



THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SENTINEL

SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION CHAPTER 78
NEWSLETTER OF THE QUIET PROFESSIONALS

THE LTC FRANK J. DALLAS CHAPTER

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 11 NOVEMBER 2014



Presidents Page
Quality Time
Scout's Place
SOAR XXXVIII
SFA Chapter 78
Christmas Party 2014



Lonny Holmes
Sentinel Editor

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

John Stryker Meyer had overwhelming success in his last endeavor as President of the Special Operations Association, SOAR XXXVIII. An unqualified success — with over 600 members, family and guests in attendance — with a true legend in the Special Operations world taking the podium, delivering an exciting presentation on Special Operations beginning during World War II and continuing

through his career command in Korea. **Major General John K. Singlaub**, a real hero to members of the military community, held the attention of all during his keynote speech at SOAR'S banquet on Thursday evening. A complete surprise to membership since no speaker had been scheduled for the reunion.

Recounting his career, MG Singlaub began as a second lieutenant in the OSS on Team James in Operation Jedburg, parachuting behind German lines where he worked with the French Resistance. Following World War II he joined the fledgling CIA, where he initially led operations in Manchuria during the Communist Revolution. In the Korean War MG Singlaub led the American Special Operations effort. As the Vietnam War was developing our need for a special operations organization was determined.

Then Colonel, Singlaub was appointed to command the new unit, MACV-SOG. His tour of duty had been an assignment for a one year term. However on his arrival in Vietnam, General Westmorland decided that he should lead this clandestine unit for two years. Thus MACV-SOG was started in 1964 and SOAR XXXVIII celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the founding of America's most clandestine and successful military unit. MG Singlaub stated that the unit and its members were of the highest caliber he had commanded in his career.

Chapter members **Mike Keele** and **Lonny Holmes** attended SOAR and congratulate John Meyer on his leadership of the SOA for the last three years. A job well done! ♦

Lonny Holmes
Sentinel Editor



John "Tilt" Stryker Meyer, President of SOA.

IN THIS ISSUE:

Presidents Page.....	1
Quality Time.....	2
Scout's Place.....	4
SOAR XXXVIII.....	5
Special Force Association Chapter 78 Christmas Party 2014.....	6

COVER PHOTO: Left to right: Cpt Owens, Cpt Broome, Maj Trent, Cpt Fike, Maj Corum, LTC Johnson, LTC Hancock, LTC Struble, Cpt Lo at A Company 19th SF Dinner. Photo by Lonny Holmes

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President
Bruce Long
D-7464

Vice President
Tom Redfern
D-7907

Secretary
Lee Martin
M-13071

Treasurer
John Joyce
M-11877

Director at Large
Terry Cagnolatti
M-9747

**Sergeant At Arms/
Quartermaster**
Mark Miller
D-8296

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 NOVEMBER 2014

Our Chapter meeting for October was held in the Fireside Room of the American Legion Post 291. We had an unexpected and a very welcomed guest, **Don Deathdrage** former Newport Beach PD. Don served with the SF community from 1968 to 1971 at Ft Bragg as a 91B4S. Don was provided a application and hopefully he will fill it out and become a member of the Chapter.

Speaking of membership, A Company's **SGM Hank Eylico** is now a member of our Chapter along with **MAJ John Trent** Company A, 19th SFG(A) Commander, **MSG (newly promoted) Chris Boodaghian** and **SFC Robert Pugh** who is now a life member.

Activation of SOD North is to take place Nov 16th 2014, 1400 hrs at Bldg 58 which is next store to Bldg 59 where Company A is located. As of right now myself, **Lonny Holmes**, **John Joyce**, **Jim Duffy** and **Mark Miller** will be in attendance.

The uniform for the day, will Green Blazer, Regimental Tie, White Shirt, Dark Dress pants and of course your Beret awards decorations and scare badges are authorized. I will also bring our Regimental Flag, Guidon, and American Flag.

Our event on Oct 4th recognizing Company A and SOD North was a big success and was well attended by Chapter members. Our thanks goes out to **Richard Simonian** for his generous support.

John Joyce provided all of the membership who were present a Christmas Party 2014 form that's to be filled out and sent directly to his office. Please note that this form is also on the last page of this issue of the Sentinel Newsletter for those who are unable to attend meetings. John will also be emailing this form to all Chapter membership.

SFA Chapter t-shirts are now available thanks to **Mark Miller** and **John Joyce**. The cost is \$12.00 per t-shirt.

UNCLASSIFIED INTEL

Contrary to the statements of numerous television pundits, American air power does not require soldiers on the ground to call in fire or use laser designators to guide in munitions. Thus far there have been few boots put on the ground, aside from a Special Forces ODA deployed to Sinjar Mountain with Peshmerga at one point in time. However, this bombing campaign would be far more precise and effective with Air Force JTACs and CCTs on the ground.

These strikes have been planned and executed by photographic reconnaissance gathered by satellites and UAV's, as well as what the pilots can visually identify on the ground. With this in mind, the US Air Force has been bombing ISIS equipment and armored vehicles for the most part. Command and control centers, logistical nodes, and leadership cells have not been bombed because the reality is that no one really knows where these locations are. This is why we've been hitting armored vehicles, tanks, and artillery pieces which can be identified from the air.

While many are skeptical of the effectiveness of the air campaign against ISIS, several reports have emerged from North Iraq and Syria in which US airstrikes did play a decisive role in defeating or beating back ISIS. Near the city of Kobane in Rojava (Syria), US air strikes destroyed a number of ISIS tanks, most likely T-72s. It should also be noted that ISIS does not really know how to employ tanks and simply uses them as short range artillery pieces.

Another, more dramatic example occurred in Rabbia, a city in North West Iraq right on the Syrian border which had been largely controlled by ISIS for over a year despite being fiercely opposed by PKK/YPG fighters on the ground. The city was recently liberated with the help of American air power. The Peshmerga requested US air support and got it when American fighter jets screamed overhead and took out ISIS tanks and Armored Personnel Carriers. Meanwhile, the Peshmerga moved to cut off the road leading back into Syria which ISIS could use to retreat. American aircraft then bombed any ISIS vehicles attempting to escape.

These airstrikes shook up the status quo which had prevailed in Rabbia for months, and allowed the YPG/PKK fighters to finally liberate the city.

While US airstrikes have had some limited tactical successes in beating back ISIS, the war drums continue to beat towards what may become the third Gulf War. The Obama administration is slowly building public support for such an action as we incrementally move from arming and training the Kurds, to sending advisors, to conducting airstrikes. US Special Operations and conventional Infantry forces will more than likely be deployed to fight ISIS after the November elections.

Until then, US forces are just conducting some maintenance on ISIS to contain them in place. ♦

Read more: <http://sofrep.com/37222/bomb-damage-assessment-us-airstrikes-smash-isis/#ixzz3GbXpLELo>

Source : sictransittecnicamundi.blogspot.com

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

QUALITY TIME



By Mike Keele

The second annual dinner with our heroes of A Co., 19th Special Forces was held on Saturday, 4 October. Members of SFA Ch. 78, led by president Bruce Long and sponsored by 1st generation Green Beret Richard Simonian hosted the event at the Fiddler's Green meeting and event hall on the grounds of the Los Alamitos Joint

Training Facility. It was a little premature, having the second annual dinner in 2014, since the *first annual* dinner was just 6 months ago. But since the first dinner came off so well and everybody wanted to do it again, who can fault us for jumping the gun a little.

The affair got off to a rousing start since Ch. 78 voted funds to host the first \$500.00 in social hour libations. Bar tenders are seldom so popular. With the formalities off in the distance, it became primary

to get to know some younger guns. We were amazed that *they* were interested in hearing *our* stories. Many a tale was told and the expression "this is no sh*+" reverberating throughout the hall. Ah, to be able to turn back the clock forty or 50 years. I was never so good back then as I was that evening.

Much has happened with Co. A since our first rendezvous: another deployment under their belts, more high intensity training and a broader spectrum of responsibility. They have more potential assignments and, as usual, fewer assets to do the job with. It is good that only the best make it through selection.

A highlight of the event was our wives getting a chance to look at some prime beef, while the wives of the A Company men had a chance to see how their men would look as *aged beef* – a few years down the road.

Another highlight was a bagpipe ensemble, led by former Green Beret and Los Angeles Police Officer Cliff Armas. They are pipers of the Los Angeles Police Department Emerald Society Pipes and Drum Corps. They have served at numerous military and police funerals and carry on a time honored tradition of piping out our fallen brothers. ❖



- ❶ Major Trent, Bruce Long, Major Corum, LTC Struble
- ❷ LTC Johnson
- ❸ L.A.P.D. Emerald Society
- ❹ Gary MacNamara, MSG Boodaghian and Richard Simonian



- ❶ Mike and Cora Keele
- ❷ John and Ozielly Joyce
- ❸ Fritz Saalman and guest
- ❹ John "Tilt" Meyer and SFC Nabavi
- ❺ SFC Way, SSG Emeka and SFC Rowley
- ❻ Kenn Miller, CPT Lo and Mark Miller

SCOUT'S PLACE

By Mike Keele

I knew him the second he walked through the door. He was cool, detached and aloof as he walked among the patrons. He regarded those around him with indifference until something caught his eye on the small stage. He approached the DJ and began barking orders. We were in Scout's Place, a restaurant and bar on the tiny island of Saba, a 20 minute flight from St. Maarten in the Dutch West Indies. Scout's mate was there, and she scolded him for his brusqueness. Then the two walked out and left the partiers to themselves on this Friday night.

It had been a long journey, 8 ½ hours of flying from L.A. to St. Maarten, then a day later, on to Saba and it's 1000' runway, the shortest commercial runway in the world. They know how to entertain the tourists during takeoff and landing. Our friends, Karl and Kim Davis, coaxed us into going to Saba, where they did some SCUBA diving. Cora and I occupied our time by exploring the tiny town of Windwardside while absorbing a little history. Saba was discovered in 1493, and has been continuously occupied since the 1650 s, first by the Dutch, then taken over by pirates at odd times, interspersed with periods of governance by the British, French, Portuguese and maybe, the Spanish. The unique thing about Saba is that there were no roads until the 1940s. First vehicle? A Jeep in 1947. Now-a-days, the roads are a-roar with small trucks and compact cars, driven by islanders with the zeal of an enraged Ben Hur.

At the end of our fairy tale vacation, we headed for Miami and the inevitable snarl of bodies and confusion in Customs. We were eager to test our new Global Entry Pass status, issued by the Dept. of Homeland Security/U.S. Customs.

It sounded too good to be true, but we signed up on the internet, filed the questionnaire and paid our hundred bucks. A week or so later, we were notified that we had passed the background check and were directed to obtain an interview appointment at a local Customs office. Upon completion of the interview and fingerprint check, we were told we had qualified and given instructions on how to use the system. Our passports are now a magic carpet to enable us to fly through the customs process when re-entering the U.S.

It was no joke, we whizzed through the customs process with less contact with TSA officers, less time with customs baggage check and more time for something to eat before our flight home. This easily trumped our prior encounters with Customs when coming home.

To apply for Global Entry status, google "GOES" or "global entry". Locate the website operated by U.S. government and click on the application link. This is waaaay better than the long lines through customs we were accustomed to. The background process isn't too intrusive, and the STRESS of travel is greatly reduced. ♦



Cora and Mike Keele, on right, with friends at Scout's Place.



Mike and Cora Keele man the wheel at the Big Wood Bar and Grill

SOAR XXXVIII



❶ Major General John K. Singlaub speaking at SOAR XXXVIII

❷ SOAR President John Stryker Meyer and Major General John K. Singlaub

❸ Major John and Vicki Padgett

❹ John Stryker Meyer and wife, Anna

❺ Air Force Color Guard at Closing Ceremonies of SOAR XXXVIII

❻ Lonny Holmes and SGM John R. Martin

❼ Mike and Cora Keele

❽ Steve Sherman, Special Forces historian



SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION CHAPTER 78 CHRISTMAS PARTY 2014



Special Forces Association Chapter 78 will be having its annual Christmas Dinner on Saturday December 20th, 2014 at the Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club in Newport Beach, CA. We are limited to 105 persons who can attend and we need your confirmations back to us if you are planning to attend no later than November 10th, 2014. This is a great event which includes a great buffet dinner; we will also have entertainment, a raffle for two of the 9mm Springfield Automatic Pistols and other select prizes. The Newport Beach Christmas Boat Parade will also make a pass by the Yacht Club for a great viewing experience.

Please send the confirmation form below to the address listed along with your check for \$30 per person.

_____ I will be attending the Chapter 78 Christmas Party

Chapter Member Attending: _____

Number of Guests (including yourself): _____

\$30.00 x _____ = _____

Please mail check for this amount payable to SFA 78
to the Chapter Treasurer at:

SFA 78
c/o John Joyce
1352 Irvine Blvd. Ste 213, Tustin, CA 92780

