



CHAPTER XVI SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION
THE SIXTEENTH REPORT
William R. Card Chapter



Serving Special Forces Brothers in the Great Northwest Since 1975

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Once the warrior is no longer needed-- once he becomes a relic of war-- when it seems peace will prevail, he is mocked for being a savage, mocked for being a monster. But when America needed her Warriors to stand between her and doom, she called on her monsters to do what others would not. I say to you, you reading this, the night is still cold, the danger still persists, and we who are your savages will again visit violence on those who would dare to cause harm to our land, not just for America, but for our way of life, against all enemies, foreign and domestic. So help us God.

President's Message

I would like to take a minute to thank all of you for your support and trust by electing me as the next SFA Chapter 16 President. I would especially like to thank Eric our VP for helping familiarize me with our chapter as well as his excellent advice.

It is also very important to recognize Dave for his many years of service and outstanding contributions to our Special Forces both on active duty as the President of Chapter 16.

Kevin worked many hours and greatly contributed to the successes and cohesion we enjoyed with 1st Special Forces Group, for that we all grateful. I look forward to serving, listening, leading and growing our SFA Chapter 16 together.

Stephen Durfee,
President

5 Personality Traits Of A Special Forces Operator

POSTED ON OCTOBER 16, 2014 BY SIG IN AWESOMENESS!

Our friends over at Sofrep.com have put together a list of personality traits that every Special Forces candidate needs to succeed. From their article: People are always asking, "What do I need to do to become a Navy SEAL?" Or they say, "Those Rangers are all psychos and mindless killing machines; that's not for me." Or, perhaps someone thinks they have what it takes, physically, to be a Special Forces soldier, but they don't know if they have the necessary mental intangibles, so they doubt themselves and their ability to pass the Q Course.

In all these cases, what people are really asking is, what personality traits give Special Operators the ability to not only pass the selection course, but to excel in the often extreme environments and conditions in which our military's elite forces operate?

To shed light on our nation's Special Operations forces, here are five personality traits that make up the psyches of the typical Special Operator. This is not a comprehensive list, and not all of us share these traits in equal measure, but probably most do exhibit all of them to at least some degree:

1. Stress Resistance. The typical individual who succeeds in BUD/S, Ranger school, or the Q-Course, has a high resistance to stress. In fact, a man who can make it through such a trial has an almost inhuman ability to absorb a stressful situation and carry on through it, while suppressing whatever other emotions might be trying to bubble up during the course of the stressful conditions. This can manifest itself in an often limited emotional range in everyday social interactions, but in combat conditions, it is ideal. We enter a mental auto-pilot, and shut out emotions that might keep us from carrying on.

2. Extreme Competitiveness. Operators hate to lose. At anything. In any circumstance. Ever. For some reason, all of us see almost every event in life as a competition, or something to be defeated. We approach BUD/S the same way we approach tackling the Saturday morning garage clean-out, or the friendly jog with a buddy. We might start the training/clean-up/jog thinking we will just coast through it, and do enough to get

the job done, but inevitably—pretty much every time—we end at a full sprint, giving it our all, trying to be honor man, and scraping the paint off the walls because we cleaned so hard. We only know one speed: full throttle. If you are gonna do it, do it better than everyone else. There is no such thing as a friendly race.

3. Self Reliance. Operators hate asking for help. We believe we should be able to do anything that any other man can do, given time to figure out a task. Change out a toilet? No problem. Rewire the house? Sounds tricky, but I will give it a shot. Run an Iron Man triathlon? Okay, just let me stretch first. Build a thermonuclear device? I'm sure I can find a blueprint for that online. Operators are obstinate to a fault when it comes to our independence. We do not always like being told we are not doing something right, unless it is by someone we *know* to be an expert. In other words, it is *not* okay for our wives to tell us we might not be qualified to rewire the house; but if a nuclear scientist has some inputs as to the construction of our nuclear device, then we are willing to entertain their suggestions on a case-by-case basis.

4. Self Criticism. While operators might seem supremely self-confident at all times, often to the point of arrogance, in reality, we are hyper self-critical, and always thinking of ways we could and should be better. That applies to *all* of our endeavors. We always want to be better operators, and ridicule ourselves for not being as good with a particular weapon as our buddy, or as fast a swimmer, or as strong a runner. We also, though, often find ourselves lacking in normal life, too. We know we could be better fathers, better husbands, better siblings, and just better people. We are never satisfied with our performance, and we are always trying to improve. Unfortunately, this usually admirable quality can also manifest itself as criticism of others, as we often wonder why those around us are not as motivated as we are to improve. Once again, what makes us better operators can oftentimes bite us in the ass in normal society.

5. Stoicism. Finally, we learn in SEAL training to “suffer in silence,” and it is a trait we try to carry with us throughout our lives. Operators just learn to deal with shitty situations, and we revel in them over time, often to the point of finding humor in horrible circumstances. This gallows humor allows us to deal with seemingly insurmountable challenges, or to at least laugh at ourselves when confronted with crap odds. It is our way of getting through situations that many would never want to face. We take pride in facing insurmountable odds, and try to steel ourselves through our stoicism. After all, if we cannot overcome a stressful situation, or handle it as well as our buddy, then he is a better operator than us, and that is unacceptable, and we need to do a better job...the cycle goes on.

The Green Beret



“On 12 October 1961, President John F. Kennedy toured Fort Bragg. He had earlier indicated his approval of the wearing of the Green Beret by the U.S. Army Special Forces, actually dispatching a telegram “ordering” SF to begin wearing the Green Beret with their uniforms. That was followed by Special Forces marching past the reviewing stand, wearing the Green Beret that they had fought so hard for. Later that day, President Kennedy sent a message to General Yarborough stating, in part: “My congratulations to you personally for your part in the presentation today. . . . The challenge of this old but new form of operation is a real one and I know that you and the members of your command will carry on for us and the free world in a manner which is both worthy and inspiring. I am sure that the Green Beret will be a mark of distinction in the trying times ahead.” How prophetic that statement would become!

The beret was officially authorized for wear by Special Forces on 10 December. In a message to the Army on 11 April 1962, President Kennedy described the Green Beret as “a symbol of excellence, a badge of courage.”

De Oppresso Liber,

Think like a Green Beret: Be Subtle

April 26, 2016 by Mark Miller

During a firefight near the Cambodian border on June 6, 1968, a 1st Infantry Division soldier got a pleasant surprise as he watched a North Vietnamese Army infantryman aim his rifle, pull the trigger and explode in a cloud of black smoke.



American troops later examined the remains of the NVA soldier and his exploded Chinese Type 56 rifle, removing some of its parts from the body. There was nothing was blocking the bore, the incident was attributed to poor metallurgy or bad ammo. The situation was a little more complicated than it appeared.

While it is gratifying to see the direct results of your work, sometimes it is more effective to set the conditions for success and then stand back and let events unfold. Project Eldest Son, a classified program of the Military Assistance Command Vietnam Studies and Observations Group (SOG), placed sabotaged ammunition in North Vietnamese Army ammo dumps. The success of Eldest Son exceeded all expectations.

Green Berets are trained to anticipate the second and third order effects of their actions. Eldest Son killed hundreds, but it frightened the entire North Vietnamese Army and sowed distrust between Vietnam and China at the highest levels of government.

The Studies and Observations Group was America's top secret special operations task force in the Vietnam War. SOG's operators worked directly for the Joint Chiefs, executing highly classified, deniable missions in Laos, Cambodia and North Vietnam. From 1966-8, SOG was commanded by Colonel John K. Singlaub.

Singlaub was an old school unconventional pro. Working for the OSS, he parachuted behind German lines in August 1944 to fight with the French Resistance fighters supporting the D-Day invasion during World War II. After the war Singlaub joined the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and worked in Manchuria during the Chinese Civil War. In 1951 he became Deputy Chief of the CIA station in South Korea. Later he ran CIA operations in Manchuria during the Chinese Communist revolution and led troops in the Korean War; He was the perfect guy to run SOG. SOG ran recon teams, normally consisting of two or three American Green Berets and four to six indigenous soldiers. These teams ran deniable missions into Laos and Cambodia to gather intelligence, wiretap enemy communications, kidnap key enemy personnel, ambush convoys, raid supply dumps, plant mines and generally bring the joys of unconventional warfare to NVA rear areas.

While skulking around, these teams often encountered ammo caches with millions of rounds. Being a Green Beret, Singlaub's first inclination was to steal the ammo, but there was just too much of it and it was in very remote areas. Demolition was not feasible as it would only scatter small-arms ammunition, not destroy it.

They could have booby trapped the caches so that when the NVA picked up a case it would blow up, but that would have only impacted a small number of enemy soldiers and the NVA could develop countermeasures. Singlaub came up with a deeper game. He would booby trap the individual rounds of ammunition and give them back.

Like most unconventional tactics, ammunition sabotage was nothing new. The best documented applications had been employed by the British during the Second Matabele War (1896-1897). In what is now Zimbabwe, British scouts (led by the American Frederick Russell Burnham) had slipped exploding rifle cartridges into enemy caches.

Similar techniques were used in the Waziristan campaign (1936-1939) against the Pathan tribesmen on India's Northwest Frontier. Fighting insurgents who relied on captured ammunition made it simple to get sabotaged .303 rifle ammunition in enemy guns.

The plan was briefed all the way to the Joint Chiefs Joint Chiefs in the Pentagon. On August 30, 1967, they approved the plan and two weeks later, Singlaub watched a CIA technician load a sabotaged 7.62x39 mm cartridge into a bench-mounted AK rifle at Camp Chinen, Okinawa. "It completely blew up the receiver and the bolt was projected backwards," Singlaub said, "I would imagine into the head of the firer."

The first Eldest Son cartridges were reloaded with an explosive powder similar to PETN high explosive. The problem was that this white powder looked nothing like Chinese gunpowder, so if the NVA pulled apart an Eldest Son round it would be detected. SOG's technical expert, Ben Baker obtained a substitute explosive that so closely resembled gunpowder that it would pass inspection by anyone but an ordnance expert.

Communist block 7.62 x 39 weapons such as the SKS, RPD and Type 56's could handle up to 40,000 p.s.i. of pressure. The new powder produced 250,000 p.s.i. It was enough to blow up the weapon and kill the one who is shooting the weapon.

The secret lab in Okinawa developed more than just ammunition. Tiger striped fatigues, Time Delayed fuses and Astrolite explosive (developed from NASA rocket fuel) all came from this small group of evil geniuses.

After the success in the lab, a specialized ordnance team was formed to process ammo. Chinese AK bullets were sealed into steel cases with a thick coat of lacquer where the bullet entered the case. The rounds were pulled apart by hand and the powder was replaced with a high explosive substitute, then the bullets were re-seated and the ammo cans and crates so resealed just like the original. Pulling the bullet out left scrape marks, but when reloaded these marks were hidden by the case.

CIA ordnance experts also developed a fuse for the 82 mm mortar round that would detonate inside the mortar tube. Rounds for 12.7x108mm heavy machine guns soon followed.

While operating deep in enemy territory on other missions, Green Berets carried booby trapped rounds and cases of ammunition cases with them and slipped them into the enemy ammunition supply chain whenever possible.



When an SOG team encountered an ammo dump, they would plant a case of Eldest Son ammo. The 82 mm mortar ammo was not transported as loose rounds, but in three-round, wooden cases. The teams must have been very amused by the concept to put up with carrying a 28 pound case of mortar rounds in addition to all of their other rounds.

When a SOG team ambushed an enemy patrol, they would load one round into an AK magazine or RPD belt left on enemy bodies with the expectation it would be recovered and re-used. When the gun later exploded, all the evidence of sabotage would be destroyed as the round was fired.

The rigged ammo turned up all over the battlefield, weapons exploded, killing riflemen and sometimes entire mortar crews, now it was time to initiate SOG's black psychological operations exploitation plan. The strategic objective was to aggravate the Vietnamese traditional distrust of the Chinese. At the tactical level, individual soldiers questioned the safety of their Chinese-supplied arms and ammunition. One forged Viet Cong document spread rumors of exploding ammunition while another acknowledged ammo problems resulting from poor Chinese quality control.

Another forged document stated, "Only a few thousand such cases have been found thus far," and concluded, "The People's Republic of China may have been having some quality control problems [but] these are being worked out and we think that in the future there will be very little chance of this happening."

Any NVA soldier, looking at ammunition lot numbers, would see that, due to the length of the supply chain, his ammo had been loaded years earlier. No fresh ammo could possibly reach soldiers fighting in the South for years. The possibility of compromised ammunition would never disappear.

Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV) published Technical Intelligence Brief No. 2-68, "Analysis of Damaged Weapons.", was widely circulated to U.S. and South Vietnamese units. The study examined several exploded AKs, concluding they were destroyed by "defective metallurgy resulting in fatigue cracks" or "faulty ammunition, which produced excessive chamber pressure." Enemy agents passed this information directly back to Hanoi.

American G.I.'s were warned against using enemy weapons in public service announcements on Armed Forces Radio and TV and were duly monitored by the Vietnamese. . The *Army Times* warned, "Numerous incidents have caused injury and sometimes death to the operators of enemy weapons," the cause of which was, defective metallurgy or faulty ammo.

Reports indicated that Eldest Son was working. Forward Air Controllers observed mortars in Laos, Cambodia and even in Southern Vietnam blown apart in a star shape pattern. Usually there were a few 3-4 NVA bodies present.

Planting Eldest Son munitions was not without risk. On November 30, 1968, the helicopter carrying a SOG team carrying seven cases of Eldest Son 82 mm mortar ammunition was flying 20 miles west of the Khe Sanh Marine base. It was hit by 37 mm anti-aircraft fire and exploded in mid-air with no survivors. The remains of Maj. Samuel Toomey and seven U.S. Army Green Berets were recovered at the crash site 20 years later. Despite the warnings, American soldiers fired captured arms, and at least one souvenir AK exploded, inflicting serious injuries. To avoid an ironic self injury, SOG stopped using captured ammunition in their AKs and RPD machine guns and purchased commercial 7.62 mm ammunition from Finland. This ammo, which SOG's Green Berets fired at the NVA had been manufactured in a Soviet arsenal in Petrograd. That particular bit of irony was appreciated.



In mid-1969, articles in the *New York Times* and *Time* compromised Eldest Son. The code name was changed to Italian Green, and later, Pole Bean. Ordered by the Joint Chiefs to dispose of its remaining stockpiles of ammo, SOG teams rushed to insert multiple missions on the Laotian border to get rid of the stuff before authority expired.

Even after the enemy was aware of the sabotaged ammunition, the program was psychologically useful. The NVA could never again trust their ammo supply. Radio intercepts confirmed the NVA's highest levels of command were disturbed by their exploding weapons, Chinese quality control and sabotage.

Project Eldest Son was a huge success. Declassified reports reveal that SOG operatives inserted 3,638 rounds of sabotaged 7.62 mm, plus 167 rounds of 12.7 mm and 821 rounds of 82 mm mortar ammunition over the life of the program.

Like all great ideas, doctored ammunition of undetermined source is still turning up all over the world.

There are reports of a special thermite rifle round which melts in the chamber destroying the gun with no injury to the shooter. This protects innocent users such as American G.I.s while denying weapons to the bad guys.

In Iraq and Afghanistan, most of the doctored ammunition is high-explosive 120-millimeter and 82-millimeter mortar rounds. Like Eldest Son rounds, the fuses are altered so they explode inside the mortar tube, destroying the entire mortar system and crew.

The advantage of this particular sort of booby trap, is its narrow targeting. Unlike rifle ammunition, which might readily pass into the possession of a homeowner keeping a firearm for self-defense, mortar rounds do not have a legitimate civilian use.

Green Berets like results and indirect effects can magnify the impact of their small numbers. Projects like Eldest Son will continue in the future conducted by friend and foe alike. It pays to know the source of your ammunition.

WE FOUGHT WITH AMERICA IN THE VIETNAM WAR, BUT MOST AMERICANS DON'T KNOW ABOUT US.

2 9 , 2 0 1 4



A P R I L



Many know the Vietnam War as one of the bloodiest and most unpopular wars in U.S. history. Some even label it a mistake. During the 1960s, the spread of communism brought fear to the American people. For the U.S. government, communism posed a political threat as the Soviet Union, China, North Korea, and other countries started emerging as "red" states. They were afraid more dominoes would fall, so they placed themselves between them. American representatives were sent to Vietnam and neighboring countries to prevent the spread. This is where the story of my people begins.

In the country of Laos, lush, green forests engulfed the land. In the rolling hills lived my people. Land locked to their agricultural lifestyles, my people led free and peaceful lives. They were free from all the troubles of the world around them. Their dry, dirt stained hands showed their determination, but they would be tested soon enough.

The year of 1954 was when *they* arrived. The notorious Ho Chi Minh trail provided the arms and resources necessary to give the communist Viet Cong an upper hand. The trail flowed through the jungles and forests of Laos near the border and provided enough coverage for safe travels between North and South Vietnam. The Viet Cong and Pathet Lao, the communist rebellion of Laos, started pressuring the Royal Lao Government into relinquishing power. That's when the CIA came to secure the Ho Chi Minh trail; to weaken the communist threat within the war. In those jungles and forests is where they found my people.

The Americans needed someone to lead the fight, someone who could lead my people. General Vang Pao of the Royal Army in Laos was chosen. He and the CIA trained my people. Men and boys traded their shovels for guns and their dry, dirt stained hands became moist with blood. Every able-bodied male would fight in the Secret War, which became known as the highest honor. Sadly, honor could not save all the lives that we lost. April 30th, 1975. The end of the Vietnam War came when Saigon fell.

The communist Viet Cong had successfully captured the city and so the great America fled. They only took those they could fit and the rest were left. Soon after, food rations diminished, guns shot only air, and my people became defenseless. They would not be forgiven for their opposition in this war. The Pathet Lao came storming in and thundered the land with bombs. They shot lightning from their guns. If those methods did not work, eventually the rain would come. It was then, the sting of the bee could be felt. Some people fled for their lives. Some lives fled from their

people. Those that could escape traveled to the darkest corners of the jungles, where only the worst of nightmares would haunt their dreams. The land my people once called home was now a grave. The only hope of living was the rushing sound of water. The Mekong River was the gate between the current life and the afterlife, stained red to represent its risk. Only few survived, but if they did, they had another shot at living the peaceful lives they once had.

In Thailand, my people were compacted into refugee camps. The conditions of these camps were worse than the lands they fled. In the early stages they had no water to stay clean, no land to grow food, not even a toilet to pee in. They survived on the rations they were given. Though their hearts, hopes, and spirits were broken, they fought on through the practice of their culture and the power of the community. They did not forget who they were even when all hope seemed to be lost.

December 1975 was when my people fled to the U.S. Although many of them immigrated to America, countries like France, Australia, Canada, and South America also became their homes. We are now spread all across the world. We don't have our own country. We don't have our own government. We have our history, our culture, and our families. I grew-up in Colorado.

To this day, I question why I did not learn about my history in the textbooks of America. Why were my people left out of the story, left out of history as if none of us existed. All those who lost their lives, all those who lost their loved ones, and all those who still live today with nightmares of those dark days. The story of my people are not written in the textbooks of history, but it is written within me. That is why I have shared this story with you today, so that I could reclaim my piece of history. So the next time you think of the Fall of Saigon, remember those who have fallen, but recognize those who still stand.

Remember the Hmong people.

Postscript: IMMIGRATION WAVES

In December 1975 the United States agreed to begin resettling the Hmong in America and Congress admitted 3,466 individuals. In 1976, 10,200 refugees from Laos (who had fled across the border into Thailand) were admitted to the United States; some of these immigrants were Hmong, although there is no official record of them. The number of Laotian immigrants then dipped to only 400 in 1977, but climbed to 8,000 in 1978. By the early 1980s, about 50,000 Hmong were living in the United States. By the time of the 1990 U.S. Census the number of Hmong in the United States had doubled to almost 100,000 people. Of the foreign-born Hmong in the United States in 1990, 75 percent had arrived during the 1980s, the majority of whom had arrived in the first half of the decade.

Marine Special Operators Get Their Own Insignia Pin



Military.com | Aug 23, 2016 | by Hope Hodge Seck

Last year, operators with Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command got their own name: Raiders. Now, just like the Navy's elite SEALs, they'll have their own insignia.

Effective immediately, MARSOC critical skills operators and special operations officers are authorized to wear a new gold breast insignia, the Marine Corps announced Monday night.

The insignia, the first Marine Corps-only uniform device to be authorized, features an eagle, wings outspread, clutching an upward-pointing stiletto dagger featuring the Southern Cross constellation that appears on other MARSOC and Raider insignia. Above the eagle's head flies a banner carrying the MARSOC motto: "Spiritus Invictus," or unconquerable spirit.

The insignia badge will be 2 inches by 2.75 inches and will be awarded to critical skills operators and special operations officers upon completion of MARSOC's grueling nine-month individual training course. By the time MARSOC Raiders reach the end of ITC, they have completed at least 268 days of training, according to Marine Corps officials.

The announcement comes just a month after Maj. Gen. Carl E. Mundy III took command of MARSOC, succeeding previous commander Maj. Gen. Joseph Osterman. In a statement, Mundy said the creation of the badge granted Raiders a visual certification of the training they had completed for their role in MARSOC.

"The individual MARSOC operator must be trained and educated to think critically and function in an increasingly complex operating environment -- to understand and interact in dynamic, dangerous and politically-sensitive battlefields," Mundy said. "Our rigorous training pipeline ensures that a newly minted critical skills operator has developed the skills required for full spectrum special operations."

An unidentified MARSOC critical skills operator said in the announcement that the badge was a further tie-in to the command's celebrated ancestry.

"It's a representation of the pride and legacy that dates back to the Marine Raiders of World War II. This badge will distinguish a [special operations forces-qualified Marine, just as the combat crew wings distinguish an aviation crew chief or the jump wings and dive bubble distinguish a Recon Marine," he said.

MARSOC, which was created in early 2006, has marked a number of hard-fought milestones in developing its identity among the other service special operations elements. Its tenant commands were redesignated in honor of the Marine Raiders last July in a reversal by Marine Corps leadership; then-commandant Gen. James Amos had rejected a plan to change MARSOC's name in 2011, citing concern that MARSOC troops retain their identity as Marines first.

Specialized career paths for critical skills operators and special operations officers are also a relatively new development for MARSOC. The command received approval for the creation of an enlisted CSO military occupational specialty, 0372, in 2011, and a parallel MOS for officers, 0370, in 2014.

MARSOC officials said in an announcement on Facebook that the new device will be issued to the next class to graduate from the Individual Training Course, and then rolled out to critical skills operators and officers already within the command.

Notably, a woman could be among the first Marines to receive the new device. While the CSO and SOO jobs have been reserved for men for

most of MARSOC's existence, a mandate from Defense Secretary Ash Carter late last year paved the way for women to apply for the elite positions.

MARSOC officials said last week that two female enlisted Marines had entered assessment and selection in July. As of then, one of the Marines, a corporal, remained in the course.

10 female Infantry officers make Army history at Fort Benning

OCTOBER 26, 2016 4:02 PM **Charles Gilbert** Fort Benning Public Affairs Office

BY CHUCK WILLIAMS

Without the media fanfare of the gender integration of U.S. Army Ranger School last year, 10 female soldiers made history Wednesday at Fort Benning when they graduated from the Infantry Officer Basic Leadership Course. In a ceremony that was not open to media, 166 lieutenants graduated from the course and became infantry officers. The 10 women join Capt. Kristen Griest as the only female infantry officers. Here's an inside look at the Infantry Basic Officer Leader Course Leader Forge Field Training Exercise portion of the course.

Griest, along with Capt. Shaye Haver and Maj. Lisa Jaster, was one of three women to graduate from Ranger School last year when the Army opened its most demanding combat leadership course to females. Griest transferred branches from military police to infantry in April and is currently assigned to the 3rd Brigade Combat Team of the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Brig. Gen. Pete Jones, commandant of the Infantry School, said in a media roundtable on post Wednesday morning that the lessons learned from the gender integration of Ranger School carried forward as the Basic Officer Leadership Course was opened to women.

"It is all about standards; it is all about uniformity," Jones said. "It's Ranger, Ranger, Ranger. I think if you were to ask Capt. Griest, Capt. Haver and Maj. Jaster, they are not female Rangers – they are Rangers. I think it is the same thing with the lieutenants. It is lieutenant, lieutenant, lieutenant. They are going to be standing in front of their formation and they are going to be judged based on their leadership skills, not on whether they are male or female."

Late last year, Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter officially opened all military jobs, including combat positions, to qualified men and women. Much of the training for those jobs in the Army is done at Fort Benning.

The 17-week Basic Officer Leadership Course started with 12 women, two of whom did not graduate. Students are commissioned from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, ROTC at other universities and Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning.

Most of the soldiers, both male and female, will move into Ranger School in the next phase and will also attend Airborne School, Stryker Leader's Course and Mechanized Leader Course.

"This is but the very first step in that process," said Lt. Col. Matthew W. Weber, who commands the 2-11 Infantry Regiment, better known as IBOLC. "It is a critical one because we are very much focused on training and preparing the soldier, the lieutenants, to ultimately lead a rifle platoon."

And the physical and mental standards of infantry leadership have been maintained, said Command Sgt. Maj. Joe Davis of the 2-11 Infantry Regiment.

"There has been no change in the standards and the way the course has been run," Davis said. "We are in the business of producing leaders and it doesn't matter if they are male or female."

Davis takes exception to the notion that the gender-integration process is new for the Army.

"We have been integrating females within the military for years," said Davis, who has been in the Army 24 years with 17 deployments. "I look back at past experiences overseas and we have been fighting alongside females in the infantry for many, many years. I have seen them firsthand on the battlefield doing exceptional work."

Maj. Gen. Eric J. Wesley, commander of the Maneuver Center of Excellence at Fort Benning, said gender integration makes the Army better.

"The reason it makes us a better Army is because this whole issue has driven us to ensure we have the right standards aligned to each occupational specialty in the Army," Wesley said. "... By defining that, what we have done is we have a gender-neutral, standards-based training environment."

It no longer becomes a question of male or female, Wesley said.

"Once you get to that minimum threshold, we say, 'Oh, by the way, we have doubled the population from which we can recruit talent,'" Wesley said. "That makes us better."

The first gender-integrated Armor Officer Basic Leadership Course, which is about two weeks longer than the infantry course, is ongoing, and 10 women have started that process.

When Haver and Grist became the first women to graduate from Ranger School in August 2015, it drew intense national media coverage. Just two Columbus reporters attended the media roundtables Wednesday surrounding the IBOLC graduation.

"What you are seeing here is an indicator that this is business as usual," Wesley said. "We do missions in the Army and we get tasks all the time. And we are very good at doing that which we are asked to do. ... The Ranger aspect was new and there was a lot of scrutiny."

The moment was historic, and Jones acknowledged that, but he also pointed to the future these lieutenants represent as they began their Army careers.

"My question as I look at every Infantry class is which one is going to be the next Col. (Ralph) Puckett? Which one is going to be the next Gen. (Stanley) McChrystal? Which one of these females is going to look at (four star) Gen. (Ann) Dunwoody and say, 'I can do that?'"

The Army made six IBOLC graduates – three men and three women – available for a media roundtable. The lieutenants could be quoted, but not named, according to the rules outlined by the Army prior to the interviews.

Maneuver Center of Excellence Spokesman Ben Garrett said the post wanted to keep the focus on all the students.

"It is important to focus on the point that these lieutenants met the same gender-neutral-based standard to become future rifle platoon leaders," Garrett said. "All the graduates meet the high physical demands of the course, and met the same standard as previous Infantry Basic

Officer Leadership Courses. ... As they walk across the stage today, they will not receive the recognition as a man or woman, but as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army."

Son Tay raiders reunite at Fort Bragg

By Amanda Dolasinski Staff writer

Updated Oct 1, 2016



Staff photo by Michelle Bir

Special Forces soldiers who raided the Son Tay prison camp in North Vietnam to rescue prisoners of war held a reunion in front of the USASOC headquarters on Fort Bragg on Friday.

Special Forces soldiers who raided a North Vietnamese prison camp 46 years ago gathered Friday for what may be their final reunion.

Joe Murray, a retired master sergeant who organized the reunion, was one of the 56 Special Forces soldiers who were part of the historic, if disappointing, raid on the Son Tay POW camp in November 1970. The reunion is a way to renew old friendships, he said.

"When you join Special Forces, you join a family," he said. "There's not an organization like it. You got a family of your own, but you adopt the soldiers under you."

The raid was celebrated as a tactical success despite the failure to rescue American captives.

The mission, which began in the waning hours of Nov. 20, 1970, involved three teams of commandos assaulting the Son Tay prison, a short distance from the North Vietnamese capital of Hanoi.

More than 100 American military aircraft, including Air Force and Navy planes, flew in support of the operation, conducting bombing raids across North Vietnam at the same time as the attempted rescue mission.

The raid itself began with the controlled crash of an HH-3E Jolly Green Giant helicopter into the prison compound early on Nov. 21, 1970.

The raiders successfully overtook the prison but did not find American prisoners. Officials would later say that it appeared the 40 to 60 Americans held on the site had been moved shortly before the raid.

The mission was considered extremely dangerous because of its location deep behind enemy lines and the proximity of roughly 5,000 enemy soldiers within five miles of the prison. But the raiders suffered only minor injuries.

Despite coming home empty-handed, the men were praised at home, with several honored at the White House and others returning to a hero's welcome at Fort Bragg.

Nearly all of the soldiers involved in the Son Tay Raid were based at Fort Bragg.

Families of the soldiers thought they were on a training exercise, officials would tell the Observer in the days following the raid. But in fact, the men were rehearsing the raid at a replica of the prison.

Murray was a 26-year-old sergeant first class when he received the orders for the mission.

"That's what we trained for," he said. "You have one time in your career you get a chance to do something that's really important."

His responsibility was to secure the outside of the prison camp so troops would be able to make a smooth exit.

Murray said he remembered two guards had stealthily maneuvered behind him and shot him in the back of his right leg. He was in pain, but focused on completing the mission.

"I could feel the blood running down my leg and into my boot," he said. "But we had a job to do."

The raid showcased the profound abilities of the Special Forces soldiers, he said.

"I think we laid the groundwork for Joint Special Operations Command," he said. "Our raid is the start of building Special Forces training today."

Pastor Butch's Corner

Modern Proverbs from A to Z

- A. Age is a very high price to pay for maturity.
- B. Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than going to a garage makes you a mechanic.
- C. Artificial intelligence is no match for natural stupidity.
- D. A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.
- E. A closed mouth gathers no feet.
- F. If you must choose between two evils, pick the one you've never tried before.
- G. My idea of housework is to sweep the room with a glance.
- H. Not one shred of evidence supports the notion that life is serious.
- I. It is easier to get forgiveness than permission.
- J. For every action, there is an equal and opposite government program.
- K. If you look like your passport picture, you probably need the trip.
- L. Always yield to temptation, because it may not pass your way again.
- M. Bills travel through the mail at twice the speed of checks.
- N. A conscience is what hurts when all your other parts feel so good.
- O. Eat well, stay fit - die anyway.
- P. No husband has ever been shot while doing the dishes.
- Q. A balanced diet is a cookie in each hand.

- U. Middle age is when broadness of the mind and narrowness of the waist change places.
- S. Opportunities always look bigger going than coming.
- T. Junk is something you throw away three weeks before you need it.
- U. There is always one more imbecile than you counted on.
- V. Experience is a wonderful thing. It enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again.
- W. By the time you can make ends meet, they move the ends.
- X. Thou shalt not weigh more than the refrigerator.
- Y. The fact is the only time the world beats a path to your door is when you are in the bathroom.
- Z. Blessed are they who can laugh at themselves for they shall never cease to be amused.

J. K. Wright Memorial Breakfast, 9-3-16

The following members and guests were present: Walt & Lynda Hetzler, Rich Reilley, Butch Hall, Jim & Elaine Lessler, Keith Looker, Nick Marvais (IMO Lonnie Garrison), Dennis Guiler, Glen Craig, Pati Lakey, John & Jenny Gebbie, Johnny & Kim King, Wayne & Yoko Karvonen, Mike Hood, Mike & Joy Cassidy (IMO Del Richards), Ted Wicorek, Rev. Troy Lynn Carr, and Alvin Little.



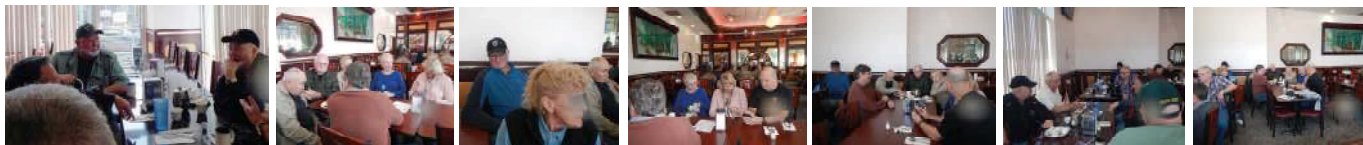
Chapter XVI SFA (North)

On 9/10/2016 we met at Jim Corcoran's Place for a Picnic. It was a beautiful day and a good time was had by all. I failed to take a roster so I don't have the names of the people there buy we did take some good pictures.



Dinosaurs Luncheon, 9-30-16

The following members and guests were present: Ted Wicorek, Jim & Elaine Lessler, Glen Craig, Pati Lakey, Mike & Joy Cassidy, Roland Nuqui, Capt. Ron, John & Jenny Gebbie, Ed & Erma Booth, and Ken Garcy. Chapter 43 members were present: Skip Ettinger.



J. K. Wright Memorial Breakfast 10-1-16

The following members and guests were present: Jim & Elaine Lessler (IMO Eulis Presley), Dennis Guiler, Mike Barkstrom, Glen Craig, Pati Lakey, Steve Epperson, Rich Reilley, Nick Marvais (IMO Lonnie Garrison), John Gebbie, Ramiro Alonso, Wayne & Yoko Karvonen, Roland Nuqui, Ken Garcy, and Rob Wekell (IMO Mike Karr). Chapter 43 members were present: Skip Ettinger.



Chapter XVI SFA, William R. Card Chapter Chapter Minutes, 8 Oct 16

Meeting called to order by Vice President Eric Heid at 1102 hours, followed by the pledge of Allegiance, sing of the Ballad of The Green Beret and invocation given by Chaplin Butch Hall.

Members in attendance: Bob Diamond, Carey Pennington, Tom Dawson, Bill Gates, John Gebbie, Butch Hall, Ed Booth, Nick Marvais, Rick Thomas, Dennis Downey, Kevin Patton, Sean Arnts, Thomas Morgan, Ted Wicorek, Mike Cassidy, Stephen Kubislewski, Charley Higbee, Bob Head, Rick Wall, BoB McFadden, Jim Beisley, Tom McGraw, Willi Lindner, Roy Sayer, Eric Heid and Mike Barkstrom. Wives and Guests: JoAnne Diamond, Linda Pennington, Rosa Dawson, Regina Hall, Erma Booth, Joy Cassidy, Tiers Arnts and Addy Heid.

Discussed the difficulties of getting onto JBLM and what options we may or may not have. Until the Post gets its regulations in order and it is decided if we can or cannot receive some sort of "fast pass" we will continue to need a drivers license and passport or an enhanced drivers license. A government issued ID card should suffice but at this point it is hit and miss at JBLM. This only impacts non retirees. A non-retiree can gain entrance by riding with a retiree. Eric will continue to work with Group on this issue.

Sick Call; Pastor Butch had nothing to report.

Carrey Pennington thanked all those who sent cards and condolences to Linda and him for the passing of their son Jeffery.

Treasurers Report: Kevin Patton reported that we have approximately \$8800 in checking and \$4600 in savings. Payments made to date are for the web site and quick books. Outstanding: no host social, picnic and scholarship.

Quartermaster's Report: Lots of stuff to sell and we are open for business. The position is open. Mike and Joy have been doing it for 18 years and VP Eric said they are doing a fine job, offered thanks and wished them well. Keep up the good work.

Coffee Stop Report: Carey thanked all of those who participated. Gross \$1100 net \$810.50. 70 pounds of coffee was donated. Carey is lining up dates for 2017 and will keep us posted.

Picnic Report: All went well, great food, drink, after hours entertainment by the band -The West Seattle Eleven. The 5 gun raffle was won by Alvin Little, All of the raffle tickets were sold and could have sold out earlier if members would have gotten the unsold tickets returned when requested. Eleven were sold at the picnic. The pistol raffle went well and we made money on it. The auction was a success but did not draw as well as years in the past.

SGM Sean Arnts gave a report on the memorial held for SSG Thompson recent KIA. A dinner and social hour was held for the family, a grieving room was set up in the North Fort Chapel and a social gathering was held at the 1st Group Regimental Mess. Expenses were shared between Chapter 16 and the Special Forces Charitable Trust..

SGM Arnts also reported that SSG McGalaughin Will be returning to JBLM in November.

Recent WIA. UPDATE: He returned home the night of the Oktoberfest meeting. Leftovers from the meeting went to provide meals for those meeting him at his home.

Bill Gates gave a report on 1st Organization Days held on June 24th all went well, need more volunteers to help next year-the Troops drank 6 kegs of beer.

SGM Arnts to work with group to get an additional set of colors and flag for the Regimental Mess.

The Menton Day social will be in December and a flyer will be sent out.

Membership chair Roy Sayer is resigning his position as he is leaving for a three year tour in Germany.

Ken Garcy will be sending out a DF urging support and attendance of the FSRG (Family Support Readiness Group). This group supports all Spec Op troops,

Next OASIS meeting and discussion group will be held 14 Oct 16 at the 1st Group Regimental Mess.

Tiers Arnts gave us a briefing on the FSRG for the 3rd Bn. She has agreed to act as a liaison for us with the active duty side.

Election results: President Steven Durfee; Vice President Eric Heid; Treasurer Willis Lindner; Secretary Mike Barkstrom.

Rick Thomas gave us a briefing on the current state of the Group and National scholarship rewards and a brief history of same. It is a 501C3 corporation and as such all contributions are tax deductible. Make sure you earmark your donation for the 1st Group. In five years the 1ST Group has awarded 61 scholarships in the amount of some \$140,000. Total SF wide is in excess of \$925,000. Dennis Downey gave a pitch for Rick Thomas who is running for State Representative for the 29th District. Get out and support Rick.

Dennis Downey gave a report on 1st in Asia.

All Chapter members are invited to a social event 26 Oct 16 1930 hours at the regimental mess. In support of Special Troop Battalion (4th BN) who specialize in Jedborough Team and Level 3 Operations. Great time for a meet and greet and update on what's new in the Group.

Bill Gates requested help from the membership to find items for the blast from the past article for the Drop and for other info to be included for publication.

Ed Booth states that the 46th Company Assn is again sponsoring a Wounded Warrior cruise and would like the chapter to assist in sponsoring a Wounded Warrior. Tabled until February meeting, when the New Board will present it to the Chapter.

Butch Hall told us that he has made a request of CWO4 Bob Ferguson's family to give the Chapter his beret for us to put on display Next meeting February 11th.

Meeting closed with prayer by Chaplin Butch.

Meeting adjourned by VP Eric Heid 1217 hours, for Oktoberfest and comradery.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Barkstrom, Secretary Chapter 16 SFA



Dinosaurs Luncheon, 10-28-16

The following Chapter members and guests were present: Jim & Elaine Lessler, Ted Wicorek, Butch & Regina Hall, Glen Craig, Pati Lakey and Mike Barkstrom. Chapter 43 members present: Skip Ettinger.



THE NINE MISSIONS OF ARMY GREEN BERETS

#1. Special Reconnaissance: These missions take place behind enemy lines, where highly trained Special Forces Soldiers track targets, assess threats, evaluate enemy infrastructure, study environments and place sensors—all without being detected.

SFA CHAPTER 60 TAMPA BAY

THE NINE MISSIONS OF ARMY GREEN BERETS

#2 Direct Action: DA operations involve going in and getting the bad guys. Special Forces Soldiers strike at the enemy, killing or capturing hostiles, seizing intelligence, and rescuing hostages.

SFA CHAPTER 60 TAMPA BAY

THE NINE MISSIONS OF ARMY GREEN BERETS

#3 Unconventional Warfare: UW involves slipping into foreign countries and undermining enemy forces by means of subversion, sabotage and intimidation. Indigenous forces are raised, trained and equipped, and with Special Forces support, engage in covert and clandestine operations, intelligence collection, and guerrilla warfare.

SFA CHAPTER 60 TAMPA BAY

THE NINE MISSIONS OF ARMY GREEN BERETS

#4 Foreign Internal Defense: FID missions organize, evaluate, and rebuild the militaries of friendly host nations. Special Forces support these bolstered armies in security and counter-insurgency operations.

SFA CHAPTER 60 TAMPA BAY

THE NINE MISSIONS OF ARMY GREEN BERETS

#5 Counterterrorism: These operations are offensive actions taken to prevent or respond to terrorism. They are often joint operations, with SF Soldiers and other agencies or military units combining training and tactics to eliminate the threat.

SFA CHAPTER 60 TAMPA BAY

THE NINE MISSIONS OF ARMY GREEN BERETS

#6 Counterinsurgency: COIN operations are designed to defeat insurgencies and find and fix whatever problems might have spurred the insurgency. Special Forces teams work in local areas, and operate with or without support from indigenous forces.

SFA CHAPTER 60 TAMPA BAY

THE NINE MISSIONS OF ARMY GREEN BERETS

#7 Security Force Assistance: These missions have Special Forces Soldiers working with foreign security forces and their support units.

SFA CHAPTER 60 TAMPA BAY

THE NINE MISSIONS OF ARMY GREEN BERETS

#8 Counter-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction: These missions involve tracking down those who might use catastrophic weapons against the United States and our allies.

SFA CHAPTER 60 TAMPA BAY

THE NINE MISSIONS OF ARMY GREEN BERETS

#9 Information Operations: This involves using "information-related capabilities" to manipulate the decision chain of the enemy while protecting that of the U.S.

SFA CHAPTER 60 TAMPA BAY



CHAPTER XVI
WILLIAM R. CARD CHAPTER
SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION
POST OFFICE BOX 33577
JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD, WA 98433-0577



**Chapter XVI, Special Forces Association
Auburn Veterans Day Parade 2016
5 November 2016 1100 hrs**



**LINK UP: Corner of East Main St & K St NE
1003E. Main St, Auburn, WA
(Athens Pizza & Pasta)**

POC: Gates Cell 206-496-4829

Uniform: Forest Green Blazer, Gray Pants, Beret

Veterans Day is an official United States public holiday, observed annually on November 11, that honors military veterans, that is, persons who served in the United States Armed Forces. It coincides with other holidays, including Armistice Day and Remembrance Day, celebrated in other countries that mark the anniversary of the end of World War I; major hostilities of World War I were formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, when the Armistice with Germany went into effect. The United States previously observed Armistice Day. The U.S. holiday was renamed Veterans Day in 1954.

Veterans Day is not to be confused with Memorial Day; Veterans Day celebrates the service of all U.S. military veterans, while Memorial Day honors those who died while in military service.

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Chapter XVI Special Forces Association Quartermasters Store

The Quartermasters Store has Special Forces Crest Uniform and Blazer Buttons for Sale. They can replace the Army Dress Uniform or the SF Association Blazer Buttons. They really look sharp. The Buttons are \$5.00 a piece. A set of 4 Large and 6 small are \$50.00. If you would like them mailed there is a shipping and handling cost of \$4.50. We also have a number of other Items of SF interest.



We also have SF T-Shirts, hats, jackets, SFA Flashes, SF Door Knockers, Belt Buckles, Money clips and numerous other Items of Special Forces interest.

1st SFG(A) Artifacts

The current 1st SFG(A) Commander is soliciting support from former 1st SFG(A) unit members for donation of artifacts that could be displayed in the units Regimental Mess area at Fort Lewis. He has his PAO officer working on the project and he is asking for items that could be secured in display cabinets for viewing by guests who use the facility for ceremonies, retirements and other activities. Hank Cramer is planning to donate some uniform items that his dad wore in Vietnam and others from SFA Chapter and First In Asia Association are putting out feelers to our community. If interested, please contact Major Jason Waggoner at PAO_1sfg@ahqb.soc.mil

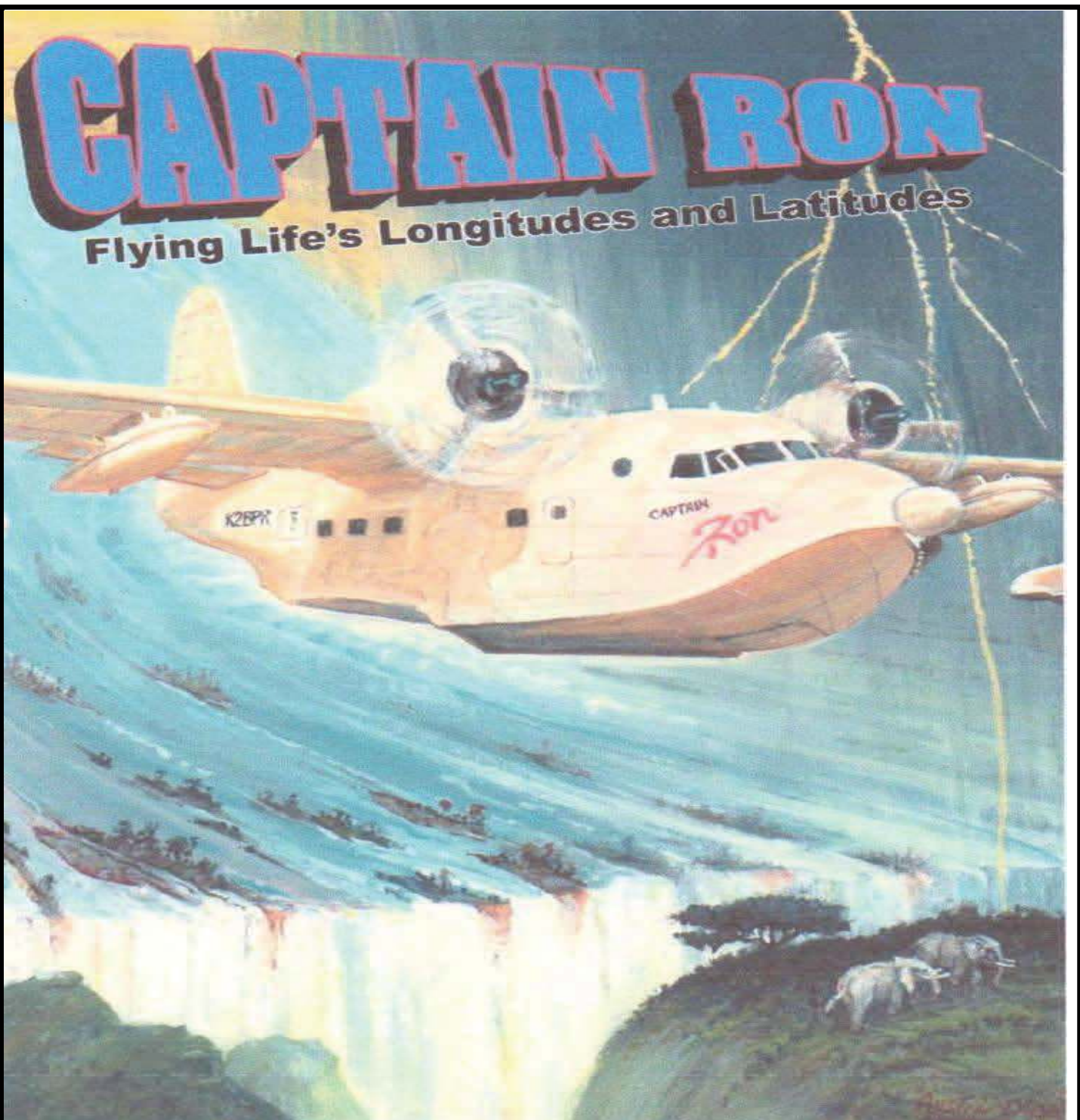
Looking For Historical 10th SFG(A) Items - Assistance Requested - for Group Foyer

POCs:

SSG Ryan Sabin	OR	Andy Tyler
Public Affairs NCOIC		tylera@soc.mil
10th SFG (A)		
719-524-4528		
Ryan.Sabin@soc.mil		

We are looking for any historical items and photos that will cover the following areas. I attached the history outline that we will be following. These items will be used in the HHC foyer and we are trying to tell the 10th SFG(A) story.

- 1952- Activation of 10th SFG (A)
- 1953- Bad Tolz
- 1954-1955 Authorization of the wear of the Green Beret
- 1962- CPT Roger Pezzelle Trojan Horse Unit Insignia
- SF Soldiers operating in; western and eastern Europe, clandestine organizations in England, France, Norway, Germany, Greece, Spain, Italy, Turkey, Pakistan, Iran, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia.
- Fort Devens
- Panzer Kaserne
- JOINT ENDEAVOR and PROVIDE COMFORT
- Task Force Viking
- Operation Desert Storm



I am delighted to invite you to join me in celebrating the recent publication of my book. Titled

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