



# THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SENTINEL

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THE LTC FRANK J. DALLAS CHAPTER

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Four New Members in January**





Lonny Holmes  
Sentinel Editor

## EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Remembering the past (getting more difficult with time) I grew up in the age before TELEVISION as did all of the Green Berets of the first generation (77th SF at Fort Bragg and 10th SF in Bad Tolz, Germany) and part of the second generation (Vietnam era). For evening entertainment we had the family, or the radio. Yes, the radio was a center of entertainment. The

radio also provided news and some educational programs. A few of the exciting programs I do remember are the Inner Sanctum and the Green Hornet. What the radio was then was a voice or voices of several people telling a story that was interesting and exciting. The voice conveyed it all. No visual effects, yet the programs were great to listen to and the voice carried the story to all listeners in such a way that they were very entertaining.

At SOAR XXXIX I met **Keith McKim** a Green Beret and was a member of MACV-SOG. Keith brings back a taste of the past, and more importantly he provides a fresh look at a huge piece of our history in the process. He took on a huge project... and delivers.

Keith McKim has recorded the story of all MACV-SOG Special Forces Soldiers who were awarded the Medal of Honor in Vietnam. He goes into great detail of each soldier's life, military service and especially the combat action that led to the award of his Medal of Honor. What Keith does is go back to the era of the radio programs of the 1930's to the early '50's and delivers the soldier's story in the genre of the past, and his voice is articulate, animated and emotional. Truly a professional presentation! **"Vietnam Green Berets S.O.G. Medal of Honor Recipients."**

Each MACV-SOG Green Beret Medal of Honor recipient is recorded as an individual segment on a series of two C.D.s for easy listening at home or while driving in your car as I did. Many of the MACV-SOG MOH events I had read about or heard the story via friends, yet for the most part I knew nothing of the soldier himself. Listening to these stories I have gained a huge amount of respect and knowledge of each of these soldiers who "earned" the nation's highest award.

Visit [www.keithmckim.com](http://www.keithmckim.com) for information on this important presentation. To contact Keith directly send email to [sog1899@gmail.com](mailto:sog1899@gmail.com) or call 719-426-1344 ♦

Lonny Holmes  
Sentinel Editor



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**COVER PHOTO:** Tilt Meyer and David Erickson who is just off active duty with the 1st SFG(A) and is now assigned to the 19th SFG(A) at SFA Chapter 78's January Chapter meeting. Photo taken by Lonny Holmes and used with permission.

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# THE PRESIDENTS PAGE



**Bruce Long**  
President SFA 78

## PRESIDENTS COLUMN FEBRUARY 2016

Our business and chapter meeting was conducted at the Artemis Defense Institute located in the city of Lake Forest. A continental breakfast was provided.

Our business meeting started at 0900 hrs and was followed by our regular chapter meeting at 1000 hrs. A total number of seventeen members attended along with four guests.

The chapter members voted unanimously to update and streamline our website. This update is to be done by Andrew Gabroy and Thomas Tringali of GRID35 and should be completed within the next sixty to ninety days. Lonny Holmes will work with Grid 35 and have final oversight.

Please check out our current website at <http://specialforces78.com>.

This year's Christmas Dinner/Party is already reserved for December 17, 2016 at the Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club in Corona Del Mar, and with the Yacht Club's approval, we will begin at 1600 hrs instead of 1700 hrs. This will give us two hours to conduct Chapter business. Dinner is always at 1800 hrs followed by the boat parade at 1900 hrs which lasts until 1930 hrs. The Chapter will attempt to provide entertainment during dinner and after the boat parade.

Four new chapter members were presented with Chapter 78 Coins. How Miller, SSG Tony Pirone, MSG Michael Boteilho (Tony & Mike are both assigned to A/5/19 and work full time for the State of California) and David Erickson just off active duty with 1st Group.

A check for \$8,500 was sent to CSUF for the ROTC Military Obstacle Course. Work will begin early February if not sooner, based on the arrival of materials. The company who will be building the Obstacle Course has built these courses on military bases throughout the United States, to include Ft. Bragg, NC. Once the project begins, it will be completed within ten days.

A total of thirty chapter members donated to this ROTC Military Obstacle Course, along with two private donors. The biggest contributor was Thad Gembacz with a check for \$1,400.

A formal dedication ceremony will take place and Chapter 78 will naturally be invited.

Please read the letter shown on this page that was sent to the Chapter by Elizabeth A Eastin, Director of Development for CSUF.

The Chapter meeting was adjourned at approximately 1200 hrs.

At approximately 1210 hrs Jim Duffy along with Steve and Sandy Lieberman gave a safety brief on the tactical shooting event that was held at Artemis Defense Institute facility. Eight two man teams were formed.

Afterward, Chapter members and guests enjoyed a nice lunch.

Our next Chapter meeting will be on February 20, 2016. The location for the meeting has yet to be determined, as our usual location the Yacht Club is unavailable for February and March.

As usual, if you have questions, ideas, suggestions, please feel free to contact me. ❖

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



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
**FULLERTON**

Dear Mr. Simonian and Mr. Long,

I am writing to thank you and the Special Forces Association Chapter 78 for the generous contribution to the CSUF Roy Lopez Military Obstacle Course fund. We are grateful for your support — both personally and as leaders of your chapter. We are also very excited to recognize the SFA Chapter 78 at our dedication event (TBA) and on the sponsored obstacle. I will keep Mr. Long informed as I receive information so that he may pass it along to the members of your chapter and hopefully many can attend the event.

Happy New Year and thank you again!!

Very sincerely,  
Elizabeth A. Eastin  
Director of Development

# THREE RIFLE VOLLEY VS 21 GUN SALUTE:

## The Difference Explained



CSM (Ret)  
Robert Crebbs

By Robert Crebbs, Command Sergeant Major (Retired), NCOIC Honor Guard Detail of the Lew Millett MOH Memorial Chapter, 82nd Airborne Division Association and Retired US Army Special Forces Special Operations NCO.

*Transcript of a speech given by CSM Robert Crebbs at City of Artesia's Veteran's Day Program in 2015.*

I am a retired Command Sergeant Major, and in my over 39 years in military service I have been the NCO-In-Charge of numerous Honor Guards, Color Guards, and Memorial Teams. I have long been interested in the use of the term "21 Gun Salute" and how it is often used when referring to the "Three Rifle Volleys" that are traditionally fired at a Memorial Services.

There is a difference.

Most veterans are familiar with the saying "This is my rifle, this is my Gun, this is for shooting and" — well, you may have heard this saying which was used to teach recruits that Rifles are not considered Guns in military terminology. This also applies to the military term "21 Gun Salute" which is done with Guns not Rifles. (Guns, in the military, refer to artillery pieces, Cannons and other large, crew served, weapons.) The "21 Gun Salute" is used to honor Countries and their Heads of State. The number of shots fired, 21 one after

the other, was set by international agreement and has nothing to do with the fact that adding the numbers in the date 1776 you come up with 21.

The three rifle volleys used in memorial services are done using five to eight riflemen all firing together three times (which is per the Army's Drill and Ceremonies Manual) and has no relationship to a "21 Gun Salute". The history of the "Three Volleys" dates back to the Vikings and the Roman Legions where heroes who fell in battle were honored before burial. Yes, everyone knew the hero was dead BUT as their body was being honored their name would be called three times (or in some cases three stones or pebbles would be thrown at the body). When there was no response the hero would be officially declared to have passed and the body would be buried or whatever was accepted for deceased members of his group.

In more recent times, during the US Civil War, after a day of battle, as light faded, a truce would be called to collect the dead and wounded from the field of battle. When one side had collected all their fallen they would fire three volleys into the air, when the other side had finished they would also fire three volleys into the air. This signaled the truce was over and hostilities could/would commence.

This is what led to our currently used military memorial service where three volleys are fired into the air (signaling the fallen have been recovered) and TAPS being played (signaling the end of the day for the fallen).

I hope now you understand there is a difference between a "21 Gun Salute" fired to honor a country or the country's Head of State and the "Three Rifle Volleys" fired at memorial services to honor our fallen comrades. ❖





# CHAPTER 78 COMPETITION

## Laser Simulated Special Forces Mission



LTC (Ret) Jim Duffy

By LTC (Ret) Jim Duffy

Jim Duffy organized a Chapter 78 shooting competition held at Artemis Defense Institute (ADI) for our monthly meeting. Spearheaded by Jim, the competition was designed as a Special Forces Mission using modified Glock 22 pistols which fired infrared laser beams and had a recoil mechanism powered by a CO2 capsule in the magazine providing weapon operation as felt in live firing.

Artemis Defense Institute is a fast growing hi-tech shooting training facility providing instruction and practice in the proper employment of firearms. Artemis is an indoor facility which uses both modified handguns and rifles on interactive large screens... ranging from small scenario 90 degree thru 180 degree screens to a full 300 degree screen for complex simulated civilian situations and military operations. There are literally dozens of scenarios available and they provide instant feedback to participants. ADI has a fully trained staff with members who have both military and law enforcement background. This cadre consists of both men and women instructors who train the novice beginner to advanced level participants.

Cadre instructor Craig, a former Marine, defense contractor and law enforcement SWAT officer, wrote the mission statement and designed the event to include a I.E.D. used in Phase One of the simulated operation. To complicate Phase Two he employed a trip wire device to hinder entrance into the stage. Jim Duffy organized, advised and directed the teams during the conduct of the training mission. Jim and members of the Artemis Cadre also worked as safety officers throughout the event.

Chapter 78 participants were divided into eight two-man shooter teams who read the mission plan and were required to follow a map to receive information and equipment from an informant to infiltrate a remote insurgent intelligence outpost. This mission required all teams to defeat an I.E.D., acquire weapons from a locked storage area, engage and neutralize insurgents at the armory barracks, then bypass a tripwire at the intel office to obtain high value intelligence documents in a protected area. Finally the teams engaged a final set of insurgents to begin their route to the exfiltration point.

The "winning team" consisted of Richard Simonian and John "Tilt" Meyer. Richard was a original "Green Beret" in the 10th Special Forces Group in Bad Tolz, Germany in the early 1950s. "Tilt" is widely known for his books on MACV-SOG Recon Team operations and was One Zero of an RT.

Many thanks go to Artemis co-owners Sandy and Steven, instructors Craig, Kavon, Michael and Iona Gardner, the systems operator, for making this a fun and successful training event. To learn more about Artemis visit [www.artemisdefenseinstitute.com](http://www.artemisdefenseinstitute.com). ♦

*Photos on this page and the two following were taken by Lonny Holmes and are used with permission.*



Top of page, left, cadre member Iona Garden Zeroing Glock; right, Artemis road sign; above, 180 degree scenario

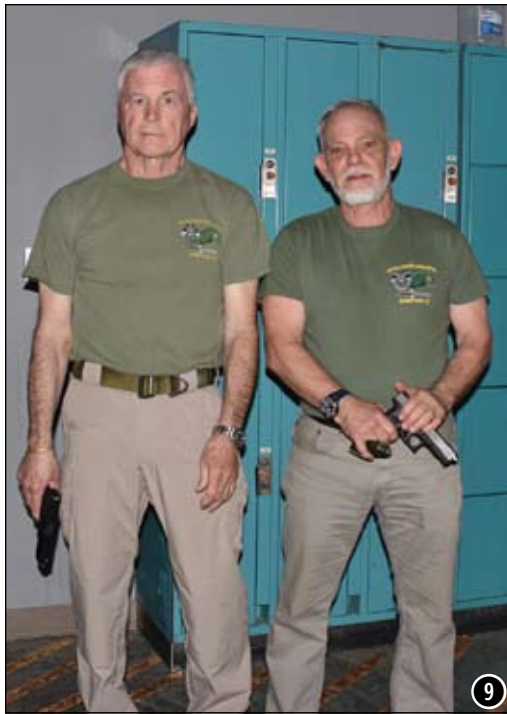




- ① ARTEMIS Defense Institute Cadre Back row, left to right. Terra Hamby, Iona Garden, Sandy Lieberman (co-owner). Bottom row, Kavon Harvey, Steve Lieberman (co-owner), Michael Austin
- ② Steve Lieberman giving safety briefing.
- ③ Weapons storage for scenarios with Steve Lieberman at desk.
- ④ 180 degree Target
- ⑤ Weapons storage which must be accessed to continue assault scenario.
- ⑥ Ammo Box I.E.D. with weapons cabinet key inside. Getting the key was part of the drill.
- ⑦ John "Tilt" Meyer organizing shooting teams
- ⑧ Mike Boteilho (SF Team Sergeant) and Mike Pirone, both SFA C-78 members and active duty with A Company, 19th SFG(A), reading directions for the day's scenarios.







9



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15

- 9 Team MILLER — Mark and Kenn, Vietnam Recon men
- 10 Team Miller on assault run!
- 11 The WINNING TEAM — Richard Simonian holding captured documents and teammate John “Tilt” Meyer
- 12 Geri Long, wife of SFA C-78 President Bruce Long, on the firing line
- 13 Chris Martin and teammate continuing multiple area engagements
- 14 Team Cagnolatti — Terry Cagnolatti and Tony Pirone of A Company, 19th SFG (A)
- 15 Jim Duffy, safety officer, observing Team GRID 35 members Thomas Tringali and Andrew Gaboy engaging multiple targets

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Story of Tien Phuoc A-102 Sentinel, October 2015

To ALL, and especially those men who served with great distinction on Special Forces "A" Teams in the Republic of Vietnam; this is a long overdue story of a Great Battle that was never told. This story is one of the hundreds that could have been written about what occurred during the five month siege of the Special Forces Camp in I CORPS TZ. (A-102 Tien Phuoc after moving from A-102 A Shau)

Remember, we must not only HONOR our Green Berets, CIDG, and LLDB, but also the hundreds of American fighting men that took part in this BATTLE.

The Americal Division and it's Aviation BDE was rendered unfit for combat after months of fighting at Tien Phuoc based on their huge casualty rate and loss of Air Power. The 101st Airborne Division came in, reinforced and cleaned house. Day and night TAC Air flew for us. C-130 Specters out of Thailand, Navy fighters off of carriers in the South China Sea, Air Force and Marine Heavy Bombers out of Da Nang.

And most of all to Honor our own Americal 155mm Artillery Battery (Positioned inside the Camp) that fought hand to hand for eight days at the beginning of the siege, so hard that as a unit, every Artilleryman was awarded the BS for Valor. I hope those living members of this "A" Team get an opportunity to read this story by an outstanding writer named **Lonnie Homes** and those around America that fought here with other units also get an opportunity to hear a story of military historical interest.

Three (3) NVA Divisions took part in this combat action and were defeated because a CIDG Special Forces Camp blocked their way into a vital strategic valley!

### DE OPPRESSO LIBER

Major John E. Cleckner Sr.  
United States Army Special Forces Retired

## Tracking Down a Hero; The Story of SGM James O. Schmidt Sentinel, December 2015

Mr Holmes (Louis)...

Thank you so much for your efforts on behalf of Jim, who was quite pleased when I showed him your text (although he pretended, of course, that he was annoyed that I had somehow instigated dredging up his past that he never speaks of).

I have tried very hard to locate a letter handwritten in ink to Jim's mother by President Roosevelt when Jim was injured after Sicily. She didn't even know he was in the Army, so berated FDR for "taking a 16 yr old when his father was already serving"... the letter from FDR apologized and stated that her son would be sent home right away.

We were overseas when his mother died and never saw the letter again (it had been framed on her wall). I failed to track it down and it would have been nice for the article.

Again, thanks so much for your interest.

Have a great Thanksgiving  
Jim & Peggy

## CSUF ROTC Thanks

On behalf of the CSUF Army ROTC, I would like to thank each and every one of the SFA Chapter 78 members for your generous support to the CSUF Army ROTC – Titan Battalion.

Eileen A. Yuhico  
CSUF Army ROTC



## SFA Chapter 78 Welcomes Four New Members in January

Bruce Long presented SFA C-78 Chapter Coins to new members at the SFA Chapter 78 January Chapter meeting held at the Artemis Defense Institute located in the city of Lake Forest.

Left to right, How Miller, SSG Tony Pirone, MSG Mike Boteilho, David Erickson. Photo by Lonny Holmes