



THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SENTINEL

SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION CHAPTER 78
NEWSLETTER OF THE QUIET PROFESSIONALS

THE LTC FRANK J. DALLAS CHAPTER

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2014



Presidents Page
SF 19th Group Parachute
VAHP Donates to a Veterans
Education
February Chapter Meeting
Family Photos: More from SFA
Chapter 78 Christmas Dinner





Lonny Holmes
Sentinel Editor

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

SFC Kristapor Boodaghian presented chapter members with an invitation to attend the first parachute jump in 14 years at the Joint Forces Training Base, Los Alamitos, during our Christmas Dinner.

On Sunday, January 12, 2014, Chapter 78 members led by President **Bruce Long** joined members of A Company, 5th Bn, 19th SFG(A)

on the eastern end of the air field at Los Alamitos to observe members of their SF company jump with the 'new' MC-6 parachute. The photos from this event are accompanied in this issue by a short article about the MC-6 parachute system made by Airborne Systems. The California National Guard provided two CH-47 helicopters, tail number's 169 & 306.

John Creel, his wife Ingrid, **Jim Duffy** and Steffi, Terry and Juliette Cagnolatti (who took many fine photographs), **Mark Miller** and **Lonny Holmes** observed multiple sticks exit from the aircraft at an altitude of 1500 feet. In a nearly windless morning it would have been easy to do standing landings even with equipment (No one did). Several Tier 1 Teams jumped with full equipment and weapons. These Tier 1 Teams are all HALO qualified and this was an opportunity to use the MC-6 for a 'standard static line' jump from low altitude.

Attending the jump offered C-78 members to converse with many members of A Company and discuss SF topics. All officers and NCO's went out of their way to make us feel at home and provided updated assessments on current equipment. Bruce Long had informal discussions with the Battalion Commander, LTC Utterback, A Company Commander CPT John P. Trent and the Company Sergeant Major Brian J. Beetham.

Chapter 78 members are now invited to attend another jump with A Company on Sunday, February 9, 2014. More details will follow later.

January 2014 begins a new year with a new board of directors who are all energized and ready to begin leading our chapter with new ideas and a commitment to better the Special Forces Association. When our leadership calls on you to give a helping hand, join them and provide all the support possible. ♦

Lonny Holmes
Sentinel Editor

IN THIS ISSUE:

Presidents Page.....	1
SF 19th Group Parachute	2-4
Veterans Affordable Housing Program Donates to a Veterans Education	5
February Chapter Meeting	5
Family Photos: More from SFA Chapter 78 2013 Christmas Dinner	6

COVER PHOTO: "Yes, I did a PLF!"

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President
Bruce Long
D- 7464

Vice President
Tom Redfern
D-7907

Secretary
Lee Martin
M-13071

Director at Large
Terry Cagnolatti
M-9747

Treasurer
John Joyce
M-11877

**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

Sentinel Editor
Louis (Lonny) Holmes
D-6067

Immediate Past President
Louis (Lonny) Holmes
D-6067

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



**VETERANS AFFORDABLE
HOUSING PROGRAM**

888-923-VETS (8387)

VeteransAffordableHousing.org

Sentinel Graphic Design by Debra Holm/Dinwiddie Holm Graphics

The Sentinel is published monthly by Special Forces Association Chapter 78, Southern California. The views, opinions and articles printed in this issue do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Army or the United States Special Operations Command the Special Forces Association or Special Forces Association Chapter 78. Please address any comments to the editor, "Sentinel" to dhgraphics@earthlink.net.

THE PRESIDENTS PAGE



Bruce Long
President SFA 78

PRESIDENTS COLUMN FEBRUARY 2014

As most of you know I was an 18F-Intel Sergeant (O&I Course June 1990) therefore, my interest has always been in this area.

From time to time I receive UNCLASSIFIED information which I'm going to share with my fellow Chapter members. I plan on using the Presidents Column to pass on both civilian and military information. I will also pass on any general interest information.

Good example, I was recently informed by Thad Gembacz, that the paid administrative costs for the Green Beret Foundation is only 8.4% which is something I think we can all live with.

Mexico Travel Warning last updated: January 9, 2014

The U.S. Department of State warns U.S. citizens about the risk of traveling in Mexico due to threats to safety and security posed by Transnational Criminal Organizations (TCOs) in the country. U.S. citizens have been the target of violent crimes, such as kidnapping, carjacking, and robbery by TCOs in various Mexican states. For information on security conditions in specific regions of Mexico, which can vary, travelers should reference the state-by-state assessments further below.

This Travel Warning replaces the Travel Warning for Mexico, issued July 12, 2013, to update information about the security situation and to advise the public of additional restrictions on the travel of U.S. government (USG) personnel.

General Conditions:

Millions of U.S. citizens safely visit Mexico each year for study, tourism, and business, including more than 150,000 who cross the border every day. The Mexican government dedicates substantial resources to protect visitors to major tourist destinations, and there is no evidence that Transnational Criminal Organizations (TCOs) have targeted U.S. visitors or residents based on their nationality. Resort areas and tourist destinations in Mexico generally do not see the levels of drug-related violence and crime that are reported in the border region or in areas along major trafficking routes.

Nevertheless, U.S. travelers should be aware that the Mexican government has been engaged in an extensive effort to counter TCOs which engage in narcotics trafficking and other unlawful activities throughout Mexico. The TCOs themselves are engaged in a violent struggle to control drug trafficking routes and other criminal activity. Crime and violence are serious problems and can occur any-

where. U.S. citizens have fallen victim to criminal activity, including homicide, gun battles, kidnapping, carjacking and highway robbery. While most of those killed in narcotics-related violence have been members of TCOs, innocent persons have also been killed. The number of U.S. citizens reported to the Department of State as murdered in Mexico was 71 in 2012 and 81 in 2013.

Gun battles between rival TCOs or with Mexican authorities have taken place in towns and cities in many parts of Mexico, especially in the border region. Gun battles have occurred in broad daylight on streets and in other public venues, such as restaurants and clubs. During some of these incidents, U.S. citizens have been trapped and temporarily prevented from leaving the area. TCOs have used stolen cars, buses and trucks to create roadblocks on major thoroughfares, preventing the military and police from responding to criminal activity. The location and timing of future armed engagements is unpredictable. We recommend that you defer travel to the areas indicated in this Travel Warning and exercise extreme caution when traveling throughout the northern border region.

The number of kidnappings throughout Mexico is of particular concern and appears to be on the rise. According to statistics published by the Mexican Secretaria de Gobernacion (SEGOB), during the first 11 months of 2013 kidnappings nationwide increased 32 percent over the same period in 2012. While kidnappings can occur anywhere, according to SEGOB during this timeframe, the states with the highest numbers of kidnappings were Guerrero, Tamaulipas, Michoacán, Estado de Mexico, and Morelos. Additionally, according to a widely publicized study by the agency responsible for national statistics (INEGI, the National Institute of Statistics and Geography), Mexico suffered an estimated 105,682 kidnappings in 2012; only 1,317 were reported to the police. Police have been implicated in some of these incidents. Both local and expatriate communities have been victimized. Almost 90 kidnappings of U.S. citizens were reported to the U.S. Embassy and consulates in Mexico between April and November of 2013.

U.S. citizens are encouraged to lower their personal profiles and to avoid wearing conspicuous jewelry or clothing bearing logos of U.S. sports teams or military themed apparel which that may identify them as U.S. citizens. U.S. citizens are encouraged to maintain awareness of their surroundings and avoid situations in which they may be isolated. ♦

Bruce D Long
President
SGM, SF (Ret)
SFA Chapter 78



SF 19TH GROUP PARACHUTE



On January 12, 2014, led by President **Bruce Long**, Chapter 78 members joined members of A Company, 5th Bn, 19th SFG(A) at the air field at Los Alamitos to observe members of their SF company jump with the MC-6 parachute.

Airborne Systems MC-6 Parachute

Developed through the Special Operations Force's Tactical Assault Parachute System (SOFTAPS) program for precision infiltration, the MC-6 features the latest in advanced technology for steerable troop parachute systems. It offers greater maneuverability, exceptional performance in high altitude drop zones and achieves a lower rate of descent compared to the MC-1 system. The MC-6 System has replaced all the MC-1 steerable troop parachutes in the US military.

In conjunction with the MC-6 parachute, the T-11 R Reserve Parachute is used which opens rapidly with minimal post-inflation collapse and altitude loss. The T-11 R inflates in all malfunction modes, as well as with a full main canopy, should the reserve be deployed inadvertently.

The MC-6 Canopy has a reduced rate of descent both at high altitude and low, a faster rate of turning - 5 seconds for 360 degree turn and a maximum exit weight of 400 pounds. All these exceed the standards of the MC-1. Both the MC-1 and MC-6 Canopies have a minimum altitude of exit of 500 feet. For further information visit Airborne Systems website, www.airborne-sys.com. ❖



❶ Bruce Long & SGM Beetham

❸ Mark Miller & CPT Owens

❷ Terry Cagnolatti, Mark Miller, John and Ingrid Creel

❹ CPT Trent, LTC Utterback, Bruce Long and SFC Boodaghian



5



6



8



7



9



10

5 Equipment Check

6 Loading CH - 47

7 SF 19th Group Parachute Jump

8 'Chuted up, equipment loaded and ready to GO!

9 SF exiting Ch - 47 at 1500 feet

10 MC-6 parachute; jumper with equipment not yet released



SF 19TH GROUP PARACHUTE (CONTINUED)



- 1 Two jumpers, one beginning to slip
- 2 Nearly on the ground
- 3 Equipment in process of being released
- 4 MC-6 Parachute - straight up!

- 5 Landing 500 meters from the D.Z.
- 6 Ready for PLF
- 7 On the ground from 1500 feet



VETERANS AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAM DONATES TO VETERANS EDUCATION



Lee Martin, John Stryker Meyer, Daric Wilson, Jim Duffy and Richard Simonian President of VAHP

By Lee Martin

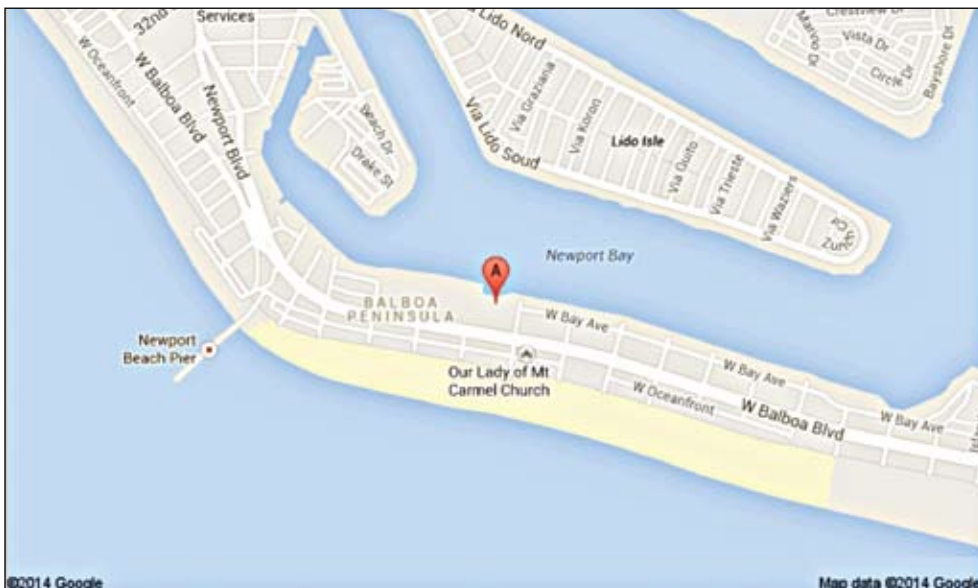
Daric M. Wilson received a scholarship award from Richard Simonian President of Veterans Affordable Housing Program at the January 11, 2014 SFA Chapter 78 meeting. Daric was referred to VAHP by a member of the Orange County Veterans Collaborative Group as a military veteran college student needing assistance for his school expenses.

Daric Wilson served in the U.S. Army in Psychological Warfare and Intelligence as an enlisted soldier and was assigned to support Special Forces operations in the War on Terrorism. Daric was then selected for Officer Candidate School and following graduation attended Jump School. He then served in Airborne Infantry units achieving the rank of Captain before leaving the Army to complete his education and his ultimate goal to attend Law School.

Daric has demonstrated an interest in joining SFA Chapter 78 as an Associate member while continuing his education. ♦

FEBRUARY CHAPTER MEETING SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2013 • 10:00 AM

The February Chapter meeting will be held at the Newport Beach American Legion Post 291, beginning at 10:00 am. Lunch can be ordered from the Legion cafe immediately following. Be early for parking is limited. ♦



American Legion Post 291

215 15th Street
Newport Beach, CA 92663

Phone: 949.673.5070

Office Hours: 9-5pm (winter)

Restaurant: 949.673.1473

Bar: 949.673.1701

Email: Admin@AL291.com



FAMILY PHOTOS:

MORE FROM SFA CHAPTER 78 2013 CHRISTMAS DINNER



❶ Denis and Donna Paez with John and Ingrid Creel

❷ Brad Welker, Mark Miller and LTC (Retired) Dave Thomas, owner of Special Forces Gear

❸ Richard and Bonnie Simonian

❹ Lonny and Nilda Holmes

❺ Bruce and Geri Long

❻ Jim Duffy giving the SF Oath of Office to Bruce Long and members of the 2014 - 2015 Board

❼ Terry and Juliette Cagnolatti

❽ Mike and Cora Keele