

From the Editor | August 2025



How Miller
Sentinel Editor

We remember the toughest day in SF history, 23 August 1968, when the NVA managed a surprise attack during a gathering of SOG troops for a promotion board at FOB 4 at Da Nang. It has been written about, for example, by John Stryker Meyer in *On the Ground*, and has been the subject of several podcasts, including John Stryker Meyer's *SOGCAST 005* with Larry Trimble of Spike Team Rattler, who was up on Marble Mountain. Recently there have been videos about the Viet Cong/

NVA side of things by Ken Boyd, SOG veteran and author of *Dawson's War*. Ken wrote the book under the pen name B.K. Marshall and now has a very interesting YouTube channel @DawsonsWar. We provide you with links to view all of these and build a strong picture of what happened for yourself. It is a fascinating look at a complicated battle, with new information to add to the mix.

William B. Scott wrote the book *Earthquake*, which was the callsign of an exceptional pilot, BG (ret.) Robert F. Titus, who spent a large amount of time flying bombing and ground support missions in Vietnam and elsewhere during a long military career. That was followed by civil service, and by the way, helped save a Mike Force team. He recklessly flew his F4 through clouds until he could locate the team and help out with napalm and directing other ordnance. Scott shares with us some of the stories from his book.

Remembering Thad Gembacz—the chapter mourns the passing of longtime member Gilbert Thad "The Judge" Gembacz, who died on July 8, 2025. Both within the chapter and in the world at large, Thad was widely respected for his integrity, generosity, and quiet service to others.

Only a couple of months remain before the dual and conjoined annual conventions of the Special Forces Association and Special Operators Association in October in Las Vegas. This issue provides an overview of the activities you can enjoy at the convention and those available at the Orleans, the location of the event.

We hope you will take a look at our June Chapter meeting photos and events that chapter members have participated in since the last issue.

For our *Sentinel* blog at SpecialForces78.com, the "From the Archive" story this month features the recent republishing of Alex Quade's "Special Forces at War: A Deadly Firefight in Iraq" by *Soldier of Fortune* magazine. This story, published as "Special Forces Combat Outpost Pirelli," appeared in the March 2018 *Sentinel*.

Enjoy, and please keep sending us your stories to share with other Green Berets and supporters. ❖

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SFA Chapter 78 Monthly Meeting

August 16, 2025

Breakfast – 0800 • Meeting – 0830

We're meeting back at the base!

By popular request, we have obtained approval to go back to meeting at the Joint Forces Training Base!

Joint Forces Training Base, Los Alamitos

The Pub at Fiddlers Green

4745 Yorktown Ave Bldg 19, Los Alamitos, CA 90720-5176

**Next scheduled chapter meeting
September 20**

2025 Meeting Schedule

October 18 • November 15

December (to be announced)



Chapter VP James McLanahan at the Sunburst Youth Challenge Academy Graduation last June with Sunburst Youth Academy Foundation Board of Directors. From left to right, Sedric Hill, Marylou Vachet, Sunburst Youth Academy Program Director LTC Sarah Rambo, Justine Makoff, CEO of the Sunburst Youth Academy Foundation, the Foundation's CFO Jillian Scott, and Phillip Tingirides. More about the event on page 18.