



THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SENTINEL

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SGM Jon Robert Cavaiani MOH

Chapter 78 Chapter Meeting

Apollo's Warriors – A Book Review

SOD North Activation Ceremony



Lonny Holmes
Sentinel Editor

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

This is the sixtieth issue of the Chapter 78 Newsletter since **John Joyce** became the official first editor and created the "Hollywood Drop." John originated the format which has been modified and we still use today. The name was changed to the "Sentinel" after the first year following wide discussion by chapter members.

This December 2014 edition of the Sentinel is the 34th issue using our now standardized format which was improved with several ideas by our graphic designer and associate editor, Debra Holm. Debra is a huge asset to our publication and she and her husband will join us at our Christmas Dinner.

Our President, **Bruce Long**, has had a very successful first year as our chapter leader and we look forward to his continued leadership in the new year. We congratulate him on his establishing close relations with A Company of the 19th SFGA, and more recently, with the newly formed SF S.O.D. North. One of the chapters goals is in supporting our active SF Brothers in Arms and for the first time in our 16 year history we are succeeding.

Another goal has been to support ROTC Programs in Southern California and retired **LTC Gary McNamara** is rapidly moving forward in this endeavor. Gary has given the cadets firearms lessons for the past two years and is currently working closely with California State University Fullerton on establishing a true qualification course in 2015. The CSUF Commander has given Gary a lecture series on several command topics to present.

Speaking of leadership, both **Aaron Anderson** and **John Joyce** are leading the way in developing a major event for 2015 to raise funds for the Green Beret Foundation.

I personally thank all chapter members who have written articles and donated photographs for the Sentinel. The publication could not succeed without support from our membership.

"A Tip of the Beret" to all chapter members who are aggressively working to improve our chapter and benefit the community which we serve. ❖

Lonny Holmes
Sentinel Editor



Farewell to our friend SGM Jon Robert Cavaiani. Photos from his MOH internment at Arlington Cemetery appear on pages 2 and 3 of this issue.

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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

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THE PRESIDENTS PAGE



Bruce Long
President SFA 78

PRESIDENTS COLUMN DECEMBER 2014

Our November Chapter meeting at the American Legion Post 291 in Newport Beach was again well attended with **Lonny Holmes** and **Terry Cagnolatti** driving all the way from Las Vegas.

Now that's what I call dedication to the Chapter!

New Membership: **Don Deatherage** (formerly with LASO and

the Newport Beach PD) and **Sergeant First Class (E-7) Rob Pugh** of A/5/19 were both presented with Chapter 78 Coins.

This meetings main discussion was twofold, the upcoming Christmas party on December 20th and the 2015 fund raiser. **GM Hank Eylicio**, A Company's SGM, will be our guest speaker and hopefully will have a power presentation as well.

John Joyce, our Chapter Secretary, made a presentation to the American Legion Post 291 with regards to a fund raiser, to tentatively be held in May 2015. More to follow on this issue.

We discussed having someone attend the Disabled Veterans Breakfast on November 14th at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel in Beverly Hills, and **Brad Welker** volunteered to attend. At the conclusion of the meeting some of us stayed and had lunch on the patio. The food is always good and the price is reasonable.

On Friday November 14th at 0900 hours A Company 5th Battalion 19th SF conducted an Airborne Operation on Drop Zone Anderson located at the Los Alamitos Joint Training Base in the city of Los Alamitos.

On Saturday November 15th at 1700 hours the Special Operations Detachment (SOD) North held a mixer behind Bldg 58 in an enclosed tent. This event was for the promotions of **Mike Wise** to full Colonel (COL) and **SGM Brian Beetham** to Command Sergeant's Major (CSM) and the activation of the SOD. The event was catered, and even included beer and wine with a three glass maximum — now, I really got a laugh out of that. As some of you know, serving any type of alcoholic beverage at a function attended by military personnel in uniform (much less SF personnel) requires special permission. The event was attended by **Bob Crebbs**, me, my wife Geri, **Mike Keele** and his lovely girlfriend Cora. The food was great and the camaraderie was unbelievable! Col Wise actually stopped the event to recognize the attendance SFA Chapter 78.

On Sunday November 16th at 1400 hours the activation ceremony was conducted at the Los Alamitos Joint Forces Training Base just across the street from Bldg's 58 & 59 in the city of Los Alamitos, California.

The guest speaker for the activation ceremony was Major General Lawrence Haskins, Commander of the California Army National Guard. His speech was followed by Col Wise who again, during his introduction, took the time to recognize SFA Chapter 78.

The ceremony was followed by a reception. Chapter members present were; **Jim Duffy**, **Bob Crebbs** and I. ♦

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



Bruce Long presenting a chapter coin to Don Deatherage



SFC (E-7) Rob Pugh, new Chapter member is presented a chapter coin to new member by Bruce Long.

FINAL FAREWELL

SGM JON ROBERT CAVAIANI, MOH RECIPIENT

1943-2014

Sergeant Major Jon Cavaiani was laid to rest with full military honors on November 5, 2014, at Arlington National Cemetery. A friend to many, and a true American Hero – he will be sorely missed..

Photos by ROBERT J. CASTALDI SR.





To view additional photos visit <https://www.flickr.com/photos/lglyspkng/sets/72157648752074637/>

CHAPTER 78 CHAPTER MEETING

**American Legion Post 291
Newport Beach, November 2014**



❶ Chris Martin and John Joyce

❷ John Creel and Ed Barrett. John just completed the Munich Germany Marathon

❸ Mark Miller, Kim Holmes and Ken Miller

❹ Jim Duffy, Mike Keele, Aaron Anderson and Brad Welker

❺ Chapter 78 Secretary working hard

APOLLO'S WARRIORS

A BOOK REVIEW



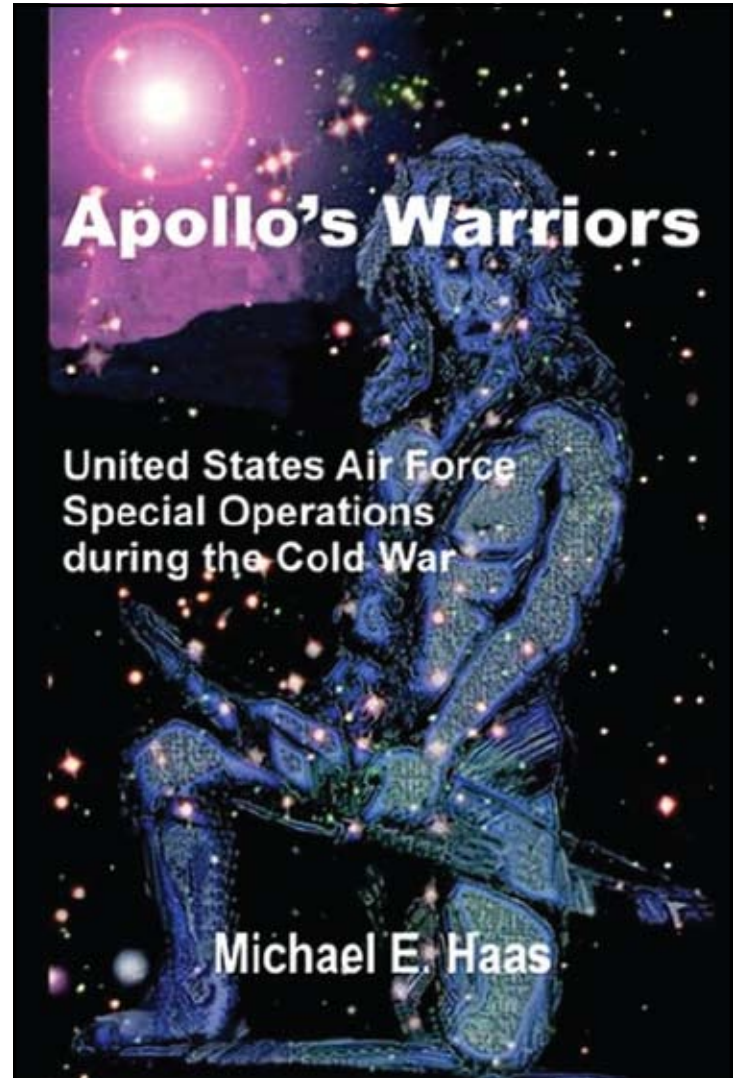
By Kenn Miller

APOLLO'S WARRIORS: United States Air Force Special Operations During The Cold War by Colonel (retired) Michael E. Haas USAF, University Press of the Pacific, Honolulu Hawaii. Available on Amazon.com.

A few months ago *The Sentinel* ran a review of *In The Devil's Shadow*, Colonel Haas's excellent book about UN special operations in the Korean War. Former Chapter 78 president Lonnie Holmes then found a copy of *Apollo's Warriors* and I'm giving it as enthusiastic a review as the first book. Where *In The Devil's Shadow* covered the spectrum of UN special operations in Korea, *Apollo's Warriors* has a narrower focus on the US Air Force, but covers a much broader tract of time and range of missions. Important figures in US Air Force special operations history like Harry C "Heinie" Aderholt and Donald Nichols have major roles in both books, but because *Apollo's Warriors* covers a period of time from World War Two through the Vietnam War, people more familiar to Army special operations readers, like "Bull" Simmons, Franklin Miller and Jerry "Mad Dog" Shriver are featured. There is also a wonderfully unflattering photo of Hanoi Jane Fonda in an NVA helmet on page 331 — but deface the picture with great caution, for the surrounding text about the effects of the Son Tay raid are well worth reading and saving for others to read.

In his previous book Colonel Haas deals with the period in the late 1940s and early 1950s when the Air Force was contending with the Army and the intelligence service for a major role in ground special operations. *Apollo's Warriors* goes into more detail — and it is fascinating to read more about this period. As a newly separate service the Air Force found some of its personnel training for irregular warfare on the ground; and along the coasts of Korea, airmen were running a boat service that was tasked with both the rescue of down air crews and the insertion and extraction of anti-communist guerrillas and agents. The sort of men who volunteer for special operations duty do tend to be a versatile bunch.

In more recent years, Air Force special operations efforts have been less focused on tasks like running boat services and training for missions similar to those of Army Special Forces, and



more focused on aerial reconnaissance, psychological warfare, transportation and support of special operations ground forces, personnel recovery, and various missions in conjunction with special operations forces of the other services. Even before it became a separate service, the Air Force has been, and will continue to be a vital component of America's special operations forces. Colonel Haas tells this fascinating important story very well. *Apollo's Warriors* is full of history and information that would be hard or impossible to find anywhere else. Even if you are not a fan of Amazon.com, if that's the only place you can buy this book, buy it from Amazon. This is a book well worth buying and sharing with friends. Colonel Michael E. Haas has done it again! ❖

SPECIAL OPERATIONS DETACHMENT (SOD) NORTH ACTIVATION CEREMONY

November 16, 2014



❶ SF Troops of SOD North

❷ Major General Haskins with members of SOD North

❸ SGM Beetham, Bruce Long and Colonel Wise

❹ Colonel Wise opens ceremonies at the dedication of SF SOD North

❺ Members of Chapter 78 attending opening ceremonies of SF SOD North

❻ LTC Retired Jim Duffy with two members of SOD North