I wanted him to prove it by shooting against me to a 30 team shoot out that benefits the Green Beret Foundation. I am humbled and honored to be part of this and look forward to seeing where this event goes in the future. ❖

**(SFA Nat'l Convention – Continued From page 3)**  
Beret Foundation. Spoke with Rebecca Clark, a world class sculpture and painter contracted to create a "Special Forces "Green Beret" Fine Art Series. The series will portray authentic action scenes to honor Special Forces ODA and "Green Beret" heroes. The banquet keynote speaker was MG (Ret.) Joe Robles Jr., President and CEO of USAA.

The SFA Convention for 2014 will be in Columbia, SC., June 9 -15 at the Marriott Hotel. The SFA Convention for 2015 may be in Valley Forge, PA., dates and venue hotel TBA. The 5th SFG reunion to be held September 19th to 22rd. See [www.sfa38.org](http://www.sfa38.org).

The greatest benefit of attendance at this or any of the SFA con-

ventions is the meeting up with old friends (John Cleckner, Greg Beila, Ron Huegel, Barry Archer, Tim Maroney, Roger Donlon, Randy Fogel , Dannie Chapa, Jim Weldon and Mark Kinsler ) and making new friends( Al Graham, Patrick Brady, Matt Phillips, Larry Davis, Mark Petrucciani, Brad Adair, Jerry Jochum).For example, meeting with friends I served with over 40 years ago and spending time with former team mates (Greg Biela & Ron Huegel) from A-109.Socializing with numerous other members of mutual background and experiences. This is really what the conventions are all about and is very valuable to all who attend. In the big picture events and schedules may change, be cancelled or uncertain, but the value of friendships is priceless. I thank Chapter 78 for their support for me to attend this convention. ❖



## FIRST SPECIAL SERVICE FORCE AWARDED CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL

Excerpted from First Special Service Force Association's monthly newsletter, "The Spearhead", Volume 4, Issue 22, July 2013

Senator Max Baucus (D-MT) and Representative Jeff Miller (R-FL) announced the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal to the First Special Service Force. Sen. Baucus and Rep. Miller were the primary sponsors of Senate Bill S789 and House Resolution HR324; Bills to "Grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the First Special Service Force, in recognition of its superior service during World War II". With 326 co-sponsors in the House and 72 co-sponsors in the Senate, both bills passed unanimously. For 70 years the story of the First Special Service Force has remained primarily within the Brotherhood of the Force and a small number of books. Once the members of Congress were given the

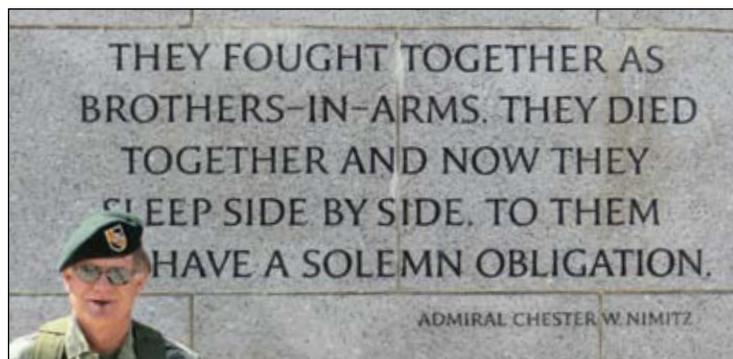
opportunity to hear their amazing history, they were eager to co-sponsor the legislation to award the CGM to the Force.

The next phase will be the design of the Medal by the US Mint and the setting of the date and location for the formal presentation of the Congressional Gold Medal to the Veterans of the First Special Service Force. Congress has authorized the production of one Gold Medal to be presented to the First Special Service Force Association and the production of replica FSSF Medals to be available for purchase from the US Mint. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

Sen. Baucus said "I can't think of anyone more deserving of Congress' highest honor than the Devil's Brigade. They were volunteers, lumberjacks and mountaineers who answered the call to serve and mastered unconventional tactics to do the impossible and help secure victory in World War II". The First Special Service Force Association sincerely thanks Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT) and Rep. Jeff Miller (R-FL) and their staffs for all they have done to recognize and honor the elite men of the First Special Service Force with the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal.

## MEMORIAL DAY, 2013

### WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL, WASHINGTON D.C.



Jack Williams former SF II Corps A-Team Commo man at Washington, D.C. World War II Memorial on Memorial Day 2013.



World War II Memorial Washington, D.C., U.S. Paratroopers exiting an aircraft in bronze relief.



**SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION CHAPTER 78 and the  
Third Annual GREEN BERET SHOOTERS CUP  
wish to thank our current 2013 sponsors,  
who are on board as of July.**



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](mailto:sfoda109@cox.net)