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19th Special Forces Group (Airborne)

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Chapter Meeting Reminder

Call for Volunteers – Raahauges Shooting Sports Fair





Lonny Holmes
Sentinel Editor

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

On April 5, Chapter 78 held a dinner for all members of Company A, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Fiddlers Green on the Los Alamitos Joint Training Base to honor these Green Berets who have been defending America in the War on Terrorism. Chapter member, **Richard Simonian** made a donation to Chapter 78 which made the dinner and open bar possible for all in attendance. The Fiddlers Green Restaurant provided a very fine buffet dinner and open bar which all enjoyed.

Leading the way for Chapter 78 was **President Bruce Long** who along with his wife **Geri** coordinated the event. **Company A Commander Captain Trent** and **SGM Beetham** gave a very nice welcome to members of SFA C-78 and thanked Richard for his support of the company. We were also lucky to have the presence of the 19th Group DCO Colonel Slagowski, who spoke with many chapter members.

Chapter 78 members who attended this fine event included **Richard Simonian, Terry** and **Juliette Cagnolatti, Mike** and **Cora Keele, Mark Miller, Lee Martin, Lonny** and **Nilda Holmes** and **John Stryker Meyer**.

Many wives of Company A Green Berets also joined us for the dinner. American Legion Post 291 Past Commander, **Steve Spriggs** and his wife **Pam** were invited guests.

A highlight of the evening was a speech given by **Richard Simonian** who intends along with Chapter 78 to strongly support A Company and presently is working on several projects to improve their administrative assets.

The 2014 Annual ROTC Awards Ceremonies started this year with **Mark Miller** and **Kenn Miller** (no relation other than recon company members in Vietnam) presenting the Chapter 78 Certificate and SFA Medal of Merit along with a very fine field knife to UCLA Cadet Saari. This is the fifteenth year the chapter has participated in the UCLA ROTC ceremony. On Tuesday April 29, **Mike Keele** and I will attend the 7th Annual Rancho Cucamonga High School Remembers Veterans oral history program. Later in the day we both will attend the Claremont McKenna and CSUSB ROTC Awards Dinner. During the next month C-78 members will attend USC and CSU Fullerton ceremonies. This year the chapter is making a very nice cash donation to the CSUF cadet who is awarded the SF Medal of Merit.

At the end of May the chapter will have a booth (our fourth year) at the Annual Raahauges Shooting Sports Fair. This is a fund raising event for the Green Beret Shooters Cup; which will also be the fourth year. Please attend and help staff our booth. See the ad in this issue.

Richard Simonian and the Veterans Affordable Housing Program will continue to be the Official Sponsor of the GBSC and actually increase their participation this year. A "tip of the Beret to Richard." ❖

Lonny Holmes
Sentinel Editor
SFA C-78

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COVER PHOTO: SGM Beetham, Bruce Long, CPT Trent and Colonel Slagowski at the Chapter 78 - 19th Special Forces Group (A) Dinner.

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THE PRESIDENTS PAGE



Bruce Long
President SFA 78

PRESIDENTS COLUMN MAY 2014

A quick reminder this month's meeting will be at the Burbank Rifle and Revolver Club on Saturday May 10th, also known as the Day at the Range. VP Tom Redfern will be hosting the event, this also includes BBQ of hotdogs & hamburgers. Feel free to bring your wife, girlfriend or significant other. If you have questions contact Tom directly.

June is dark, so there's no meeting. The National Convention will be in full swing in Columbia, SC.

As some of you know, the Chapter recently expelled a member for falsifying his membership application. The point I'm trying to make is, wannabes will not be tolerated.

For more information on this growing problem, read [Fake Warriors : Identifying, Exposing, and Punishing Those Who Falsify Their Military Service](#) or an earlier book titled [Stolen Valor : How the Vietnam Generation Was Robbed of Its Heroes and Its History](#). These books can be purchased on line through Amazon. It's enough to make you sick.

UNCLASSIFIED INTEL

On 30 November 2010, a 39-year-old Pakistani national named Muhammed Ather "Tony" Butt was detained with his Thai girlfriend, Sirikalya Kitbamrung, as they were crossing into Laos from the north-eastern Thai province of Nong Khai. Later that same day, officers from [Thailand's](#) Department of Special Investigations arrested a second Pakistani, Zezan Azzan Butt, 27, in the Rat Burana district of Bangkok. At about the same time, on the other side of the globe, Spanish police were swooping on a series of addresses in Barcelona, arresting six Pakistanis and one Nigerian.

The [raids were the culmination of a major joint operation](#), code named Alpha, between Thai and Spanish investigators, prompted by the discovery that a suspected member of the al-Qaida inspired terror cell responsible for several attacks in Madrid – including the 2004 M-11 train bombings, which killed 191 people and left 1,800 injured – was travelling on a false passport.

Information from that suspect would lead, several years later, to the arrest in September 2009 of an Iranian-born Briton, Ahboor

Rambarak Fath, at Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi airport – and, eventually, to Tony Butt. Stopped as he got off a flight from Spain, Fath was carrying a bag of 103 stolen European, Canadian and Israeli passports destined, he confessed, for the veritable "small forgery factory" that police found at Butt's apartment in the hours after his arrest.

In one room of the flat, an unnamed DSI agent [told the Bangkok Post](#), officers discovered computers, a high-definition scanner and printer, and more than 1,000 stolen passports, photographs and counterfeit data pages for EU, Canadian, Chinese and Israeli passports, plus assorted sets of US and [Schengen](#) visa stickers and stamps.

Butt was, in the words of DSI deputy director-general Narat Savetnant, "the kingpin" of a major international gang that stole and falsified passports and then sold them to international criminal groups involved in arms trafficking, [human trafficking](#), illegal immigration – and terrorism. Beside the Madrid bombers, the gang also allegedly supplied passports to the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba group, accused of plotting the 2008 Mumbai attacks that left 164 people dead and more than 300 injured, and to Tamil Tiger separatists in Sri Lanka.

Theft of passports in Thailand – and particularly in Phuket – are a 'regular occurrence'

There is, of course, no evidence that [Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370](#), which disappeared Friday 7 March just over an hour into its flight from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to Beijing, was the victim of a terror attack. But news that two of the passengers on the flight were travelling on passports stolen in Thailand – one belonging to Italian Luigi Maraldi, who lost it last August when he left it as collateral for a motorbike rented in Phuket, and the other to Austrian Christian Kozel, who reported his lost in the same area some 18 months earlier – has focused attention on the country's booming trade in stolen and falsified passports.

Some, certainly, have ended up in the hands of terrorists. In June 2012, the month that Butt was sentenced to 15 years in jail, the DSI smashed another major counterfeiting syndicate, this one accused of issuing some 3,000 falsified passports and visas over the five years of its existence, two of them to Iranians [convicted of carrying out a series of botched bomb attacks in Bangkok in February 2012, supposedly aimed at Israeli diplomats](#). (Iranian-born Seyed Paknejad, 45, the counterfeiting gang's alleged ring-leader, was arrested but jumped bail and fled, on a fake Turkish passport, to Malaysia – where he was re-arrested last year carrying a startling [17 stolen New Zealand passports](#). Thailand has subsequently asked for his extradition.)

(continued on page 4)

CHAPTER 78 HONORS COMPANY A 19TH SPECIAL FORCES GROUP (AIRBORNE)



① Members of Company A, 19th Special Forces Group (A)

② Richard Simonian and Chapter 78 President Bruce Long

③ Nilda Holmes and Geri Long

④ Richard Simonian

⑤ SSG Jimenez, his wife and SSG Chatam

⑥ Members of Company A, 19th SFG (A)



- 7 Nilda Holmes, Lonny Holmes, Bruce Long, Richard Simonian and Geri Long
- 8 CPT Trent, Lonny Holmes and Colonel Slagowski DCO 19th SFG (A)
- 9 Colonel Slagowski and Mark Miller

- 10 Richard Simonian, MSG Eylicio and Lee Martin
- 11 Cora Keele, Geri Long and Pam Spriggs
- 12 Juliette and Terry Cagnolatti

2014 ANNUAL ROTC AWARDS CEREMONIES BEGIN

Chapter 78 congratulates the recipients of 2014's Special Forces Association award.



Mark Miller, UCLA ROTC Cadet Saari and Kenn Miller



Lonny Holmes, Claremont McKenna Cadet Toun and Mike Keele



Mike Keele at Rancho Remembers

CHAPTER 78 REPRESENTED AT ANNUAL RANCHO CUCAMONGA HIGH SCHOOL EVENT

Chapter members Mike Keele and Lonny Holmes attended Rancho Cucamonga High School's *Rancho Remembers* on April 29. This event has been attended by Chapter members for the past two years and accounts of the event have appeared in previous issues of the Sentinel. *Rancho Remembers* was founded and organized in 2007 by two of the RCHS history teachers and students belonging to a club of the same name. At the event a number of veterans meet with students of the school's junior class in the school's gymnasium to interact and share their stories. The setting is formal setting, with lunch also being served. The event attracts a large number of veterans each year, with the 2013 event attracting 320 veterans.

Rancho Remembers and its founders have received great praise for this special event that honors the veterans and teaches the students in a memorable fashion. ♦

(Information for event detail retrieved 04/29/2014 from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rancho_Cucamonga_High_School)

PRESIDENTS PAGE CONTINUED

The gangs have targeted Thailand mainly because of the very large numbers of European, US and Australian tourists who travel there every year. But the Bangkok Post's interview with an unnamed DSI agent quoted him as saying the country was also attractive because it is relatively easy to enter and leave; "you can negotiate with some law enforcement people"; and – importantly – some local officials have not tended to see the forgery of foreign (as opposed to Thai) passports as a particularly serious offence.

The business reportedly originated in the early 80s, when Thai criminal gangs employed hotel staff, tour guides and sex workers to steal not just tourists' traveller's cheques but also their passports, without which cheques could not be

cashied. Once credit cards started replacing traveller's cheques, the gangs used the expertise they had already gained in the sophisticated techniques of document falsification to become full-service fake document providers, importing passports, driving licences and ID cards from abroad, doctoring them, and selling to anyone prepared to pay.

Two passengers on Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 were travelling on passports stolen in Thailand

More to follow next month in the Sentinel. ♦

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

CHAPTER 78 HONORED BY SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER



By Lee Martin

Dr. Eric V. Larson, PhD. of RAND Corporation was our guest speaker at our April 12th meeting. Dr. Larson is a highly respected expert on world terrorism organizations. He presented a very technical, enlightening and entertaining discussion on the past, present and future of

the continued global war on terrorism. He is a senior policy researcher at the RAND Corporation and a professor at the PAEDEE RAND Graduate School. Dr. Larson mesmerized a packed house of Chapter 78 members for over an hour and fielded many varied questions on terrorism.

Dr. Larson covered the most known terrorist groups, especially al-Qaeda and its emergence, fracturing, squabbles, and recent set-backs. Al-Qaeda is just one of many jihadist groups all over the world. Many of these groups have fought each other for centuries and continue to do so today.

Africa is a present hot spot for many of these groups. Al-Shabab has been very active in high profile attacks like the Kenya mall massacre and other activities in Kenya. Somalia is another country with several organized terror groups, followed by the Philippines, Pakistan, and other countries. Yemen seems to presently be the most popular country for terrorists to do their training and for staging for attacks.

One of the more interesting and recent events concerned the fear of a terrorist attack at the recent Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia. The news media played on this real threat for weeks, while the

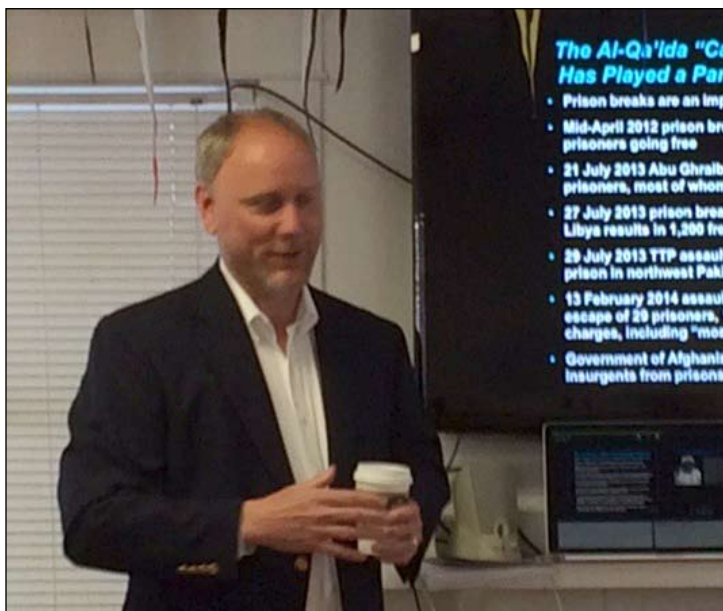
Russians quietly prevented it. Dr. Larson's comment on the threat was simple: "Russia capped the leader". The threat went away.

There are many different extremist threats to the United States and our allies from hundreds of splintered groups that continually change their tactics and organizations like chameleons. To combat these threats, countries are collaborating more and there have been some major successes. This must continue.

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Dr. Larson's essay *Al Qaeda's Propaganda: A Shifting Battlefield* is included in RAND Corporation publication *The Long Shadow of 9/11: America*.



Dr. Eric Larson, PhD lecturing on al-Qaeda.



Chapter 78 President Bruce Long presents Dr. Larson with a Chapter coin in appreciation for a great presentation.



Lonny Holmes in North Carolina in March tuning up for the Chapter 78 Day at the Range. Yes, that is a 7.62 Rifle. Super accurate.

No May Chapter Meeting at American Legion Post 291

**The Chapter will meet at the Day on
the Range & BBQ with Tom on
Saturday, May 10 at the
Burbank Revolver and Rifle Club.**

CHAPTER 78 HONORED BY SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER CONTINUED

The number one fear of terrorist groups are drone attacks which have been very effective as they evolve in accuracy that limit unwanted casualties. The methods of communication by terrorists have drastically changed from electronic messaging to "snail mail" and couriers. Anti terrorism groups have had to adjust to this old method of communication and coordination.

Since 9/11 there has been a tremendous increase in international collaboration to combat terrorism and to prepare recovery methods on a global level. These threats will be with us for a long time. Anti terrorist work will be needed for years to come. It has shaped itself much like the long Cold War era.

Of special interest to Chapter 78 is the on-going war on terrorism by Special Operations Forces worldwide. This is one of the key parts of combating these many and varied anti-Western groups. This requires our ability to stay ahead in our training, technical resources, vigilance, and commitment to support Special Forces.

Home grown terrorism and copycats are different and more complex. Dr. Larson discussed the need for our citizens to help by being alert, vigilant and be prepared for emergencies. Get some training in emergency responder techniques. Stay united. Share information. Homeland Security is here to stay and is truly global. U.S. Special Forces and other Special Operations units have made a difference in blunting some attacks and are improving to combat terrorism.

For more detailed information read *The Long Shadow of 9/11: America*, which includes Dr. Larson's essay *Al Qaeda's Propaganda: A Shifting Battlefield* along with essays written by a selection RAND's leading experts.

"The RAND Corporation is a nonprofit institution that helps improve policy and decision-making through research and analysis". RAND Corp. ♦

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO STAFF CHAPTER 78'S BOOTH AT THE RAAHAUGES SHOOTING SPORTS FAIR

Please sign up with Bruce Long to staff the Chapters annual booth on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 30, 31, and June 1, 2014.

The fair will be open to the public from Friday noon to 6pm, Saturday 10 am to 6pm and Sunday 10am to 5pm.

Please arrive no later that 9am Friday morning to help set up the booth. Arrive one hour early on Saturday and Sunday.