



THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SENTINEL

SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION CHAPTER 78
NEWSLETTER OF THE QUIET PROFESSIONALS

THE LTC FRANK J. DALLAS CHAPTER

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2016



Presidents Page

Mark Miller Honored by the Anaheim Ducks

SFA Chapter 78 November 2016 Meeting

Son Tay Raiders Reunion & 46th Anniversary

New Museum of the Republic of Viet Nam

Armed Forces in Westminster, CA

Chapter 78 Shooters in Nevada



Lonny Holmes
Sentinel Editor

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Mark Miller was honored to be invited to the Anaheim Ducks Annual Military Appreciation Night held at the Honda Center where he was presented a very special plaque of Plexiglass from the rink with a hockey puck base. Mark is on a very short list of Chapter 78 Viet Nam Veterans so honored by the Ducks. SGM Ramon Rodriguez was honored as the National Hockey

League Anaheim Ducks "Veteran of the Day" in 2010, where COO Tim Ryan presented a special Ducks Veterans Day jersey to him resulting in a standing ovation. Chapter member Aaron Anderson, founder and then President of the Green Beret Foundation facilitated this award and invited SFA C-78 members to attend the event and hockey game. A portion of the proceeds from the days game was donated to the Green Beret Foundation. C-78 members were treated like VIP's and dined in a private suite with a hosted bar. Last year Kenn Miller was the Ducks "Honored Veteran of the Day." We thank the NHL and the Anaheim Ducks for honoring our Green Beret's and other veterans. "A tip of the Beret" to the Ducks!

Colonel John Gargus pens a short review of the Ton Say Raiders 46th Reunion held at Fort Bragg. As a lead navigator in the "Raid," the Colonel was an invited guest and enjoyed the hospitality provided by the "current generation" of Green Berets. Sadly, as he mentions in his story, time is catching up to these Son Tay heroes with surviving members dwindling each year.

Three former prisoners of the Son Tay Prison also attended. They confirmed what Benjamin F. Schemmer said in his book *"The Raid"* after interviewing former prisoners; the Raid was a success since it had such a positive impact on their daily lives. The majority of the prisoners were relocated together, rations increased, and, importantly, torture was for the most part discontinued, resulting in more humanitarian treatment. Success is how you define it, and the Son Tay Prisoners call it a success. ♦

Lonny Holmes
Sentinel Editor



"Green Berets Making America Great!"

IN THIS ISSUE:

Presidents Page.....	1
Mark Miller Honored by the Anaheim Ducks at Annual Military Appreciation Night	2
SFA Chapter 78 November 2016 Meeting	3
Son Tay Raiders Reunion & 46th Anniversary	4
New Museum of the Republic of Viet Nam Armed Forces in Westminster, CA	5
Chapter 78 Shooters in Nevada	6

COVER: Mark Miller received an award of recognition from the Ducks Hockey Team at their Military Appreciation Night, Nov. 11, Honda Center.

This photo and photos on page 2 courtesy of the Anaheim Ducks. Visit ducks.nhl.com to view more of the event photos.

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President
Bruce Long
D-7464

Vice President
Don Deatherage
M-13962

Secretary
Gary Macnamara
M-12789

Treasurer
Richard Simonian
D-7920

**Sergeant At Arms/
Quartermaster**
Mark Miller
D-8296

Coordinator of ROTC Program
Ed Barrett
M-11188

Chaplain
Richard Simonian
D-7920

Sentinel Editor
Louis (Lonny) Holmes
D-6067

Immediate Past President
Louis (Lonny) Holmes
D-6067

Funding for publication and printing of the
Special Forces 78 Sentinel is provided by



VETERANS AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAM

A program of American Veterans Assistance Group

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

Sentinel Graphic Design by Debra Holm/Dinwiddie Holm Graphics

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.

THE PRESIDENTS PAGE



Bruce Long
President SFA 78

PRESIDENTS COLUMN DECEMBER 2016

Jim Carter and **Gus Populus** are the latest new members and both received their Chapter 78 challenge coins at November's Chapter meeting.

At the October Chapter meeting **Chris Martin** made a short presentation with regards to Long Beach Police Officers Association collecting proceeds to provide Care Packages to our deployed service members.

The Chapter voted to make a donation of \$100 at this time. For additional details contact LBPO@LBPOA.org

Mark Miller attended the Veterans Recognition Night at the Honda Center in Anaheim. Mark expressed his gratitude to have represented our Chapter, and he said, it was a humbling experience to be acknowledged by so many people for his service in Vietnam. A big thank you goes out to **MSG Wade Scott SOD/N** for putting this together.

A Company's Rear Detachment conducted their SFAS selection. **Jim Duffy** and I actually sat on the selection board later in the day after the Chapter meeting.

An open discussion was conducted about the severe damage to SFA National caused by the recent flooding in Fayetteville. Due to limited resources the best way to help out SFA National is by making individual contributions through the Go Fund Me site and under the subject "SFA FLOOD RECOVERY FUND" (<https://www.gofundme.com/special-forces-association-museum>).

Lonny Holmes suggested the Chapter might want to consider a fund raiser, and a committee be formed. I suggested a golf tournament might be a good idea. **Richard Simonian** also stated that this is currently in the works. **Mike Keele** and **Ed Barrett** volunteered to research the feasibility of a golf tournament.

The meeting's guest speaker was Lena Eylicio, wife of **SGM Hank Eylicio**, who gave an update on the wives and girlfriends planning to attend our upcoming Christmas Dinner/Party. To date twenty-one and possibly twenty-two will be attending. Lena also pointed out one of the wives who lives in Washington D.C. would like attend but doesn't have the finances. Lena also suggested that \$25 Christmas gift cards be given to the wives of who have children.

The Chapter membership unanimously agreed to support this endeavor of an airline ticket (\$525.00) and \$500.00 for the Christmas gift cards.

I suggested that the Chapter membership make individual contributions, and I started out by pledging \$300. This was followed by **Thad Gambacz** pledging \$500, **Dennis Derosia**, **Mike Keele**, **Don Gonneville** pledged \$200 each, **Gary Macnamara**, **Mark Miller** and **John Creel** each pledging \$100, for a total of \$1,700. This will cover the airline ticket for the wife in Washington D.C. and the Christmas gift cards for the children of the wives who attend.

SPECIAL NOTE: We are taking reservations for the upcoming Christmas Dinner/ Party scheduled on December 17th starting at 1600 hrs at the Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club, 1601 Bayside Drive, Corona Del Mar, CA 92625. Please refer to the [November issue of the SENTINEL](#) for your reservation form. ❖

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



SAN DIEGO POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION INC.

8388 VICKERS STREET, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92111-2109
(858) 573-1199 • FAX (858) 573-1574

November 3, 2016

Brian R. Marvel
President
Jack Schaeffer
Vice President
Tom Bostedt
Secretary
Terry Hoskins
Treasurer

Directors:
Mike Fender
Ed LaValle
Jim Mackay
Paul Paxton
Mike Pidgeon

Bruce Long, President
Special Forces Association Chapter 78
1352 Irvine Blvd, #213
Tustin, CA 92780

Dear Bruce Long,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, the San Diego Police Officers Association thanks you for your generous support of Fallen Officer Jonathan "JD" DeGuzman's Family. The SDPOA represents the dedicated and professional sworn members of the SDPD. The Widows & Orphans Fund was established so that in the tragic event a San Diego police officer is killed in the line of duty, we can provide financial assistance to the family of the officer to help them get through an extremely difficult time.

Please use this document as a tax receipt for your last donation, which is described below. If you have questions about this receipt, please contact us at (858) 573-1199.

Very Truly Yours,
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
San Diego Police Officers Association

Brian R. Marvel
President

Donation Amount

\$2,000.00

Date of Donation

09/01/2016 Check #1056

San Diego Police Officer's Association, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization,
Federal Tax ID# 33-0127369



MARK MILLER HONORED BY THE ANAHEIM DUCKS AT ANNUAL MILITARY APPRECIATION NIGHT

By Master Sergeant Wade Scott,
Force Protection NCO
Special Operations Detachment-North

On November 6th 2016, the Anaheim Ducks (National Hockey League Team) held their annual military appreciation night at the Honda Center in Anaheim.

This an event which takes place over the entire evening while the Ducks played the Calgary Flames. The Anaheim Ducks present this event each year in conjunction with a volunteer organization called "United Heroes League" (UHL). UHL was founded by a retired first sergeant in Minnesota and their mission is to provide military kids (only) with cash grants (up to \$500.00 per child) as well as free equipment, access to training camps and tickets to pro hockey events.

This year's event was very unique, as it not only had representatives from all branches, but that it for the third year in a row showcased the tradecraft and equipment of the Army Special Forces Community. The evening began with two Soldiers of Special Operations Detachment North and two Canadian Soldiers from the Canadian Special Operations Regiment; the team conducted both traditional and Australian style rappel from the ceiling of the Honda Center down to the ice surface. This team work meant to honor both current partnerships as well of those stemming back to the famous 1st Special Service Force; or the "Devils Brigade". They were honored again while escorting CPL Nero, Marine Military Working Dog (MWD) and his handler to their place at center ice for the first ever honorary puck drop made by a MWD at the Honda Center.

The event that was the most true to the spirit of the evening, however, was when the Anaheim Ducks took time to honor Mr. Mark Miller (SFA Chapter 78) for his great service to his nation with a very unique



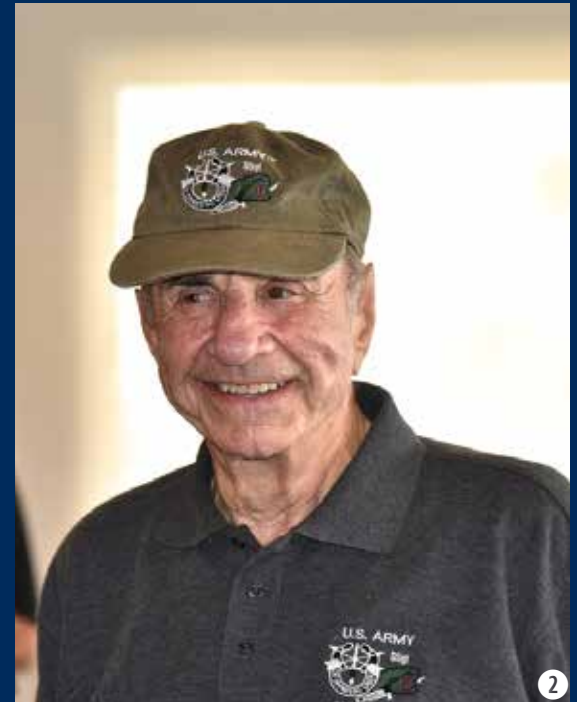
award, constructed from Plexiglass from the boards of the rink which is engraved and imbedded into a hockey puck for a stand. A sold-out crowd rose to their feet in honor of Mr. Miller who served as the evening's ambassador for both Veterans Day and Remembrance Day for our northern brothers and sisters. ❖



SERGEANT MARK MILLER served briefly in the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N.C. in 1967 where he applied for Special Forces Selection and Training. However at that time there was a urgent requirement for well qualified Airborne Infantry Soldiers in Viet Nam, so August 1967 found Mark in Viet Nam assigned to the 101st Airborne Division where he volunteered for assignment to "recon teams" and was sent to the

elite MACV RECONDO School for advanced training. He then 'ran' over 50 recon missions in II Corps in 1968 thru 1969 before returning to the 82nd Airborne Division in Fort Bragg. Beginning in the 1970's following discharge from active duty Mark Miller joined the reserves where he became SF Qualified and was assigned to various A-Teams and attended the Panama Jungle Warfare School. His awards include the Bronze Star for Valor and Meritorious Service, Purple Heart, Air Medal and Combat Infantry Badge to list a few. To read a more detailed biography and see a complete list of awards and decorations, visit his member page at <http://specialforces78.com/members-pages/mark-miller/>.

SFA CHAPTER 78 NOVEMBER 2016 MEETING



❶ Bruce Long presenting Chapter 78 Coin's to two new members, James Carter & Gus Populus

❷ Richard Simonian

❸ Lena Eylicio wife of Company A, 19th SFG(A) CSM, giving a briefing to chapter members on the status of the families of deployed "Green Berets."

❹ Don Gonnerville and Gary Macnamara

❺ James Carter and Mike Keele

❻ Ed Barrett, Mark Miller and Kenn Miller

❼ Thad Gembacz, Don Gonnerville, Dennis Derosia and Mike Keele

SON TAY RAIDERS REUNION & 46TH ANNIVERSARY

Army Son Tay Raiders Receive Their Favorite Assault Rifles From Troy Industries



Front row: Franklin D. Roe, Donald E. Taapken, Billy R. Martin, Vladimir Jakovenko, Steven Troy, Tyrone J. Adderly, Robert F. Nelson, Edgar C. Britt, and Dan H. McKinney. Back row: Herman Spencer, James W. McClam, Joseph M. Murray, Keith R. Medenski, Terry L. Buckler, Patrick St. Clair, and Jack G. Joplin



John Gargus

By Colonel John Gargus (USAF, Retired)

The Son Tay raiders met in Fayetteville, NC on 29 September through 2 October to celebrate the 46th anniversary of their daring attempt to free American prisoners of war from North Vietnam. Their remaining numbers are dwindling and, because there were so many Vietnam based Air Force and Navy participants who had not trained

for the raid in Florida, their surviving numbers are impossible to track. However, there were only 56 Army Special Forces soldiers that set foot on the North Vietnamese soil that night. Of those, 22 have died, 8 cannot be located and of the remaining 26 only 18 attended this reunion. With spouses and ten Air Force members, three of whom had been held as prisoners at Son Tay, the reunion group numbered even 50. In spite of very bad weather, which curtailed some of the planned activities at Fort Bragg, the two busloads of attendees received heroic VIP treatment from the active duty personnel. The absolute highlight of this reunion was the presentation of what the raiders called as CAR-15 rifles to the Green Beret attendees by Steven Troy, CEO of Troy Industries that accurately replicated these rifles to commemorate the 45th Son Tay raid one year before.

There could not have been a more rewarding present for these brave raiders who volunteered to risk their lives to rescue the prisoners from Son Tay. Three of those former POWs, Richard C. Brenneman, Alan L. Brunstrom, and Leon F. Ellis were present.



POWs – Richard C. Brenneman, Leon F. Ellis, and Alan L. Brunstrom

Troy Industries. engraved the name of each raider on his rifle and also took care of all the procedural gun acquisition documentation with a dealer near his home. At the end of the evening, all returned their prized rifles to the shipment boxes addressed to the gun dealers from whom they could claim them after returning home. Unfortunately, one of the recipients, Thomas E. Powell, passed away before this reunion and his wife Nancy, who accepted his gun, plans to donate it in his honor to the JFK Museum at Ft. Bragg.

But that was not all. Troy Industries had something for everyone. Juli Brayton, Troy's Vice President of Marketing, set up a military-quality virtual reality trainer in the dining room for all others. Everyone was invited to try the laser shoot at fixed and moving targets with this carbine that was also equipped with a carbon dioxide (CO2) cartridge adapter that simulated each shot's recoil. This GAU-5/A/A is actually the USAF's version of the XM177E2 Commando Carbine. However, during their training and raid execution they knew it as the CAR-15. It is now available to public for purchase via MyServiceRifle.com. ❖



NEW MUSEUM OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM ARMED FORCES IN WESTMINSTER, CA

Dedicated to the History of the Republic and its Military



Kenn Miller

By Kenn Miller

There are approximately 400,000 Vietnamese-Americans in Southern California, and the commercial and cultural center of this community is in the area of Garden Grove and Westminster, known as "Little Saigon." "Little Saigon" is famous for its shops and restaurants, but there is a new attraction worthy of a visit — and that is the Museum of History

Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces. The museum opened earlier this year, and will soon be moving into a much larger facility with much expanded displays right next to its current location. It is open from 12 pm to 5 pm on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, and 10 am to 4 pm on Saturdays and Sundays. There is no entrance fee, but donations are appreciated.

The museum is associated with the Republic of Vietnam Historical Society. Most of the articles on the society's website vnhs.com are in Vietnamese, but many are also in English and are very informative. ♦

The Museum of History Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces

9842 Bolsa Avenue, Unit #B106

Westminster, California 92683.

(714) 418-9640

[Facebook.com/ARVNmuseum](https://www.facebook.com/ARVNmuseum)

Email: museumqlvnch@gmail.com



CHAPTER 78 SHOOTERS IN NEVADA

Front Sight – Pahrump, NV • Clark County Shooting Complex – Las Vegas, NV



❶ Jim Duffy, second from right, at the completion of Front Sight's four day Defensive Handgun Course.

❷ Jim Duffy's Front Sight certificate

❸ Terry Cagnolatti's new Toyota Tundra 4X4 Truck. Lonny, Terry and John at the Clark County Shooting Complex. One of the best shotgun (trap & skeet etc) plus rifle and pistol ranges west of the Mississippi! And boy does the complex have good food for lunch!

❹ Lonny Holmes shooting his 16-year-old custom Remington .308 (bench – tactical) rifle which still patterns at 1/4 MOA on a good day. Yes, that a 1/4 inch group at 100 yards. Note the 27 1/2" fluted barrel mounted with a 56 mm 12 to 35 X Night Force Scope.

❺ Terry Cagnolatti wearing his L.A. County District Attorney's Team t-shirt

❻ Juliette Cagnolatti after shooting Terry's 5.56 AR

❼ John Joyce shooting one of his "several" rifles

