



THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SENTINEL

SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION CHAPTER 78

The LTC Frank J. Dallas Chapter

NEWSLETTER OF THE QUIET PROFESSIONALS

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 6 • JUNE 2017



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SENTINEL

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COVER: First Generation SF Troopers — 10th SFG(A) Alumni celebrating at the Triple S Brewing Company in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Photo by Lonny Holmes

The VIP List for the events included:

BG (R) Les Fuller	CSM (R) Luke R. Emanuel
COL (R) Othar Shalikhavili	SFC (R) Charles L. Berg
COL (R) Sully H. De Fontaine	John Stryker Meyer
LTC (R) Charles B "Chuck" Darnell Jr.	Louis (Lonny) Holmes
Mrs. Lynelle Ritchie (Widow of MAJ Frederico Ritche)	CH COL (R) Vahan Sipantzi
MAJ (R) Clyde J. Sincere	Richard Simonian
	CW4/ (R) James "Styk" Stejskal
	COL Riho Uhtegi
	O-5 Mindaugas "Tiny" Kazlauskas



Please visit us at
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and sfa78cup.com



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Vice President Don Deatherage M-13962	Chaplain Richard Simonian D-7920
Secretary Gary Macnamara M-12789	Sentinel Editor Louis (Lonny) Holmes D-6067
Treasurer Richard Simonian D-7920	Immediate Past President Louis (Lonny) Holmes D-6067
Sergeant At Arms/ Quartermaster Mark Miller D-8296	



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From the Editor



Lonny Holmes
Sentinel Editor

10TH SPECIAL FORCES GROUP (AIRBORNE) 65th ANNIVERSARY

Just like a military operation, we met before sunrise in a deserted parking lot waiting for our escort to a private jet to begin a trip to 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) near Colorado Springs, Colorado. Quickly boarding the plane, Richard Simonian (the owner), John S. Meyer, Rick Estes, President of the Special Operations Association, and I were looking forward to the days events.

Landing two hours later we were met by 10th SF Group ODA 0215 Commanding Officer, Captain Evan McGhee who was our guide for the day. Events unfolded rapidly as we arrived at 10th Group on Fort Carson and entered the lecture hall where CW4 (R) James Stejskal was presenting a lecture on *Special Forces Berlin* to the group's senior officers. Immediately after the presentation Colonel Isaac J. Peltier, the Group Commander greeted us and spoke with Richard — an original member of 10th SFG(A).

Captain McGhee then escorted us to the central field, Thorne Plaza Area, of 10th Group where A-Team members had set up displays of their TO&E equipment including weapons, vehicles, HALO and other gear. Circulating by the displays were other "Original" members of 10th SFG(A) who had deployed via ship to Germany and Richard began a series of conversations with these elite SF Soldiers reminiscing about the "good old days." At noon a picnic style luncheon was served to invited guests, 10th SF Group soldiers and their families. During lunch, members of our group and other "Originals" joined together with "current" members of Special Forces and discussed the 1950s training and deployments comparing the current SF status. I must say we were very impressed with their knowledge, training, equipment and physical conditioning.

Immediately following lunch we observed several bouts of the Combative's Finals. Well trained in the martial arts the men's fights were impressive. However the women put up an excellent fight for the top contender. Even as a young soldier I would not want to get into ring against this generation of women fighters.

Continued on page 8



6am and ready for take-off in Richard Simonian's Jet Plane.

The President's Page | June 2017



Bruce Long
President SFA 78

May's Chapter meeting at Richard Simonian's office was attended by 19 members and two guests, Billy Bassett, and his brother Tony. Billy Bassett is soon to be a member of our Chapter.

Breakfast was catered by Marie Callender's located across the street. This time we collected \$10 from everyone present. Due to special circumstances (**Mike Keele** getting married) our meeting started at 0905 hrs. **Mark Miller** led us in the Pledge of Allegiance, and **Richard Simonian** gave the Invocation.

Mike Pierson made a presentation on the behalf of the Department of Veterans Affairs by awarding challenge coins to seven Vietnam Chapter members.

Update on Officers Guide: The final cost of the Officers Guide was \$473.50, well under our budget of \$500. **Tom Turney** was able to purchase the Officers Guides through Amazon, and included the SFA Chapter stick-on label with our web site and the cadet's name. These will be presented during their graduation ceremony in June of this year.

With that note; **Gary Macnamara** and I attended the CSUF Army ROTC Awards Ceremony on May 5th. We presented the Honor Graduate Cadet Joshua Cole with a framed Certificate of Excellence, an SFA Chapter 78 Coin and a check for \$500, for which he was extremely appreciative. LTC Waters, the outgoing Professor of Military Science for CSUF, was presented a plaque from SFA Chapter 78.

Congratulations to **Tom Turney** whose article appeared in the Spring 2017 DROP and was well received. Great job Tom.

I attended the VFW and American Legion sponsored "An Evening of Recognition and Awareness" at the Marriott Desert Springs Resort & Spa in the city of Palm Desert on May 13. **Mike Pierson**, the new Commander of VFW Post 3699, and **Dan Prentice**, their logistics person (who writes the checks) brought me up on their stage and presented me with a check for \$500. This money is to go towards the Homecoming Celebration of A/5/19. VFW Post 3699 adopted A Company as **SGM Eylicio** is a long time member of their Post. This was a great event and so was the food. Sure glad I attended. Both Mike and Dan are also former Green Berets and members of our Chapter.

A Company held their Special Forces Readiness Assessment (SFRE) on May 6th with a total of twenty individuals wanting to join A Company and become Green Berets. I observed the PT test that was given at 0600 hrs. and out of the twenty who participated only nine qualified. After the ruck sack march of 12+ miles, with 60 lbs. rucks (they increased it by 5 lbs.) there were only seven left. We then proceeded to the CSUF Obstacle Course. Five individuals completed this event the first time, and two individuals had to retake the last Obstacle, which was the 30' rope climb. The remaining seven completed the Team/Individual events back at Los Alamitos.



Chapter 78 President Bruce Long, Cadet Joshua Cole and Gary Macnamara at the CSUF Army ROTC Awards Ceremony.



Bruce Long and Gary Macnamara presenting a plaque from SFA Chapter 78 to LTC Waters, outgoing CSUF Professor of Military Science.

Jim Duffy and **Gary Macnamara** both sat on the oral board later that evening. Of the seven who participated, only one was accepted. However, three were asked to come back again.

On May 24, 2017 at approximately 1020 hrs. A Company with 75 Green Berets returned to Los Alamitos Airfield via Charter Aircraft. A very short formation was conducted **COL Wise** welcoming A

Continued on page 8

Next Chapter Meeting

Our next Chapter meeting will be at Richard Simonian's office conference room on July 15, 2017.

0830 hrs. Breakfast / Meeting

1000 hrs. Chapter Meeting

Address: [326 W. Katella, Bldg. L4, Orange, CA 92867](#)

Conrad “Ben” B. Baker Inducted into SF Regiment



Conrad “Ben” B. Baker stands behind the formal induction certification into the U.S. Army Special Forces Regiment, the highest honor bestowed upon civilians by the regiment. Baker is the 12th recipient of the HMOR. From left, MSG David Nolan, Mrs. Shirley Baker, Baker, and COL Nestor A. Sadler, Special Forces Regimental Commandant U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School at Ft. Bragg, NC. Sadler presided over the formal induction of Baker into the Regiment. (Photo Courtesy of George Eleopoulous, SFA Chap. 23)



John Stryker Meyer

By John Stryker Meyer

James Bond had “Q.”

SOG had Baker. *Ben Baker.*

During the Vietnam War’s eight-year secret war conducted in Laos, Cambodia and N. Vietnam under the aegis of the Military Assistance Command Vietnam – Studies and Observations Group (SOG), the Green Berets turned to Counterinsurgency Support Office (CISO) Deputy Commander Conrad (“Ben”) B. Baker for everything from new highly-specialized equipment and weapons to indigenous rations. Based in Okinawa, he frequently traveled to Southeast Asia to meet the warriors he served.

As more Green Berets began serving in Vietnam and in the secret war, they often submitted unique, specific supply requests to CISO, for items that weren’t available in routine military supply channels.

“Because of the clandestine nature of the secret war, CISO and SOG had top priority for anything from air conditioners to SOG knives to weapons,” said Baker, during a May 21 telephone interview. “Sometimes we’d piss off people, like the Marines, for example. We had a situation where some

of the (Special Forces) A Camps down south in IV Corps needed air conditioners for their commo sheds. We requisitioned them from the Marines for those teams. Believe me, they weren’t happy but SF had top priority.”

Former OSS agent (Ret) MAJ Gen. John K. Singlaub, who served two years as Chief SOG – the officer in charge of SOG from Aug. 1966-68 – described Baker as the critical, behind-the-scenes player in SOG’s secret war. “He was a supply wizard,” Singlaub said in an April interview conducted in Tennessee. “Whether we needed High Standard 22s with silencers or special equipment for our indigenous soldiers, Ben would get it for us, one way or the other.”

Retired Green Beret LTC Gene McCarley, who ran SOG top secret recon missions out of FOB 2 in Kontum and in September 1970 conducted one of the most successful SOG Hatchet Force missions deep into Laos, knew Baker and marveled at his prowess in obtaining critical and crucial supplies and weapons. “I had the honor of meeting Ben a few times. He wouldn’t remember me, but I can say that he provided us with a lot of things that we needed that weren’t available through routine supply channels. He cared about the troops. If we needed things he’d find them. If things weren’t available, he’d invent them.”

Baker said, “We did a lot of little things to help the men of SOG and other agencies. For example, in the early days of the war, SF used the HT-1 radio, but those radios used BA-30 batteries, the old lead-acid battery that was highly inefficient. We changed to alkaline batteries and we purchased the best, which were made in Japan at that time. We had no ‘must buy American’ mandates. Our job was to get the best supplies needed for our troops, plain and simple.”

Within SOG annals, Baker is a legend for many reasons, including his

unique inventions and items he purchased and/or helped to refine, which include:

- Inventing Indigenous Rations: “Early in the war,” Baker said, “the Montagnards were getting the runs from U.S. rations. So I went over to Nam, Laos, talked to some key nutritionists there and put together indigenous rations, which consisted of precooked rice placed in a plastic bag, shaped like a tube. The rice I laced with Vitamin B because the ‘Yards had a vitamin deficiency.” Baker went to Taiwan, got pre-cooked rice, then developed several rice seasonings, beef, fish, squid and mutton, to name a few. When he went to the Navy Laboratory, “they told me it would take two to three years to produce it. That’s nuts,” Baker said. He went to a company, placed an order for 30,000 meals for “about a buck a piece.” By the end of the Vietnam War, Baker estimates that CISO had sent at least 66 million individual Indigenous Rations that were used by U.S. allies in Vietnam, Laos, Thailand and other locations. Highly respected 5th Special Forces Group Commander COL Robert Rheault “estimated that we may have used more than 80 million.... I’m not going to argue with the colonel,” Baker said.
- Inventing “Eldest Son” ammo that exploded when used by enemy troops in their AK-47 or 81 mm mortar, killing or maiming the enemy. “Also, we had old PRC-10 radios,” said Baker. “Instead of getting rid of them, we packed them with C-4 and would leave the battery in it and drop it in enemy territory. When an enemy would squeeze the talk key, it would explode.”
- Inventing the first SOG Knife: “The first model of it, I used a spring from a Jeep, due to its metallic strength. However, I didn’t like it and threw it into the ocean,” Baker said, “I used the stacked leather handle on it, that was an idea I got from my father’s Marbles Gladstone Skinning Knife.... My design of the first seven-inch SOG Knife had a tilt upward edge to the blade for maximum penetration.... I designed it so the weight and balance made it a good throwing knife too. I believe (Green Beret Medal of Honor Recipient) SGM Jon Cavaiani told me he threw the knife at an NVA soldier and it killed him.” The first order of 1,300 SOG Knives went to Yogi Shokai, the Japanese trading company CISO worked with at that time.
- Indig Rucks: “We invented the Indig Rucks because the things the CIA were using at that time were too big for the indigenous troops working with SF and the agency,” Baker said. All SOG teams used those rucks throughout the war.
- Improved the jungle boots: “(At CISO) We tried to think ahead, we took trips to Southeast Asia to talk to the men in the field. We believed that it should be the man in the field who should determine what their troops need, not some fat-assed bureaucrat sitting behind some a desk at DoD or the White House. When they came out with jungle boots we put the metal plate in the bottom due to the gosh-awful punji sticks the SF men and their indig were encountering in ‘Nam – punji sticks that had been dipped in human excrement, to worsen the infection.”

Baker made more than 80 visits to SEA during the Vietnam War. “Sometimes, it was the little things that counted,” Baker said. “If they needed socks, we’d send them bundles of socks. If they needed



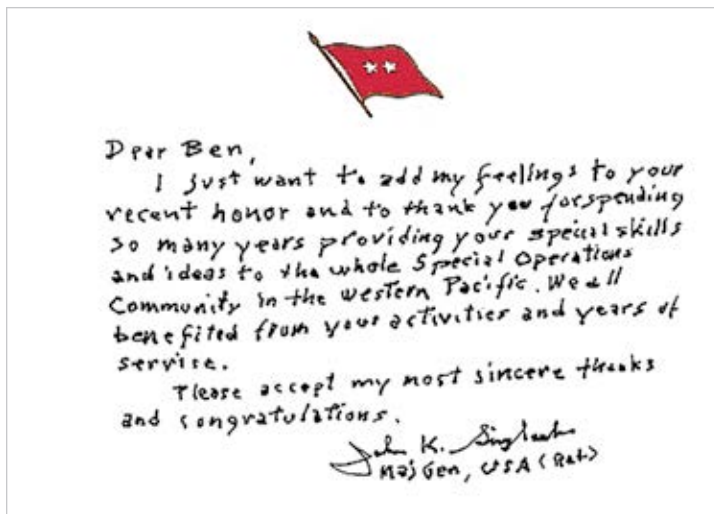
Conrad “Ben” B. Baker, center, holds two versions of the famous SOG knives that he invented while serving as the deputy director of CISO during the Vietnam War. Standing with Baker are, left SGM (ret.) Ron Courtney and SGM (ret.) Ernie Jensen. (Photo Courtesy of George Eleopoulos, SFA Chap. 23)



Conrad “Ben” B. Baker is seen holding a box of Indigenous Rations used by Montagnards, Rhade, Vietnamese and other indigenous personnel during the war. Amongst the many achievements Baker accomplished as the deputy director for the Counterinsurgency Support Office that served SOG and other agencies during the Vietnam War was the research and development of specially designed rations for the indigenous troops who support Special Forces and other agencies during the Vietnam War. Under Project PIR, Baker estimated that 66 to 86 million Indigenous Rations were purchased and provided to troops supporting the U.S. war effort. (Photo Courtesy of George Eleopoulos, SFA Chap. 23)

black berets, we got them. When they asked for black rain gear that wasn’t too long, we got it for them.” Today, those blacks pullover SOG rain jackets are collectors items valued at hundreds of dollars.

And, there was a practical side to Baker too: “At one point, every team wanted 12 or 13 Rolex watches, the Oyster model I believe. They got Seiko watches instead that cost \$6 or \$8 apiece.” The



Major General Jack Singlaub's handwritten note to Ben Baker.



Ben Baker and his wife Shirley.

Seiko watches were among the first self-winding watches with a luminous dial, and had the day and date on it. The luminous dial was so bright SOG recon men had to cover it with gloves or black electric tape at night.

Also, there were times that Baker or his staff would send experimental weapons to SOG recon teams for testing and opinions. For example, during 1968 at the top secret SOG base, FOB 1 in Phu Bai, CISO staff sent a gyro pistol and a large pump shotgun that fired the 40 mm round used in the M-79 grenade launcher. The gyro pistol was turned back, and the experimental pump was turned back after ST Idaho carried it on one mission. It had a bad habit of jamming while extracting the empty cartridge. When it worked, five rounds could be fired in less than a minute, which gave a six-man recon team a lot of firepower, but a lot of extra weight to carry in the field.

Last, but not least, "My name is on that damned Bolo Machete," Baker said, spitting the words out of his mouth. "That's a hunk of shit. Some damned general somewhere ordered someone to make it, they did, and because I put the wooden handle on it, my name is on it. That's one I'm not proud of.... We went out and got better stuff like the Survival Ax Type (produced by Frank and Warren Inc.)."

Baker Honored by SF Regiment

Because of his dedication and due diligence over the years, Baker was formally inducted into the Special Forces Regiment as the 12th Honorary Member on April 27 by Colonel Nestor A. Sadler, Commandant of the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School.

Baker is a WWII veteran who served briefly in General Douglas MacArthur's headquarters staff before putting his organization and logistics skills to work with Field Engineers. In 1963 he was working in Okinawa when Special Forces CAPT David E. Watts put together the Counterinsurgency Support Office (CISO), with Baker leading the development of the new office. CISO supplied clothing, weapons and equipment to Special Forces, some federal agencies and to indigenous forces operating in Vietnam and denied areas. Baker served as deputy CISO commander from June 1963

to October 1972 where he traveled up and down and the width and breadth of Vietnam. His travels included more than 80 trips to forward base camps in Vietnam while providing Special Forces Soldiers and Vietnamese allies with support not available through normal channels.

He conducted many of those missions with Special Forces Legend SGM Walter L. Shumate at a time when Baker was instrumental in organizing and executing classified operations that had a significant positive influence on the Special Forces mission, including providing unique and experimental weapons tested by SOG Recon Teams and other top secret operations.

When Baker's name was mentioned to living spec ops legend, (Ret) MAJ GEN John K. Singlaub, the legendary OSS agent pulled out his official two-star, major-general stationery, and wrote a congratulatory note to Baker, which John Stryker Meyer read aloud during a luncheon honoring Baker on April 27 at the Basque Cultural Center, in South San Francisco. Singlaub's doctors wouldn't let him fly at that time.

Singlaub's note to Baker read:

"Dear Ben, I just want to add my feelings to your recent honor and to thank you for spending so many years providing your special skills and ideas to the whole Special Operations Community in the Western Pacific. We all benefited from your activities and years of service.

"Please accept my most sincere thanks and congratulations.
John K. Singlaub, MAJ GEN, USA (Ret)."

Baker's face broke into a large smile when he received Singlaub's note. "He remembered me? That's amazing," Baker said, as he read the note out loud to his wife Shirley and members of the Special Forces Association.

In recent months, there have been media reports about ammunition that explodes when used by enemy troops. With a sparkle in his eye while reflecting on his Vietnam War creation of "Eldest Son" enemy ordnance, Baker said, "We had an impact on the enemy's psyche then and I'm glad to see it's still happening today." ❖

The Originals



Special Forces “Originals” at Ft. Bragg, NC in early 1953. From left, Richard Simonian, Charles Neal, Wayne Marchand and an unidentified soldier, pause briefly before getting into a plane to jump at Ft. Bragg. Marchand was one of the first Green Berets killed in S. Vietnam in the early days of the war. (Photo courtesy of Richard Simonian)



Colonel Sully H. de Fontaine of OSS and SF Fame, Richard Simonian and Colonel Othar Shalikashvili the 14th Commanding Officer of 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne). (Photo by Lonny Holmes)



Two Original SF men who deployed with Colonel Aaron Banks by ship and train to Bad Tolz Germany in 1953: Colonel Vahan Sipantzi and Richard Simonian. (Photo by Lonny Holmes)



John Stryker Meyer

By John Stryker Meyer

64 years ago PFC Richard Simonian and SFC Clyde J. Sincere Jr., were among the original 600 Special Forces from the newly formed 10th Special Forces Group that boarded the

USNS General A.W. Greely in Wilmington, NC, for a transatlantic voyage to Bremerhaven, Germany — the first Special Forces unit to deploy to Europe. They boarded a train in Bremerhaven, rode to a train station outside the ancient German city of Bad Tolz — the training site for SS officer candidate school during WWII. They were the first of an aggregate strength of 1,700 personnel who be shipped to Germany as the Cold War heated up.

Then the 600 Special Forces soldiers marched into Bad Tolz, Bavaria Germany where they set up the first operational headquarters for Special Forces commanded by OSS Legend COL Aaron Bank, ending a long and tedious process of forming the 10th Special Forces Group that officially began June 19, 1952 at Ft. Bragg, NC.

“I’ll never forget that march into Bad Tolz,” said Simonian, 84, “There was still a lot of bomb damage from World War II, and to be honest, when many of the Germans saw that we were paratroopers, they weren’t too thrilled about that...at that time, we didn’t think about the historic aspect of Special Forces, we just did our duty and continued to march.” As they moved into barracks at Bad Tolz, a detachment of 99 men from 10th Group at Ft. Bragg were assigned to the 8240th Army Unit training anti-communist North Koreans while the remaining personnel at Ft. Bragg formed the core of the 77th Special Forces Group, thus setting the foundation for today’s Green Berets.

In commemoration of the formal June 19, 1952 formation, the command at today’s 10th Grp. Headquarters in Ft. Carson, CO, hosted a week-long series of events in conjunction with the local Special Forces Association Chapter 4-24, the SFMC Chapter 10 and other organizations. The week included everything from a briefing by author James Stejskal on the Special

Forces Berlin Detachment A that was formed in 1956 for clandestine Cold War operations in Europe, to many children and family events to motorcycle rides, a series of athletic and martial arts competitions between battalions, a “Grey Beards” alumni gathering and a formal military ball.

But, the highlight for many of today’s Green Berets and Special Forces soldiers who served in the Army after “The Originals” landed at Bad Tolz, was meeting the few Originals who showed up at the event, including Simonian, who left the Army after three years and Sincere who served more than 20 years and earned a Distinguished Service Cross in Vietnam.

“It’s been a real honor to meet “The Originals”, said COL Isaac J. Peltier, 10th SFG commanding officer. “We continue to build Special Forces upon your shoulders, as you pioneered the way for us today. We strive, as you did, to move forward to meet today’s challenges that confront our country and Special Forces.” Many present-day Green Berets echoed Peltier’s sentiments.

One Special Forces Captain said, “It’s one thing to read about the founders, the men who were the first Special Forces soldiers, it’s another to actually meet them and to hear a few of their stories.”

That respect was reciprocated by “The Originals” for today’s Green Berets along with complete amazement by all who visited today’s 10th Special Forces Group base at its size, especially in comparison to the early days of 10th Group, when troops slept in old WWII barracks, used WWII weapons and seldom had new buildings or training areas.

Looking at the expanse of 10th Group’s base, Simonian said, “The sheer size of it, the new buildings, the weight training, heck we never thought about weight training in our day. And the fact that they have the Care Coalition on base to help today’s soldiers, as well as their families, is a giant step in the right direction. It’s all very impressive.”

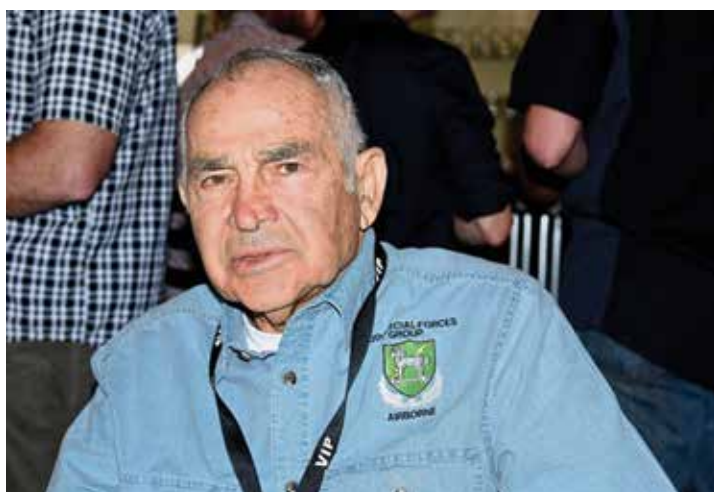
In addition to “The Originals”, OSS agent Sully de Fontaine and his wife Angelique attended the event. De Fontaine served with the OSS during WWII and parachuted into occupied France in 1944 where he escorted downed pilots to safety. After WWII he had several assignments with 10th Group before going to Vietnam and serving a tour of duty in the top secret MACV-SOG operation during the eight-year secret war conducted during the Vietnam War. As he looked around the area he said, “This place and the men are amazing. They’ve come a long way since our day.” ♦



Rick Estes President of the Special Operations Association, John S. Meyer, Richard Simonian and 10th SFG(A) ODA 0215 Commander Captain Evan McGhee who was our escort for the day, presented with a Chapter 78 “Challenge Coin” in front of 10th Special Forces Group Headquarters.



Richard Simonian and Colonel Othar Shalitashvili, 14th Commander of 10th Special Forces Group (Photo by Lonny Holmes)



Colonel (R) Vahan Sipantzi (Photo by Lonny Holmes)



- ❶ Original and current Special Forces, Colonel Sully H. de Fontaine of OSS and SF Fame and 10th SFG(A) A-Team 0215 Commander Captain Evan McGhee, a West Point graduate
- ❷ Richard Simonian, James Stejskal, author of *Special Forces Berlin*, and John S. Meyer
- ❸ John Stryker Meyer, Richard Simonian, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) Commanding Officer Colonel Isaac J. Peltier, and Rick Estes
- ❹ Richard Simonian and Major (R) Clyde Sincere at the Triple S reunion celebration. Richard was an E-4 and Clyde was an E-7 in 10th Group together in Bad Tolz, Germany in 1953-54.
- ❺ Painting of Captain Larry Thorne, famous SF Warrior, an early KIA in Vietnam in 10th SFG(A) Group HQ Hall (Photos by Lonny Holmes)

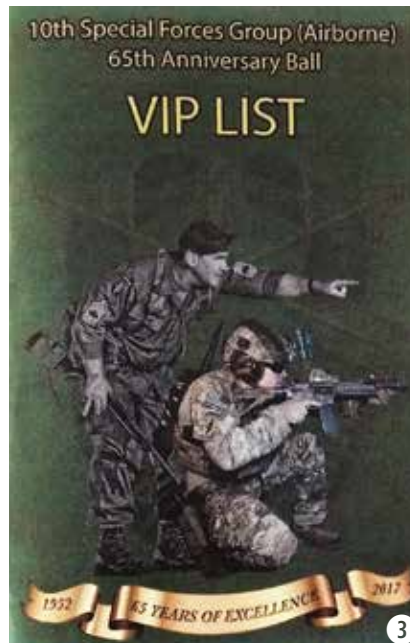
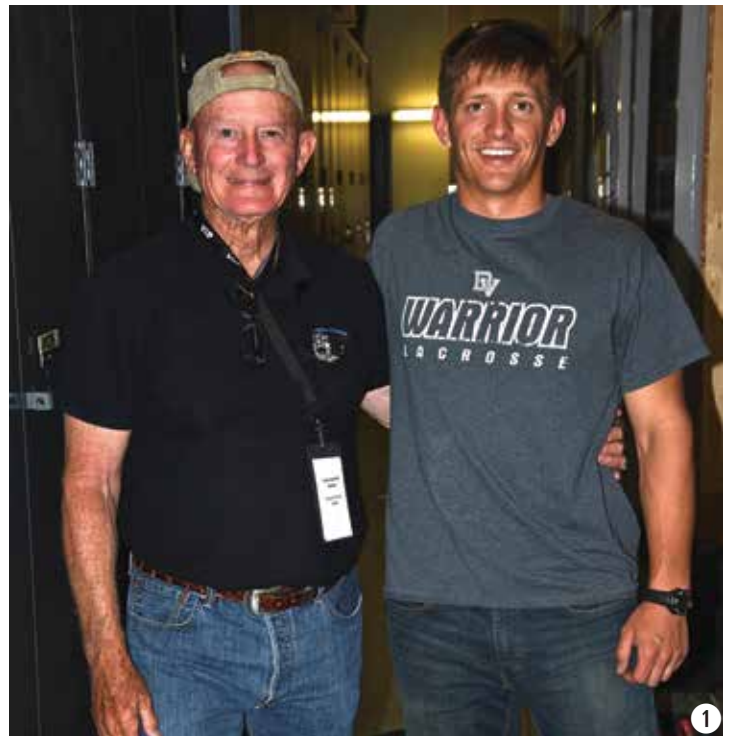
From the Editor continued

Next on our agenda was a tour of the 10th Group Headquarters, several battalion facilities and the groups physical training building. Group headquarters entry hall is decorated with SF paintings, an SF Statue and many historic items. Believe me, no NFL gym is better equipped or larger than the group gym. Fantastic is an understatement. Personnel trainers are also provided to increase physical condition and rehab training injuries and those recovering from combat wounds. Captain McGhee then drove us to his ODA's team room. Two stories high and packed with equipment including a planning/meeting area; this is a luxury we did not have 50 years ago.

Late in the afternoon Captain McGhee drove us to the Triple S Brewing Company in Colorado Springs which is an SF hang-out. The Triple S sponsored the "Gray Beard Social" a celebration for 10th SFG(A) Alumni and Battalion Command & Teams. Finally all the "Original" 10th Group members were together again under one roof celebrating with "Current" Special Forces Soldiers. The past was revisited, tall tales told and memories shared.

A "Tip of the Beret" to 10th Special Forces Group, their Commanding Officer, Colonel Isaac Peltier for his outstanding hospitality and effort to celebrate the 65th Anniversary of the Special Forces Group. Thank you Captain McGhee for providing the tour of 10th SF Group facilities and events. ❖

Lonny Holmes
Sentinel Editor



- ❶ Lonny Holmes and SF ODA 0215 Team Medic (SF 18D) Blake Johnstone in 10th Special Forces Group team room.
- ❷ Previous 10th SFG(A) CSM Luke R. Emanuel and Richard Simonian
- ❸ The cover of the 10th Special Forces Group 65th Anniversary Ball VIP list — notice the Master Sergeant is old-school uniform, etc and the squatting SF Soldier is modern (Top photo courtesy Lonny Holmes. All others by Lonny Holmes)

President's Page continued

Company home. COL Wise turned over the Company over to **MAJ Otenti** who then turned the Company to **SGM Eylicio** who then dismissed the Company. Chapter members who were present, were asked to stand to the left of their formation.

We then proceeded to Bldg. 59 where the ODA's began securing their equipment and offloading prepositioned pallets. A Company Rear Detachment had set up a large tent to include tables and chairs to feed 200 personnel. Organic Gourmet Catering was hired by the Chapter to feed A Company, family members and guests. A big shout out to **MSG Wade Scott** for organizing this portion of the homecoming and Organic Gourmet Catering.

COL Wise personally thanked the Chapter for hosting the luncheon.

Special Note: MSG Scott just got back from FT Benning where he completed jump school. MSG Scott had the honor of being the 2nd oldest person in his class to attend jump school. As some of you may remember MSG Scott has spoken to the Chapter on two separate occasions, and plans on joining our Chapter. You may also remember MSG Scott was wounded nine times while serving in Afghanistan.

As usual, feel free to contact me. Blong26774@gmail.com ❖

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

Cora & Mike's Wedding



Cora and Mike take their vows at the wedding ceremony officiated by Chaplin Doreen Matsumoto. Also pictured are Maid of Honor, Vera Delgado and Best Man, Rick Delgado



Cora was escorted down the aisle by her eldest son, Eric Servia.



Mike and Cora Keele



Lonny Holmes

Text and Photos By Lonny Holmes

Cora Servia and Mike Keele were wed Saturday afternoon, May 20, 2017 in the formal garden area of Chapter 78 President Bruce and Geri Long's estate in Corona California. This is the first wedding of a chapter member and was attended by about 60 family members and friends. The bride and groom led the first dance and the party began...



SFA Chapter 78 May 2017 Meeting



- 1 Chapter 78 members in attendance at the May Chapter meeting.
- 2 Mike Pierson representing the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in his presentation.
- 3 Mike Keele demonstrating hat and "t" shirt given to the Chapter by the VA rep.
- 4 Len Fein
- 5 & 6 The challenge coin awarded to seven Chapter 78 members by the VA rep Mike Pierson who is also SF.
- 7 Tom Turney introducing potential new SF member to chapter.
- 8 John Creel
- 9 Mark Miller
- 10 Bruce Long, SFA Chapter 78 President
- 11 Dennis De Rosia