



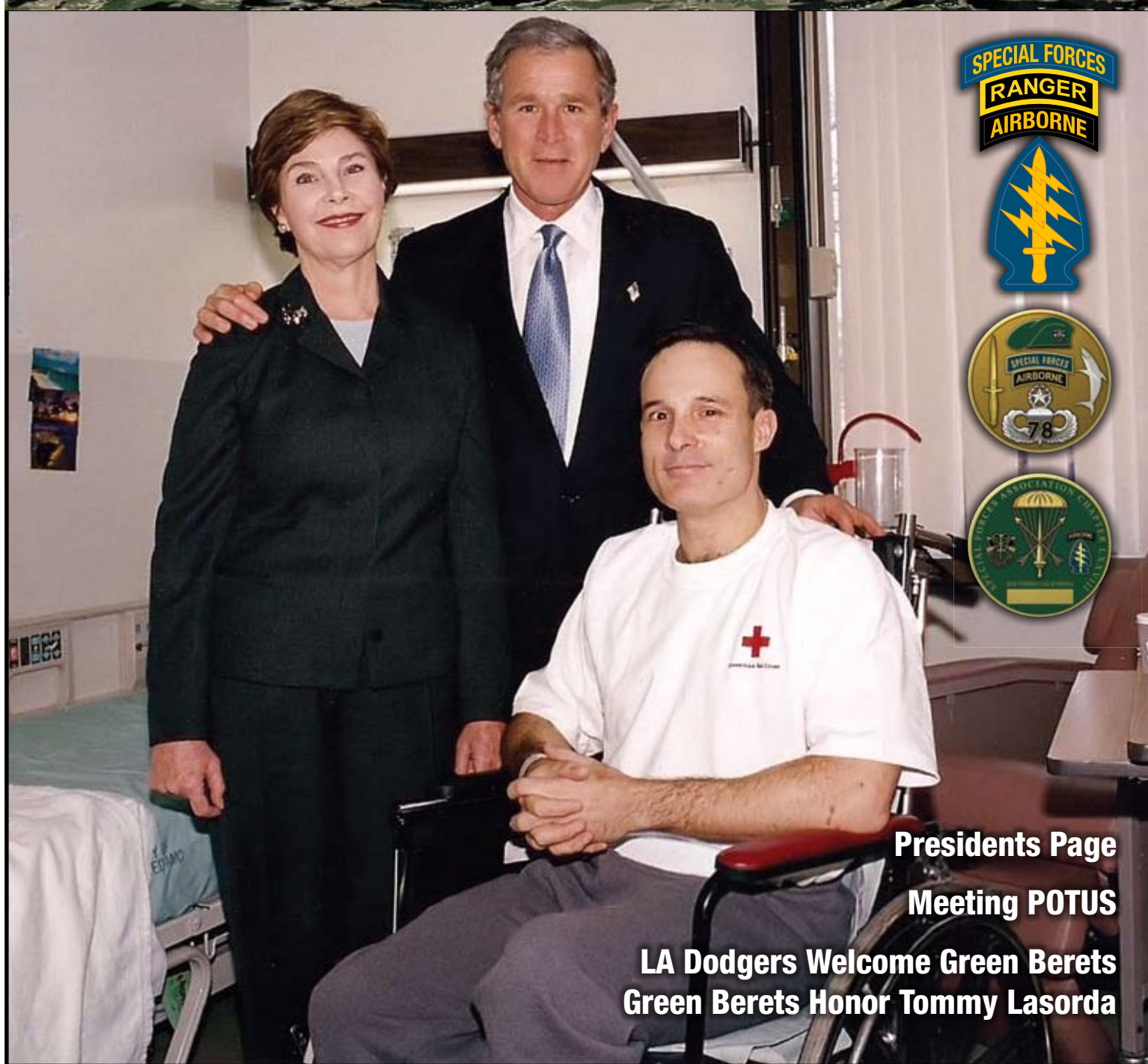
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THE LTC FRANK J. DALLAS CHAPTER

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OCTOBER 2014



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LA Dodgers Welcome Green Berets
Green Berets Honor Tommy Lasorda



Lonny Holmes
Sentinel Editor

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

ISLAMIC MILITANTS: RECRUITING IN WESTERN SOCIETY

The beheadings of two American and one British Journalist and the rapid expansion and territorial control of large areas of both Syria and Iraq by ISIS cause grave concern to many Americans about terrorist threats to the non-Islamic world. There are at least three components we must face in the threat of the jihadists on their way to dominating the Middle East and other areas of the globe. Among these concerns are (1) the political and economic problems caused by ISIS controlling these areas, (2) present and future terrorist threats directly to the U.S. and (3) the very worrisome ISIS practice of recruiting members for the jihadist movement from America and Western Europe. The last of these concerns, ISIS's recruiting techniques, is the newest threat that causes the most concern as it correlates to the second concern – direct threat to America. ISIS is rapidly enlarging in strength by recruiting from within the Middle East and European Countries. According to The Washington Institute for Near East Policy, "Western Europeans reportedly represent up to 18 percent of the 11,000 foreign fighters in Syria." ISIS and other terrorist organizations are employing modern technology including mass media in recruiting these foreign fighters from Western societies.

Max Boot in his book, *"Invisible Armies"* noted how insurgents are becoming more dependent on technical and external support for furthering their cause. Recruiting is becoming a significant and growing problem for ISIS, but new western recruiting areas and modern media techniques are providing ISIS moderate success. Recruits from western society directly benefit the jihadist movement both from a political point of view and from the recruitment of a technically trained individual who may not be available from their primary Middle East source nations.

Abdel-Majed Abdel Bary is a good example of a recruit from England who is the suspected killer of the three journalists. He is not only doing the "dirty work" for the ISIS but is using modern media; video and tweet to promote and advertise his despicable efforts. One of the most important jihadist media leaders was Anwar al-Awlaki, an American who then ran their media operations with a blog, Facebook page, the magazine *Inspire* and many You Tube videos. He lived in Yemen until he was removed by a drone strike on September 30, 2011. Prior to his death he was a noted recruiter for the Islamist group al-Qaeda.

Simon Cottee in his editorial, *"Chillin' with the bad boys,"* written for the *Los Angeles Times* and reprinted in the *Las Vegas Sun*,

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COVER PHOTO: President and Laura Bush visiting SFC Chris Martin at Walter Reed Hospital.

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THE PRESIDENTS PAGE



Bruce Long
President SFA 78

PRESIDENTS COLUMN OCTOBER 2014

Our Chapter meeting on September 13th was again well represented to include **Don Gonneville** a new member to Chapter 78.

Don served with 7th SF at Ft Bragg from February 1964 until November 1965, and in the 5th SFG in Viet Nam from December 1965 to December 1966. Don was XO of an A Team at Fort Bragg, and XO of two A

Teams in Viet Nam, both in II CTZ. (Lac Thien & Plei Me). Don was reassigned to the Airborne School at Ft Benning as an instructor, then as a company commander in the 4th INF Div in VN.

Don was presented with his Chapter coin along with Cadet Brown who attends the ROTC program at Cal State University Fullerton.

The Chapter is moving forward with our fund raising for 2015. At the writing of this column a Letter of Intent written and prepared by **John Joyce**, our Chapter Treasurer, has been submitted to the American Legion Post 291 requesting assistance to hold a Green Beret Wounded Warrior fundraiser in 2015. More to follow as this develops.

On October 4th 1700 hrs at the Installation Club Fiddlers Green, we will be recognizing A/5/19 along with a newly activated unit. Designated, Special Operations Detachment North (SOD North). This unit will be commanded by COL (0-6) **Mike Wise**. His SGM will be **Brian Beetham**.

As a special note — this event will also be attended by the Emerald Society and led by **Cliff Armas** who was our guest speaker and new chapter member at our August meeting.

Intel Update (UNCLASSIFIED)

As Iraq's political crisis deepens and Islamic State's (IS) influence grows, the future of Iraq and the wider region is once again in jeopardy. The West must come to the realization that the nation-state of Iraq is doomed and act to further empower allies like the Kurds. Failure to do so would be a grave strategic error and will further empower Islamic State.

The current crisis in Iraq has not occurred in a vacuum. Its roots lie deep in the region's colonial and modern history. For starters,

the Sykes-Picot Agreement of 1916 divided the Levant between the British and French following the fall of the Ottoman Empire at the end of WWI. This agreement partitioned what is now modern day Iraq and Syria. The colonial masters redrew the borders of the map to divide the Middle East using straight lines which later became national borders. They did this with little consideration for the local populations. What resulted was the fragmentation of different religious and ethnic groups across various national borders. In the case of Iraq, Shia, Sunni, Kurds and other minorities were all grouped together in one artificial state, which became modern day Iraq. By imposing supernatural borders and forcing these rival groups to share an artificially-created state, the Great Powers are partially to blame for sowing the seeds of sectarian conflict we are seeing today. It should not go unnoticed that one of Islamic State's first official statements was to declare "the end of Sykes-Picot." One Islamic State militant was quoted in a propaganda video stating, "There is no border (referring to the Iraq-Syria border) alas. Now this is all one country, Inshallah."

To date Islamic State has captured a stretch of territory the size of Jordan and subsequently declared it an Islamic caliphate. Virtually overnight, it has gone from a terrorist or guerrilla group to an army. It is aggressive, expansionist, and poses a real danger to the long-term stability of the Middle East.

But what are the group's actual goals?

Islamic State follows al-Qaeda's hard-core ideology and adheres to global jihadist principles. Like al-Qaeda, the group emerged from the ideology of the Muslim Brotherhood, which dates back to the 1920s in Egypt. Islamic State aims to establish a Salafist Islamist state in Iraq, Syria, and other parts of the Levant. The group's goal is to eliminate all modern borders between all Islamic Middle Eastern nation-states. This why the group now refers to its self as the Islamic State, as they believe that they have removed the border between Iraq and Syria, thus marking the first step in their state-building project. To date, the group's logistical capabilities are far greater than those of the Taliban and al-Qaeda, and their expansionist vision must be reined in if the Middle East is to ever see any sort of stability.❖

Bruce D Long

President

SGM, SF (Ret)

SFA Chapter 78

MEETING POTUS

By Chris Martin

I was assigned to ODA 973 A Co. 5Th BN. 19th SFG(A). Our mission was Foreign Internal Defense. We were working with the 1st BANA (Battalion of Afghan National Army) and teaching them small unit tactics in and around the area of the Presidential Palace in Kabul. By mid-December 2002, we were wrapping up our training cycle. Headquarters made a decision months earlier that the ODA's could rotate half their teams out of the AO for a Christmas break. So, at this time, half our team was in the process of returning from their break and the other half was preparing to leave for theirs. Because I was finishing paramedic school at the time of our initial deployment, I didn't have enough time in country to qualify for leave. I, therefore, was stuck in country. I was not alone. Our team Intel Sgt was in the same boat. He got into country shortly after I did.

By the end of the training cycle, SFC Mike Lyons and I suddenly found ourselves responsible for the team business. So, we had S-1 and S-4 duties to handle all for the benefit of the BANA. Well, while driving through Kabul, a young Taliban member ambushed our vehicle with an IED injuring both SFC Lyons and myself. Little did I know the wild ride that was to follow.

My odyssey began on 17 December 2002. That was the day we got hit. We got ourselves to a German hospital at the ISAF (International Security Assistance Force) compound. A day later, we were transported to Baghram where we were stabilized. Two days later we were flown to Germany. From there SFC Lyons and I were split up. SFC Lyons stayed in Germany while I went on to Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

I arrived at Walter Reed on 22 December 2002. As I was being wheeled into the hospital, for in processing, I somehow got into a conversation about general officers. I was told that if I was going to be there long enough I would meet a general or two. That, as it turned out, was an understatement.

The very next day, I was visited by the Army Chief of Staff General Shinseki. I learned he often visited the new arrivals at Walter Reed. He was a very cordial man who had been injured in Viet Nam so he had a legitimate interest in those who had been injured too. I was then visited by Representative Bill Young, who, at the time, was the House Appropriations Committee Chairman. He and his wife were absolutely awesome people. Before I left the hospital, they visited me multiple times and gave me a personal and private tour of the Capital Building and showed me things that the general public simply doesn't get a chance to see.



Top: Chris Martin and his wife

Center: Chris Martin meeting the President and First Lady

Bottom: Chris Martin and Mike Lyons on Hannity and Colmes, Fox News, after discharge from Walter Reed Hospital



Chris Martin and CDR of National Guard Bureau

Between 22 December 2002, and 7 January 2003, no less than 5 General Officers, the Army Command Sergeant Major, and the Senior Chief Warrant Officer of the Army visited me. One day General John Keane, who, at that time, was the Vice Army Chief of Staff, visited me. He is a large man and fit the typical description of a true general officer. His initial visit was atypical. At the end of the visit, he asked me, like all the other generals did, if I needed anything and if there was anything they could do for me. Well, maybe it was the medication I was on that reduced my inhibitions that I am now surprised at, but when the General finished the question, I told him, "Well, Sir, if the President isn't too busy I would really like to meet him." He replied that he wasn't sure if President Bush had even visited the hospital since he became President, but he told me that he would see what he could do. I remember thinking that nothing would ever happen and I felt that maybe I was perhaps a little disrespectful.

Nevertheless, my treatment continued, as did my visits. About a week later, the same General Keane visited again this time with an American Red Cross Representative. At the end of the visit, General Keane once again asked if there was anything he could do for me. And, once again, I reminded him that I would still like to meet the President. He told me, "I'm working on that."

About two days later, interesting things began to happen. I was visited by Secretary of the Army Thomas E. White. The next day, I met

the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Richard B. Myers. By the end of the week Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld stopped by. All at the same time, the Secret Service was walking around the ward I was in setting up security and testing communications and so on. On January 15, I was advised that there was going to be a rather important visitor on the ward soon but no one would let me in on the secret. The next day, I was moved out of my room that had recently been meticulously cleaned and moved to yet another room, which was slightly less clean, and an "X" made out of electrical tape was placed on the floor in front of the door. Before I fell asleep that night, my physical therapist came by my room and told me that we were going to start very early due to the mysterious visitor due the next day.

On January 17, 2003, I was awakened by the Commander of the hospital who told me that I needed a haircut. By this time, I knew what was going to happen. The Hospital Commander was still trying to "keep the secret" and I played along. While I was getting my haircut, my physical therapist showed up with a big grin on her face. She told me that the entire hospital was locked down and there was a two-mile traffic jam outside for entrance to the facility. She took me to my room so I could have a little chow before my PT. By 0800 hrs I was on my way to therapy. While being pushed through the halls in my wheelchair, I passed long lines of people arriving to work. The lines were for ID checks and security similar to those found at an airport terminal. Most of the employees may not have been too pleased to meet me since I was the ultimate reason for their early morning hassles. Nevertheless, my therapist introduced me as the guy who the President was going to visit.

I was in the middle of my therapy session when my therapist received a call from the ward to return ASAP. So, back upstairs I went. When I got there, the Hospital Commander was waiting, presumably to see if I really got my haircut, which, he paid for. He reminded me that I needed to shave and he handed me a bic razor and a small can of shaving cream. At that point, I was told that the President was en-route and would be arriving within the hour. This apparently made CNN because I got a call from home by a former SF buddy of mine. I told him that it was true but I had to keep the conversation short. I hung up the phone and proceeded to cut the hell out of my neck with the razor.

After I finished with the razor and I managed to stop the bleeding, I felt a sense of nervousness. I knew the President was near and I didn't want to look like a dork. I wanted to represent myself, my unit, and Special Forces to the best of my ability and that started with a sense of confidence that SF guys often display.

Now I was waiting. I decided to turn on TV and have a seat in my wheelchair. My TV was attached to my bed by a movable arm and I could manipulate it to view from just about any angle. Unfortunately for me, I had to turn my back from the door. I figured somebody would call uniformed personnel to attention or that there would be some disturbance in the nearby Nurses Station that would give me a clue that the Commander in Chief was here. I turned on ESPN and allowed myself to relax for just a minute. Maybe 10 minutes passed

Continued on page 6



LA DODGERS WELCOME GREEN BERETS GREEN BERETS HONOR TOMMY LASORDA



By John Stryker "Tilt" Meyer

The storied Dodger Stadium that has hosted eight World Series, 11 National League Western Division crowns and Sandy Koufax's perfect game since its gates opened in 1962 honored one of its legends on Sunday August 21, Hall of Famer Tommy Lasorda.

Among those called to honor the former Army veteran and life-long supporter of Uncle Sam's military were the Green Berets.

However, planners for the feat soon learned a cold, hard fact: after 13 years of war by America's elite unconventional warriors on two major fronts while maintaining a clandestine presence in more than 70 additional nations in various roles filling assorted military protocols, there weren't many active duty Green Berets available on the West Coast for the ceremony.

Calls went out to the Los Alamitos-based Green Berets assigned to Company A of the 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne) (National Guard) and Special Forces Association Chapters 23 and 78 for backup.

At 11 a.m. on Aug. 21, a contingent of Green Berets from those groups appeared at Dodger Stadium that was carved into the hillside of Chavez Ravine overlooking LA to the south and the San Gabriel Mountains to the north.

As more than 30,000 spectators began to walk through the turnstiles, a Dodger representative and Mark Steiner of Chap. 23 lead the Green Berets to Tommy Lasorda's office for a round of presentations, a book signing, hand shakes, a few war stories and many photo ops.

Tommy greeted everyone warmly and thanked the Green Berets for taking time to visit him on his day.

Before long, he said, "Is anybody hungry here besides me?" Min-



1 Lunch in the Dodger Club House with Tommy Lasorda. Brad Welker on left, Richard Simonian on right

2 John Stryker Meyer and Chapter 78 President Bruce Long presenting Tommy Lasorda a Chapter 78 Certificate

3 Tommy Lasorda and Tom Redfern

4 Chapter 78 members with Tommy Lasorda on Dodger Field. Orel Hershiser, Dodger Pitcher, in business suit standing between John Stryker Meyer and Brad Welker



utes later he led the contingent to the Club Marketplace restaurant which had many culinary choices, all sorts of beverages and several Hollywood stars wining and dining before game time.

Tommy, who turned 87 in September, was the consummate host to the Green Berets and the penultimate Dodger ambassador during all of the time in the restaurant, asking the soldiers pointed questions about their careers in the military while posing for pictures with anyone who asked.

After a great meal, we headed down to the field.

Dodger Stadium

The perfect weather enhanced the beauty of the well-kept grass, with the perfectly chalked white lines running from the batters boxes down the foul lines to the respective fences in right and left field.

While the Dodger personnel prepared for the event, Tommy hung out with the Green Berets, asking questions and cracking jokes the huge teletron screens in left and right field flashed a greeting that most of the soldiers missed, as they prepared for the event to honor Tommy. It read:

THE LOS ANGELES DODGERS WELCOME
THE GREEN BERETS

The Green Beret contingent lined up the third-base line. After the introductions and an explanation that the Dodgers were honoring Tommy, he was presented an honorary Green Beret for his decades of service to the military.

He has traveled to more than 40 military bases around the world and always includes a high percentage of visits to soldiers during his more than 150 speaking engagements and appearances annually.

Lasorda, who was a left-handed pitcher for the Dodgers and the Kansas City Athletics in the 50s, before becoming a manager, again thanked each Green Beret before he returned to his special box seat at the stadium.

During the seventh-inning stretch, Tommy's career with the Dodgers was featured on the teletron presentation: He was lauded for winning two World Championships, four National League pennants and eight division titles while compiling a 1,599-1,439 win-loss record over 20 years as the Dodgers' manager.

At the end of the feature, the camera scanned to Tommy in his box, where he stood tall and waved to the crowd still wearing his Green Beret. ♦



5 Tom Redfern, Brad Welker, Chris Martin, Richard Simonian and John Meyer watching the Dodger game. Kris Boodhagian and Derek Carroll in second row

6 India Wright of Time Warner Cable Sports with our Brad Welker on the Dodger Field

7 John Stryker Meyer, Chris Martin, Bruce Long, Tom Redfern, Richard Simonian, Terry Cagnolatti, Brad Welker and Fritz Saalman on Dodger Field

8 SSG Derek Carroll of A Company 19th SFG(A) presents a Green Beret to L.A. Dodgers Tommy Lasorda



EDITOR'S COLUMN CONTINUED

discusses who and how the jihadi groups are targeting for recruitment. UCLA sociologist Jack Katz wrote the book, *Seductions of Crime* and devoted a chapter to what Simon Cottee described as “ways of the bad ass.” To be ‘bad’ in some circles is a good thing, such as street gangs and other criminal endeavors. *Seductions of Crime* was published 13 years prior to 9/11 and “the face of the bad-ass has changed; he now has the jihadi face.” Quintan Wiktorowicz, a former member of President Obama’s National Security Council argued “jihadists groups offer spiritual redemption. This may help explain why so many Western jihadists are former gang members and why the Islamic state is directly targeting this group.”

The President has stated that “we are not at war with [ISIS].” We may not be at war, however the jihadists are beginning to control a large section of the Middle East which is having a significant impact on our foreign relations policy and will ultimately affect significant business relationships, especially in the petroleum industry. 9/11 is thirteen years ago; however, if ISIS or other jihadist groups refocus their efforts to activities within the United States, we will again face terror at home. Just as important is the recruitment and despicable use of our

young men and women to support their goals. The recruited jihadists from western society who survive their indoctrination into combat and become trained in the ways of destruction are then available for further missions by returning to their country of origin, such as America, then continuing their service to their new masters within their homeland.

A major goal of our national terrorism defense policy must address this ISIS recruitment of Americans to support and fight for the jihadist militants. This does not require military action, and if successful our new policy will impact the Islamic Militants. American mass media and education can play a huge role in protecting our nation by first making the American public aware of the threat and developing tactics and techniques to detect ISIS recruitment activities.

Note: I do recommend reading Simon Cottee’s editorial. He is also publishing a book in November, *The Apostates: When Muslims Leave Islam*, that may offer more insight into our current world problem. ❖

Lonny Holmes
Sentinel Editor
SFA C-78

MEETING POTUS CONTINUED

and I noticed that all the sound in the hallway absolutely vanished. I turned around and there, standing on the electrical tape “X,” was the President of the United States George W. Bush. For a split second,



Challenge Coins given to SFC Chris Martin by important visitors while at Walter Reed Army Hospital

I panicked. I fumbled with the TV and turned it off. Then I swung my chair around to greet him. In just a few seconds, President Bush, Mrs. Bush, the White House photographer and about 10 other people entered my little hospital room.

The first thing President Bush did was make his way to the sink to wash his hands before shaking mine. To my chagrin, the sink had barely a trickle of water. He used the hand sanitizer instead of soap and made it all work. Next, he turned around and I stood up to shake his hand. I am the first member of my family to ever meet a sitting President. “How are you doing?” he asked. I answered the best way I could, “I’m fine Sir.” “Where are you from?” he asked. “From California Sir.” I answered. The conversation lasted for about 7-10 minutes. He was very down to earth. He was very nice, not pretentious, not arrogant, and very respectful. The First Lady gave me a kiss on the cheek. We then posed for pictures. First, the White House photographer snapped a few photos. Then, the President discovered my little disposable camera sitting on my nightstand. He picked it up and tossed it to the White House guy and said, “Now take a few with a real camera.” There were a few chuckles as the White House photographer fumbled with my little \$15 special camera that I purchased the day before in the Hospital Commissary.

When it was all over, I realized that I received something money could never buy. I got a private meeting with the most powerful man in the world. It all started with a last minute, almost “smart-assy,” question and it finished with a day that I will be able to tell my grandkids about. I have the photos and the memories and I enjoy telling the story. Every once in a while, I get a beer out of it. Not that I really deserve it but, what the hell. ❖