

From the Editor



How Miller
Sentinel Editor

I need to start with an apology. My only excuse is that I hold both of these men in such high esteem that their names have become interchangeable in my mind. In my Editor's letter in February, foreshadowing our use of the two-part Son Tay Raid article, I inadvertently attributed "high praise" for the book to General Stanley McChrystal, though it was actually written by ADM William McRaven.

Former Green Beret **Albert Kittredge** shares a short story from his book, **MY WAR VIETNAM 1968–1969 1971–1973**. It was when AI was CO of A415, adjacent to Tuyen Nhon, and they hosted a USN detachment of Swift Boats for several weeks. The story tells of an ambushed patrol that was joined by team members of the camp, including medic Dallas Padgett, who originally was borrowed from MACV.

MSG Chris LaSala, C/1/19 SFNG, relates how, as an **SF recruiter**, he promotes the image of the Regiment and spreads the word about the paths for both civilian and military prospects to succeed and become Green Berets. As you can imagine, he looks for quality of recruits above quantity. Excellent physical fitness is important, but expected. The successful candidate will also show character, which he explains.

Chris includes an excellent list of steps to properly prepare, and here's a partial quote: "If you are looking to test your leadership against a meaningful standard, you want to be surrounded by high performers who demand excellence, and if you want to serve in a capacity where small teams can influence strategic outcomes, then we can have a conversation."

Our graphic designer, Debra Holm, has put together a thank you to the supporters of our **3rd annual Valor Luncheon** in this special issue of the *Sentinel*.

In this issue, we conclude the two-part excerpt from **Textbook Special Ops: The Son Tay Raid** by raid planner and participant **John Gargus** and **Cliff Westbrook**. In part 1, we learned about the mission sneaking in from the west to rescue US POWs from Son Tay near Hanoi; about the massive distraction eagerly provided by the US Navy running an unexpected mock bombing campaign over Haiphong, just east of Hanoi; and our secret spying capabilities being used in the RC-135s at 35,000 feet over the Gulf of Tonkin. Join us as the action on the ground begins and the NVA SAM missile sites begin to identify targets.

Feel free to view our chapter meeting at Iron Mike's Guns, where we practiced our shooting at his high-tech, all-family shop and gun range. And please keep those stories coming about your SF experiences in the field. You can see that we regularly use them. And please join us on our social media sites for videos of speakers and more. ❖

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