



SENTINEL

NEWSLETTER OF THE QUIET PROFESSIONALS

SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION CHAPTER 78

The LTC Frank J. Dallas Chapter

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 5 • MAY 2022

A COMBAT FIRST

Army SF Soldiers in Korea, 1953-1955 — Part 1

FALLEN SOLDIER

Colonel James “Nick” Rowe

Part 2 — Death in Quezon City

Looking for Podcasts?

How to Find SFA Chapter 78's
Collection of Podcasts and Videos

The National Special Forces
Green Beret Memorial™

How was your transition
out of the Army
and into civilian life?

Share your experience
by completing an online survey

CHARITIES Effectively
Helping in UKRAINE





SENTINEL

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 5 • MAY 2022



US ARMY SPECIAL OPS COMMAND



US ARMY JFK SWCS



1ST SF COMMAND



1ST SF GROUP



3RD SF GROUP



5TH SF GROUP



7TH SF GROUP



10TH SF GROUP



19TH SF GROUP



20TH SF GROUP



8TH SF GROUP



11TH SF GROUP



12TH SF GROUP

IN THIS ISSUE:

President's Page.....	1
ACL Afghan Refugee Community Update.....	2
SFA Teamhouse — Share Your Interests.....	2
Book Review: <i>ALPHA: Eddie Gallagher and the War for the Soul of the Navy SEALs</i> by David Philipps.....	3
Survey: How was your transition out of the Army and into civilian life?	3
Redlegs train on new M777 Howitzer.....	4
CHARITIES Effectively Helping in UKRAINE	5
A COMBAT FIRST: Army SF Soldiers in Korea, 1953-1955 — Part 1.....	6
Good Old "Bitter Bierce"	13
FALLEN SOLDIER: Colonel James "Nick" Rowe Part 2 — Death in Quezon City	14
Looking for Podcasts? How to Find SFA Chapter 78's Collection of Podcasts and Videos	18
The National Special Forces Green Beret Memorial™.....	19
April 2022 Chapter Meeting	22

FRONT COVER: Guardsmen from 2nd Battalion, 146th Field Artillery Regiment, 81st Stryker Brigade Combat Team fire their new M777 Howitzers for the first time on April 12, 2017 at Joint Base Lewis-McChord. (Photo Credit: U.S. Army)



Please visit us at
specialforces78.com



CHAPTER OFFICERS:

President Greg Horton	Coordinator of ROTC Program Ed Barrett
Vice President Dennis DeRosia	Chaplain Richard Simonian
Secretary Gary Macnamara	Sentinel Editor How Miller
Treasurer Richard Simonian	Immediate Past President Bruce Long
Sergeant At Arms/Quartermaster Mark Miller	Project Officers Bruce Long Don Gonneville



Funding for the SFA Chapter 78 Sentinel is provided by

VETERANS AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAM

A program of American Veterans Assistance Group

888-923-VETS (8387) • VeteransAffordableHousing.org

The *Sentinel* is published monthly by Special Forces Association Chapter 78, Southern California — *art direction and design by Debra Holm, Dinwiddie Holm Graphics*. 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 at sfchapter78@gmail.com.

From the Editor



How Miller
Sentinel Editor

We begin with our recurring updates on the ACL charity and the SFA "Teamhouse" website.

Then, showing that our Kenn Miller pulls no punches, check out his review of *Alpha: Eddie Gallagher and the War for the Soul of the Navy SEALs*.

On page three is an appeal to participate in a relevant survey by Ed Richter, SFA4Life Committee Chair, about how your transition was to civilian life. This will be useful to help shape services for Green Berets who will be separating in the future.

This month's cover photo depicts some "newbies" learning the 155mm M777, such as many Ukrainians will be. The story by Spc. Brianne Kim about the Redlegs of the 81st Stryker Brigade Combat Team gets us quite a bit closer to the experience. They will be trading off increased setup time for superior capabilities.

Will my donations actually go to Ukraine? A tip on activities of some charities we know do the job, large and small.

On 27 March 1952 the Army approved the establishment of a Psychological Warfare Center at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. In June 1952, COL Aaron Bank stood up the 10th Special Forces Group. Both were due to the efforts of (BG) Robert A. McClure, OCPW, who oversaw UW activities in Korea. In "A Combat First" Kenneth Finlayson for ARSOF's *Veritas* magazine, brings out the details of that inception of PSYOP and SF as enduring institutions within the army. Ultimately, 99 Special Forces men, (77 officers and 22 enlisted soldiers) deployed from Fort Bragg in five groups between February and September 1953. Thus SF began its first combat roles under that name.

Our Kenn Miller is one of many fans of the noted author, frequently referred to as "Bitter Bierce", and he enthusiastically brings to life the background of Ambrose Bierce. Here is a link we previously published to a video of one of Bierce's stories: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3jJwPmlhbd0>

The much anticipated "FALLEN SOLDIER, Part 2 — Death in Quezon City" is the story of the remarkable Green Beret, Nick Rowe, a Vietnam POW escapee, and later creator of SERE, as he once again volunteers for a clearly dangerous assignment. Retired Green Beret author Greg Walker once again expertly peels back the layers of secrecy to lead us to the truth.

A collection of podcasts that most Green Berets will enjoy are being collected based on input from our chapter members and can be found on Chapter 78's YouTube channel.

We are finally able to divulge more of the plans for the future National Special Forces Green Beret Memorial,™ previously displayed at the SFA International Convention in Las Vegas. It is envisioned as an inspiring focal point for all of Special Forces going forward.

And, of course, our usual chapter meeting pics and comments.

Please enjoy.

How Miller, *Sentinel* Editor

From the President | May 2022



Gregory Horton
President SFA Ch. 78

Well, another interesting month was had by all for this April 2022! The best part for me was when an old friend spoke at our Chapter meeting. Judge Nick Thompson, our guest speaker, enlightened us on the relationship between Special Forces and PSYOP. When I left SF to go into the PSYOP arena, I was fortunate enough to be on the same team as SP4 Thompson. We had some great times as we learned our craft. Because of his expertise, Nick was deployed to Bosnia, Sri Lanka, and Middle East. Nick and his partner were responsible for teaching the Sri Lankan military the fundamentals of PSYOP and assisting them in the development of a viable program. During his deployments to the Middle East he worked with Special Ops on several classified operations. After his very active PSYOP career, because he was an Assistant District Attorney in Orange County, he decided to apply for and was accepted to work in the JAG office. To top it off, Nick ran for and won a Superior Court Judge's position where he remains today.

During the month, I received a request from a Texas SFA member to check on a retired SF LTC who was in assisted living residential care. His wife was having some problems navigating the VA system. Chapter 78 swung into action and contacted the wife and are working to assist her and to answer any questions that they have.

The Chapter is involved with four ROTC programs and have prepared certificates, ordered medals and ribbons, and secured presenters for their awards ceremony to the top Cadet. The Board sends its thanks out to all of the Chapter members who volunteered to be presenters and for supporting these future Army officers.

I also want to take a moment to commend **Gary Macnamara** who has been a major player in our ROTC Program. I am positive that his presence at the awards ceremonies and other ROTC events has inspired a good percentage of these young cadets to take a shot at a Special Forces career. I have known Gary since we stood at attention in the Los Angeles Police Department Academy as members of Recruit Class 1-73 and I can attest to his bearing, knowledge base, and performance. So to Gary and the others, thank you for a job well done.

Len Fein is currently working with the staff at the USS Iowa Museum to have our chapter meeting aboard and for a tour. Len is also working with SFA Chapter 12 to see if we can make it a combined Chapter meeting. We will be putting out information as we get it.

Our May meeting will be one you don't want to miss. In this day and age in our crazy State of California, you could be confronted with any of number of incidents where you may encounter a person or persons who have a severe bleeding problem. SOFTech (<https://sotechtactical.com/>) will be putting on a "Stop The Bleed" class, where you will be able to recognize a life-threatening bleeding situation and take

effective action to stop it. As you all know, the person closest to a serious incident victim may be the one who is able to save a life. I urge you to attend this meeting to learn current techniques in order to make a difference when a bleeding emergency occurs.

Don't forget the Colorado 2022 SFA Convention is being held from 20-24 September, 2022. If you haven't done so, get your registration and hotel room ASAP. There has been a lot of interest in this year's convention and the program is going to be great.

I received information that our Past President, Bruce has returned home from the hospital after another round of treatment. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers as he fights to beat this insidious disease. Thanks.

Our Next Chapter Meeting 21 May 2022

TIME: Breakfast 0800 — Meeting 0830

LOCATION: The Pub at Fiddler's Green

ADDRESS: 4745 Yorktown Ave., Bldg. 19
Los Alamitos, CQ 90720-5176
(Joint Forces Training Base, Los Alamitos)

Greg Horton SGM (Ret)
President
SFA Chapter 78



Chapter member David Gibbs presented the SFA Chapter 78 award of Excellence to Cadet Alden Wendt during the Claremont McKenna ROTC Golden Lions Battalion Military Ball. (photo courtesy David Gibbs)



affordablecommunityliving

ACL Afghan Refugee Community Update

By Debra Holm

ACL continues their work resettling Afghan refugees being brought into the communities of Mojave and Ridgecrest. A total of 12 families have been housed since November/December and more are on the way.

Project Manager Nimo has expressed the community's appreciation for the recent donations made by SFA Chapter 23 and also Chapter 78's Richard Simonian to help purchase food for incoming families.

On April 2nd the community members began observing their first Ramadan, Islam's holiest month, in their new homes. Ramadan, observed for 30 days, is a time of spiritual reflection, self-improvement, and heightened devotion and worship. During this time, fasting (sawm) begins at dawn and ends at sunset.

Throughout Ramadan work has continued, as is customary. The men of the community have been working in Barstow beautifying the grounds of Santiago Desert View Estates. The women tend

to their households and to feeding their very hungry families. The children in the community, along with Nadia, attend school. Nimo continues to work with the new families, helping them to complete necessary paperwork to obtain id's, health care, etc.

Overall, the needs of the community have not changed much. Because new families are still being brought in, the list you will find on the Chapter website still represents their needs.

I recently spoke to Nadia to see if the community could use a sewing machine. My family had one, and a large amount of sewing supplies, we'd been looking to donate since before the pandemic. Apparently the women of the community had been asking about sewing machines — most prefer to make their own clothing. They are accustomed to using very old treadle machines, but very basic, running, sewing machines would be a great help. Also any sewing supplies would be greatly appreciated. Being able to sew again for their families would bring a bit of normalcy and would be a great source of comfort as they settle into their new lives. ♦

A full list of community needs and contact information is available at:

<https://www.specialforces78.com/acl-afghan-refugee-housing-project/>



TEAMHOUSE

Motorcycles Golf Fishing Workout Running Travel Softball Basketball
Pickleball Baseball Horseback Riding Archery Shooting/Marksmanship Paintball
Sailing Skeet shooting Waterskiing Snow Skiing Surfing Swimming Cycling Dancing
Piano Guitar Singing Saxophone Violin Bass Drums Ukulele Cars Video Games
Marketing Drones Martial Arts Hiking Blacksmith Photography Videography Gunsmith Football

SHARE YOUR INTERESTS.

Drawing Pottery Sewing Tatting Taxidermy Hunting Model Building Amateur Radio Yoga
Acting Metalworking Woodworking Cooking Beer Brewing BBQ/Grilling Painting Chess
Bowling Mountain Biking Mountain Climbing Endurance Events Triathlon Crossfit
Weightlifting Texas Hold'em RVing Tennis Meditation Pilot / Flying Rugby
Card Games Volleyball Racquetball Disc Golf Writing Spartan Races

Share your knowledge, interests, and support
with the nationwide network of SFA team members.

Visit teamhouse.specialforcesassociation.org.
Login and update your member information today.

Book Review

ALPHA: Eddie Gallagher and the War for the Soul of the Navy SEALs

by David Philipps



Kenn Miller

By Kenn Miller

When I first saw the title *ALPHA* on the library shelf, I picked this book up hoping that it would be about an alpha wolf or a silverback gorilla.

Instead "Alpha" stood for Alpha Platoon, SEAL Team 7, and perhaps for Eddie Gallagher, the platoon chief, who stabbed an enemy prisoner to death, bragged of shooting a little girl, and apparently made a hobby of shooting civilian targets. Members of Gallagher's platoon

reported their chief to their commanding officer, who was a close friend and defender of Gallagher. When the platoon returned to Coronado from Mosul, what had once been a cohesive SEAL platoon split over Gallagher, and eventually in came the Navy, and civilian lawyers, and a court marshal — Eddie Gallagher became something of a celebrity.

After four days of reading through this long, dense, and depressing book containing so many people it was difficult to keep up with almost anyone except for Eddie Gallagher himself, his apparently perjurious savior, Corey "The Ghost" Scott, and his fan, President Donald J. Trump. But there is a second generation SEAL named Miller whose integrity stands out in this mess.

It is usually fun for current or former Army Green Berets and Rangers to laugh at SEAL Team scandals, but there isn't any humor in this scandal and this book.

While David Philipps obviously worked very diligently on this book, I can't recommend it to readers of the *Sentinel*. If you yearn for more SEAL scandals you might want to wait a short while. My local librarian says there is a book about the scandals, mistakes, and misconduct of SEAL Team Six (DEVGRU) coming. I think the title of that book is something like "Code Over Country."

I hope that book is more fun than *ALPHA* was for me.

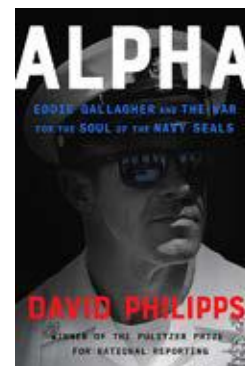
[ALPHA: Eddie Gallagher and the War for the Soul of the Navy SEALs](#)

By David Philipps

Crown (August 24, 2021)

480 pages

NOTE: *Code Over Country: The Tragedy and Corruption of SEAL Team Six* by Matthew Cole has been released and is available.



How was your transition out of the Army and into civilian life?

From Ed Richter SFA4Life Committee Chair:

While some research has focused on the experience of transitioning from military to civilian, it is yet to be explored when focusing specifically on Special Forces veterans.

Please consider sharing your experience by completing this anonymous online survey. This voluntary survey is part of a research project I am conducting at the University of Kentucky to better understand the transitional experience and needs of Special Forces veterans from all generations. This is a chance to share and tell and clarify the SF story. This survey should take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

To participate, scan the QR code or visit https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eu0nthromy-3FC4Z?Agency=SFA1



Redlegs train on new M777 Howitzer



NOTE: On April 21, 2022, the [Pentagon announced another \\$800 million in security assistance headed to Ukraine](#). Included in this 8th drawdown package are 72 155 mm howitzers with 144,000 artillery rounds. This shipment is addition to 18 howitzers, including 40,000 artillery shells sent the previous week — a total of 90 howitzers with ammunition.

Guardsmen from 2nd Battalion, 146th Field Artillery Regiment, 81st Stryker Brigade Combat Team fire their new M777 Howitzers for the first time on April 12, 2017 at Joint Base Lewis-McChord. (U.S. Army)

By Spc. Brianne Kim

April 19, 2017, https://www.army.mil/article/186301/redlegs_train_on_new_m777_howitzer

JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD, Wash. - The breach opens, a pair of cannon crewmen load one 155 millimeter caliber artillery round into the chamber of the 35 foot weapon. The smell of gunpowder lingers in the air as the team prepares for the inevitable blast that will shake the nearly five ton M777 Howitzer backwards and forwards.

The gun chief screams ready, the lanyard is tightened and with a quick movement, the 95 pound round is shot nearly four miles over the Joint Base Lewis-McChord impact area and with a thunderous boom the round makes impact and dirt and dust fly up into the sky.

It's just another day of doing what the Redlegs from 2nd Battalion, 146th Field Artillery Regiment do. For many though this is the first time they have fired the M777. Part of the on-going Stryker transformation called for the unit to trade their M109 tracked howitzers for the more versatile towed behind M777.

"It's been a little bit easier [transition] than we thought it would be," said Lt. Col. Jack Mushallo, battalion commander, 2nd Battalion, 146th Field Artillery Regiment. "The M777 has a lot of the same systems as the M109 with the biggest difference being that the new howitzers require more manual operations than the old M109."

The M109 Howitzer is much like a tank — soldiers sit inside and simply stop if they need to deploy any rounds. The M777 must be towed and is completely inoperable until it is assembled.

"The biggest change is probably that everyone's involved, it's a young man's game because it's physical," Mushallo said. "Before

the [M109 Howitzer] they did it all aside from lifting the rounds in, you didn't have to traverse any wheels or dig spades in and it wasn't as physical. This is a lot more physically demanding than the [M109]."

Even with the increase in manual labor, soldiers of the 146th are still excited about the new equipment, learning how to operate it and getting to work as a full team to operate the M777.

"It's something new, it's something exciting," exclaimed Sgt. Gerardo Najera. "This is my first time actually firing one of these and being a chief on it so it's exciting."

The gun chief is responsible for overseeing his crew's operation of their howitzer.

"I have to make sure everything is on point. If anything gets messed up it's on me so I pretty much have to verify my whole gun section," Najera explained. "I verify that we use the right fuse, right ammunition and right powder. I verify that we're laid right, I verify anything pretty much that has to do with the fire mission; I verify everything."

A gun crew consists of seven to 10 soldiers who must work together cohesively to properly operate the new M777. The amount of communication required when operating the new weapons is vitally important, leading to better teamwork and stronger bonds throughout the 146th.

"Now every single soldier that's on this crew has a job, and it takes all of them working together to operate the howitzer effectively," said Mushallo. "It's like a symphony, the conductor needs to know what everyone is doing and everyone is working together as one team, one unit." ♦

CHARITIES

Effectively Helping in

UKRAINE

By How Miller

NOTE: <https://www.specialforces78.com/support-ukraine/> is a good resource for charities resources

Charities large and small have been scrambling to keep pace with the surge in needs in Ukraine. Besides the good charities that you are donating to, you might be asking yourself if there are some who are delivering critical goods and services right now, where and when it is needed in Ukraine.

On the large end: **Direct Relief** has earned a 4/4 Star rating on Charity Navigator. This charitable organization is headquartered in Santa Barbara, CA. Check out their website at [DirectRelief.org](https://www.directrelief.org) for news and compelling pictures. Here is a quote today from their Facebook page: "This week, 133 pallets worth of medical aid left Direct Relief's warehouse for distribution to Ukraine. Included in the shipments were 23 pallets of cancer treatment meds to the Ministry of Health in Ukraine, and a fourth 50-bed field hospital content kit donated from California Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

Since February 24, Direct Relief has provided medical aid weighing more than 300 tons in weight and including over 61 million defined doses of medication to the country, with more on the way".

In case you don't think they have a large part of their focus on Ukraine, take a look at the flags in the picture below, which I took of the front of their building on 4.30.22, a Saturday.



Doctors Without Borders/Medecines sans Frontieres (MSF):

For up to date info on what they have been urgently doing lately, visit their website www.doctorswithoutborders.org.

Long known for going anywhere, including very dangerous places where conflict is depriving citizens of much needed medical care, this four-star rated charity is very much akin to what SF medics do, except they don't have the luxury of sometimes having an A team to protect them. Many of these amazing medical professionals die in war zones doing what they can and saving many lives.

From their website: "MSF has a longstanding presence in Ukraine, including in parts of the eastern region that have been affected by armed conflict since 2014. A large part of our work in Ukraine from 2014 to 2021 was responding to the needs of patients with HIV, tuberculosis, or other chronic illnesses. Due to the current war, we have halted normal activities and have started emergency activities in Ukraine. We currently have teams in Kyiv, Lviv, Vinnytsia, Zhytomir, Dnipro, Kharkiv, Odessa, Mykolaiv, Poltava, Bila Tserkva, Uzhhorod and Ivano-Frankivsk. We also have teams in Poland, Moldova, Hungary, Slovakia, Russia, and Belarus. MSF is an independent and impartial organization committed to providing medical humanitarian assistance to people affected by the war no matter who they are or where they are."

UNICEF/UNHCR in Ukraine and environs: UNICEF's emergency response teams — who have been on the ground in Ukraine since 2014, addressing impacts of conflict on children in the eastern region — have significantly scaled up operations all across the country since war broke out Feb. 24, 2022

UNICEF response teams have been on the ground on both sides of the contact line for the past eight years, delivering humanitarian assistance to impacted communities. The socio-economic and health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic only compounded existing hardships. UNICEF has been steadily ramping up support focusing on the hardest-hit areas. See more at <https://www.unicefusa.org/war-ukraine>.

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC): At press time they are helping civilians evacuate from the Azovstal steel plant in Mariupol, along with many other activities (<https://www.redcross.org/about-us/news-and-events/news/2022/ukraine-red-cross-delivers-aid-to-families.html#:~:text=Since%20the%20conflict%20intensified%20in,than%20400%2C000%20people%20across%20Ukraine>).

In Mariupol, Ukraine, the ICRC is making a continual effort to deliver urgently needed aid to the city. On April 6, an ICRC team led a convoy of buses and private cars carrying about 1,000 people to Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine. The civilians transported in the humanitarian convoy had fled Mariupol on their own. The ICRC team had tried over the course of five days to reach Mariupol, and came within 12 miles of the city, but security conditions on the ground made it impossible to enter.

There are also smaller, but highly effective, efforts, such as former Green Beret Doc Padgett's team, **Refugee Relief International, Inc (RRII)**. They recently sent a team into Ukraine and have posted an after action report at www.refugeerelief.org. In addition to the RRII website, SFA Chapter 23 is also collecting donations for this group. You can contribute to this effort at [specialforces78.com](https://www.specialforces78.com) at the link provided at the beginning of this article. ❖

A COMBAT FIRST

Army SF Soldiers in Korea, 1953-1955 — Part 1



By Kenneth Finlayson

From the ARSOF publication, [Veritas](#), Vol. 9, No. 1, 2013

https://arsof-history.org/articles/v9n1_sf_in_korea_page_1.html

The Korean War is noteworthy in Army history for the first use of Army Special Forces (SF) soldiers in a combat theater. In 1953, ninety-nine graduates from the first two Special Forces Qualification Course classes deployed to Korea as individual replacements. Working alongside their conventional Army counterparts, they performed a variety of missions associated with the training and employment of guerrilla forces. Two, Second Lieutenant (2LT) Ivan M. Castro and Captain (CPT) Douglas W. Payne, paid the ultimate price for their service and were the first SF soldiers to die in combat. Some of the SF men remained in Korea until 1955, nearly two years after the signing of the Armistice. This article documents the experience of the SF soldiers who trained, advised, and ultimately demobilized the guerrillas.¹

The Korean War (1950-1953) ended in a negotiated ceasefire with the armies of North Korea and Communist China opposing the forces of South Korea, the United States and the United Nations coalition along the 38th Parallel. The first year of fast-paced, fluid, ground combat up and down the Korean peninsula was followed by a gradual stalemate as the armies of both sides hardened their defensive positions and jockeyed for control of key terrain along the Main Line of Resistance

(MLR).² While the conventional war ground to a halt, unconventional warfare (UW) operations continued on both coasts.

Far East Command (FEC) began to develop an UW capability in early 1951 by taking advantage of the large numbers of anti-Communist North Korean guerrillas on the northwest islands of Korea. This led to the formation of the Attrition Section, Miscellaneous Division, G-3, Eighth U.S. Army (EUSA) on 15 January 1951.³ The guerrilla unit went through a dizzying series of name changes and command relationships; from the Attrition Section, EUSA G-3, to the Miscellaneous Group, 8086th Army Unit (AU), EUSA on 5 May 1951; then to the Guerrilla Section under the FEC/Liaison Group (FEC/LG) (in Tokyo) and the FEC/Liaison Detachment, Korea (FEC/LD[K]) (in Taegu). On 10 December 1951 the section was renamed the 8240th Army Unit, FEC G-2. Ultimately it came under the operational control of the Combined Command for Reconnaissance Activities, Korea (CCRAK), 8242nd AU on 27 September 1952.⁴ Throughout these many permutations, the focus remained on the guerrillas.

On 15 January 1953, another unit was formed, the Recovery Command, 8007th AU. The 8007th also used guerrillas to collect information related to UN prisoners of war and gather general combat intelligence. Like the guerrilla command, the Recovery Command fell under the staff supervision of the FEC G-2. In September, 1953 it became the 8112th Army Unit.⁵ Most of these changes reflected

attempts to create a theater-level command to direct UW operations, but had little effect on the basic mission of the guerrillas and the American advisors who trained, supplied and employed them. As the war progressed, the requirements for support grew.

The mission of the guerrilla command, as defined in the Table of Distribution was twofold. The first was: “to develop and direct partisan warfare by training in sabotage indigenous groups and individuals both within Allied lines and behind enemy lines,” and second; “to supply partisan groups and agents operating behind enemy lines by means of water and air transportation.”⁶ To accomplish these missions, in early 1952 the guerrilla command divided into two elements for operations and support.

Ultimately, three sub-commands controlled guerrilla operations; initially LEOPARD BASE and later WOLFPACK on the West Coast, and Task Force (TF) KIRKLAND on the East Coast. The support element, BAKER Section, was initially located at the EUSA Ranger Training School at Kijang near Pusan, and used C-46s and C-47s to support airborne training and to conduct aerial resupply and agent insertions. BAKER Section later moved to K-16 Airfield outside Seoul, after the capital was retaken a second time.⁷

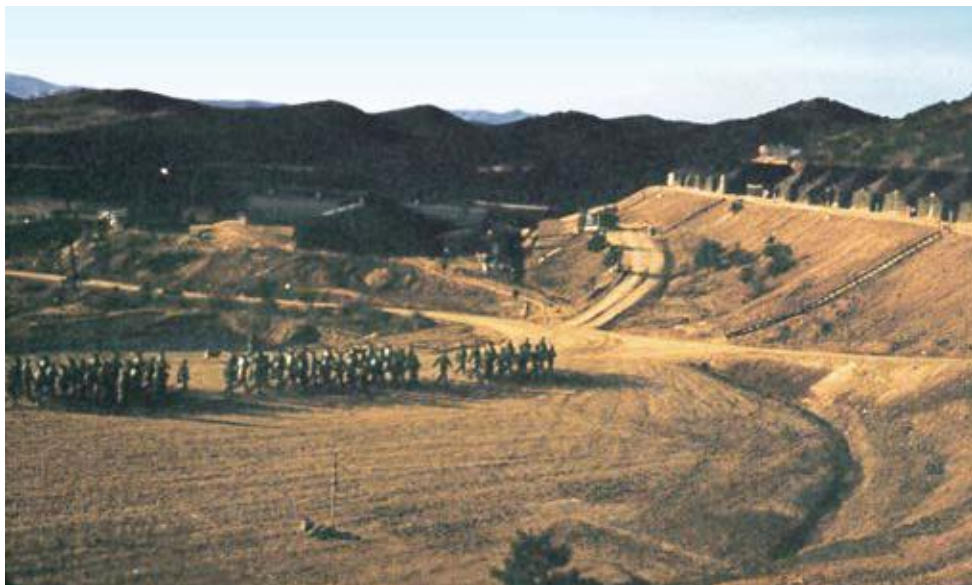
On the west coast, LEOPARD BASE, originally called WILLIAM ABLE BASE, was located on Paengnyŏng-do.⁸ Formed in February 1951, it supported roughly twelve thousand men organized into fifteen units referred to as numbered Donkeys. The LEOPARD area of operations was generally above the 38th Parallel to the west of the Ongjin Peninsula, reaching as far north as Taehwa-do near the mouth of the Yalu River that formed the Chinese- North Korean border.⁹ Eight Donkeys were located on Cho-do and the remaining seven on other islands. An advisor to Donkey 1, Sergeant (SGT) Alex R. Lizardo’s experience was typical.

Enlisting in July 1951, Alex Lizardo attended Infantry Basic Training at Fort Ord, California and Airborne School at Fort Benning, Georgia. Promoted to Sergeant (SGT) within eleven months of enlisting, he was sent to the FEC/LD (K). Arriving in June 1952, SGT Lizardo remained there for the next six months. After returning to Camp Drake, Japan for additional training, he was assigned to LEOPARD in November 1952 to be an advisor to Donkey 1.¹⁰

“Donkey 1 was out on Kirin-do. We Americans did not usually accompany the raid-

ing parties on-shore,” recounted SGT Lizardo. “I was not a school-trained Special Forces guy, but I was later awarded the SF Tab [and Combat Infantryman’s Badge] for my time in 8240.”¹¹ His assignment to LEOPARD coincided with the height of guerrilla activity. LEOPARD had been operational a year when the third guerrilla element, WOLFPACK, was organized (January 1952).

WOLFPACK, composed of eight sub-units designated WOLFPACK 1 thru 8, totaled 3,800 partisans.¹² The headquarters was on the large island of Kangwha-do west of Seoul. WOLFPACK 1 performed base security on Kangwha-do. The other units were located on adjacent islands south of the 38th Parallel.



In 1953 the LEOPARD and WOLFPACK units were reorganized into Partisan Infantry Regiments. American advisors worked with the guerrilla chain-of-command at the regiment down to the guerrilla companies. (U.S. Army)



A guerrilla formation. Both LEOPARD BASE and WOLFPACK organizations were supplied and equipped by the U.S. The level of support depended on the unit strength, a number that often varied widely from one day to the next. (U.S. Army)

“Our mission was to harass and interdict the rear areas. We conducted raids and ambushes and laid mines along the MSRs [Main Supply Routes].” — MAJ Richard M. Ripley

WOLFPACK conducted operations behind enemy lines in the southern portion of the Ongjin Peninsula.¹³ Armor Major (MAJ) Richard M. Ripley commanded WOLFPACK in the spring of 1952. “Our mission was to harass and interdict the rear areas. We conducted raids and ambushes and laid mines along the MSRs [Main Supply Routes].”¹⁴ As the war stalemated, LEOPARD and WOLFPACK grew with the arrival of more anti-Communist North Korean refugees.

By late 1952, the guerrilla units on the West Coast were actively raiding the North Korean mainland to harass the enemy and disrupt traffic along the MSRs.¹⁵ LEOPARD reported a strength of 7,002 guerrillas and WOLFPACK, 7,015.¹⁶ A compilation of the two unit operational reports for the week of 15-21 November 1952 reflected 63 raids and 25 patrols against the North Korean coast, claiming an estimated 1,382 enemy casualties.¹⁷ The increasingly robust partisan forces (and their many dependents), were difficult to control, supply, and feed. The situation dictated a reorganization in order to streamline operations.

In 1953, Guerrilla Command labeled their sub-elements the United Nations Partisan Forces in Korea (UNPFK), but retained the headquarters names LEOPARD and WOLFPACK.¹⁸ The separate Donkeys and Wolfpack sub-elements were reorganized into five infantry regiments and one airborne infantry regiment. The non-airborne units were called the Partisan Infantry Regiments (PIR) 1st, 2nd, 5th and 6th. TF KIRKLAND, conducting operations on the East Coast, became the 3rd PIR. The airborne regiment became the 1st Partisan Airborne Infantry Regiment (PAIR). The regiments retained their original North Korean leaders and referred to themselves as Wolfpacks and Donkeys. American advisors worked at the regimental level and below or served as UNPFK staff. It was during this period of reorganization that the request for Special Forces soldiers to serve in Korea was initiated by Brigadier General (BG) Robert A. McClure.

From the beginning of the war, McClure, the Army Chief of the Office of Psychological Warfare (OCPW), closely followed the UW activities in Korea. He was dissatisfied with the guerrilla operations, calling them “minor in consequence and sporadic in nature.”¹⁹ The Psywar general was actively working to develop a special operations capability in the Army.

Within the OCPW, McClure created a Special Operations Division, staffed with veterans of World War II UW units. On his staff was Colonel (COL) Aaron Bank (the Office of Strategic Services), COL Melvin R. Blair (Merrill’s Marauders), and COL Wendell Fertig and Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Russell W. Volckmann (Philippine guerrilla leaders). After nearly a year of staff work, on 27 March 1952 the Army approved the establishment of a Psychological Warfare Center at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.²⁰



Origins of the term ‘Donkeys’

The origins of the term ‘Donkey’ for identifying West Coast guerrilla units are unclear, but its use began early at WILLIAM ABLE Base. One probable origination is related to COL McGee’s first speech to the guerrilla leaders on Paengnyong-do. In that meeting he advised them to not be rash, but instead “behave like the mule which [when entangled in wire] stubbornly, patiently awaits the arrival of outside help.” His interpreter substituted the more familiar ‘donkey’ for mule, and the name apparently stuck. Another possible origin was put forward by an early Donkey leader who stated “the generator of the [AN/GRC-9] radio looked like a Korean donkey or ass. When you crank the generator...you have to ride on the generator which looks like a rider on the back of a donkey.” Regardless of how the term originated, individual guerrilla units began referring to themselves after McGee’s visit as ‘Donkeys.’ Units became identified as a numbered ‘Donkey’ (example: ‘Donkey 6’).

“Darragh Letter,” 13; “UN Partisan Forces,” 93-94; see also Kenneth Finlayson, “Wolfpacks and Donkeys: Special Forces Soldiers in the Korean War,” *Veritas* 3, No. 3 (2007), 32-40.



Upper left, the Headquarters of the 8240th AU in Seoul. The administration and logistical support to the American advisors emanated from this unit of the guerrilla command. Upper right, the anti-Communist guerrillas occupying the islands off the coast of Korea provided a valuable source of manpower to the UN forces. American Special Forces advisors helped to train the guerrillas in the late stages of the war. Lower left, Far East Command SSI patch. Lower right, Eighth United States Army SSI patch (U.S. Army)

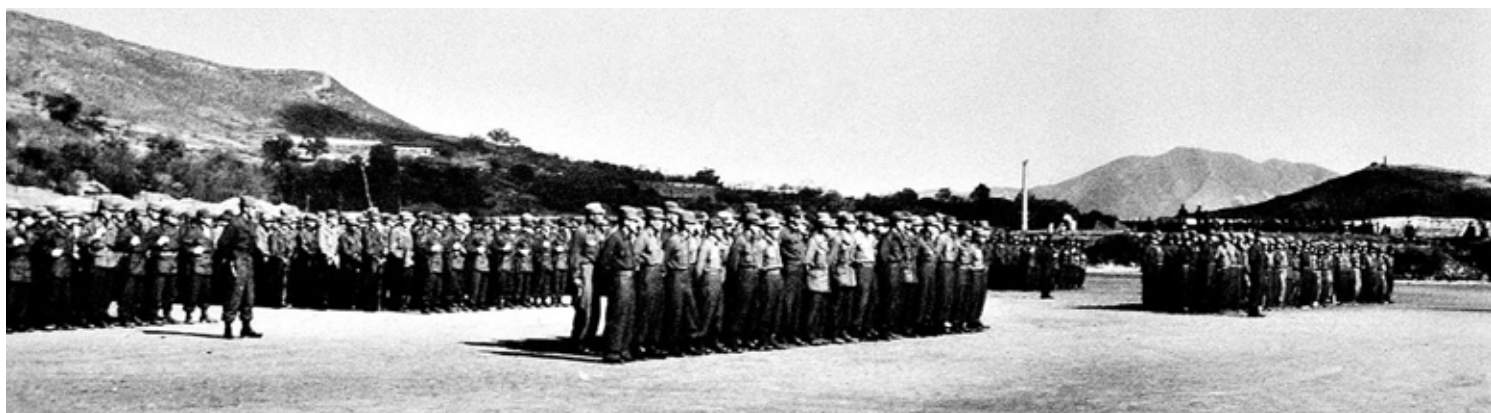
The Center organization included a Special Forces Department responsible for the training of the new 'Special Forces' soldiers. Shortly after the founding of the Center, in June 1952, COL Aaron Bank stood up the 10th Special Forces Group (SFG). As trained Special Forces troops became available, BG McClure repeatedly urged the Far East Command to request them, sending messages in November 1952 and again in January 1953.²¹

FEC finally asked that fifty-five officers and nine enlisted men from the 10th SFG be levied for Korea. COL Fillmore K. Mearns, head of the Special Forces Department, visited Korea in early 1953 to see the guerrilla operations first-hand.²² Soon after his visit, the first contingent of SF troops arrived in theater. Ultimately, ninety-nine Special Forces men, (seventy-seven officers and twenty-two enlisted sol-

diers) deployed from Fort Bragg in five groups between February and September 1953.²³

"We were put in the Far East Intelligence School. The three-week course covered maritime operations, raids, ambushes, demo, and put a lot of emphasis on the Korean tides and their effect on operations." — 1LT Charles W. Norton

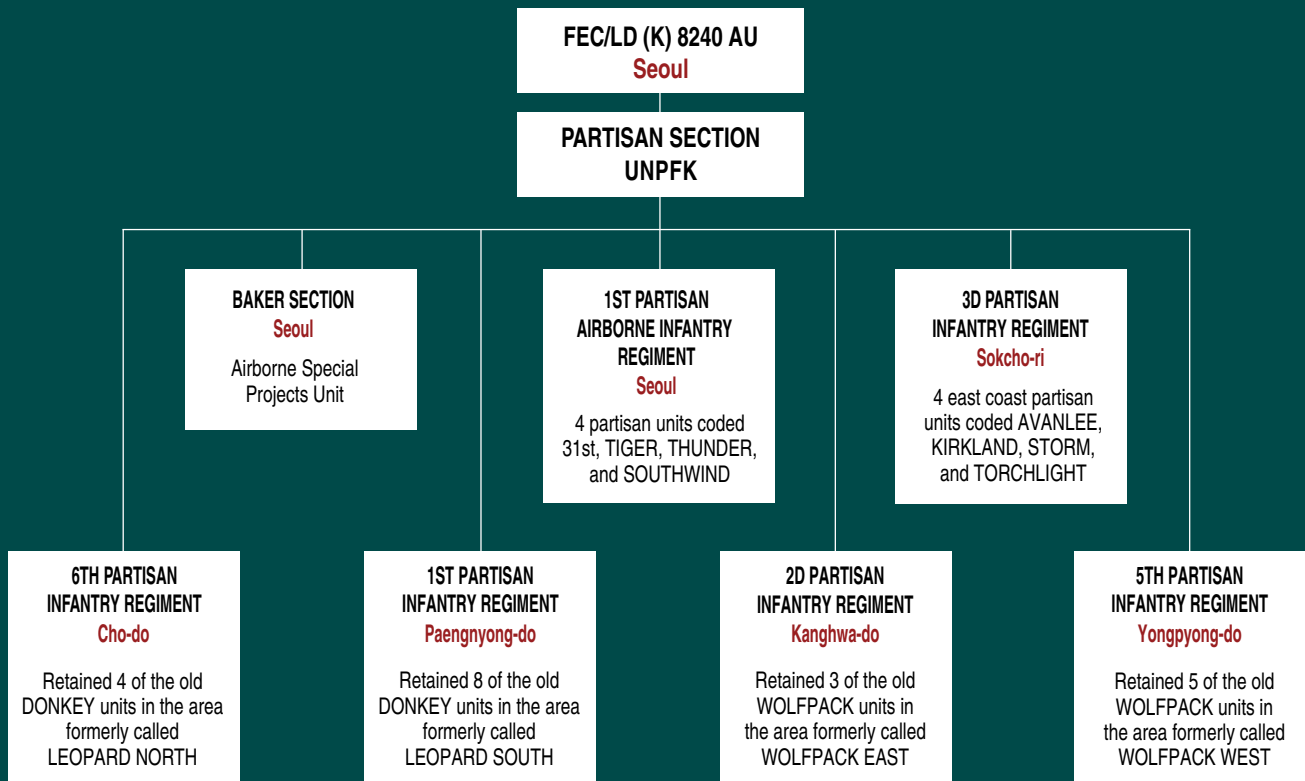
After graduating from Class #2 of the Special Forces Qualification Course, newly-promoted Infantry First Lieutenant (1LT) Charles W. 'Charley' Norton reported to Camp Stoneman, CA, enroute to Korea. As part of the fourth cycle, 1LT Norton flew to Camp Drake, Japan by Air Force C-54 Skymaster. There the new SF arrivals received additional training before going to Korea.



WOLFPACK 1 in formation on Kangwha-do. After brief stints as staff officers, 1LTs Charles W. Norton and Joseph Johnson served as advisors with WOLFPACK 1. (U.S. Army)

Organization of Partisan Operating-Level Units

April 1953



1LT Myron J. Layton (L) and 1LT Murl Tullis were graduates of Special Forces Class #2. Assigned to the 6th PIR in April 1953, Layton found his primary mission was “to keep the training schedule moving” as the war wound down. (U.S. Army)

“We were put in the Far East Intelligence School. The three-week course covered maritime operations, raids, ambushes, demo, and put a lot of emphasis on the Korean tides and their effect on operations,” Norton recalled.²⁴ Not everyone in the class was Special Forces. “There were Military Intelligence guys who were going to run agents into North Korea. We had maybe thirty guys in the class.”²⁵ 1LT Rueben L. Mooradian’s impression of that preparatory training was of “two ridiculous weeks of intelligence training and a mission planning exercise to capture a North Korean general.”²⁶ After completing the course, the Special Forces soldiers were sent to the guerilla command headquarters in Seoul where each received orders.

1LT Norton was assigned to LTC Paul Sapieha’s 2nd PIR on Kanghwa-do. “My first job was as the S-3 [operations officer], which I held for about six weeks. [Second Lieutenant (2LT)] Joe Johnson came out with me. He was the S-4 [supply officer]. His job was to keep track of rice.”²⁷ The 2nd PIR had three battalions; the 1st and 2nd conducting operations and the 3rd battalion providing base security and training



Ninety-nine Special Forces soldiers deployed to Korea from the 10th Special Forces Group. COL Aaron Bank, commander of the 10th SFG (2nd from left) and COL Charles H. Karlstadt, Commandant of the Psywar Center and School (4th from left) observe 10th SF Group training. (U.S. Army)

new recruits. The guerrillas received marksmanship and demolitions training from the American advisors. After his brief stint as S-3, 1LT Norton moved across the island to advise the WOLFPACK 1 commander. By the time the Special Forces soldiers arrived, the guerrilla command had a well-developed supply system and good medical support.

During World War II, Master Sergeant (MSG/E-7) Robert W. Downey was a medic in the artillery. He was assigned to the 1st PIR in March 1952. "We received our medical supplies through the FEC supply system. We had Dr. Claman [1LT Maurice A. Claman, a surgeon] who covered all the islands on a two-to-four week circuit. Our MEDEVAC capability was good, [light fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters] out of Inch'on Airport back to the 121st Evac Hospital on the mainland."²⁸ MSG Downey's duties included medical training for the guerrillas and taking care of the dependents on the island.

"I tried to conduct classes on basic first aid for those selected to act as medics," said Downey. "More time was devoted to treating the family members present. We saw lots for colds, skin rashes, and infections. There were so many family members around and they constantly needed medical treatment."²⁹ For the SF advisors, keeping the guerrillas equipped, trained, and fed was their first priority.



A young guerrilla with an M-1 Garand rifle. Boots were not the only equipment that was often too big for the user. (U.S. Army)

1LT Myron J. Layton, another graduate of the second Special Forces Qualification Class, underwent training at Camp Drake, before being assigned to the 6th PIR on Yong-yu-do. “Our job was to keep the training schedule moving, going from one company to another. Raids and ambushes were the main subjects,” said Layton. In addition to training, the Americans were responsible for the resupply of the units on the widely scattered islands. “The LSTs [Landing Ship, Tank] would bring the supplies, 100-pound bags of rice, and we would hump it off the beach. There were C-rations for us,” recalled Layton.³⁰ In addition to rice, uniforms, equipment, and ammunition were given to the guerrillas.

The equipment issued was not always first-rate. “We received uniforms for issue from the hospital. Many had bullet holes in them,” said Layton. “We’d get size twelve boots for guys with size six feet. Most of them wore tennis shoes.”³¹ ♦

PART TWO: In next month's issue we will continue with what the nascent SF presence contributed to the war and formed a basis for what the 5th Group and others did in Vietnam.

The author would like to thank the many veterans who gave generously of their time for interviews and provided the photographs incorporated into this article.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Kenneth Finlayson is the USASOC Deputy Command Historian. He earned his PhD from the University of Maine, and is a retired Army officer. Current research interests include Army special operations during the Korean War, special operations aviation, and World War II special operations units.

Endnotes

- 1 This article is based on an earlier effort, “Wolfpacks and Donkeys: Special Forces Soldiers in the Korean War”, by Kenneth Finlayson, published in *Veritas*, Vol 3, No 3, 2007, pgs 31-40. It incorporates material gathered since 2007.
- 2 With few significant changes, the Main Line of Resistance in October 1951 became the Demilitarized Zone with the signing of the Armistice. It remains in existence today. See Walter G. Hermes, *Truce Tent and Fighting Front* (Washington DC, Center of Military History, 1992), 17-20, 36-40, 45-47, 507-508.
- 3 HQ, United States Army Forces, Far East, Technical Memorandum ORO-T-64, *UN Partisan Warfare in Korea, 1951-1954*, dated 19 September 1956, U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center, Carlisle Barracks, PA 30-36. Hereafter referred to as the ORO Study.
- 4 Michael Krivdo, “Creating an Army Guerrilla Command: Part One, The First Six Months,” *Veritas: The Journal of Army Special Operations History*, Vol 8 No. 2, 2012, 12-26. (For the purpose of clarity, the various permutations of the guerrilla unit name will be referred to collectively as guerrilla command unless otherwise noted).
- 5 Gordan L. Rottman, *Korean War Order of Battle: United States, United Nations, and Communist Ground, Naval, and Air Forces, 1950-1953* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Publishing, 2002), 15, 57.
- 6 Headquarters, Eighth U.S. Army Korea, Table of Distribution No 80-8086, Miscellaneous Group, 8086th Army Unit, undated, Record Group 319, National Archives, Washington DC.
- 7 ORO Study, 35.
- 8 *Do* means island in Hangul (Korean). Thus Cho-do is Cho Island.
- 9 ORO Study, 35. Figures are based on the disposition of partisan units in June 1952.
- 10 Alex R. Lizardo, 8240th Army Unit, interview by Dr. Charles H. Briscoe, 22 February 2010, History Support Center, Fort Bragg, NC.
- 11 Alex R. Lizardo, 8240th Army Unit, interview by Dr. Charles H. Briscoe, 9 March 2010, History Support Center, Fort Bragg, NC.
- 12 Richard M. Ripley, 8240th AU, interview by Dr. Kenneth Finlayson, 14 August 2007, USASOC History Support Center, Fort Bragg, NC.
- 13 ORO Study, 31.
- 14 Ripley interview. 14 August 2007.
- 15 Ripley interview. 14 August 2007.
- 16 ORO Study, pg 77.
- 17 Paddock, The 8240th Army Unit, *Special Forces: The First Fifty Years* (Tampa FL, Faircount LLC, 2002), 85.
- 18 Alfred H. Paddock, Jr., *U.S. Army Special Warfare: Its Origins*, (Lawrence, KS, University Press of Kansas, 2002) 106. United Nations Partisan Forces Korea was another organization prone to name changes. It is often referred to as the United Nations Partisan Infantry Korea (UNPIK).
- 19 ORO Study, 77.
- 20 Eugene G. Piasecki, “Smoke Bomb Hill: Birth of the Psywar Center, Part I,” *Veritas: The Journal of Army Special Operations History*, Vol 7, No. 1, 2011, 94-102. 21 ORO Study, 77.
- 22 Richard M. Ripley, 8240th Army Unit, interview by Dr. Michael Krivdo and Mr. Eugene Piasecki, 31 January 2013, USASOC History Support Center, Fort Bragg, NC.
- 23 A comprehensive list of the 10th Special Forces Group personnel who deployed to Germany and Korea in 1953 compiled from the original orders is contained in *Special Forces: The First Fifty Years* (Tampa FL, Faircount LLC, 2002), 94-101.
- 24 Charles W. Norton, 8240th Army Unit, interview by Dr. Charles H. Briscoe, 9 April 2004, USASOC History Support Center, Fort Bragg, NC.
- 25 Norton interview, 9 April 2004.
- 26 Rueben L. Mooradian, 8240th Army Unit, interview by Dr. Charles H. Briscoe, 21 November 2005, USASOC History Support Center, Fort Bragg, NC.
- 27 Norton interview, 9 April 2004.
- 28 Robert W. Downey, 8240th Army Unit, interview by Dr. Charles H. Briscoe, 24 March 2011, USASOC History Support Center, Fort Bragg, NC. By this time in the war, the Combined Command for Reconnaissance Activities – Korea (CCRAK), an FEC staff section was responsible for logistical support to the guerrilla units.
- 29 Downey interview, 24 March 2011. Downey would later serve in Special Forces with the 77th Special Forces Group.
- 30 Myron J. Layton, 8240th Army Unit, interview by Dr. Charles H. Briscoe, 21 November 2011, USASOC History Support Center, Fort Bragg, NC.
- 31 Layton interview, 21 November 2011.

GOOD OLD "BITTER BIERCE"



Kenn Miller

By Kenn Miller

The Vietnam War was still raging on in 1970 when Edwin Starr's most memorable song asked "WAR — what is it good for?" Like many of my fellow veterans, at the time I despised peaceniks and disliked anti-war songs. But then a prominent Civil War veteran I admired showed me what war is good for.

That long ago, but still officially undead, veteran was Ambrose Bierce, who wrote that *"God created war so that Americans would learn geography."*

Early in the Civil War, Bierce joined the 9th Indiana Infantry, and soon learned geography the hard way — in combat. Bierce proved very brave under fire and deeply concerned for his fellow soldiers. He fought in the first organized land action of the war — the Battle of Philippi; and then the Battles of Rich Mountain, Shiloh, Chickamauga, Franklin, and in the Battle of Kennesaw, where Bierce suffered a traumatic brain injury, and was sent back to Indiana to recover (it is doubtful that he ever completely recovered). Despite the severity of his wound, he was soon back into the war.

After returning to his unit, Bierce was promoted to 1st Lt, and served as topographic engineer on the staff of General William Babcock Hazen. Bierce's new duty was to organize and command topographic teams (what we'd consider recon teams) to reconnoitre and map potential battlefields.

After the war, Bierce hoped to continue his military career, but despite the support of officers, including generals, he was caught up in the Reduction in Force, and headed west to San Francisco, where he became a notorious misanthropic and humorist journalist, social critic, and author of popular and enduring tales of ghosts and terrors. And of course, he wrote about war — and did so at least as well as any English language writer ever has. In "A Bivouac of the Dead" he infuriated many by writing on behalf of all who fought on both sides of the Civil War. He wrote, *"They were honest and courageous foemen, having little in common with the political madmen who had persuaded them to their doom..."*

Bierce had a bitter life and was often called "Bitter Bierce." Among the California literati of his era, Bierce had friends — and enemies.

Among his enemies were the famous writers, Bret Harte and Mark Twain, whom Bierce despised as snobs and cowards for their having found ways to avoid participation in their generation's war.

Toward the end of his life, Bierce made a pilgrimage to the areas where he fought during the war, and there he felt at peace among the ghosts, both USA and CSA, who died there. His last known words were in letters to a niece, who was the only member of his family he hadn't alienated, another letter to an old friend, and a few words to some reporters he encountered. He announced that he planned to participate in the civil war in Mexico, and hoped to be put against a wall and shot to shreds down there. Although he was said to have been seen in Chihuahua in January, 1914, and while there are many legends about Bierce's end, his life span will always be read as "June 24, 1842 – ??"

Three Easy To Find Books By Bierce

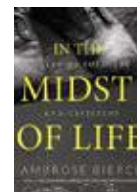
The Collected Civil War Stories of Ambrose Bierce

This is probably the best book of Bierce's works for *Sentinel* readers. It includes the classic story "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge" and many more unforgettable stories, such as "What I Saw of Shiloh". If you read only one Bierce book, this is it.



IN THE MIDST OF LIFE: Tales of Soldiers and Civilians

This book also includes "Owl Creek Bridge", as well as "Chickamauga", "A Horseman In The Sky", "One of the Missing", "Parker Adderson, Philosopher", "An Affair of Outposts", "One Kind of Officer," and much more of that quality.



The Devil's Dictionary

This is not a military book, but it is the probably the most humorous, cynical, curmudgeonly, sardonic, dictionary or thesaurus ever published in English or any other language. It ain't like the other two books in this review, but it may be worth a look.



Note: One of my teammates in Vietnam fought, survived, went back home, got degrees in psychology and counseling, and spent a long career working with veterans with lingering problems brought on by military service. He calls Ambrose Bierce the all purpose posterboy of PTSD.

FALLEN SOLDIER

Colonel James “Nick” Rowe
Part 2 — Death in Quezon City



I have entered and I have returned. If you enter you must and
enter you will, then remember these thoughts:
Know who you are and from whence you came; Remember the
light and the sun's cleansing warmth;
Mark well the spot at which you entered and mark each spot
at which you stop;
Remember your Faith and keep it strong;
Do not expect to find a path and be prepared
to make your own;
When it is day you must travel far, but when it is dark, then
rest and remember;
Conquer the urge to panic and run,
for they insure you'll never return
When daylight come, then rest not long and quickly seek
Your way or you, like the leaves will also decay.
For night falls early in the forest and darkness blinds you,
hides the way.

— From "Five Years to Freedom"
by James N. Rowe
American Soldier

By Greg Walker (ret), Special Forces

Part I – Fallen Soldier

SERE flourishes and Nick Rowe is offered another opportunity to serve overseas. Despite the knowledge there was now a North Vietnamese bounty on his head in lieu of his successful escape from captivity, Rowe accepts assignment to JUSMAG in the Philippines. Fast approaching the point in his career where he could no longer expect to be a field commander, he tells former Green Beret and specialty knife designer, Al Mar, that the JUSMAG assignment could be his "last hurrah", meaning once it was over he'd again be forced to become a "paper pusher".

Part II - Death in Quezon City

"Colonel Rowe being a key official in the JUSMAG is a direct participant in the U.S. designed 'total war' counterinsurgency program of the Aquino regime. JUSMAG is responsible for the overall planning, supervision and implementation of U.S. military assistance and training, as well as giving clear support to the AFP fascist military actions against the revolutionary forces and the Filipino masses." — Rolly Kintanar, Chief of Staff, New People's Army, 22 April 1989

"I'm either number 2 or number 3 on their list at JUSMAG and have taken the actions available to me to make it more difficult for them... Their targeting instructions are for an officer, involved in the counterinsurgency effort. DAO and JUSMAG are ground zero. It is many things here, but not dull." — Colonel James "Nick" Rowe, Letter to CSM Dan Pitzer, 7 April 1989

The joint U.S./Filipino investigation into the assassination of Nick Rowe was in full swing when CSM (ret) Dan Pitzer, Rowe's fellow POW in Vietnam for four long years and now the senior civilian SERE instructor at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, called me. Susan Rowe, Nick's widow, wanted to do a public story about her husband and his murder just months earlier. She would meet with me but only with a public affairs officer from the Special Warfare Center initially present, Dan said. Ms. Rowe would not discuss specific details of the assassination due to the official probe taking place. However, I could access newspaper accounts, personal letters and interview friends of Colonel Rowe who had first-hand information they wanted to share.

I would be staying with CSM Pitzer and his wife, Gail, during my visit to Fort Bragg. Dan and I had become close friends over the years prior to Nick's death and whenever I was in Fayetteville it was understood I had a room at their home. When Dan passed away after a long battle with cancer in March 1995, Gail informed me he had left his silver Special Forces ring to me. I have worn it ever since.

Understandably the Command at the Special Warfare Center was concerned about Susan Rowe, and in retrospect, Dan Pitzer going public. So much so the PAO assigned to monitor my visit called Dan at home the day after I arrived in Fayetteville. Dan reassured the nervous officer by offering, in part, he and I had known each other for years. "I'll vouch for him," Dan said, "Greg's staying with me...as a matter of fact he's sitting here in my living room right now."

After he'd hung up Dan smiled. "They're scared shitless," he offered. It was time to go to work.

The Joint Military Assistance Group

The Joint Military Assistance Group (JUSMAG) was created in March 1947 under the Republic of the Philippines / United States Military Assistance Pact. It was composed of active-duty military personnel who advise the armed forces of the Philippines (AFP) on military and naval matters. Ground Forces director (GFD) is not a Special Forces assignment, although Rowe had converted his branch specialty from military intelligence to special operations once SO became a career field for officers. Since Rowe possessed a long association with Special Forces and indeed wore the 18-series Crossed Arrows insignia, he could not help but to have been perceived as a “Green Beret” officer once on the ground in Manila.

Colonel Rowe was responsible for overseeing the material needs of the AFP when it came to military procurement. It was a delicate job. Rowe once remarked to a former JUSMAG commander, with whom he'd discussed his upcoming assignment, that he was “not going to be Santa Claus” when it came to carrying out his duties. He would, upon arriving in the Philippines, ensure the AFP received the mate-

rials, arms, and munitions they needed from the United States to successfully confront the ongoing insurgency. That meant working closely with Filipino commanders at the highest level of the AFP as well as interfacing with the Aquino government.

At the same time the colonel was considered a source of information and advice when it came to the Filipino counterinsurgency effort.

And there was good reason for this assessment. According to Fred Fuller, who was working at the Special Warfare Center's library when Rowe accepted the JUSMAG assignment, the colonel tagged him as a subject matter expert on the Philippines and the then ongoing communist-backed insurgency. Fuller, a longtime and very affable librarian, was honored to help. “He [Rowe] was full of questions for me,” recounted Fuller when we met at Bragg. He wanted to know everything. We spent hours together. He was detailed in his curiosity.” Fuller also shared Rowe's understanding that the [North] Vietnamese had not forgotten about his years of captivity at their hands and his successful escape. “Nick had been offered several assignments after his standing up the SERE program. He was said



Command Sergeant Major Daniel L. Pitzer was born Nov. 23, 1930 in Fairview, WV. He joined the West Virginia National Guard in December 1947, and attended and graduated from the West Virginian Public Schools in 1950. During his first year of college, his National Guard unit was called to active duty and moved to Fort Benning, Ga. Staff Sgt. Pitzer joined the active Army, volunteering for airborne training. He received his airborne wings on his 21st birthday. His first assignment was to the XVIII Airborne Corps Artillery as a communications team leader, and later transferred to the 5th RCT in Korea. Following the end of the Korean Conflict, he was transferred to Otsu, Japan, where he was assigned to Headquarters, South West Command, the Infantry School at Fort Benning, the 3rd Armored Division Combat Command “A” in Kirchgoens, Germany, and finally to the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N.C.

He volunteered for Special Forces in 1960 and served as a medic, heavy and light weapons sergeant and team leader on various A-teams during his 15-year military career. He arrived in the Republic of Vietnam in July of 1963. Four months later, while out on patrol with the Vietnamese Special Forces (LLDB), he was wounded and captured by the Viet Cong. He was held as a prisoner of war for four years, gaining release in 1967. One of his fellow POWs was Nick Rowe. On Nov. 11, 1967, after four years of torture and suffering from beri beri, malnutrition, malaria, hepatitis and having lost more than 85 lbs, he was returned to U.S. control.

Upon his return to the United States, he was hospitalized for eight months at Fort Bragg's Womack Army Hospital, and following his release he served in both the 6th Special Forces Group (A) and the 5th Special Forces Group(A). His follow-on assignment was as an instructor with the U.S. Army JFK Center for Military Assistance. He was promoted to sergeant major on April 20, 1972. During this period from 1969 to 1973, he traveled extensively for the Department of Defense speaking to various community groups about the plight of the American POW. He also assisted in the Operation Homecoming for the released POWs in 1973.

Medically retired in 1975, he continued working in the arena of POW affairs, focusing on getting an accounting of those still listed as missing in action. During this period, he assisted the U.S. Navy in the establishment and operation of their Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape (SERE) Training Program in San Diego. From 1987 until his death in 1995, he served as an instructor with the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School's SERE course.

His decorations include: the Silver Star Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Legion of Merit, two Purple Heart Medals, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Prisoner of War Medal, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Korean Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal w/60 devices, United Nations Service Medal, Overseas Ribbon, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Master Parachutist Badge and Combat Infantry Badge.” – Distinguished Member of the Special Forces Regiment, https://www.soc.mil/SWCS/RegimentalHonors/_pdf/sf_pitzer.pdf

to be on track to make his first star and he needed an impressive overseas tour. He'd been warned by friends that the Vietnamese still had a bounty on his head and by going to the Philippines he'd been well within arms' reach of anyone in Vietnam who wanted him dead. At the same time he wanted another shot at the communists and felt he could make a difference by taking the JUSMAG assignment."

On April 23, 1989, the Philippine Daily Inquirer reported that "...his [Rowe's] skill as a counterinsurgency expert no doubt was the primary reason for his assignment here." AFP spokesperson Colonel Benjamin Enrile stated, "Rowe was an adviser or consultant on military matters." In his eulogy, one of Nick's closest friends, Major Robert Adolph, recalled that not only the JUSMAG officer's knowledge caused Rowe to be targeted for assassination but that Rowe "...constantly exposed himself to greater danger by working closely with American and Filipino soldiers in the field." Major Adolph believed it to be very possible Nick Rowe may have been killed because "...of the success of his programs against the insurgents."

One of Rowe's programs included the highly successful special operations teams (SOTs) made up of exceptionally trained Filipino Marines who were trained and then charged with taking the Aquino government's counterpropaganda message to those remote areas infiltrated by the communist New People's Army (NPA). The program included village screenings of the movie "The Killing Fields" dubbed in Tagalog, "...has proven to be immensely successful. For their part the NPA has responded with stealthy teach-ins of their own – and violence," claimed an article in Asia Week magazine. "A councilman in Calmachin village was recently murdered for his pro-government stance."

According to Dan Pitzer, his fellow former POW's counterinsurgency work was non-violent in nature. "As an author and writer Nick understood better than most the power of the pen. He'd learned how important psychological operations were while in the hands of the

Viet Cong, and he was sharing those lessons with the AFP." Further confirmation of this sophisticated approach by Rowe is evidenced in a personal letter dated May 14, 1989, to Susan Rowe from the Commander of the 13th Air Force Medical Center in which the officer wrote, "For my part I am determined to continue the medical and civic action initiatives started by Nick."

At the same time, though, Colonel Rowe was likewise keeping his commitment to hold the AFP accountable for the military aid the United States was providing the Aquino government under President Cory Aquino. To include investigating the illegal distribution of arms and munitions to Filipino para-military actors opposed to the Aquino government. The weapons were suspected of being siphoned off by anti-Aquino military commanders to be used in a future coup attempt. At JUSMAG, Rowe had finished an official report detailing his concerns to include naming names.

In short, Nick Rowe had become a viable target for the communist insurgents suffering from his hands-on involvement to counter them, and by anti-Aquino hardliners within the government and military who were seeking a return to a Marcos authoritarian (and very corrupt) dynasty in Manila.

If they want to get you, they will

Contrary to some reports, Colonel Rowe knew of his selection as a target for the NPA and their urban assassins, called "sparrows". In one of his last letters, he illustrates his precautions against a successful attempt on his life. "I've got a hardened vehicle," he wrote, "and a trained driver for my official travel in the Manila-Clark AFB-Subic area; an AFP guard in the house 24 hours a day; and a stand-by security team should a hit go down at home or in the immediate area." According to Rowe himself, the Alex Boncayo Brigade (an NPA urban unit operating in Manila, "...has done some very effective work in the past and continues to take out military and police almost at will." Brig. General Alexander Aguirre (Commander, Task Force Rowe), would



Al Mar's SERE (Survive-Escape-Resist-Evade) knife was the first knife accepted for use by Special Forces Colonel Nick Rowe for the SERE Instructor School at Camp McCall North Carolina.



Author Greg Walker, at left, holds Set #2 of the limited edition set from Al Mar, which was designed in honor of his friend, Nick Rowe. At right Greg's son, Dr. Brandon Walker, former U.S. Marine and SERE graduate. Brandon is now also the owner of the CSM Pitzer's Rowe Commemorative Set as shown.

later confirm Rowe had indeed been "...killed by sparrows, or armed urban partisans of the NPA." Defense News would report the arrest of Donato Continente, who alleges being "...a member of the five-man team of communist rebels assigned to kill Rowe."

On the morning of April 21, 1989, Colonel Rowe and his Filipino driver, Joaquin Vinuya, left Rowe's home for the JUSMAG compound located in Quezon City. Even though it was Friday he had a heavy schedule, to include an equipment demonstration for the AFP later in the evening. Per Filipino law neither man was armed, although Rowe did have access to weaponry both at his home and in his office. Up until several days prior to his murder there had been a chase car that shadowed the colonel as he traveled between his residence and the Quezon compound. According to sources requesting anonymity, this as well as other chase vehicles assigned to priority personnel believed to be targeted by the NPA, had been recently pulled off. "It was simply a case of misjudgment," allowed one source.

AFP spokesmen reported the NPA sparrow team followed Rowe's silver-grey sedan from his home into the city. As was his habit, Colonel Rowe was sitting directly behind his driver and carrying a specially armored briefcase which he used as a secondary shield while traveling around Manila. The automobile itself had been hardened by Rowe. According to Dan Pitzer, often in contact with Rowe, "Nick told me after they'd installed the glass in is car, he'd personally fired a .44 Magnum at the windows with no effect. He believed the interior of the vehicle was as bullet-proof as could be expected."

At 0715, just two blocks from the JUSMAG compound, the sparrows initiated their attack by driving a stolen vehicle up alongside Rowe's Mitsubishi Galant, opening fire with at least one and possibly two M16 automatic rifles, as well as a .45 caliber pistol. The gunmen concentrated on the car's window, firing short bursts of between five to six rounds, attempting to "drill" through the hardened glass. A total of 21 rounds struck the window and car as Rowe's driver attempted to outmaneuver his assailants.

Vinuya was wounded by flying glass as the interior portion of the windows began to fragment under the concentrated high-velocity impact of the 5.56 rounds. As surmised by Rowe, the hardened vehicle withstood the small arms assault. Only a single bullet found its way into the passenger compartment. This round penetrating a structural portion of the door-frame that could not be armored. It was this bullet that struck Nick Rowe in the back of his neck as he was throwing himself down across the rear seat, killing him instantly.

"You could have fired 1000 rounds at that car, and maybe have gotten one bullet to enter where the one that killed Nick did," observed one combat veteran who was near the scene. "If the Colonel had continued sitting upright, the bullet would have missed him, had he gotten down on the rear seat a second sooner, the bullet would have missed him. Call it Fate or whatever, they got lucky that morning."

To his great credit, Vinuya carried out his duties as Rowe's driver, despite his painful wounds. He piloted the car into the JUSMAG compound where it was quickly secured. Rowe was immediately transported to the AFP Medical Center where he was pronounced dead at 0840.



Colonel Rowe is buried at Arlington National Cemetery. His grave is on the hill next to the monument of the Unknown Soldier. Inscribed on his gravestone are the words from a poem he wrote in 1964 while a POW:

So look up ahead at times to come,
despair is not for us.
We have a world and more to see,
while this remains behind.

In one of his final letters Nick Rowe said of his experience in the Philippines: "It's interesting to watch history being written around me...so long as the Jolly Green makes it to the extraction LZ and we make the pick-up window." On April 21 an H-53 Jolly Green, known for its role in Vietnam as a flying rescue platform, was dispatched from Clark Air Force Base to recover the body of Colonel James "Nick" Rowe. For a second time a helicopter was lifting him free from his Forest of Darkness, beginning the long journey home to the country he loved.

From Five Years to Freedom

by Colonel Nick Rowe, American Soldier

"I have entered and I have returned. If enter you must and enter you will, then remember these thoughts:

"Know who you are and from whence you came; Remember the light and the sun's cleansing warmth; Mark well the spot at which you entered and mark each spot at which you stop;

Remember your Faith and keep it strong; Do not expect to find a path and be prepared to make your own;

When it is day you must travel far, but when it is dark, then rest and remember;

Conquer the urge to panic and run, for they will insure you'll never return.

When daylight comes, then rest not long and quickly seek Your way or you, like the leaves will also decay. For night falls early in the forest and darkness blinds you, hides the way."

Aftermath

Certainly, Nick Rowe knew the potential danger of his assignment. Some have tried to label Rowe as clairvoyant about his assassination, forgetting he was a highly capable Intelligence officer. If anyone could read the signals his presence would send the NPA, it was Nick Rowe. "If Nick wasn't anything else he was tenacious," remembered Dan Pitzer. "It was both his strongest and weakest trait. Even in the camps he wouldn't back off."

And what of Rolly Kintanar, Chief of Staff for the New People's Army and the man who announced the NPA's role in killing Rowe?

"The communist New People's Army (NPA) has admitted to last week's killing of its former chief Romulo Kintanar, saying it was done as "punishment" for numerous crimes committed against the revolutionary movement and the people, a rebel spokesperson yesterday... Kintanar was gunned down in cold blood while having lunch with his bodyguards at a Japanese restaurant in Manila's northern suburb of Quezon City on Thursday... On Saturday, President Gloria Arroyo ordered no let up in the campaign against criminals and terrorist insurgents who will be given no quarter in this fight." — January 27, 2003, <https://gulfnews.com/uae/npa-admits-killing-kintanar-1.345989> ♦



Romulo "Rolly" Kintanar

REMEMBERING CSM DAN PITZER

Greg Walker retired from the United States Army/Special Forces in 2005. In 1980, while at the Defense Language School in Monterey, California, he was offered a senior SERE instructor position by Colonel Rowe. However, the Army's priority to staff the 3/7th Special Forces Group then in Panama overrode even Colonel Rowe's request as he sought to staff the new program at Fort Bragg. Some years later Mr. Walker, along with Ms. Gail Pitzer, and at the request of MG Kenneth Bowra (ret), created the CSM Dan Pitzer Conference Room at USASFC. "When I asked Dan why he'd never written a book about his own experiences as a POW alongside Nick, Dan simply smiled at me and said "Nick's book was my book, too."



Greg Walker and his service pup, Tommy

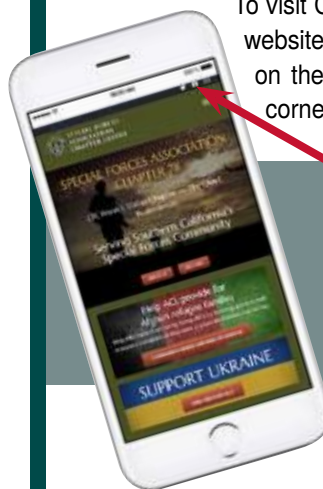
Looking for Podcasts? How to Find SFA Chapter 78's Collection of Podcasts and Videos

If you're looking for new podcasts, or are just learning about them and are curious, Chapter 78's website includes a link to its YouTube channel, which contains an ever growing collection of videos and podcasts.

What is a podcast? A podcast is an audio program, like Talk Radio, that you can listen to on a mobile device or desktop computer. Mostly free to listeners, podcasts have multiple episodes, all focused on a particular topic or theme, like cycling or start-ups. By subscribing to podcasts with an app (i.e. iTunes, Spotify, Stitcher) on your phone or desktop computer you can easily access the podcast and listen to episodes whenever you like.

Many podcasts also create video content and that is what you will find on the Chapter 78 YouTube channel.

To visit Chapter 78's YouTube channel, go to our website at www.specialforces78.com and click on the YouTube logo in the upper right hand corner of the page.



Click on the YouTube logo

Clicking the link will open the SFA Chapter 78 YouTube channel, where you can view our uploaded videos, video Playlists, and Featured Channels.

If you are looking for interesting podcasts, click on "Channels" to view our Featured Channels. You will currently find:

- **The Team House** (Check out episode #27 for an excellent interview of author Greg Walker!)
- **Jocko Podcast** (You will find John S. Meyer's SOGCast on Jocko's channel and also on our Playlists)
- **SOFcast**
- **Stars & Stripes**
- **FUNKER530** – Veteran Community & Combat Footage
- **Modern Military History**

New videos and featured channels are being added regularly, so check back frequently — there's always something new and interesting.



THE NATIONAL SPECIAL FORCES GREEN BERET MEMORIAL™

In the summer of 2017, the spark for a great initiative occurred that developed into a vision for the eventual design, development, and build of The National Special Forces Green Beret Memorial™ (TNSFGBM) located just off of Fort Bragg, NC. This world class memorial and park will honor the Regiment's history, its exploits, its legends and its fallen.

Since 2018, TNSFGBM formed a board of directors, established as a 501(c)3 organization, and refined the site plans for the Memorial Park taking inputs from active duty and retired Special Forces personnel alike. TNSFGBM is to serve as an enduring beacon for past, current, and future members of the Regiment, their families and all those who wish to honor the most distinguished fighting force in United States history.

The site will showcase each MOS on the 12-man A-team by way of 14 ft. bronze sculpture monuments, with 8 ft. tall bronze soldiers, arrayed around a black granite and metal Special Forces Crest and also a parade ground which will facilitate future Special Forces graduations, special events and ceremonies crowned by a distinctive Medal of Honor pillar honoring the Regiment's highest award recipients.

Upon arrival, memorial visitors walk through interactive time period walls highlighting the Regiment's exploits portraying historical events decade by decade on granite and bronze wall panels. The walkway will be composed of paver stones that individuals can acquire to honor current or retired Special Forces members and affiliates. At the apex of the walkway or tip of the spear, it brings visitors to the front entrance featuring a 14 ft. tall sculpture monument composed with 8 ft. tall 12-man A-Team bronze Soldiers.

Approximately 10 acres in size, TNSFGBM Park will be one of the most inspirational and magnificent memorials in America and will rival any memorial in our nation's Capital. A project of this magnitude, scale and scope is extremely expensive and all contributions at any level will assist TNSFGBM advance forward to the finalization of the project. The team is working diligently in identifying and acquiring select like-minded benefactors to support the project to honor our Regiment.

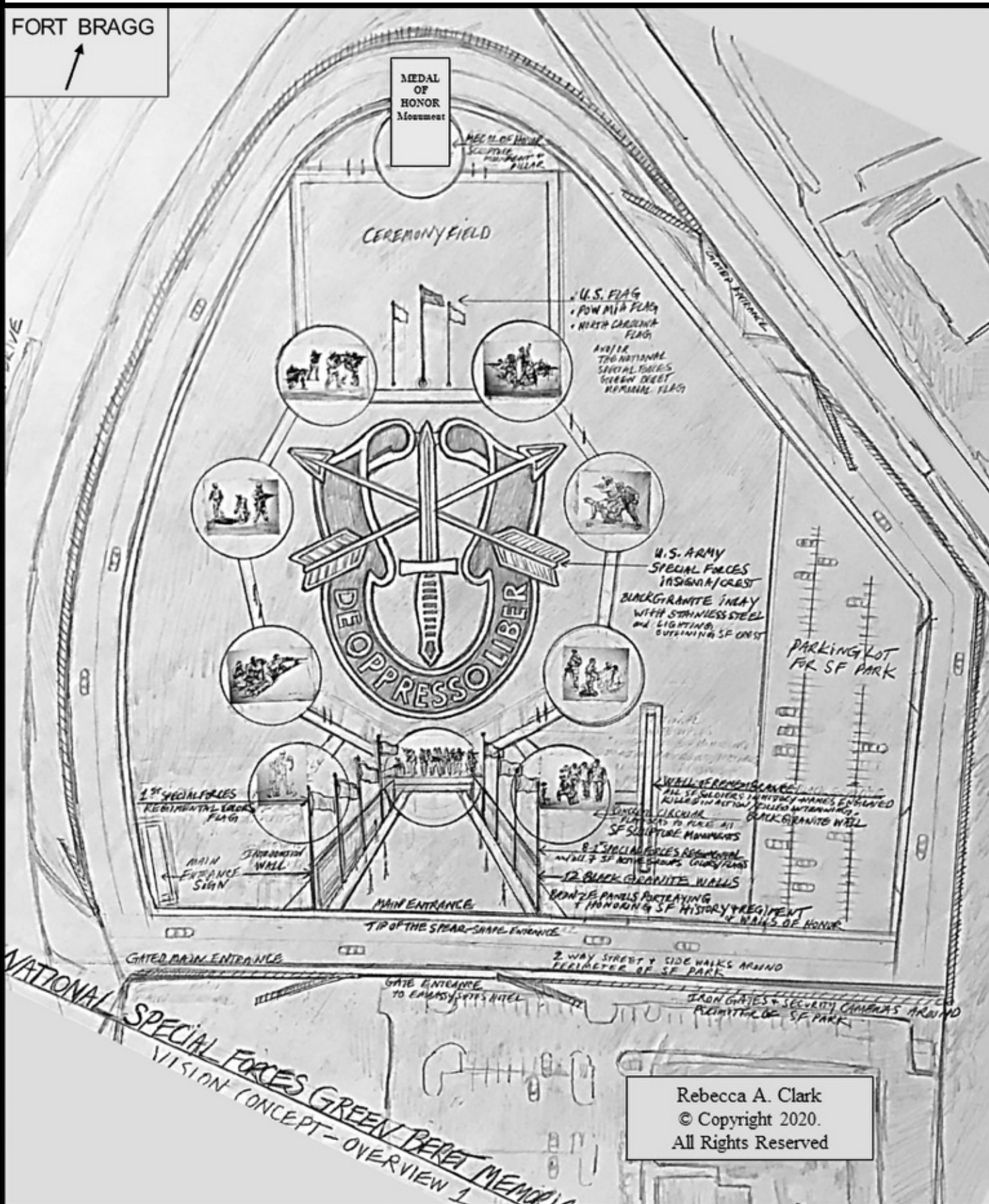
All those who wish to support the project by providing a charitable donation or the purchase of a paver stone can go to www.specialforcesgreenberetmemorial.org for more information. The board members of TNSFGBM foundation are driven to make this vision a reality and we appreciate everyone's support to honor the U.S. Army Special Forces Soldiers of every era, with The National Special Forces Green Beret Memorial.

Colonel (Ret.) Carl D. Kelly
U.S. Army Special Forces Regiment
President & Board Director
The National Special Forces
Green Beret Memorial Foundation

info@specialforcesgreenberetmemorial.org
www.specialforcesgreenberetmemorial.org

THE NATIONAL SPECIAL FORCES GREEN BERET MEMORIAL™ PARK CONCEPT

FORT BRAGG





THE NATIONAL SPECIAL FORCES GREEN BERET MEMORIAL™

www.specialforcesgreenberetmemorial.org

Honoring U.S. Army Special Forces “Green Beret” Soldiers of every era and the legacy of the Regiment with a magnificent world-class monumental memorial park to be placed in the Fort Bragg, NC area.

For the project vision, donation and corporate sponsorship information, please contact the Creative Director at:

info@specialforcesgreenberetmemorial.org

**THE NATIONAL SPECIAL FORCES
GREEN BERET MEMORIAL FOUNDATION
106 Oakridge Avenue
P.O. Box 53185
Fayetteville, North Carolina 28305**

SFA Chapter 78 April 2022 Chapter Meeting

Photos by How Miller and Debra Holm



1



2



3



4



7



8



5



6



9



10



11



12

1. Superior Court of Orange County Judge Nick Thompson, guest speaker, enlightened Chapter members on the relationship between Special Forces and PSYOP.
2. Nick Thompson and Chapter President Greg Horton.
3. Chapter member Mike Keele, displaying the April Sentinel, with Nick Thompson and Greg Horton
4. Chapter members Steve Bric and Art Dolick catch up before the start of the meeting.
5. Chapter members enjoying breakfast and conversation before the start of the meeting.

6. Chapter members Sal Sanders and Ramon Rodriguez
7. Chapter Treasurer Richard Simonian going over numbers with President Greg Horton.
8. Chapter members Tom Turney and Len Fein
9. Left to right, Sal Sanders, Art Dolick and Jim Cragg
10. Sentinel editor, How Miller at left with chapter member Dave Gibbs
11. Left to right, Dr. Bob Reed, Jim Lockhart, and Dave Thomas
12. Long time chapter members Len Fein and Art Dolick