

THE SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION  
CHAPTER XX  
THE KENNETH WORTHLEY MEMORIAL CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

## *The "20/20" Flash*

President: Rick Pieper  
president@sfaxx.org  
Vice President: John Stepan  
(612) 968-3196 vpresident@sfaxx.org

**December 2009**

425 3rd Street West  
Winthrop, MN 55396

Secretary/Editor: Dan Kaiser  
(507) 647-3526; secretary@sfaxx.org  
Treasurer: Matt Mitlyng  
treasurer@sfaxx.org

Editorially: A little change of formatting seemed appropriate. A copy of the Christmas Dinner Flyer is included as part of the Newsletter. This part of the Newsletter is intended to get you to act now. Please make your Christmas Dinner reservations with Matt Mitlyng as soon as possible.

## **The Chapter Christmas Dinner is Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>,**

at the Fort Snelling Officers Club with cocktails at 6 pm, Dinner at 7 pm.

Spread the word to all of the SF, Airborne, and friends who you can think of. Let them know about the Christmas Dinner. Please do not presume that they know about the Christmas Dinner. The RSVP deadline for the Christmas Dinner is

## **November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009.**

And: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Dues, Dues, Dues:**

A small snag in the Dues: Normally you can send your Annual Dues into Matt Mitlyng and he sends the Dues into SFA National HQs. Unfortunately Matt will be deploying from mid December to late March. For your Annual Dues, please make your check payable to Chapter XX, SFA and ...

**Before** December 7<sup>th</sup>, please mail your dues to Matt Mitlyng at 3759 Tower Pond Road, Anoka, MN 55303-8308.

**After** December 7<sup>th</sup>, you will have to mail them to me at Dan Kaiser, 425 3<sup>rd</sup> Street West, Winthrop, MN 55396.

Folks who are current on their dues need to pay their 2010 dues by January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010. If you don't, then a \$5.00 is tacked on for reinstatement. Whether your dues are current or not, the prices are on the SFA Membership Application and SFA Renewal forms. You computer savvy folks can download the application and Renewal forms from the SFA or Chapter websites.

If you qualify for membership in the SFA, but you haven't joined yet, please consider joining this year. (And yes, that is my hard sales pitch.) If you are one of the many friends who we have on the mail list, we like sending the Newsletter to you. If you could make it to some activity or another, it would be great to see you. (Man—all of these sales pitches are wearing me out.)

**The Next Chapter Business Meeting:**

The next business meeting is at the

# Glockenspiel Restaurant

## Tues, Jan 5th, 2010.

The Meeting starts at **7:00** pm.

We will be ironing details for the Christmas Dinner.

Some folks show up early for dinner, about 6:15. Some folks show up early and socialize until the meeting. Some folks just come to the meeting.

Anyway you can make it, we would love to see you there. (And you don't have to be a Chapter member to attend the meeting.)

**Other Upcoming Events/ Activities:**

**Corrigedor Dinner:** Chapter 15 of the 173<sup>rd</sup> (or maybe the Midwest All Airborne) usually schedules the Corrigedor Dinner in February; more information to follow.

**Royal Loa Armed Forces Day:** The Lao Vets have invited the Chapter to their Royal Lao Armed Forces Day, celebrated on March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The actual Day is March 23<sup>rd</sup>, a Wednesday, but the celebration is being held on the following Saturday.

**After Action Reviews: The Chapter November Business Meeting:** Yes, we had a meeting. Yes, I took Minutes. Yes, I am in a hurry to get this Newsletter in the mail. Yes, the Meeting Minutes will be in the next Newsletter.

Yes, I feel bad about not getting the stuff done in time. No, it does not bother me that much.

**Veterans Day, November 11<sup>th</sup>** happened too. Veterans Day November 11<sup>th</sup> at the State Capitol grounds was well attended by Chapter 20, several airborne groups, and members from Lao vets organization. The morning

started at 7 AM with the flag raising ceremony, followed by breakfast. Ed Komac met his match at the Kelly Inn with our waitress. After breakfast we setup the chairs for the ceremony and had a chance to visit with other people attending. Rick Pieper, John Stepan, Jeff Arnold, Joy Roy, and Doug Brown were surprised and very honored to have Laotian jump wings presented to us by Khao Insixiangmay. We also were introduced to a gold star mother who lost her son (KIA) in Afghanistan four months ago. She is very proud of the service her son gave to his country and proud of the past and present veterans of this nation. Thanks to those who attended and helped out with the setup, rifle squad, PA system, and arrangements for the days speakers. The Lao Vets showed up in high numbers. Afterward, a lot of people went to the Glockenspiel.

**A Notice, from:** King, David J CTR OSD,  
Subject: Cancer and Camp McKall  
Sent: Saturday, October 10, 2009 9:40 AM  
Subject: Tracking Cancer Rates Among Active Duty/Retirees (SF-Ex-SF)

I am passing the MSG below to you for your consideration. I remember years ago (back in 1989-90) I visited Shawn Bray at Med Lab and he asked me if I had taken my survey. I told him I didn't have any idea what he was talking about and he said that they (SWC&S) were passing around a survey to let former SF personnel know that they were getting a high level of cancer (prostate and pancreas) in former SF guys that had went through Camp McKall and drank the ground water. I never actually saw the survey, but I did hear a couple others talk about it.

I was told that the Camp McKall/Camp Rowe Training Center had a high level of ground water contamination due to chemical dumping during/post WWII, as it was used as an embalming station. This was only a rumor.

Below is the MSSG from USSOCOM Care Coalition Recovery Program Advocate addressing cancer rates and providing some great POCs:

Tracking Cancer Rates among Active Duty/Retirees from the Ranch 11SEP09 "On a separate note, we have started to see a trend of cancer developing in our unit's population both AD and after retirement. Once again, this is not an epidemic and by no means do I want to scare anyone-I do want those unit members that are out there to please contact me if they want, to send me a note if they have been Dx or have been treated for cancer of any type.

"We are looking at this closely and want to get the appropriate DOD/VA visibility on this if it is a case of our unique exposures that was the precursor for cancer (that if we had not served in the unit we wouldn't have anyone coming down with cancer outside of the U.S. normal rates). We won't know if we don't know, so I ask for a straw poll so I can pass that info along to the med shed/Dr. COL Burlingame at WAMC, and VA and TriCare leadership.

Sometimes I think of the guys in the 50's that were in the trenches that walked towards the A bomb blasts at NTS, they worked on what they didn't know, and made the military better by their training and sacrifice. Does that model fit our guys that sucked up who knows what on building tng, or out at NTS, or who knows where when they sucked in everything and picked that black crap out of our noses for days after the training. (Do you remember your mask around your neck, or on your face???)

CSM (R) Christopher Kurinec, USSOCOM Care Coalition Recovery Program Advocate, 9 line LLC Contractor, ckurinec@9linellc.com, christopher.kurinec.ctr@socom.mil, phone: (910) 639 5959, (910) 639 5959.

ARNOLD O'SULLIVAN, Department of Public Works Environmental Compliance Branch, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Office:

410-306-2731, Cell Phone (410) 322-6630, FAX: 410-306-2252

**From Bob Biller:** Give everyone my regards. We have moved out west and built a nice place in the mountains to enjoy the solitude of nature. Wild horses are in the front yard. Big mulies, elk and cougar are all around. The closest town is 98 miles away, and the nearest neighbor is 7 miles away. My back yard is the White Mountain-Innoy National Forest. I live on Black Mountain at the 7,000 ft. mark, on the western edge of Nevada near Dyer, Nevada and Bishop, California.

**From SFA HQs:** Fellow SFA Members,

At the Convention in June, I told you about the coming formation of a new non-profit organization which will be a sister organization to the SFA called the Green Beret Foundation (GBF). Aaron Anderson, a young 7th Group Soldier WIA in Afghanistan identified a gap in support for our SF wounded as he was going through his recovery process, and he began the process of putting this together for the community. The mission of the GBF is to provide unconventional resources to facilitate our wounded with special needs and provide unique support to the Special Forces community in order to strengthen readiness and uphold Green Beret traditions and values.

Ron McCan and the rest of the current Board of Officers identified a need for this type of fund when we took office; however, we are not staffed or ready to take on the additional responsibility of managing a potentially large benevolent fund at this time. The GBF will be great for our guys and will fill a gap between what we do as a fraternal organization and what other organizations such as the SOWF and Wounded Warrior Foundation do. The GBF and SFA will work in close concert with the active command and the Care Coalition to provide the best support we can to our wounded and the SF Community.

Aaron has made great strides in growing this concept from an idea to reality. Several former SF General Officers and Command Sergeants Major have been identified to serve as the initial Board of Directors, and he has reached a point in this effort when he is in need of some seed money to fund the 501(c)3 filing costs, web design, logo development, advertising, and other start-up expenses. Although he has other sources for these initial funds, he would like resource the start up from the SFA to demonstrate to the community the close relationship this organization will have with ours. This request for support is a one time shot as these funds will be needed in the next couple of weeks. Once he files the paperwork and this organization is stood up, donations for the GBF will go straight to them.

This is a worthy effort. Special Forces is the largest and oldest member of the Special Operations Community and takes more casualties than any other SOF element, yet we are the only one without a true benevolent organization to provide assistance for our own people. I feel so strongly about this cause that I am personally donating \$500 to get this going. I certainly don't expect people to contribute that much, but if you would like to join me with a donation of any size, please make the check out to the Special Forces Association and mail it to:

Special Forces Association

ATTN: Assistant Secretary

PO Box 41436

Fayetteville NC 28309-1436.

Please write "GBF" on your check so we know what your intent is and it goes to the right place. If you would like an e-mail acknowledgement of your donation, send me an address and I will respond. When this organization is stood up, we will put out the information and post a link to their site. Thanks for your consideration and support.  
De Oppresso Liber

### **Websites to visit:**

**From Bill Bowles** through Bill Coombs: Kate Smith sings the "Ballad of the Green Beret."  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UGC4UenXY\\_w](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UGC4UenXY_w)

**From Dick Henrickson:** If you want to see a good version of Amazing Grace, go to <http://link.brightcove.com:80/services/player/bcpid1785324681?bclid=1338935106&bctid=1913313052>

**From Rick Pieper:** And if you want to see a cartoon from 1948, go to: <http://nationaljuggernaut.blogspot.com/2009/09/this-cartoon-seemed-far-fetched-in-1948.html>

**From Rollin:** No matter which branch of the service you served in, this is cool. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ITs6a0ORdQU>

**And:** At the Parkway Theater: 65th Anniversary of The Battle of The Bulge (G) Dec 16, 2009 - Dec 20, 2009: 12/16 - 2:00, 12/19 - 2:00, 12/20 – Noon.  
Tickets: Adults - \$5.00, Seniors and Students \$3.00, Veterans Free.

The Academy Award winning movie "Battleground" will be shown followed by Battle Veteran guests Q and A hosted by Joe Minjares.

The Parkway's website, <http://www.theparkwaytheater.com>, does have a clip from the DVD "Silent Wings of WWII."

**From Jan:** These kids entertained during half-time at an Army/Navy Basketball Game in Ohio. They are absolutely amazing. Enjoy!  
[http://a.blip.tv/scripts/flash/showplayer.swf?file=http%3A%2F%2Fblip.tv%2Frss%2Fflash%2F1826380&showplayerpath=http%3A%2F%2Fblip.tv/scripts/flash/showplayer.swf&feedurl=http://soonereyo.blip.tv/rss/flash&brandname=blip.tv&brandlink=http://blip.tv/%3Futm\\_source%3Dbrandlink&enablejs=true](http://a.blip.tv/scripts/flash/showplayer.swf?file=http%3A%2F%2Fblip.tv%2Frss%2Fflash%2F1826380&showplayerpath=http%3A%2F%2Fblip.tv/scripts/flash/showplayer.swf&feedurl=http://soonereyo.blip.tv/rss/flash&brandname=blip.tv&brandlink=http://blip.tv/%3Futm_source%3Dbrandlink&enablejs=true)

Editorially: This video was made with a very high level of mediocracy. The poor

quality almost makes it useless. The kids' skill overcomes the poor videotaping.

**Source deleted** before I copied it:

[http://www.pjtv.com/video/Afterburner\\_with Bill Whittle/ Bill Maher, Barack Obama and the Truth About American Exceptionalism/2378/](http://www.pjtv.com/video/Afterburner_with_Bill_Whittle/Bill_Maher_Barack_Obama_and_the_Truth_About_American_Exceptionalism/2378/)

Editorially: Most will consider this web-site bit to be a slam on Barack Obama. I do. And while I do, I have added this web-site

to the Newsletter for ***only*** one reason: the Website is a succinct, organized, direct, and appropriate argument on American exceptionalism.

For those that see this website as a slam on Obama: I think the deeper implications of developing a better understanding of why America is a great country, are far more important than any man who has ever held the office of the President.