



THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SENTINEL

SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION CHAPTER 78

The LTC Frank J. Dallas Chapter

NEWSLETTER OF THE QUIET PROFESSIONALS

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 11 • NOVEMBER 2018



REMEMBRANCE: 23 AUGUST 1968
MEMORIAL SERVICE BREAKFAST

SPECIAL OPERATION ASSOCIATION SOAR XLII

BOOK REVIEW — *WE FEW: BEHIND ENEMY LINES
WITH SOG, U.S. SPECIAL FORCES IN VIETNAM*
BY NICK BROKHAUSEN



SENTINEL

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COVER: Chapter 78 member and Gold Star Family member Steve Bric (front row, center) and family with a special plaque designed by Chapter 78 member John Joyce honoring PFC William Henry Bric, III. Several more of these special plaques were provided to family members by Steve Bric.



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MISSION STATEMENT: The *Sentinel* will provide interesting and meaningful information relative to the Special Forces experience — today, yesterday and tomorrow. Articles will be published that were written by knowledgeable authors who will provide objective and accurate accounts of real world experiences.

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.

From the Editor



Lonny Holmes
Sentinel Editor

Special Operations Association SOAR XLII kicked off on Monday, October 15 in Las Vegas, NV, with a new kid on the block; Chapter 78 member John Joyce. John rented three tables in the hospitality room, using one for his new company, Excalibur Industries, which makes military plaques, challenge coins and car badges, and two tables provided by John were used by Chapter 78 members.

John S. Meyer distributed copies of his books, *On the Ground* and *SOG Chronicles Volume 1*, to SOAR registrants and Gold Star Family members. Chapter 78 members John Joyce, Brad Welker and Mike Keele had purchased copies of *On The Ground* and Len Fein purchased copies of *SOG Chronicles* in his wife's name for donating.

I used the third table to distribute several Sentinel editions which contained stories about the MACV-SOG FOB 4 Assault on August 23, 1968 and the Washington, D.C. Memorial Ceremony. Brad Welker spent many long days manning all three tables promoting the Excalibur products and the Sentinel. Needless to say our chapter was the most visible at the conference.

Late Thursday morning as the vendors began removing their products from the hospitality room so the area could be converted into a banquet hall for the evenings formal affair, John Joyce received many compliments from SOA members and board of director officers on his new addition to the conference. His innovative products attracted a lot of attention.

Chapter 78 Past President, SGM (R) Ramon Rodriguez, attended SOAR and re-grouped with many old team members and I had the opportunity to get a photograph of his SCUBA Team who served together in Panama in 1974-5. Chapter 78 member Hamm Sally celebrated at the evening banquet with old friends.

One of Lonny's SF Med classmates, Yannis Zummets attended with his wife and daughter. Lonny had not seen Yannis since 1965 prior to their tours in Vietnam. An interesting story of the old days, while in SF Med School at Fort Sam in San Antonio, TX, on a winter day in late 1964 while jumping from a C-119 onto Hondo Drop Zone, Yannis had a total parachute malfunction. Joe White, who was to become the class honor graduate, looked up and saw Yannis and had the presence of mind to grab his parachute, thus saving his life. For his heroic action Joe was awarded the Soldiers Medal and provided the opportunity for both to visit Vietnam a year later. And yes, photographs of this heroic event exist. When digitized I'll print one.

For Chapter 78 members who want to see John Joyce's new products make sure you attend the November meeting where he will display the Excalibur line. Remember, John has been providing Chapter 78 with its awards and chapter coin design's for nearly ten years. ♦

Lonny Holmes
Sentinel Editor



John Stryker Meyer
President SFA 78

Gentlemen of Chapter 78,

There will be **no** Christmas party this year. There are numerous reasons that lead to this decision by your leadership team. If anyone wants specifics, I'll be glad to dial them up at our November 10 meeting.

We have another unique speaker booked for our November 10 meeting. Jim Shorten (Jones) was a fascinating One-Zero from CCC who ran recon for one year with SOG/SF after serving in the Navy. He is the only

SF man I know who spent \$30,000 of his own money to return to Cambodia in an effort to locate two A.F. F-4 pilots Jim's Bright Light team searched for in 1970. He returned with DPAA last year to the crash site and hopes to return for a third—and hopefully, more successful—mission with DPAA in 2019, to locate the two Airmen who are among the 1,594 U.S. MIA's in Southeast Asia today (October 24, 2018). After SF he became an AF Pararescueman. He has great stories, including how he got bored being a doctor and now hunts meteorites.

LOOKING FOR IMMEDIATE FEEDBACK

I'm looking for immediate feedback from chapter members regarding our December 8 meeting. Because Christmas will only be 17 days away, and we'll be busy, I thought that anyone who wanted to gather for coffee, bagels, wraps and some delicious health-food stuff, would gather at the updated Chapter 78 Team Room in Richard's office. We'll start at 8:30 a.m., wrap it up by 10 a.m. so everyone can travel home before traffic gets too thick.

So, please let me know two things: 1.) Will you attend the November 10 meeting, and 2.) would you be interested in going to the Team Room on December 8? My email is: idahoonzero@sbcglobal.net

SOAR FOLLOW-UP

Chapter 78 was well represented at the 42nd annual Special Operations Association Reunion in Vegas, where member John Joyce publicly introduced his new company Excalibur that makes high-quality military plaques, challenge coins and a wide variety of unique, one-of-a-kind militaria collector items. John shared his table with other Chapter 78 members. During the busiest periods of time in the vendor area, word had spread about John's fascinating craftsmanship and he clearly had more

potential customers lining up for sales than any other vendor. Check his website: www.xclibr.com.

On a personal note, we held a Generation Salute where SOG Recon legends Robert "Spider" Parks, Eldon Bargewell, Pat Watkins, Doug Le Tourneau, Charles Borg, George "The Troll" Sternberg, Larry Trimble, Cletis "Babysan" Sinyard, Bill Werther, Doug Godshall, Bill Barclay, and Don Wolken gathered to present my stepson Evan Bozajian challenge coins, commemorative plaques and a letter of appreciation signed by all participants – including several Chapter 78 members. Evan was a scout attached to the 4th ID when his HumVee was struck by an IED in Iraq south of the Green Zone, Aug. 20, 2005. "We're glad that Evan finally attended SOAR," said Spider Parks. "Our generation saluted Evan and his generation of soldiers who served our country." ♦

See you at the next Chapter 78 meeting. Details below:

Date & Time: November 10, 8:30 a.m. Breakfast will be served.

Location: Embassy Suites

3100 East Frontera

(The SE Corner of Hwy 91 & Glassell St.)

The Spanish Moss Room

Anaheim, CA 92807

John Stryker Meyer

President, SFA Chapter 78



Presentation to Tilt's stepson Evan Bozajian. Left to right, John S. Meyer, CSM Spider Parks, Evan Bozajian, Major General Eldon Bargewell, SOG One-Zero Jim Shorten Jones, and A Team Captain John Vislosky

WE FEW: Behind Enemy Lines With SOG, U.S. Special Forces In Vietnam By Nick Brokhausen



Kenn Miller

By Kenn Miller

Nick Brokhausen was SFA Chapter 78's guest speaker at our September 2018 meeting, and I'm confident that everyone who was at that meeting will agree that he's one helluva good speaker. But as good as he is at public speaking, Nick Brokhausen is an even better writer. *WE FEW* is Brokhausen's

memoir of his second combat tour in Vietnam, but it is written like a novel, and a very good one that is downright painful to put down.

Everybody who has ever served in an elite unit full of engaging characters with a gift for narration and a humorous way with words will feel right at home—or should I say, they'll feel right back home in the old unit. Brokhausen can write about even the most mundane things so vividly you either want to laugh or you feel the butterflies churning in your stomach. And there is plenty in this rather wonderful book to stir those butterflies.

This tour was relatively late in the war, when the enemy was far more prepared to deal with small American led teams than they were in earlier years. And, of course, this being a SOG tour, missions were not limited to operational areas within Vietnam's borders. On some of these missions it seems that each man is carrying close to his own body weight in weapons, ammunition, and other ordinance. And they were likely to need all that.

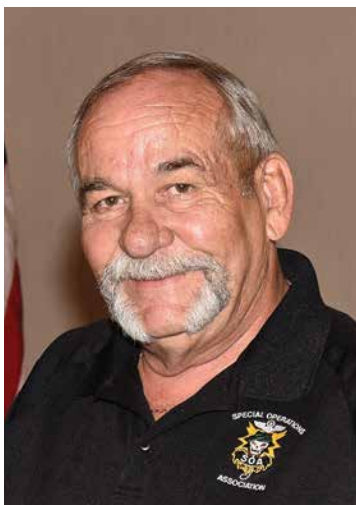
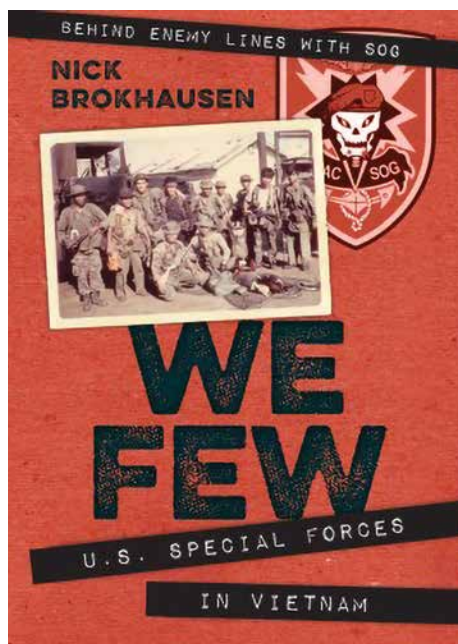
Reading about the reconnaissance missions Brokhausen, his fellow Green Berets, and their indigenous team members ran in Laos give as rare look at NVA life (and death) in what they considered their own rear area. These areas were

often full of enemy soldiers and installations, and the recon teams seem never to be far from the enemy. There is one mission that will probably stay in mind for the rest of my life, and anyone who has ever tried and failed to snatch an enemy prisoner behind enemy lines will be impressed by the extreme skill and daring of the way Brokhausen, his 1-0, Mac, and their team members'

successful attempt, and are then heart-broken by the subsequent loss of their valuable prisoner, a senior NVA lieutenant,

I could go on—and on—and on even further in reporting about the doings, and the characters, and the wonderful verbal style of the writing in *WE FEW*. And if you are a fan of Shakespeare's *HENRY V* you will enjoy the occasional subtle references to that play to be found in Nick Brokhausen's splendid memoir. The title itself is a taken from *HENRY V*. Oh, yeah, I could go on and on raving about Nick Brokhausen's book, but why take my word for it? This is a book that you will want to own, to read and read again. I don't know the sale price of *WE FEW* but whatever it is, it's a bargain. Other than Amazon, I don't know where *WE FEW* is for sale, but here is the publisher's address: Casemate Publishers, 1950 Lawrence Road, Havertown, PA 19083

Again, this is one you will be very glad to own and read, and read again. There is probably no other military unit in American literary history that has produced as many wonderful books as have the Vietnam War veterans of the U.S. Army Special Forces, and this is one of best. I personally want to thank another of the best writers to come out of the Vietnam war, Chapter 78's current president, John Stryker ("Tilt") Meyer for bringing Nick Brokhausen and this book to our attention. ♦



WE FEW: Behind Enemy Lines With SOG, U.S. Special Forces In Vietnam
By Nick Brokhausen

Casemate Publishers 2018,
251 pages

COPS CORNER



Brad Welker

By Brad Welker

The media often makes critical comments about law enforcement officers who shoot an “unarmed” suspect. Many years ago incidents involving the fatal shooting of a law enforcement officer (LEO) by a suspect who initially was unarmed underscore that issue.

The first occurred when a rookie undergoing field training began a foot chase after a gang member who was wanted for a gang related shooting. The LEO overtook the gang member shortly after he lost sight of him as he turned a corner of a building. The gangster who had been trained as a boxer while in prison stopped and as the LEO came into sight delivered a one punch knockout. He then took the officer’s 38 caliber revolver and executed him as he laid unconscious on the ground.

A LEO working a one man car stopped a stolen car being driven by a very large and muscular suspect recently released from prison. The officer stood at the driver’s door pointing his Smith and Wesson 38 caliber department issued revolver. The officer unfortunately got too close to the convict while pointing his weapon directly at him as he had not yet determined if the crook was armed. The convict expertly executed a gun takeover grabbing the weapon. At this point an assisting one man radio car arrived and the officer exited holding his weapon, a .357 magnum Colt Python.

The convict fired five rounds at the second officer inflicting a very severe wound to his right thigh that knocked him down. The convict then ran into a group of apartments carrying the first officer’s handgun. The first officer retrieved the wounded officer’s weapon and fired six shots at the fleeing convict who was still armed with the Smith and Wesson and ran after him. The tragedy occurred when he attempted to use his Speedy Loader to reload the Colt. His own weapon was a smaller “k” frame Smith and Wesson with

a smaller cylinder circumference which prevented him from reloading the weapon while he was running. He caught up with criminal rapidly who turned and fired the remaining round into the LEO’s face killing him instantly.

Numerous additional officers arrived and took the suspect into custody. The convict was convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison. It is interesting to note that his defense attorney alleged that his client fired in self defense as he felt the officer would shoot him.

This incident took place took place before semi-automatic handguns became standard issue for LEO departments. Revolvers were limited to six rounds and were slow to reload in comparison, semi-automatics had a higher magazine capacity and were much faster to reload. Revolver armed officers often carried a second smaller revolver in a pocket as a backup weapon in the event they exhausted the rounds in their primary weapon. One result of the larger capacity of the semi-automatics was that officer involved shootings now involve a more rounds fired than in the revolver era.

Many law enforcement agencies issue officers with a unique semi-automatic, normally a .9mm. Since they are purchased in bulk these weapons are normally from the same manufacturer. A significant number of agencies then allow officers to purchase their own weapons, normally different brands and calibers from the issued weapon. Weapons such as Glocks may be of the same caliber but, given different sizes of magazines, it may be impossible to use another officer’s magazine as it is too short for the weapon being carried. If your partner is carrying a H&K .45 and you are carrying a Beretta .9mm there are critical differences in both weapons. Differences that cannot be easily handled in a gunfight. ♦



An LAPD policeman in Mission Hills armed with an AR-15 in 2011. <https://www.flickr.com/photos/chrisyarzab/5882360505> by Chris Yarzab is licensed under CC BY 2.0

Cops Corner will continue to carry stories related to or about law enforcement. Anyone interested in publishing a story about their experiences is encouraged to contact Chapter 78 Vice President Brad Welker at wbwelker@gmail.com.



Remembrance: 23 August 1968

Memorial Service Breakfast



Bonnie Cooper

By Bonnie Cooper
Retired Military Intelligence Analyst
Photos by Lonny Holmes

On October 17, 2018 the Special Operations Association (SOA) hosted a 'Breakfast of Remembrance' for sixteen MACV-SOG warriors who died in the shadow of Marble Mountain when their camp, just south of Da Nang, Vietnam, was assaulted by 100 enemy sappers in the early morning hours of August 23, 1968. Three-hundred & twenty members and guests of the SOA attended the breakfast, to include forty-seven special guests — Gold Star family members of the sixteen men lost during the attack on FOB-4/CCN. Also in attendance, and sharing tables with the Gold Star family members, were 20 SOG men who survived the attack.

Plans for the breakfast were placed in motion on August 23, 2017. SOG veteran Dan Thompson recounted how on that day his email box was filled with messages calling for some sort of ceremony to mark the upcoming 50th Anniversary. Most of the men sharing these emails were members of the SOA, to include former Board of Directors (BOD) President John S. Meyer, BOD Director and attack survivor Doug Godshall. It was proposed that the 2018 SOA reunion would be the perfect venue for the ceremony and the association agreed to host the event.

The 23AUG68 committee was formed under the guidance of Doug Godshall with the mission to find the family members of the sixteen KIA and other SOG men who had survived the attack. Using social media, genealogy sources, public records and other online resources, researcher (and Special Forces wife) Bonnie Cooper located contact information for family members of all the men. She and Steve Bric

Above, Chapter 78 member Steve Bric (front row, center) and family with a special plaque designed by Chapter 78 member John Joyce honoring PFC William Henry Bric, III. Several more of these special plaques were provided to family members by Steve Bric.



A Memorial Service Breakfast display, at left a list of the men killed in action on August 23, 1968, center, carnations which were presented to the Gold Star family members, and, right, a framed exhibit "The Wreath" explaining that the sixteen carnations in the wreath, one for each man lost, were marked with a name.

(brother of KIA William Bric) made contact with each family, explaining the purpose of the Remembrance Breakfast and inviting them to attend. Committee members Gene Pugh and Bruce Christensen handled having plaques and commemorative coins made for the family members and Larry (Gambler) Trimble made green corsages for each to identify them to other reunion guests. Members of the SOA stepped up to provide assistance where needed – Ray and Ronnie Frovarp, Jim Hetrick, Ivan Davis, SOA President Rick Estes and others.

After several months of preparation, October 15th arrived and the SOA reunion began. As family members arrived, they were given a tour to include SF Chapter 78s table in the vendor area where John S. Meyer informed them that Chapter 78 had donated copies of his book *On The Ground – The Secret War in Vietnam* which includes the story of the attack. Discussions with the family members revealed that most of them, due to the clandestine nature of MACV-SOG, had only a vague idea of what the unit and missions of their warrior was like. John's book and discussions with the SOG veterans present helped to fill the void in their understanding.

On the morning of the breakfast each family was escorted to their tables by a SOG veteran who knew their lost loved one as video tributes to the fallen sixteen played on the big screen. After welcoming remarks and a prayer offered by SOA Chaplain John E. "Doc" Padgett a breakfast buffet was served.

The formal portion of the event began with Doug Godshall presenting background about MACV-SOG and FOB-4/CCN. He shared his personal experiences of the attack, during which his best friend, William "Bill" Bric, was mortally wounded.

Dan Thompson followed with a multi-media presentation, "Names and Ashes", documenting the many ways that the SOA and SOG veterans remember their KIA and MIA brothers, to include his personal journey of healing which included a trip back to Marble Mountain in 1994 and hosting a ceremony at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on August 23, 2018 attended by several family members.

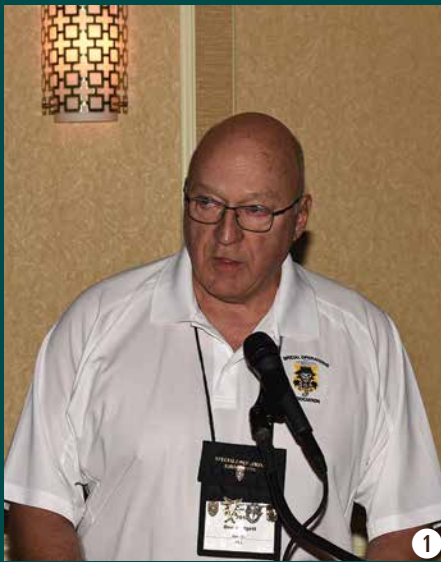


Doug Godshall took the podium again and read a biography of each of the sixteen men and introduced their family members who were called forward for recognition. They were presented with plaques and commemorative coins by Major General (Ret.) Eldon Bargewell, a sergeant in MACV-SOG and a Recon Team One-Zero, and CSM (Ret.) Robert (Spider) Parks. Before returning to their tables each family received an enthusiastic and emotional round of applause by all present.

The formal portion of the breakfast ended but the remembrances did not. Many men who knew the sixteen KIA sought out the families and shared their memories. One survivor was able to share with a family the last words of their warrior, who had died in his arms. Without exception the family members of the sixteen men agreed that attending the reunion and breakfast was an amazing experience for them. They and the SOG men who were able to share their stories about the attack and the men lost felt that a level of closure was finally achieved. To many in attendance, it wasn't just the sixteen men who died on August 23, 1968 that were being honored, but all of their KIA and MIA SOG brothers. ♦

Visit Specialforces78.com to read the [August 2018 Sentinel](#) story of the August 23, 1968 assault and survivor accounts. View the [October 2018 Sentinel](#) to read about the August 23, 2018 Memorial Ceremony in Washington, D.C. and to see photos of the event.





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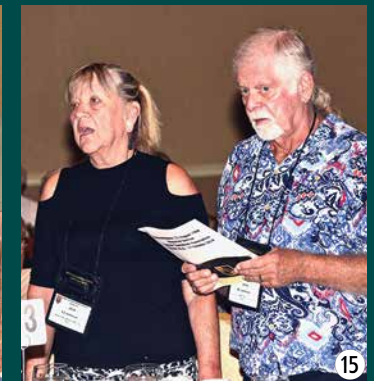
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- 1 John Padgett giving the Memorial Breakfast Invocation.
- 2 Douglas N. Godshall, key speaker and Chairman of Memorial Committee
- 3 Daniel M. Thompson presenting the "Names and Ashes" story.
- 4 MACV-SOG FOB 4 plaques given to Gold Star families.
- 5 Major General (Ret) Eldon Bargewell Honorary Chairman of the Memorial

- Committee and presenter, Dan Thompson, CSM "Spider Parks" also Honorary Chairman and presenter, Doug Godshall.
- 6 Detail of "The Wreath" display
- 7 Steve Bric on back right, and sister Cathy De Cou on front left, Gold Star family of PFC William Henry Bric III of FOB 4.
- 8 Steve Bric shaking hands with Dan Thompson after receiving the FOB 4 MACV-SOG Memorial Plaque



- 9 Gold Star family members of SFC Harold Robert "Bobby" Voorheis. MG Eldon Bargewell on left and CSM "Spider" Parks on right.
- 10 Steve Bric and sister Cathy
- 11 Gold Star family members of MSG Rolf Ernest Rickmers
- 12 Gold Star family members of SGT Robert "Bobby" Joseph Uyesaka.
- 13 Gold Star family members of SGM Richard "Dick" Epps Pegram, Jr. of FOB 4
- 14 Mary Welch, Gold Star wife of SFC Donald Walter Welch
- 15 At the end of the FOB 4 Memorial Ceremony all in attendance recited the 23 Psalm.
- 16 Steve Bric and Cathy, Gold Star family of PFC William Henry Bric III of FOB 4.



SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION SOAR XLII

42nd Anniversary • October 15-19, 2018 • Las Vegas, NV

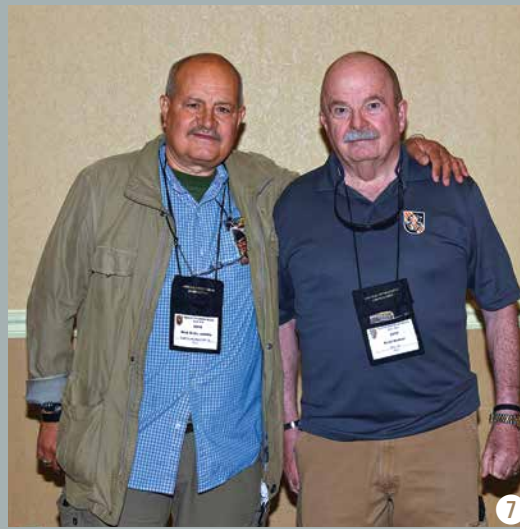
Photos by Lonny Holmes



- ❶ SOAR XLII Passing of the Mantle Ceremony, Major (Retired) Clyde Sincere and Richard Cooper.
- ❷ SF Colonel Leroy Barker, Ed Davis and Leroy Barker, Sr. Ed was a SF Team Sergeant and Leroy Barker Sr. was a team member when the Colonel was an infant. How time passes—and the Colonel remains on active duty.
- ❸ Mike Stern and wife Sandy. Mike and Lonny were on A-Team 4616 in

1969-1970 in Thailand. Mike served many tours in Vietnam, Thailand and Korea. He was in Delta and MACV-SOG retired a Chief Warrant Officer.

- ❹ Ray Voorheis, younger brother of SFC Harold Robert "Bobby" Voorheis who was KIA on August 23, 1968 at FOB 4.
- ❺ Major General (Retired) Eldon Bargewell and "Fish" Smith. The "Fish" was then SGT Bargewell's MACV-SOG recon team 1-1. Yes, the MG was the 1-0.



6 Chapter 78 President John S. Meyer and Colonel John Gargus — the colonel was a leading member of the Son Tay Raiders into North Vietnam. He is also the author of two books on special operations, the first on the Son Tay Raid.

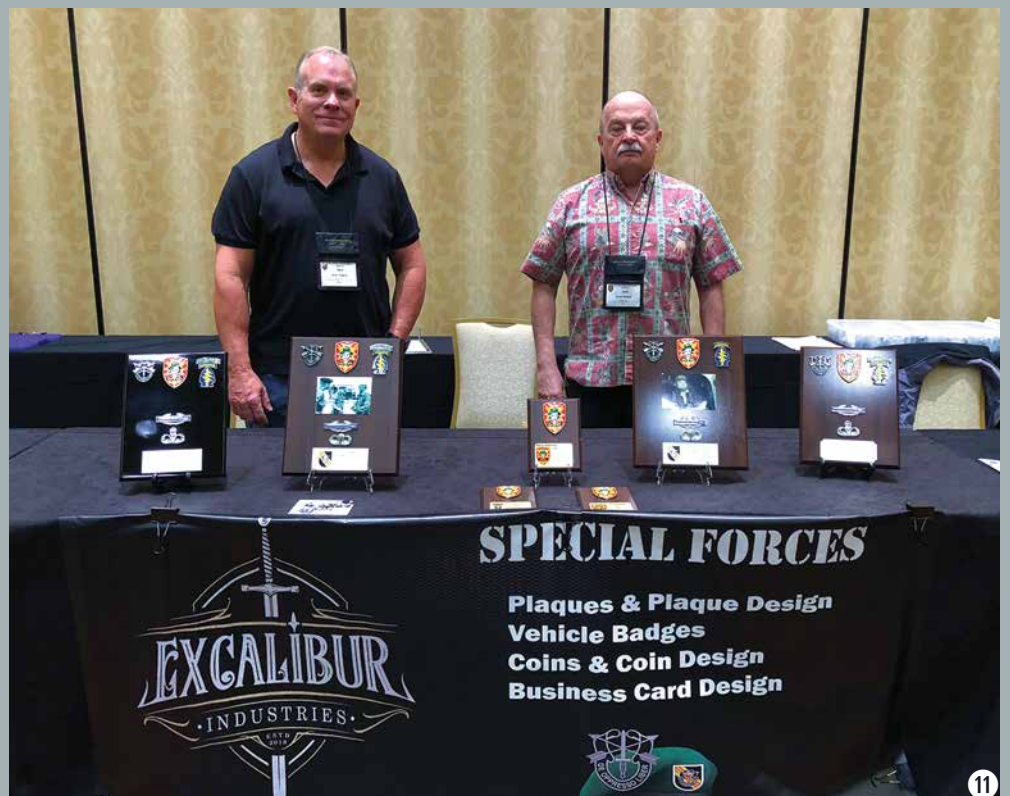
7 Brad Welker and Nick Di Benedetto who is from Rome, Italy.

8 Colonel Sully De Fontaine and John Joyce. Col De Fontaine displays a plaque presented to him by SFA Chapter 51.

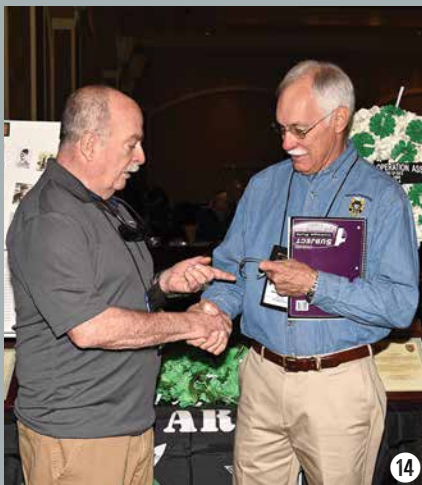
9 Brandi, the SOAR Bartender for the last several years.

10 John Joyce and Brad Welker at the Chapter 78 table which displayed challenge coins and vehicle badges available from John Joyce's company Excalibur Industries.

11 John Joyce and Brad Welker at the Excalibur Industries table which displayed several fine plaque designs.



SFA Chapter 78 at SOAR XLII



12 Lonny Holmes and Colonel John Gargus

13 Chapter 78 Past President Ramon Rodriguez and his Special Forces SCUBA Team, ODA 15, of 3rd Battalion, 7th SFGA, who worked together in 1974-75 at Fort Gulick in Panama. Left to right, Ramon Rodriguez, Larry Trimble, John Rodriguez and Tony Aquiningoc. Tony was also awarded his 40 year SOA pin.

14 SFA C-78 Vice President Brad Welker presenting his "original" SFC Jerry Shriver POW/MIA Bracelet to Gordon Denniston. Gordon was a chapter speaker several months ago and was a "Gun Ship" pilot in Vietnam in 1966-67, then flew LT General Stillwell as his chief pilot

in 1969-70. Gordon spoke with "Mad Dog" Shriver several times at MACV-SOG FOB -2 regarding combat tactics. He is currently working on a book about SFC Shriver.

15 Chapter 78 member Hamm Salley

16 Cora Keele and Nilda Holmes at SOAR XLII Banquet.

17 Cora and Mike Keele. Mike is the SOA Election Committee Chair and long time member of SFA C-78.

18 Colonel Sully De Fontaine and Chapter 78 President John S. Meyer, who displays a copy of the August 2018 Sentinel, at SOAR XLII.