

From the Editor | December 2025



How Miller
Sentinel Editor

We start this *Sentinel* with the enthusiastic recap of the combined SOAR and SFACON 2025 in Las Vegas, by Debra Holm, including extra-curricular activities such as the motorcycle ride. In a visit of a little over 24 hours, she managed to capture the feel of the events. She was also able to discover lots of new podcasts and other materials for us all to enjoy.

She even talks about the new book by Steve Sherman et al., *Vietnam Veterans for Factual History, A Factual History of the Vietnam*

War and Its Aftermath, A Reappraisal after 50 Plus Years, which is a retrospective to reflect on the Vietnam War and the extensive series of “Year of the ...” books that Steve published over the years, which were chock full of details and penetrating analysis.

Then I review a book by SOG veteran Jerry Guzzetta, entitled *I Walked With Heroes*. It is an insightful and irreverent glimpse of what it was like to serve in SOG, where heroism was a common trait. He discusses five Medal of Honor recipients and much, much more.

Jerry also shares an excerpt from his book with us: Chapter XIII is about the large SOG “Operation Tailwind” to help out the CIA in Laos. Michael Hagan, who was on the operation, attended the same high school as Jerry, and they became fast friends at CCC in Kontum, South Vietnam. Medic Gary Rose received the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions during that operation. It is an exciting and informative read.

Reader Ben Rapaport has brought to our attention the tale of CSM George Vidrine, whose infantry and SF career intersected Ben’s Signal career on many occasions. Besides his tale of their friendship, Ben provides lots of references for those of us who wish to dig deeper into the life of this fascinating man.

Chapter member, author, SOG veteran, and host of *SOGCAST*, John “Tilt” Stryker Meyer, tells us about SOG legend George Bacon III. He was wounded during the catastrophic NVA attack on FOB 4 on 23 Aug 1968. After SOG, he went on to a distinguished career with the CIA, including being advisor to Laotian General Vang Pao.

As we had no chapter meeting in October with the conventions going on, our last page features the Veterans Day Youth Leadership Experience, held November 9th at Bob Hope Patriotic Hall. Chapter 78 members joined American Legion Post 283 in an event that brought high school students together with Special Forces veterans and military leaders to explore courage, character, and leadership. Medal of Honor Recipient Gary Littrell delivered the keynote, and Chapter 78 member and Post 283 Jr. Past Commander Jim Cragg joined West Point officials in engaging with students throughout the day.

We hope you will enjoy reading this issue, and please keep sending in your stories. ♦

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SFA Chapter 78 Monthly Meeting

January 17, 2026

Breakfast – 0800 • Meeting – 0830

Joint Forces Training Base, Los Alamitos

The Pub at Fiddlers Green
4745 Yorktown Ave Bldg 19,
Los Alamitos, CA 90720-5176

2026 Meeting Schedule

January 17 • February 21

March 21 • April 18

May 16 • June 20

July 18 • August 15

September 19 • October 17

November 21

December (to be announced)