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**SF C-78 Members Support
Sonora High JROTC**

**Counterinsurgency Operations
for Royal Thai Police Officers**

In Memoriam

MSG (E-8) Armando Valdez

SFA 78 Chapter Meeting





Lonny Holmes
Sentinel Editor

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

This month Chapter 78 is very fortunate to have Dr. Eric V. Larson, PhD., of RAND Corporation as our Guest Speaker. Dr. Larson is a senior policy researcher who specializes in irregular warfare, jihadist strategy, ideology and has worked with Special Forces at high echelon levels.

As stated at www.rand.org, "RAND Corporation is a nonprofit institution that helps improve policy and decision making through research and analysis." For over six decades RAND has used rigorous fact-based research and analysis to help international and military affairs as well as other interest groups.

Special Forces (Green Berets) have a long association with RAND Corporation and one of these individuals was Dr. George K. Tanham, PhD. Dr. Tanham received his BA from Princeton University in 1943 and then joined the U.S. Army serving as an officer in the European Theater under General Patton. He was decorated with a Silver Star with oak leaf cluster, Purple Heart, Air Medal and the French Croix de Guerre. Following the war, George Tanham completed his education, receiving a MA and PhD. from Stanford University. He then joined the Faculty of California Institute of Technology as a professor teaching Military History until 1955 when he joined RAND.

Dr. Tanham published his first book in 1961, *Communist Revolutionary Warfare: The Vietminh in Indochina*, which was to become a landmark for C.I. Warfare specialists. He served as Assistant Director of the Agency of International Development in Saigon, Vietnam from 1964 to 1965.

In 1968, Dr. Tanham was appointed by the Department of State with the rank of Minister as Special Assistant for Counterinsurgency at the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand. In that role he set U.S. Counterinsurgency Policy, coordinated the C.I. effort, approved C.I. Programs and provided C.I. evaluation and reports to the Ambassador and Washington, D.C. Many of these programs were carried out by Company D, 1st SFG(A) and subsequently the 46th SF Company (Airborne). One of these programs was the Counterinsurgency Operations for the Royal Thai Police, that was taught by members of A-4624 out of Camp Cha Haw, Thailand.

During his long career Dr. Tanham authored several other books in his field and numerous documents, continuing to garner academic accolades. He co-authored with Douglas S. Blaufarb: *Who Will Win a Key; An Answer to the Puzzle of Revolutionary War*.

Dr. Tanham spent the rest of his career at the prestigious RAND rising thru the ranks becoming corporate vice president in charge of the Washington office and trustee from 1971 until 1982. ❖

Lonny Holmes
Sentinel Editor

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COVER PHOTO: SSG John R. Martin Demolition Specialist of A-4624, instructor in 1968 Royal Thai Police Counterinsurgency Course. Copyright photo courtesy of SGM John Martin (USA, Ret.)

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THE PRESIDENTS PAGE

PRESIDENTS COLUMN APRIL 2014

Would you believe it's already April! The first quarter of the year is gone. The next Chapter meeting is scheduled for April 12th, 1000 hrs at the American Legion Post 291 with guest speaker Dr. Eric V. Larson, PhD., RAND Corporation.

Also, don't forget we are having our first official social hour with A/5/19 on April 5th at Los Alamitos Joint Training Base in



Bruce Long
President SFA 78

the city of Los Alamitos (Fiddler's Green Inn) at 1700 hrs after the parachute jump. There will be a buffet dinner and No Host Bar. (Actually, we will have \$400.00, to spend, but that will not go far). So bring plenty of money and let's show Alpha Company how much we appreciate their hard work and dedication. If anyone has questions, feel free to call me. (951) 317 4767.

Kudos to **Lee Martin, Kenn Miller, John Joyce** and **Fritz Saalman** for attending the JROTC pizza party appreciation. (See separate article and pictures on this event).

SFA National has sent me the latest roster of all members who are active and paid up. I also received the list of Inactive members who have NOT paid up. I decided not to mention names because I sent out emails to everyone who was on the inactive list. You know who you are! Pay up – support SFA & your Chapter.

Intelligence Report (UNCLASSIFIED)

With the proposed NATO pull-out at the end of 2014, the security situation in Afghanistan is once again under scrutiny – and with good reason. A long-term security agreement between Washington and Kabul looks increasingly unlikely, raising the possibility of a full NATO withdrawal that would leave Afghanistan to stand alone without direct American or European security assistance. This article will examine the stability prospects for Afghanistan should NATO leave without some kind of permanent military deployment being left behind.

For the full article text, please visit: <http://www.geopoliticalmonitor.com/what-will-a-post-nato-afghanistan-look-like-4925/> ❖

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



American Legion Post 291 Past President Steve Spriggs speaking at Chapter 78 March meeting.



Green Beret Shooters Cup Director Steve Cowan presenting a check to John Stryker Meyer for the Green Beret Foundation.



Thomas Tringali and Andrew Gaboy of Grid 35 received a bonus for Team Scoring on the Third Annual Green Beret Shooters Cup.



SF C-78 MEMBERS SUPPORT SONORA HIGH JROTC

By Bruce Long

All of you know the JROTC from Sonora High School has assisted in the Green Beret Shooters Cup for the last three (3) years. At our last Chapter meeting a motion was made and passed, that Chapter 78 should show it's appreciation by treating the JROTC individuals involved to a pizza party.

At the recommendation of Fritz Saalman, JROTC instructor and Chapter member, the event was held at Farrell's Ice Cream Parlor located in the city of Brea.

On March 18th, 2014 at 1700 hrs, myself, along with my wife Geri, Mike Keele, Lee Martin (Chapter 78 Secretary) Kenn Miller, and John Joyce (Chapter 78 Treasurer) and of course Fritz Saalman were in attendance. Also present were the following JROTC: Belen Mora (who sang at the GBSC), Nathan Bernier, Antonio Apodaca, Spencer Knobbs, Michael Rosas, Justin Ruby and David Ventura who graduated and now attends California State University Fullerton. Zack O'Neil and Elizabeth Green could not attend because of prior commitments.

We all had a good time but ate too much. The JROTC from Sonora HS will again be helping the Chapter with the upcoming Shooters Cup on October 11th, 2014. ❖



Bruce Long, Mike Keele, John Joyce and the Sonora JROTC Cadets



Fritz Saalman and Sonora High School JROTC members.



Sonora High School JROTC members who supported the GBSC and MSG Fritz Saalman.



COUNTERINSURGENCY OPERATIONS FOR ROYAL THAI POLICE OFFICERS CLASS OF JANUARY 1968

Special Forces Detachment A-4624, 46th Special Forces Company (Airborne) established a training base at Police Camp Chaw Haw in November 1967, taught a cadre of Thai Police Officers and provided instruction to over 100 Royal Thai Police Officers selected from throughout Thailand's districts involved in communist suppression.

The course proved to be a huge success with the Thai Police and U.S. Special Forces cadre continued providing instruction and support until the eventual withdrawal of US Special Forces

from Thailand; the course was then institutionalized by the Thai National Police until the mid 1980's when it was discontinued. Subsequently a Counterinsurgency Library and Museum was established at the base and contains SF instructional materials, photographs and memorabilia from our efforts to support Thailand in their counterinsurgency efforts.* ❖

** Information, suggestions and photographs for this article provided by SGM John R. Martin (ret. SF), an original member of A-4624*



- ① Special Forces Detachment A-4624, 1967, Royal Thai Police Camp Chaw Haw.
- ② Thai Police officer swings precariously from cliff while learning how to use ropes and mechanical advantage to lift and lower objects in mountainous terrain.
- ③ Students quickly learn route finding in mountainous terrain is a bit more problematic than the maps lead one to believe. They also learned the advantages and disadvantages of counterinsurgency operations in various terrains.

- ④ Diplomas for students of graduating Class 1 of the Thai Police Counterinsurgency Course at Camp Cha Haw, A-4624.
- ⑤ Police Counterinsurgency Course 1, FTX, Dec 1967, in mountains east of Korat Thailand, near the Cambodian border, A-4624.

Title Photo: Royal Thai Police COUNTERINSURGENCY BADGE designed by SF A-4624



IN MEMORIAM

MSG (E-8) ARMANDO (PAPPY) VALDEZ
MAY 22, 1925 – FEBRUARY 16, 2014



MSG (E-8) Armando (Pappy) Valdez was born May 22, 1925 and died February 16, 2014 at his home in Santa Ana, California, after a long bout with respiratory and heart illnesses.

Pappy joined the army on September 1, 1943. He received his basic and airborne training at Fort Benning, Georgia. He was assigned to the 17th Airborne Division and saw combat in the Ardennes during the Battle of the Bulge in WWII where he was wounded. After recovering from his wounds he was assigned to the 508 Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82d Airborne Division.

He joined a Special Forces Reserve Unit in San Pedro, California in 1962 when it was Detachment 1, Co B, 17th SFGA which became Company C, 3rd Battalion, 12th Special Forces Group

(Airborne). He remained with the unit until his 60th Birthday when he retired from SF and the US Army.

His awards include the Combat Infantryman's Badge, Master Parachutist, Purple Heart, European Campaign Medal with 3 Bronze Service Stars, and numerous reserve awards and decorations while serving with C-3-12.

Services were held at St. Anne Catholic Church, Santa Ana, CA. Internment followed at the Riverside National Cemetery.

Submitted by Arthur N. Dolick
US Army Retired
D-1765 (L)



OUR DAY ON THE RANGE

SATURDAY MAY 10, 2014



By Mike Keele, DFC

During a break in Ch. 78's monthly meeting at American Legion post 291 on March 8th, Chapter Vice President Tom Redfern was musing about ways to make a few bucks to fill the Chapter's coffers.

After he had thought about it a while, he lit up. "I've got the perfect fundraiser, and we can use it at our annual day on the range,

on May 10th," he said. Tom was talking about our yearly day of shooting targets, both steel and paper at the Burbank gun club facility a few clicks north of Magic Mountain. Odd things happen there, like the honorary member who was puzzled as to where the bullets were going when he tried to load his .44 mag with .357 mag ammo. Bad fit, grandpa. What did you do during the war?

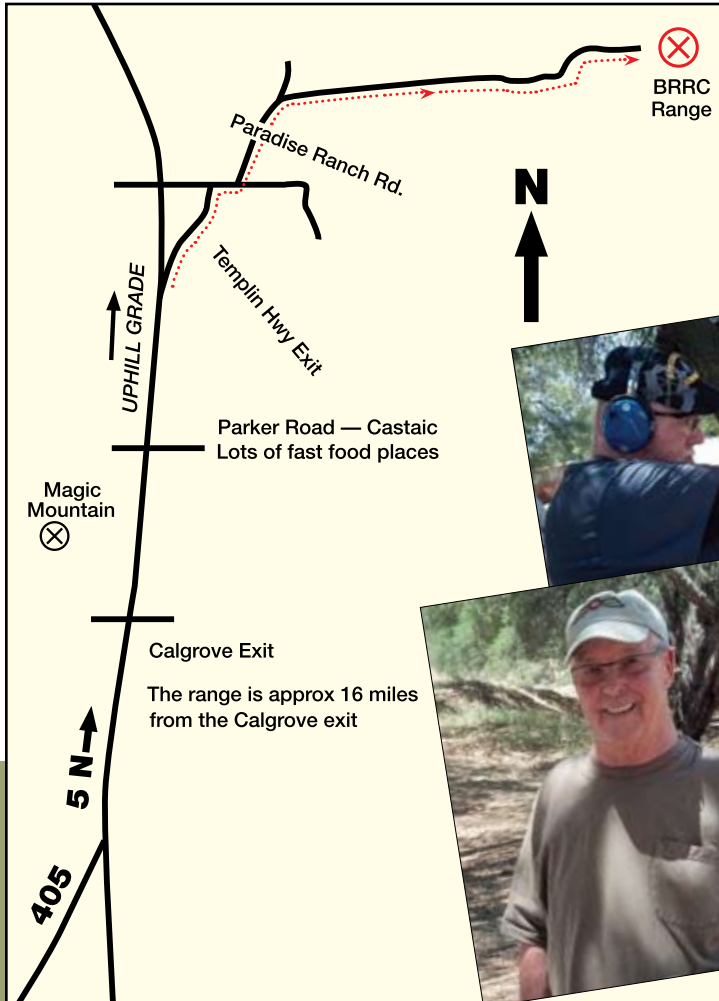
Anyway, back to the fundraiser. Tom plans to organize a 50-50 shoot with his trusty Ruger .22 seven shooter. The first to blast a clay pigeon at 200 yards with .22 'short' ammo will get half the pot. The minimum buy-in will be \$10.00 for seven shots, and Tom figures it to be a real money maker, since he intends to use the "low station" bird launcher.

As always, wives and children are welcome at \$25.00 each. Be sure to bring ear protection or you can rent Tom's muffs for \$13.00, the price of a decent set of ear muffs of your own. Tom needs to know how many will attend in order to arrange for an appropriate amount of food. Let him know at the April meeting. A hymn will be sung for anyone who chooses to wear a bullet proof vest.

The announcement for this year's event is *asking for new participants* and they are *offering a light breakfast and full lunch* as an inducement to participate. The biggest inducement to get involved deals with the opportunity to interact with these kids; every one of whom was more professional, mature and polite than I could have imagined. Last year was a truly uplifting experience. ❖

DIRECTIONS TO CHAPTER 78 SHOOTOUT

Drive North on I-5 and exit at Templin Hwy



Exit at Templin Hwy – Turn right at bottom of exit ramp – Then make a quick left turn onto Paradise Ranch Road. Drive about two hundred yards on Paradise Ranch Rd

At the entrance to the Paradise Ranch trailer park – veer to the right and follow the overhead power lines back into the canyon. After about a mile you will pass the first gate (locked open). The second gate will have chain link fencing on both sides. This is the entrance to BRRC range.

NOTE: The May Chapter meeting will be held at "The Day at the Range."

This is the chapter 'shoot' and BBQ hosted by Chapter Vice President Tom Redfern.

SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION CHAPTER 78 MEETING

SATURDAY APRIL 12, 2014 • 1000hrs

American Legion Post 291, 215 15th Street, Newport Beach, CA 92663

SPECIAL SPEAKER

Dr. Eric V. Larson, PhD., of Rand Corporation

Senior Policy Researcher; Professor, Pardee RAND Graduate School



Dr. Eric V. Larson PhD. is a senior policy researcher at the RAND Corporation and a professor at the Pardee RAND Graduate School.

Dr. Larson's research focus includes jihadist strategy, ideology, propaganda, and discourse; influence operations, strategic communications, and information operations; irregular warfare; American and foreign attitudes toward U.S. military operations; media and public opinion; and social science approaches to national security analysis.

RESEARCH FOCUS

- Asymmetric Warfare;
- Counterterrorism;
- Emerging Technologies;
- Information Operations;
- Military Strategy;
- Religious Fundamentalism

RECENT PROJECTS

- Jihadist strategy, ideology, propaganda, and discourse
- Influence operations, strategic communications, and information operations
- Irregular warfare
- American and foreign attitudes toward U.S. military operations
- Foreign attitudes toward the United States

Prior to joining RAND, he worked as a policy and systems analyst for the National Security Council. Larson received his A.B. in political science from the University of Michigan and his M.Phil. and Ph.D. in policy analysis from the Pardee RAND Graduate School.

**Chapter members
should plan
to attend this
important
presentation.**

Lunch can be ordered from the Legion cafe immediately following.
Be early for parking is limited.