



# THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SENTINEL

SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION CHAPTER 78  
NEWSLETTER OF THE QUIET PROFESSIONALS

THE LTC FRANK J. DALLAS CHAPTER

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Chapter 78 Members Visit 5th Group Headquarters





Lonny Holmes  
Sentinel Editor

## EDITOR'S COMMENTS

### 5th Special Forces Group Hosts Chapter 78 Members

5th Special Forces Group Airborne rolled out the red carpet for two members of Chapter 78 and gave them a first class tour of Group Headquarters. Brad Welker and John "Tilt" Stryker Meyer were given a special tour of HQ and the historical wing by the group Chief Warrant Officer 5 and the Command Sergeant Major. The photographs in this issue of the Sentinel were provided by the group photographer SGT Alex R. Conception. For further details, see Brad's note on page 6 and the pictures. A "Tip of the Beret" to 5th Group.

Following the visit to 5th Group, Brad and "Tilt" attended the first reunion of the MACV-SOG Operation Tailwind. This was an extended combat operation into Laos in 1970 to disrupt the Ho Chi Minh Trail. In attendance were survivors of the ground force and the aviators who supported them. One of the true heroes of the mission, SGT (later CPT) Gary M. Rose, the SF Medic was not present because of illness. "Tilt" was the MC of the event and Brad took a number of photographs. Next month in the June Sentinel we will publish a story on the reunion by Brad Welker.

The April chapter meeting held at the Chino Airport, hosted by Richard Simonian in his aircraft hanger, was a huge success. A superb luncheon and hosted bar was provided to members, their family and friends. The Planes of Fame Air Show commemorating the 75th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor was a fantastic opportunity for all to see the historical aircraft on the ground and performing aerial stunts, flying below tree top level to a few thousand feet above the runway. The aircraft included World War II fighters, bombers and modern stunt planes. An exciting aspect were the early 1950's jet aircraft including the F-86 Super Saber, American T-33 and Russian MIGs.

A new feature of the Sentinel will be a short review of a member each month with a direct link to the Chapter 78 website which will contain a video interview hosted by LTC Gary MacNamara. So far five members have had recorded interviews. ❖

Lonny Holmes  
Sentinel Editor

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**COVER:** Left to right, Command Sergeant Major Chris Peppard, Brad Welker, John "Tilt" Stryker Meyer and Chief Warrant Officer 5 Jamie Korenoski at 5th Group Headquarters. Photo by SGT Alex R. Conception.

## CHAPTER OFFICERS

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# THE PRESIDENTS PAGE



**Bruce Long**  
President SFA 78

## PRESIDENTS COLUMN MAY 2016

Our May 21, 2016 breakfast/business Chapter meeting will be at the Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club, starting at 0830 hrs. The Chapter meeting will start no later than 1000 hrs. All Chapter members are invited to the business meeting.

On April 22nd SFA Chapter 78 attended the dedication ceremony for the Roy Lopez Army ROTC Obstacle Course at California State University of Fullerton.

As most of you know, Chapter 78 donated \$8,500 towards one of the obstacles, specifically the 6' vertical wall. On the non-climbing side of the wall, the Special Force's patch the Airborne Tab, the Special Force's Tab (now called the long tab) and SFA Chapter 78 are displayed in color.

Besides myself and my wife Geri, the following Chapter members were in attendance:

**Richard Simonian**, Chapter Treasurer; **Gary Macnamara** (LTC, Ret), Chapter Secretary; **Don Deatherage**, Vice President, **Mark Miller**, Chapter SGT of ARMS, **Kenn Miller**, **Mike Keele**, **Dennis Derosia** and **MSG Kris Boodaghian** from A/5/19 who is also a Chapter member.

Valerie Alvord, a video photographer, filmed the dedication of the Roy Lopez Army ROTC Obstacle Course. **Gary Macnamara** was the designated Chapter spokesperson. This video will be posted on our Chapter website in the very near future. Stand by for details.

Our special event on April 30th at the Chino Annual Airshow was hosted by **Richard Simonian**, which included family members, guests and a fantastic lunch, all in a private hanger.

Photos taken by Lonny Holmes at the airshow are featured in this issue of the Sentinel.

## A Company, 5th Battalion 19th Special Forces SITREP

Alpha Company will be deploying to Jordon, Greece, Albania, and Croatia over the next few months.

Upon returning, Alpha Company will begin pre-mission training (PMT) with "Boots On the Ground" in Afghanistan mid-November with a return date of mid-May 2017.

A parachute jump is scheduled for June 28th at Los Alamitos in the morning.

As previously discussed at Chapter meetings, we want to make sure that the wives and girlfriends whose husbands and boyfriends who have been deployed are in attendance at the Chapter Christmas party on December 17th. I will be meeting with the rear detachment to make sure this happens.

I just recently became aware of a good source of historical information about Vietnam. Found on the Georgia Tech College of Computing website (full web address is shown below), this is probably the best search list ever compiled about the Vietnam War.

This simply has to be shared with anyone who served in Vietnam, knew someone who served in Vietnam, or is just a Vietnam history buff. It would take months to look at everything this site offers.

Somebody went to a lot of effort on this site... it's one of the most complete to date. Feel free to pass it along to anyone you think might be interested.

<http://www.cc.gatech.edu/fac/Thomas.Pilsch/Vietnam.html>

**As a reminder**, our next Chapter meeting will be held on May 21st, with the breakfast business meeting at 0830 hrs and the Chapter meeting at 1000 hrs at the Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club at 1601 Bayside Drive Corona Del Mar, CA 92625

As usual, please feel free to contact me. ❖

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



Chapter members at the wall which displays the Special Forces and Airborne tab along with the Special Forces patch and SFA Chapter 78 at CSU Fullerton's Roy Lopez Army ROTC Obstacle Course.



# CHAPTER 78 CHAPTER MEETING

April 30, 2016 • Planes of Fame Airshow. Chino, CA



- 1 P-40 Warhawks in flight at the Planes of Fame Airshow
- 2 Russian MIG Fighter
- 3 CSM Robert Crebbs in a World War II 82nd Airborne Division “paratroopers” uniform standing by his 1940 restored Packard “General Officers” car adjacent to a WWII C-47 Paratroop Plane. Note the cars license plate is 1940 P, with CSM stripes, and a General Officers Star on the front
- 4 Radial engine on a WWII Marine aircraft. A work in progress for total restoration that will result in a museum quality plane.





5



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- 5 Chapter 78 members and Richard Simonian standing by Richard's aircraft.
- 6 Eight .50 caliber Browning machine guns in the nose of this warbird
- 7 North American Aviation F-86 Fighter
- 8 Richard Simonian in front of a Lockheed Constellation ("Connie"). A favorite of Richard and also Lonny Holmes, the Connie was first built in the 1940s and was a "star of the skies" for many years.
- 9 Top left, North American Aviation F-86 Fighter, middle, Lockheed Aircraft Corporation T-33, bottom is a Russian MIG Fighter.



# THE YOUNG IN SPRING

## Claremont McKenna ROTC and Rancho Remembers



Mike Keele

By Mike Keele

Claremont McKenna held its annual awards banquet on April 26th, and a fine group of young people, both men and women, were honored for outstanding achievement in some discipline or another for their Military Science training this year.

This year Chapter 78 honored two young men, Caesar Enriquez, a Sophomore, and Joseph Meyer, a Freshman. Both proved to be very bright, outgoing young cadets. Each was given a certificate of excellence, a Chapter challenge coin and a ribbon from Chapter. 78. They felt honored by the acknowledgement of their hard work and look forward to meeting again next year.

### Meanwhile, at Rancho Remembers

For about the fourth year in a row, "Rancho Remembers Veterans" has been scheduled in the morning of the same day as Claremont McKenna's evening banquet. This year, I didn't have anybody for backup at Rancho, but I muddled through alone.

As usual we were greeted at the curb by a bevy of gorgeous young ladies who seemed genuinely interested in escorting us to the registration desk, even though one of these students told me her grandfather had served in Viet Nam. I was undeterred by this, since I have a grandson in Afghanistan right now who is an Apache jockey. We're getting old.

The procedure for this meet and greet has changed little in the five or so years I have attended. Each year it seems to get more crowded, although a flier came out saying the fire marshal had decreed a limit to the number of people who could be in the gymnasium this year. It had little effect on attendance, as the gym appeared to be as crowded as ever.

You may remember that several years ago, editor-in-chief Lonny Holmes scored big when his original three students, all pretty young ladies, were supplemented by two more who were left alone when some unfortunate veteran didn't make the show. So, Lonny had five young beauties to entertain with war stories while I sat across the aisle with two Neanderthals from the football team. Well, the fire marshal had a hissy fit. Seems that Lonny plus five girls violated some Rancho Cucamonga ordinance. None of the girls was inclined to leave and Lonny certainly had no objections to their presence so everybody held their ground. The fire marshal blinked first and, turning on his heel, stomped off to find more authority. That came in the form of a middle-aged woman who showed a lot of stress than a person should have to bear, but she made her decree. Lonny had to

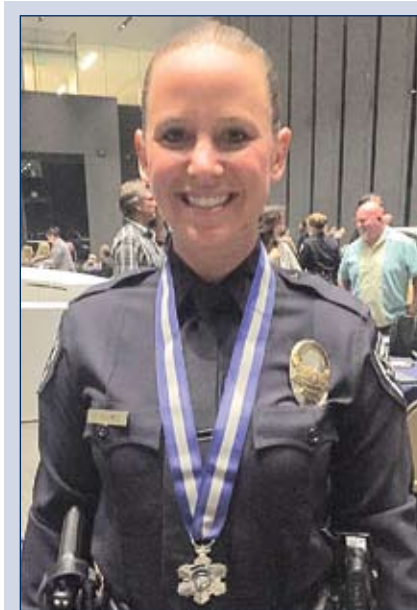
yield a girl or two. It's amazing how slow kids can move when they just want to be with someone.

Now this year, luckily, Mr. Holmes couldn't make the show, and I had three bright, good looking young ladies as my first group. Right across the aisle, two tall, elegantly dressed you ladies sat, waiting for a veteran who didn't show. Well, what could I do, but invite them over to join us. If only I'd had a SIM card or what ever it is that makes these newfangled cameras work. Next year.

The program is the brain child of Aaron Bishop, a teacher of history at Rancho. He shared his idea with another teacher, Robert Sanchez, and nine years ago, the first get-together was held with less than forty veterans. For the past several years, the count has been at or near 300.

Sadly, we were down to just thirty two WWII veterans this year, but several of them, in spite of claiming to be near 90, were ambulatory. Perhaps the most distinguished veteran ever to appear was Medal of Honor recipient Walt Ehlers, who attended several years prior to passing away in his 90s. One WWII vet claiming four purple hearts was a woman. I had hoped to talk to her, but lost her in the crowd when the show ended.

Aaron Bishop told me a few years ago that he had received inquiries from around the country about other schools starting their own program to honor veterans. If the quality of students at Rancho Cucamonga High School is any gauge, the maturity level and education of students all across the country could benefit by having an honor veterans program. ❖



### Congratulations Kim!

Kim Holmes has now completed her rookie year on the police department and was also awarded the Police Life Saving Medal for Heroic Life Saving of a civilian while on duty.





Cadet Anthony Buzzanco being awarded the Special Forces award and medal by Kenn Miller at UCLA last Tuesday. He is a very impressive guy, and his goal is to become a special operations physician. He's done well on the tests for medical school and has applications out to some pretty prestigious med schools. He plans to stay in reserves or National Guard while in med school. All the advice I could give him was to get to jump school and Ranger school as soon as possible because after getting his MD and getting a physician's commission, he'll probably be competing with former enlisted special operations medics.

## DD-214s Now Available ONLINE



Major John Padgett

By Major John Padgett

It's official; DD-214s are NOW Online. Please pass this news on to other vets. The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided the following website for veterans to gain access to their DD-214s online:

<http://vetrecs.archives.gov/> or try <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/>

This may be particularly helpful when a veteran needs a copy of his DD-214 for employment purposes. NPRC is working to make it easier for veterans with computers and internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files.

Military veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members may now use the new online military personnel records system to request documents. Other individuals with a need for documents must still complete the Standard Form 180, which can be downloaded online from the website.

Because the requester will be asked to supply all information essential for NPRC to process the request, delays that normally occur when NPRC has to ask veterans for additional information will be minimized. The new web-based application was designed to provide better service on these requests by eliminating the records centers mailroom and processing time. Please pass this information on to former military personnel you may know and their dependents. ❖

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**To John Stryker Meyer from Billy Waugh, used with permission:**

Billy Waugh here Tilt, and please let me say that the Chapter 78's copy of The Sentinel, including the great photos, is the best SF Chapter Newspaper I have ever seen, ever.

You lads do it up properly, and thanks much for the sending of this paper to other SF Chapters and Members.

The write-up of the 5th SFG(A) Flash Change in 23 Mar 16, is also a fine production, with photos we will not forget down the line.

Congratulations on a heck of a New's production, great photos, and a fine write-up of the Change Ceremony.

### 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) Flash Change Sentinel April 2016

Thanks, Lonnie. Very professional. I appreciate the kind words in my bio. By the time that I left Iraq, it was BS/V with 7 OLC.

Padgett news, my son Chris, NG executive SGM at the Pentagon, was just selected for CSM. Can this be the same guy that I played Army with all those years ago? He also gave me a grandson 2 months ago, John Michael.

His wife helped. ....

Major John Padgett, (Retired)



SF SGM Billy Waugh (Retired) and Chapter 78's first president Rick Arons at a briefing after the beginning of the War on Terrorism held in San Diego, CA. This presentation was held on the Navy Base and attended by chapter members and Seal Teams from Coronado. SGM Waugh also provided a hands on demonstration of all the modern equipment SF was using at the time. SGM Waugh spent a lot of time in Afghanistan both before and after his lecture. His Power Point presentation was a huge success with all in attendance.



# Chapter 78 Members Visit 5th Group Headquarters Fort Campbell, KY

Photos by SGT Alex R. Concepcion



**Brad Welker**

By Brad Welker

Chapter members John (Tilt) Meyer and Brad Welker recently visited the 5th Group headquarters in Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Having served with the 5th Group in Viet Nam they were deeply honored. Group Command Chief Warrant Officer 5 Jamie Korenoski and Sergeant Major Chris Peppard were their escorts and provided

an excellent briefing about the current posture of the 5th. The highlight of the tour was opportunity to view the Group historical museum.

The display honoring those SF soldiers still Missing in Action in Viet Nam was very poignant as both Tilt and Brad have friends listed there. Tilt was able to describe in detail the circumstances regarding many of the missing SOG soldiers.

All SFA members can rest assured that those currently serving in the 5th SF Group are continuing the proud tradition. ❖



Chief Warrant Officer 5 Jamie Korenoski and John "Tilt" Stryker Meyer



Brad Welker and Command Sergeant Major Chris Peppard



Chief Warrant Officer 5 Jamie Korenoski, John "Tilt" Stryker Meyer, Brad Welker and Command Sergeant Major Chris Peppard



5th Group's display honoring Special Forces Indochina War POW and MIA's.



Brad Welker spots a familiar face in a 5th Group display.