

From the Editor | October 2025



How Miller
Sentinel Editor

This issue of the Sentinel revolves around the late and legendary MG (ret.) John K. “Jack” Singlaub, a young version of whom is on our cover.

We start with the barbecue, co-sponsored by SFA Chapter 1-18 and SFA Chapter 78, for the most recent graduates of the “Q” course. It is a chance for these outstanding men to mingle with their fellow classmates before they graduate and get shipped out to various SF units around the world. SOG Veteran John “Tilt” Stryker Meyer represented Chapter 78 at the event.

Then an urgent plea from SFA Chapter 88 to support an SF monument at the Jacksonville National Cemetery. They need to make up a funding shortfall in time to have an April 2026 unveiling.

Jack Singlaub is famous for many of his life experiences. He was in the OSS during WWII, from a Jedburgh team helping the Maquis fight the Nazis in Europe to a role in China, directly confronting the Japanese. In Korea he got fired by President Carter, who followed the advice Jack too publicly gave. He was “SOG Boss,” heading MACV SOG in Vietnam. He personally tested the Skyhook/STAR prisoner extraction system. He was a true and beloved leader.

The first of several articles that were all previously published in the Sentinel is actually a two-part story by then Sentinel editor, author, and Project Delta veteran Jim Morris about Jack’s standout career in the OSS. He covers Jack’s ROTC days and how he became airborne and succeeded at the OSS. He continues through his assignment to take over a large number of Japanese soldiers at the close of WWII in China.

Then, a “Last Call” for SFACON 2025 and a short piece about a tribute to MG John Singlaub and COL William Weber at the DMZ in South Korea for selfless service to the ROK-US alliance.

We include three stories about the Skyhook program for rescuing agents, pilots, and others from deep in enemy territory, as shown in the movie *The Green Beret*.

John Stryker Meyer, a one-time Chapter 78 president, wrote about the program, centered around Jack Singlaub’s role in getting Skyhook implemented in the Vietnam theatre of operations, including an interesting confrontation with a recalcitrant USAF colonel.

John Gargus wrote about the overall STARS program, mentioning “Jack’s” participation.

Lonnie Holmes, past long-time *Sentinel* editor and a past Chapter 78 president, wrote “Skyhook Recovery: A Brief History,” detailing the extent of the Skyhook program, some examples, and a tally of 166 recoveries.

John Stryker Meyer also writes about a visit by him and fellow SOG veteran Doug L. “The Frenchman” LeTourneau to Jack Singlaub. During the visit he asked them to represent him at the memorial for

Mel Swanson, a Air Force A-1 Skyraider pilot and squadron commander who flew hundreds of sorties in the single-engine SPAD in support of SOG and SAR (Search and Rescue) missions in Laos, N. Vietnam and Cambodia.

Last month we reported on the presentation of a proposal to create a Veterans Memorial Park to honor Owens Valley natives MG John K. Singlaub and Captain James Bircham, both born in Independence, California. Debra Holm has written about James Bircham and his outstanding career. The present proposal is for it to be located in Independence, CA, near the Inyo County Courthouse.

Please feel free to check out coverage of our August chapter meeting, which was once again held at our previous long-time meeting location, the Joint Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos.

And of course, please keep sending us your stories about your SF service. ♦

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**SFA Chapter 78
Monthly Meeting
October’s meeting has been
canceled due to SFACON.
Next scheduled chapter meeting
November 15**

Joint Forces Training Base, Los Alamitos
The Pub at Fiddlers Green

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

2025 Meeting Schedule
December (to be announced)