



SENTINEL

NEWSLETTER OF THE QUIET PROFESSIONALS

SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION CHAPTER 78

The LTC Frank J. Dallas Chapter

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 10 • OCTOBER 2026

Remembering JOHN S. JOYCE

November 21, 1962 –
September 6, 2026

Primum Non Nocere

An 18D Medic's story

FROM A STANDING START:
U.S. Army Psychological Warfare
and Civil Affairs in the Korean War

Welcome Home, Sister:
The Forgotten Story of
Vietnam's Donut Dollies



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FRONT COVER: This issue is dedicated to the memory of our friend, John S. Joyce, who passed unexpectedly in early September. This photo was taken in September, 2019 at the Change of Command Ceremony at Camp Williams National Guard Training Base, near Salt Lake City, Utah. John had been invited to attend the ceremony by his old friend, Jason Legler, who had just been promoted to the Command Sergeant Major's position with the 19th Special Forces Group.

Read about John and his service to the SF community beginning on page 3.

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From the President | October 2026



James McLanahan
President SFA Ch. 78

Make It Count

Most of you already know—John Joyce was a friend of Chapter 78. Lately, I find I am wasting time needed for obligations. This has become one of my favorite quotes reminding me to get back on task when I drift.

"It is not that we have a short time to live, but that we waste a lot of it." —Seneca

John Joyce did not waste his time.

And those of you who knew him much better than me could add more to anything I can say to describe him. He always helped me anytime the chapter needed anything. From Nevada. Always. I am sure his friends, family, and colleagues can all say the same.

I would tell you one of my biggest fears is that I gave too much of the time I have to the wrong things. Things that when I looked back, I would see them as lacking not lasting.

We should build things that last with people we care about. I think John did that. And when we do, when we focus on common goals, for the greater good, with our friends and family we make our time count. Be the rising tide that lifts all ships.

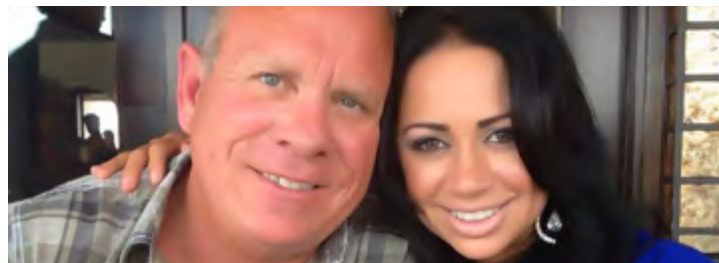
It sounds simple or obvious, but it took me a long time to understand. If you saw the path my life has taken it might have looked like a mouse lost in a maze. Not for lack of effort—I was going 100mph the whole time. I promise. But, effort and direction are not the same.

It's hard to say from the outside looking in, but from where I stand, John Joyce saw a straight line. ♦

De Oppresso Liber,

James McLanahan

President, SFA Chapter 78



Stand John Joyce's Family in Their Time of Need

Following the sudden passing of Special Forces brother and long-time SOA vendor John Joyce, a GoFundMe campaign has been established to help his widow, Ozzy, with funeral and immediate household expenses.

If John touched your life or supported your unit or organization, please consider making a donation in his memory.

Visit <https://www.gofundme.com/f/standing-with-john-joyces-family-in-their-time-of-need> to make a donation or for more information.

Thank you for helping us take care of one of our own.

Eat, Drink, & Be Merry!

SFA Chapter 78 Christmas Party

Save the Date!

December 12th, 2026
4pm – 8pm

Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club
1601 Bayside Dr.
Corona Del Mar, CA 92625



SFA Chapter 78 Monthly Meeting

October 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

Please send RSVP by Monday, October 12 to
VP Don Deatherage @ drdeathca@gmail.com

Next month—November 21, 2026

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

From the Editor | October 2026



How Miller
Sentinel Editor

This issue of the *Sentinel* is dedicated to the memory of **John S. Joyce**, our founder, who passed away unexpectedly on September 6. A longtime member of the Special Forces Association, John was first an active member of Chapter 78 before moving to Las Vegas, where he became a member of Chapter 51. A dedicated supporter of both chapters and of the Special Forces community, John shared his talents as a designer, organizer, and businessman whenever they were needed.

John's obituary is our featured story this month, and we chose to include the member profile he wrote in 2011, giving him the opportunity to tell his own story—and giving us one more chance to hear his voice.

As always, this issue also contains stories that reflect the many experiences, traditions, and contributions of the Special Forces community—past and present.

“**Primum Non Nocere**” is from one of our readers, **David Daugherty**. Becoming an 18D (Special Forces Medical Sergeant) by way of the Special Forces National Guard involved becoming “acclimatized” to training with active-duty troops who were more diverse and experienced. But when his team deployed, he was ready and even demonstrated his Warrior Diplomat skills by creating and implementing a successful humanitarian effort, while being grateful for all the support his teammates provided.

I have reviewed ***Cry Havoc*** by **Jack Carr**. The story is fictional, but it takes place partly within MACV-SOG and builds into an international

spy drama. Jack draws from a knowledge of real SOG activities and relates a compelling, page-turning tale with many plot twists, while referencing real-life Special Forces and OSS operations. A good read.

After WWII, the United States dismantled most of its intelligence, psychological warfare, and irregular warfare organizations. As a result, when North Korea invaded South Korea, those capabilities had to be rebuilt “**From a Standing Start**,” as told by **Kenneth Finlayson** in ***Veritas***. We learn how the CIA had already assumed many intelligence functions, leaving psychological warfare and Civil Affairs to be rebuilt under the direction of BG Robert A. McClure, laying the groundwork for the creation of Special Forces.

Welcome Home, Sister, a short film by **Emma Spencer**, is told through the experiences of Penni Evans, one of the American Red Cross volunteers known as the **Donut Dollies**. These brave and cheerful women brought a little piece of home to troops throughout Vietnam, including Special Forces soldiers in places such as Kontum. Because they served as civilians, despite many of the same exposures faced by military personnel, they have remained ineligible for VA or VA-type medical benefits. Emma is producing this film to help bring attention to their story and garner support through the film festival circuit.

We appreciate your continued support, and please keep sending your stories to us to share with the Regiment. Stories can be sent to me directly at Howmiller78@outlook.com or by contacting us through our website specialforces78.com

How Miller
Sentinel Editor

SFA Chapter 78's Sentinel Voted SFA Best Newsletter of 2025-2026

Toot our own horn? Absolutely! The *Sentinel* crew is thrilled to report that our publication has been voted the Special Forces Association's best newsletter for 2025–2026.

The award was announced at the Special Forces Association Convention this June. Since none of our members could attend the ceremony, the plaque, now on display in our Teamhouse, made its way to our Chapter President, who presented it to the team behind it all—publisher Richard Simonian, editor How Miller, and graphic designer/webmaster Debra Holm—at our August chapter meeting (photo on page 14).

We're honored by the recognition, and it lights a fire under us to keep doing what we do best: reporting, revealing, and preserving the history of Special Forces and everyone who has supported its mission.

A tip of the beret to the many members who've donated their writing to the *Sentinel* over the years—including longtime contributors like Greg Walker, Marc Yablonka, and John Stryker Meyer, just to name a few. None of it would be possible without writers willing to share their stories and expertise. To every writer, past and present, who has picked up a pen on our behalf: thank you.



Remembering JOHN S. JOYCE

November 21, 1962 – September 6, 2026

By Debra Holm

On September 6, 2026, the Special Forces community lost one of its own: John S. Joyce, of Henderson, Nevada. John founded the *Sentinel* in 2010—so if you're reading this, you have him to thank.

In 2011, he wrote the following member profile for our website—and looking back on it now, we can't think of anyone who could tell his story better than he did, in his own words.

I am honored to be a member of Special Forces Association Chapter 78, surrounded by so many heroes. My career has little excitement compared to them.

I was born and raised in Southern California, coming from a military family. My father served in the US Army in Korea, and my Grandfather on my father's side was a World War I fighter pilot in France and retired at the rank of Colonel. My Grandfather on his mother's side was a Canadian Army Artillery Commander in World War I.

After college, I was bored with civilian life. Wanting to carry on the family military tradition, I enlisted in the Army at 21 years old in 1984. I wanted to go Special Forces, but at this time they did not take direct enlistments. The recruiter found me an unassigned Airborne slot for radio operator (05B/C) and told me to keep volunteering. After Basic Training, AIT, and Airborne, I found myself assigned to the 2/75th Ranger Battalion at Ft. Lewis, WA.

I did about 5 months at the 2/75th, and then the Special Forces recruiter came a calling. They were reactivating the 1st Special Forces Group on North Ft. Lewis and were looking for Radio Operators, my lucky day. I volunteered for this and was assigned to the Military Intelligence Company, 1st Special Forces Group.

I remember sitting down with my new First Sergeant and having him tell me to relax, to lose my high and tight and get ready to go to schools. I was the 11th person to arrive in this reactivated company and they had nothing to do yet. The next weekend I went TDY to Phoenix, Arizona, to attend a Jump Fest with the SF reserve unit there. We made a lot of Hollywood jumps that day in a perfect desert sky. Special Forces was GREAT!

Then I was sent TDY to Hawaii to attend Air Assault School at Schofield Barracks. That was a fun two weeks in Hawaii. There was no room on base to stay, so we were put up at a beachfront hotel on Waikiki. My first year was a whirlwind of training and schools.

My first real mission was a training FTX in which I inserted with one of 1st Groups new ODA's as the radio operator to Eastern Washington State, Yakima Valley. We were to infiltrate the 9th ID's base camp and steal whatever we could. It was winter, and we were dropped into about 2 feet of snow. After a good ruck, we ran



Airborne Group photo, McChord Air Force Base, WA. John is the first on the left.

the operation and ended up with the base commander's coffee cup. This was a nice present for the 1st Group Commander, Colonel Barratto.

We deployed on numerous FTX's, one to Oregon and one to Ft. Smith, Arkansas. Then there were the international FTX's: Foal Eagle to Korea and Cobra Gold to Thailand. We spent more time in the field than on post.

One of my highlights: I remember going to Ft. Bragg TDY and reading *Five Years to Freedom* by Nick Rowe on the airplane there and then meeting him a short time later in his office.



At Ft. Lewis

I worked numerous positions, Radio Operator, SOT-A Team, Company Training Officer, did some intel work, and I worked for the Company Commander and XO. I made the rank of E-5 Sergeant.

I left 1st Group in 1988, did a short stint with the 12th SFG, and went right into Law Enforcement. I spent 10 years as a Police Officer for the City of Newport Beach, CA. I am now the CEO of a private investigation and security company based in Southern California, operating in California, Nevada, and Arizona.

I am proud to have spent time in the Army and even more proud to be associated with so many great men of Special Forces.

Several years after writing this profile, John founded Excalibur Industries, where he was able to put his passion for creative work to use. It didn't take long for word of his talent to get around. His designs for challenge coins (including our own chapter coin), plaques, insignia, and other commemorative pieces for military units, veterans' organizations, and law-enforcement agencies will live on throughout the Special Forces and military communities.

Alongside his professional endeavors, John's remained committed to serving the Special Forces community. While a member of our chapter, he was a key support for every event and fundraising effort, including three years of the Green Beret Shooters Cup. As a member of the Special Forces Association, he served for many years in leadership roles with SFA Chapter 78 in Southern California, including Director at Large and Treasurer, and later with SFA Chapter 51 in Las Vegas after moving to Nevada.

John often gave freely of his talents as a designer, organizer, and businessman. As mentioned earlier, he was the original editor and graphic designer of the *Sentinel*; he also designed countless chapter coins and awards and organized the epic 2021 Special Forces Association International Convention in Las Vegas.

But most importantly, John was a great human being. He had a kind, humble, easy-going manner and was always ready to lend a hand—he embodied the term “brother.”

John is survived by his wife, Ozielly Joyce. John was one-of-a-kind and, as such, irreplaceable. His unexpected passing leaves a tremendous void in the Special Forces community and among the many whose lives he touched.

Rest in peace, John. You will be missed.

De Oppresso Liber ❖



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1 Motor Officer, Newport Beach Police Department.

2 Presidential Protection Detail for George H.W., Bush, in Newport Beach.

3 Colonel Sully De Fontaine displays a plaque designed and presented by John Joyce on behalf of SFA Chapter 51.

4 SFA Chapter 51 members, with Chapter 78's Debra Holm, at SOAR 2025.

5 John came out from Las Vegas for Chapter 78's July meeting to celebrate Richard Simonian's 90th birthday and to present him with a certificate of appreciation for his support of SFACon 2021.

6 7 John's first challenge coin, designed for MG John Singlaub, and a very recent design—for a 10th Group A Team.

8 John and his wife, Ozielly.

Primum Non Nocere

By David Daugherty, DMin, MA

An 18D medic getting involved in US Army Special Forces as a young man was less about patriotism than it was about self-actualizing. Some differences between active-duty and National Guard Special Forces Groups are how units in the Guard Groups are manned by people of the same ilk. Active-duty units draw in different cultures and backgrounds from around the country. But my first Special Forces unit essentially represented the same New England culture.

My first SF Company Commander was also a Special Agent with the Immigration and Naturalization Service. We also had police officers, firefighters, entrepreneurs, chefs, city council members, tradesmen, you name it. And we all had the same accent that hints at a subtle sarcasm no matter how serious the conversation. Yet you will find the same grit, determination, and physical toughness among the men as any active-duty Green Beret—sometimes even more because of the various chosen lifestyles (yes, there are stories that could make nearly anyone double back).

My immersion with active-duty soldiers in the Q-Course was a culture shock. The irony should be obvious because we are supposed to be cultural experts, capable of perceiving and integrating foreign values of indigenous populations to multiply local forces in Foreign Internal Defense missions. Even in the post-9/11 era, what sets US Army Special Forces apart from any other Special Operations Force in direct action missions is our cultural expertise. So, I can say that as a young National Guard soldier in the Q-Course and having my corporal bars punched in, I knew how not to make cultural differences more complicated: *Primum Non Nocere*.

Being culturally immersed in the active-duty military with other Special Forces candidates from every kind of Army unit—many with combat experience in 1997—showed me that I had very little to contribute to the conversation. I kept my mouth shut. I listened. I discovered that men had joined the Army because of family tradition, patriotic conviction, and basic familiarity. Their individual soldierly skills were superior to mine, as were how they carried themselves. And I was most surprised at how selfless they could be when the moment called for it. Don't get me wrong, I was no slouch. I had earned my way on a faster track to Camp Mackall. But I had a lot to learn.

Ideologically I was good to go. I was determined to become the warrior diplomat that I was told I could be as a Special Forces medic. Attaining the knowledge, power, and ability to both kill and heal seemed like the perfect way to do good in the world. But with a young man's attitude,



I sometimes put the cart before the horse and temporarily forgot the importance of those values my active-duty counterparts brought to the table. Nonetheless, the overarching ideology to Free the Oppressed and do them no further harm, along with pure determination, drove me to Robin Sage.

It may not be entirely bad to be so high-minded that it takes a certain amount of ego to earn your place. So, my counterparts demonstrated a balance of ego and humility with realism that influenced my focus and maturity. These men had a more realistic outlook on what was expected of them, and over time I learned to follow suit even when my mind traversed elsewhere.

Though it takes considerably more resources to make a Special Forces soldier than, say, an infantryman, these men still had a better understanding of the sacrifice they may have to make. They were more intuitive that their sacrifices could be much more costly for them and their families than the impact of their potential death could have on the mission they would be sent to. This kind of understanding came later and fully for me in the realities of how America fights her wars.

I did progress in the skills and the mindset of being a warrior diplomat. The ideal of winning the hearts and minds of the people to live the motto “*De Oppressor Liber*” never left me. In pursuit of it, I learned invaluable lessons for the mission but for life beyond as well. I learned about the permanence of death. I learned that one cheap bottle of antibiotic for a child amputee could turn a village. And I learned that the 18D is a unique position indeed; the Special Forces Medic has developed and been entrusted with an autonomy like no other.

An ODA is expected to have the capacity to function independently. While Command and Control strategy has changed significantly in SOF since the Vietnam War, largely due to communications technology and expansion of command structures, our leadership and critical thinking skills remain intact. This creates tension. And that tension can manifest like no other in the Special Forces medic. I believe this is a direct result of our medical training.



On patrol with Afghan National Army. (Photo courtesy David Daugherty)

The training of a soldier wires the brain to integrate into a unit. The training succeeds in orienting a soldier to function synergistically under the Commander's intent. Special Forces training capitalizes on mature soldiers' capacity to think critically without compromising that synergy. But the "Force Multiplier" concept does require a greater amount of autonomy, marking our distinction from conventional command structures.

Special Forces Medic training, in my opinion, takes this even further. To learn medicine in the Q Course with such depth and intensity means we begin to understand the "practice" of it philosophically and creatively. We train in hospitals alongside medical residents and develop independent decision-making processes with equal measure—diagnosing, prescribing, and weighing outcomes. We are entrusted with the life and well-being of American lives.

I manifested this critical thinking and decisiveness almost accidentally on a deployment to Afghanistan in 2006.

There was major flooding in villages near our Forward Operating Base. The ruling warlord was exploiting the population and making it even more difficult for villagers to survive. Specifically, we were getting reports of life-saving resources being taken from women and children. I also learned that we had access to up to \$1M worth of humanitarian aid. I turned to the Team Sergeant about the warlord bullying and plight of the indig. His response was my education. He told me that planning and executing a humanitarian mission had been my choice all along. You mean to tell me I get to manifest as the warrior diplomat I'd striven to become—to self-actualize in an obscure Afghan village, helping women and children and putting a warlord in his place? Say no more.

The mission was a huge success. We supplied the villages, developed stronger bonds with our Afghan National Army counterparts, and revealed corruption. I was, of course, acutely aware that I had a lot to learn about leadership, planning, and execution. I was totally dependent on every area of expertise that the ODA brought to the table. To be sure, this was a National Guard team, and we drew from our civilian experience as well—law enforcement, IT, sales, and supply



Afghan kids having fun with a slingshot. (Photo courtesy David Daugherty)



Providing medical care in a local orphanage. (Photo courtesy David Daugherty)

chain management, and all that creativity was mobilized. However, the fact that it happened was the result of my own ideals developed as a young National Guard soldier in the Q-Course.

I still had a lot to learn about power. I did come face-to-face with that warlord. Some interpreters introduced me to him, then quietly exited the room. The power to handle justice emotionally existed in that moment. He stood from his chair and walked out a back door. I stood just outside the doorway watching him disappear into obscurity when another member of the ODA came into the room to stand beside me (thanks, Bob). Ultimately, the autonomy of an 18D may only be as effective as the astuteness of his teammates. ♦

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Since serving in Special Forces and Pararescue, David Daugherty has been a behavioral health clinician and chaplain specializing in veterans and adolescents.

Book Review

Cry Havoc: A Terminal List Thriller by Jack Carr

By How Miller

Warning: despite my usual penchant for writing only about nonfiction subjects, *Cry Havoc* by **Jack Carr** is fiction. It is a fast action story that encompasses Special Forces, the CIA, and various world capitals. Jack (a pen name for retired Navy SEAL George Petersen) includes both combat and related action and behind-the-scenes machinations. It is a spy novel, start to finish, from jungles to the Pentagon and the Kremlin, from MACV-SOG to KGB and NVD and US Naval Intelligence, and more.

He brings out the consequences of spying for all sides and weaves in information we did not have in Vietnam. The intricate plot, with many twists, keeps you wanting to turn the page.

Tom Reece, father of the author's frequent character Jim Reece and also a SEAL, becomes attached to MACV-SOG and then to other special assignments.

We have several story lines all tied together. Picture SOG missions, pre-Tet Offensive, where there are suspicions of a mole feeding SOG mission plans to the enemy, resulting in recon teams being completely wiped out. Skip then to the capture of the USS Pueblo, an American spy ship, off the Coast of North Korea. There was not enough time to destroy all the sensitive equipment and records, beginning the process of the enemy being able to decipher our worldwide communications. At first it was after the fact and eventually became real-time deciphering. Two characters are derived from the actual traitorous actions of the Navy's John A. Walker, Jr. and the Army's Joseph George Helmich, Jr.

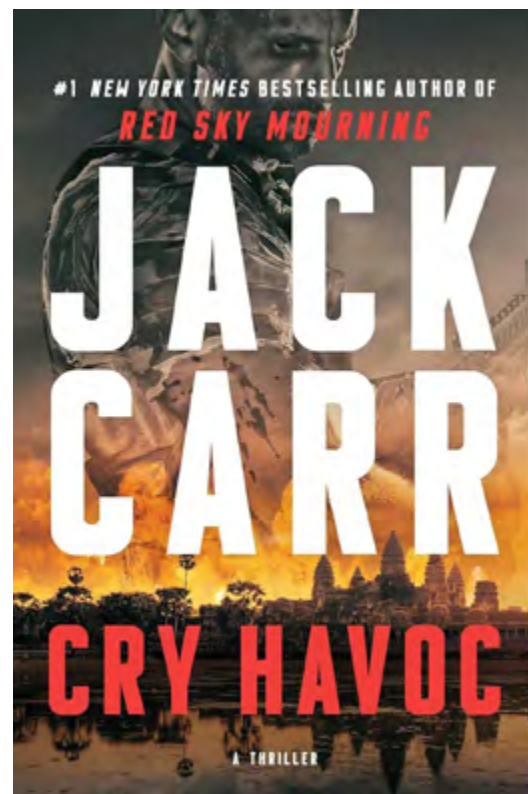
The author borrows heavily from real SOG missions and other events. Our hero, Tom, has just finished with SEAL combat in the Viet Cong-infested Mekong Delta and is picked to help SOG with riverine skills. They want to covertly put explosive charges in 55-gallon drums of fuel that are being floated, in 100-yard shifts, down a river in Laos. The goal is to remotely detonate the explosives when the barrel reaches the storage depot, depriving the enemy of lots of fuel.

SOG Chief MG Jack Singlaub decides that Tom would be handy to have around, and Tom ends up staying after the mission and finds lots of other far-and-wide adventures.

Yes, there is even romance involved.

We even find that Tom's father was in the WWII OSS and was on the Deer Team that actually helped Ho Chi Minh against the Japanese.

Obviously, it is a great read, and I, for one, shall be reading his other best-selling books. ♦



Cry Havoc: A Terminal List Thriller

By Jack Carr

Atria/Emily Bestler Books, October 7, 2025

560 pages



SFA Chapter 78 member Ham Salley with author Jack Carr (former Navy SEAL) at his book signing for his latest release, *The Fourth Option*, at the Nixon Library on 18 May. Since fellow chapter member John Meyer had been a consultant for *Cry Havoc*, Ham presented Jack with the latest copy of the *Sentinel*, which featured Dick Thompson wearing a MACV-SOG patch on the cover and a chapter challenge coin. (Photo courtesy Ham Salley)

Read an excerpt from the *Cry Havoc*'s first chapter at this link: https://www.amazon.com/Cry-Havoc-Terminal-List-Thriller/dp/1668095262/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0

From a Standing Start:

U.S. Army Psychological Warfare and Civil Affairs in the Korean War

By Kenneth Finlayson

From *Veritas*, Vol. 7, No. 1, 2011 (https://arsof-history.org/articles/v7n1_standing_start_page_1.html)

Following World War II, United States Army special operations units virtually vanished in the rapid demobilization. The start of the Korean War on 25 June 1950 was the catalyst for the revival of the Army's special operations capability. The Army brought back the Rangers as company-sized units, stood up the 8240th Army Unit to train anti-Communist North Korean partisan forces and revived its nascent Psychological Warfare (Psywar) and Civil Affairs (CA) capability.¹ This issue of *Veritas* features the development of the units that figured prominently in the growth of tactical and strategic Psywar and the organizations developed to handle the humanitarian assistance and civil-military government efforts. Of significance to Army Special Operations Forces (ARSO) was the establishment of the Psychological Warfare Center at Fort Bragg, North Carolina which resulted in the birth of Special Forces. In several notable respects, ARSO as it exists in today's Army is the result of the special operations capabilities developed during the Korean War.

In contrast to World War II when America was attacked by Imperial Japan, the Korean War was a clash of competing Cold War ideologies. The United States as a nation was not directly threatened by the North Korean invasion. Instead, the Korean War was the "hot" aspect of the Cold War, and was the most serious direct confrontation between

the Communist bloc and the capitalist West. Throughout the war, the Army walked a fine line between adequately supporting operations in Korea against its primary mission of opposing the Soviet forces in Europe. In this battle, the United States Defense Department quickly recognized the need to counter the extensive Communist propaganda.

When the war started in June 1950, the U.S. Army's entire Psywar capability consisted of a thirty-man Tactical Information Detachment (TID) at Fort Riley, Kansas. Directing the effort to build up its Psywar capability was the Office of the Chief of Psychological Warfare (OCPW), headed by Brigadier General (BG) Robert A. McClure. The OCPW moved quickly to build up the Army's Psywar capability, concentrating on the two primary methods for disseminating information, printed leaflets and radio broadcasting. Psywar courses were swiftly established at the Army General School at Fort Riley to train soldiers to man the newly created units. In the interim, BG McClure sent the TID to Japan, the first Psywar elements to support General (GEN) Douglas A. MacArthur's Far East Command (FECOM).²

The Army fielded the 1st Loudspeaker and Leaflet Company (1st L&L), the 1st Radio Broadcasting and Leaflet Group (1st RB&L) and the 4th Mobile Radio Broadcasting Company (4th MRBC) to meet the need for producing and disseminating leaflets and directly broadcasting information at the tactical and strategic levels in Korea.³ Simultaneously, the 2nd, and 5th Loudspeaker and Leaflet Companies



The Korean War began with the North Korean invasion of the south on 25 June 1950. The United States Army was ill-prepared for the war and had to rapidly build up all of its capabilities. (U.S. Army)



General Douglas A. MacArthur meets South Korean President Syngman Rhee. MacArthur requested Army Psywar elements to bolster Rhee's fragile government in the early days of the war. (U.S. Army)



The U.S. Army was faced with an almost insurmountable problem of refugees on the battlefield. Army Civil Affairs units were instrumental in the effort to provide food and medical care and to keep the roads clear of the hordes of displaced civilians. (U.S. Army)

and the 301st Mobile Radio Broadcasting and Leaflet Group were formed and trained, and the 5th L&L and 301st RB&L deployed to Europe. Built from scratch, these units were manned by established artists, journalists and technicians from the civilian advertising, publishing, and radio news industries. Their missions were as varied as the backgrounds of the soldiers.

On the battlefield in Korea, the units supporting the Eighth US Army (EUSA) deployed loudspeaker teams with manpack and vehicle-mounted systems in support of the divisions on the frontlines. Often operating in “no-man’s land” forward of friendly lines these “bullet magnets” broadcast directly to the North Koreans and Chinese and were frequently the target of enemy patrols and indirect fire as they conducted tactical Psywar.⁴ At the strategic level in support of FECOM, the 1st RB&L artists and lithographers translated complex themes into simple visual products, producing millions of leaflets that were disseminated on both sides of the front lines. Those targeting the Communist forces were designed to lower morale and induce surrender. The units also produced leaflets and information sheets focused on the South Korean civilian population and were a primary means of providing public information. Other Psywar units performed a similar function using radio broadcasting to reach both sides.

Mobile teams initially based in Japan deployed into Korea and established a number of radio stations in Seoul, Pusan, Taejon, and in other locations as well as briefly in the North Korean capital of P’yongyang.⁵ The 4th Mobile Radio Broadcasting Company (4th MRBC) produced radio scripts that were translated into Hangul (Korean) and Chinese for transmission over the Korean Broadcasting System radio network. The teams broadcast the speeches of South Korean President Syngman Rhee as well as provided the prepared newscasts that reached throughout the South. The information distributed by the Psywar teams was instrumental in the successful operations of another ARSOF operation in Korea, Civil Affairs.



This leaflet was produced by the 1st Loudspeaker & Leaflet Company to induce the surrender of North Korean People’s Army soldiers. An enemy soldier surrendering while in possession of the leaflet was guaranteed safe conduct to the rear. (U.S. Army)

The Korean War also presented monumental problems for the U.S. Army in dealing with the nearly insurmountable health and sanitation needs of large numbers of refugees and the requirement to establish civil-military government in the occupied North Korean cities, notably in P’yongyang.⁶ A succession of organizations, the UN Public Health and Welfare Detachment, which became the United Nations Civil Affairs Command Korea (UNCACK), then the Korea Civil Affairs Command were formed as the main U.S. Army effort to administer the civil affairs mission. The formation of the UN Public Health and Welfare Detachment was directed by GEN MacArthur and designed to support Lieutenant General Walton H. Walker’s Eighth Army. The other major U.S. combat formation in Korea, Major General (MG) Edmond M. Almond’s X Corps was not an element of EUSA and hence, had to conduct its civil affairs operations using its organic assets. Notable uses of Civil Affairs in Korea encompassed governance in the occupied territories of North Korea and humanitarian assistance, which included the evacuation of large numbers of refugees from the ports of Chinnamp’o, Wonsan, and Hungnam.⁷ As was the case with Psywar, the CA organization was rapidly and often painfully built up to meet the mission in Korea.⁸ This expansion rejuvenated the stateside training base for both elements, in the case of Civil Affairs at Camp Gordon, Georgia. For Psywar, it resulted in the establishment of the Psychological Warfare Center at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

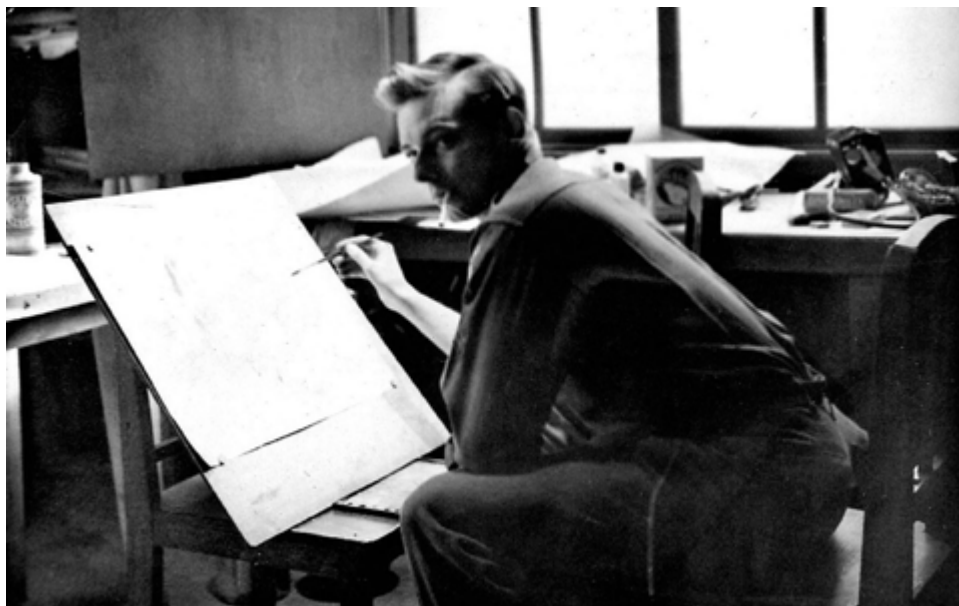


Korean Civil Assistance Command SSI (U.S. Army)

Under the impetus of BG Robert A. McClure, the director of OCPW and the strongest advocate for rebuilding the Army’s Psywar capability, a new training facility was established on Smoke Bomb Hill at



BG Robert A. McClure (U.S. Army)



Richard Zayac was an illustrator for the 1st Loudspeaker & Leaflet Company. He designed many of the leaflets distributed by the company and captured images of frontline operations. A selection of his work appears in this issue. (U.S. Army)

Fort Bragg in 1952. Originally formed in 1951 as the Psychological Warfare Division of the Army General School at Fort Riley, Kansas, the new Psychological Warfare Center was activated at Fort Bragg on 1 May 1952. The Center was composed of the Psychological Warfare School (Provisional) with a Psychological Operations Department and the Special Forces Department, the 6th Radio Broadcast and Leaflet Group (6th RB&L), the Psychological Warfare Board, and the

10th Special Forces Group.⁹ By virtue of the establishment of the Psychological Warfare Center, the linkage between today's ARSOF units, particularly the 4th Military Information Support Group (4th MISG) and the seven U.S. Army Special Forces Groups is a result of the Army's effort to meet the Psywar requirements of the Korean War.

Veritas 2011:1 features articles on the 1st Loudspeaker and Leaflet Company, the 1st Radio Broadcasting and Leaflet Group, and the 4th



Aerial photograph of Smoke Bomb Hill at Fort Bragg, North Carolina in the 1970's. At this time, little had changed since the Psychological Warfare Center was established in 1952. The photograph is oriented from the southwest in the lower left corner to the northeast in the upper right corner. (U.S. Army)

Mobile Radio Broadcasting Company as well as other units associated with the Psywar effort in Korea. In all cases, the voices of the veterans of these units are prominent in describing the missions and conditions under which they operated. The artistic talents of illustrator Richard Zayac and photographer Sergeant Herbert Shevins of the 1st L&L are featured.¹⁰ Included in the coverage of the Psywar effort is an article addressing the birth of the Psychological Warfare Center at Fort Bragg. This issue looks at the Civil Affairs organization in EUSA as it evolved during the Korean War and highlights the X Corps evacuation operations at the ports of Hungnam and Wonsan. The legacy of the Korean War Civil Affairs and Psywar missions is embodied today in the 95th Civil Affairs Brigade and the 4th Military Information Support Group at Fort Bragg. ♦

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kenneth Finlayson is the USASOC Deputy Command Historian. He earned his PhD from the University of Maine, and is a retired Army officer. Current research interests include Army special operations during the Korean War, special operations aviation, and World War II special operations units.

Endnotes

1. Military Information Support Operations (MISO) and Civil Affairs are the primary topics addressed in this issue of *Veritas*. Among the many volumes written on these topics, several provide background information on the Korean War and the formation of the Army's Psychological Warfare Center. Noteworthy sources include, but are not limited to: Stanley Sandler, *"Cease Resistance: It's Good For You:" A History of U.S. Army Combat Psychological Operations*, 2nd Ed., (Fort Bragg, NC, Army Printing Facility Fort Bragg, 1989), United States Army Special Operations Command History Office Reprint, Fort Bragg, NC; Alfred H. Paddock, Jr., *U.S. Army Special Warfare: Its Origins* (Manhattan, KS, University of Kansas Press, 2002); Paul M. A. Linebarger, *Psychological Warfare* 2nd Ed. (New York, Duell, Sloan and Pearce, 1954); Frank L. Goldstein, *Psychological Operations: Principles and Case Studies* (Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, Air University Press, 1996); E. Grant Meade, *American Military Government in Korea* (New York, King's Crown Press, 1951); Stanley Sandler, *Glad to See Them Come and Sorry to See Them Go: A History of U.S. Army Tactical Civil Affairs/Military Government, 1775-1992* (Fort Bragg, NC, Army Printing Facility, 1992), U.S. Army Special Operations Command Reprint.
2. Charles H. Briscoe, "A Clearer View of Psywar at Fort Riley & Fort Bragg, 1951-1952," *Veritas: The Journal of Army Special Operations History*, Vol 5, No. 4, 2009, 62.
3. Charles H. Briscoe, "'Volunteering' for Combat: Loudspeaker Psywar in Korea," *Veritas: The Journal of Army Special Operations History*, Vol 1, No. 2, 2005, 46-60; Robert W. Jones Jr., "The Ganders: Strategic Psywar in the Far East Part I; Introduction and movement to the Far East," *Veritas: The Journal of Army Special Operations History*, Vol 3, No. 1, 2007, 59-65. Robert W. Jones, "The Ganders: 1st Radio Broadcasting and Leaflet Group Conducts Psywar in Korea-Part II," *Veritas: The Journal of Army Special Operations History*, Vol 3,



This leaflet entitled Communists Deny People Freedom was designed to convey the message that "Under Communism, Propaganda Replaces the Truth..." Leaflets of this nature were common products of the Psywar units. (U.S. Army)

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4. Briscoe, "'Volunteering' for Combat: Loudspeaker Psywar in Korea."
5. Jones, "The Ganders: 1st Radio Broadcasting and Leaflet Group Conducts Psywar in Korea-Part II."
6. Charles H. Briscoe, "The UN Occupation of P'yongyang," *Veritas: The Journal of Army Special Operations History*, Vol 6, No. 1, 2010, 63-82.
7. Charles H. Briscoe, "Do What You Can!: UN Civil Assistance, Chinnamp'o, North Korea, November-December 1950."
8. Troy J. Sacquety, "A Civil Affairs Pioneer: Brigadier General Crawford F. Sams, U.S. Army Medical Corps," *Veritas: The Journal of Army Special Operations History*, Vol 6, No. 1, 2010, 60-62.
9. Paddock, *U.S. Army Special Warfare: Its Origins*, 141-142.
10. Earl J. Moniz, "A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words," *Veritas: The Journal of Army Special Operations History*, Vol 1, No. 2, 2010, 60-62; Briscoe, "'Volunteering for Combat.'"

WELCOME HOME , *sister*

The Forgotten Story of Vietnam's Donut Dollies

By Emma Spencer

Welcome Home, Sister Director, Producer, and Director of Photography

"I never expected that my one year in Vietnam would follow me for the last 55 years." — Penni Evans

Welcome Home, Sister is an upcoming documentary feature film that explores the overlooked story of the American Red Cross Donut Dollies, civilian women who served alongside America's troops in Vietnam, and the enduring consequences of their service—from possible Agent Orange exposure to decades without recognition—told through the life of Penni Evans.

The Pinion Pines trailer park sits in a high valley, the peaks of Colorado's sheer mountains keeping the once-promising mining town in a kind of isolation. Penni Evans lives there, alone, and with the memories of war the guiding ethic of her trailer's décor. In 1970, Penni Evans went to Vietnam as a Donut Dollie: an American Red Cross volunteer sent into the war's combat zones to boost the morale of American troops. Unlike their military counterparts, she and the other Donut Dollies received no health or pension benefits upon returning to an America ambivalent about the war's moral and strategic legacy. More than five decades later, Evans lives alone in a remote Colorado valley, fighting breast cancer potentially caused by wartime Agent Orange exposure—a forgotten casualty of Vietnam and a living testament to the enduring and unequal ways the United States treats those who serve its wars.

Between 1965 and 1972, 627 recent college graduates volunteered to serve in Vietnam with the American Red Cross's Supplemental Recreation Activities Overseas Program, better known as the Donut Dollies. Following the program's success during World War II and Korea, the U.S. military requested its deployment to Vietnam to help sustain troop morale. Traveling by helicopter and jeep, these women logged more than 2.7 million miles throughout South Vietnam, bringing games, conversation, compassion, and a touch of home to American troops serving in some of the war's most dangerous places.

In fact, Evans visited the 5th Special Forces in Ban Me Thuot to bring comfort to their daily hardships. She bonded with the men, and revisited the unit several times during her tour. Photographs of Penni visiting these troops, as well as Special Forces in Na Trang, are featured in the to the right and on the following page.

Despite serving alongside the military under hazardous conditions, the Donut Dollies were excluded from the health and social welfare benefits afforded to military personnel. Among the most significant



Penni Evans and Terry Harmon visiting Special Forces.
(Photo courtesy Emma Spencer)



Penni Evans and Terry Harmon
(Photo courtesy Emma Spencer)

disparities, they were excluded from congressionally mandated benefits related to Agent Orange exposure granted to service members who served in Vietnam.

Emma Spencer, the director, producer and cinematographer of *Welcome Home, Sister*, became fascinated with the Vietnam War during her senior year of high school at the Harvard-Westlake School. Spencer realized that many American Vietnam War veterans rarely had the opportunity to share their stories due to public disdain toward the war, so she set out to give the veterans a platform and help American civilians, and her generation, better understand the war's realities. Inspired by the Vietnam War's 50th anniversary and her grandfather, Naval Officer Scott Wilson Sr., she launched *Vietnam War Veterans: Then and Now* with support from several veteran organizations (including Vietnam Veterans of America, Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America, Vietnam Veterans Against the War, The United States Vietnam War Commemoration, and The Witness to War Foundation).

In 2022, Spencer created her Amherst College senior thesis exhibition, *So, What's a Nice Girl Like You Doing in a Place Like This?*, earning Summa Cum Laude honors. Collaborating with Diane Carlson Evans, founder of the Vietnam Women's Memorial, Spencer established an archive dedicated to women Vietnam veterans.

Two years later, Spencer decided to archive all oral histories she had recorded, both male and female, to the Library of Congress Veterans History Project. To her dismay, the Library rejected all civilian women's stories, including those of the Donut Dollies, stating that as civilian veterans rather than military veterans, the Library could not accept their stories. Upset, Spencer called Penni Evans, one of her thesis subjects, and a few weeks later Penni received her rare breast cancer diagnosis. They decided to make a documentary film about the government ignoring and erasing Donut Dollies from Vietnam's history.

Welcome Home, Sister brings this double standard to light: government benefits for those who served in the military, no benefits for those who served alongside them in these technically civilian roles.

If you are interested in learning more about *Welcome Home, Sister*, or watching the trailer, visit the website www.welcomhomesister.com. Spencer is currently raising finishing funds for the film to ensure Penni and the Donut Dollies' stories reach the audiences it deserves. If you are interested in making a donation to help Spencer and her post-production team finish the film, you can make a tax-deductible donation through their fiscal sponsor, the International Documentary Association, by clicking "Donate" on their website (*Welcome Home, Sister* is a fiscally sponsored project of the International Documentary Association (IDA), 501(c)(3) nonprofit arts organization. Contributions in support of *Welcome Home, Sister* are payable to IDA and are tax-deductible as allowed by law. ❖



Penni Evans in country. (Photo courtesy Emma Spencer)



Penni Evans and fellow Donut Dollie in Banmethuot. (Photo courtesy Emma Spencer)

VISIT WELCOMEHOMESISTER.COM

Watch the *Welcome Home, Sister* Trailer

PLAN TO ATTEND THE PREVIEW SCREENING & FUNDRAISER

Oct 19, 2026, 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Laemmle Town Center 5

17200 Ventura Blvd, Unit 121, Encino, CA 91316

Visit the website to learn more about this event and to RSVP.

PLEASE DONATE IN SUPPORT OF THIS PROJECT

Your donation will support the completion of this project, including festival submissions, and help bring this overlooked chapter of American service to audiences nationwide.

Welcome Home, Sister is a fiscally sponsored project of the International Documentary Association (IDA), 501(c)(3) nonprofit arts organization. Contributions are made payable to IDA, our fiscal sponsor, and are tax deductible as allowed by law.

SFA Chapter 78 August 2026 Chapter Meeting

Photos by How Miller and Doreen Matsumoto

Guest Speaker,

Ben Ruzicka, SFC (ret.), 18D, 1st SFG**Artist, Illustrator, Author****Ben Ruzicka Studios****www.benruzicka.com**

1 Guest speaker Ben Ruzicka served on the same team as Medal of Honor recipient Earl Plumlee and Chapter President James McLanahan. Raised off-grid in remote Alaska, he learned survival skills and a love of art before joining the Army in 2003 at 19, later earning his Green Beret and becoming a Bravo Team Medic. On his last combat deployment in 2013, he was wounded by an RPG and suffered a severe back injury; surgical errors in 2018 left him unable to walk, leading to medical retirement after 17 years of service. He then reevaluated his life and returned to art, drawing on lessons from his medic days—above all, the importance of asking for help. As he put it, “Humility is not a weakness.” He now lives in Florida with his wife and four children, working as an illustrator, comic book artist, and children’s book writer/illustrator.

2 Chapter President James McLanahan presents a chapter challenge coin to his friend Ben Ruzicka.

3 Ben Ruzicka donated “Mary Sue” to Chapter 78 and it was auctioned at our 2026 Valor Luncheon fundraiser in April.

4 Richard Simonian and John Creel, who the group was thrilled to see after a long absence.

5 The *Sentinel* Team, Richard Simonian, How Miller, and Debra Holm, was presented with the award for the SFA Best Newsletter for 2025-2026.

6 Aaron Brandenburg, who updated the members on his recent successful brain surgery experience, and Chapter Secretary Gary Macnamara.

7 Charlie Le, SFA Chapter 12 member, worked with A Teams on the border and with SEAL Teams during the Vietnam War.

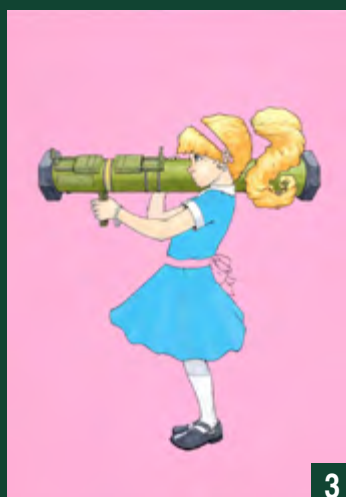
8 Ron Cabrera, retired CSM, Marine veteran and former member of the National Guard stationed at the JFTB.



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