

From the President | June 2026



James McLanahan
President SFA Ch. 78

Ownership, Let's Keep Going

Here we are halfway through the year. So much has happened at home and abroad. Nationally, our military has shifted into high gear from a brief surgical strike in Venezuela to a conflict in Iran. Our chapter has been busy. We are making every effort to honor our past, support the current generation, and inspire future Green Berets.

A brief look at our calendar this year should show the outline of our efforts to steward the profession in this manner. And we are only halfway there. This year we will have hosted, ran, or attended: Time at the shooting range, a fundraiser with over 200 people from all over the country with special guest (and chapter member) Dick Thompson and GWOT-era commandos (Will Walker and Joseph Ivanov) doing a presentation on their tech company Onebrief, their efforts to get the French Resistance Monument established in Normandy. To which they graciously invited us to be VIP guests this year. The National Special Forces Association Conference was in Florida, hosted by 7th Group. That's not everything; it's just the highlights.

We use our monthly guest speakers, the *Sentinel*, and YouTube to preserve and share our history. Kudos to How Miller and Debra Holm for winning SFA Newsletter of the Year (again). We support active duty service members, like our new member joining us on the trip to Normandy. Who by the time of your reading this should have already jumped in France with other current and former Green Berets. We invite local ROTC Cadets to our events, the luncheon, and the Christmas Party and present the SFA Awards of Excellence to them at their award ceremony. We support the Sunburst Cadets with the same Outstanding Cadet award as the ROTC Cadets. And the year is only half over. It works because these members owned those action items. They made that happen.

Let's do some great work this second half of the year. I would love for us to go back to Iron Mike's and shoot. Let's also find more things to do. We have awards to present in the second half of the year; we have checks to present. And I know if/when a Green Beret is injured while training or something worse, this chapter will step up. Do we go to the beach, the mountains, or iFly Indoor Skydiving? Would you like to tour Anduril? Please send me and our VP Don Deatherage your ideas, your AAR comments, and your encouragement. We can put it together. We have a strong team and a good tailwind. The more people take ownership, the more we get done. ❖

De Oppresso Liber,
James McLanahan
President, SFA Chapter 78



SFA Chapter 78 Monthly Meeting

June 20, 2026

Breakfast – 0800 • Meeting – 0830

Courtyard by Marriott
5865 Katella Ave, Room A
Cypress, CA 90630

Please send RSVP by Monday, June 15 to
VP Don Deatherage @ drdeathca@gmail.com

Next month—July 18, 2026

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

2026 Meeting Schedule

July 18 • August 15
September 19 • October 17 • November 21
December (to be announced)