

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

## *The "20/20" Flash*

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The Chapter extends its sympathy and condolences to the family of Jerry Neuman. Albert "Jerry" Neuman, a Chapter member, passed away on Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009 away after a long hard battle with cancer at the VA Medical Center in Minneapolis, MN.

Jerry Served with the 6th Group (Co. B, Co.D and HHC) and 5th Group Special Forces (HHC, Operations SGT) and later with the MN Army National Guard in Hutchinson and the WI Army National Guard in New Richmond & Menominee.

The Chapter also extends its sympathy and condolences to John Staads on the passing of his father. John's father was a WWII Navy veteran and John and his father were fixtures at SF and Airborne Activities before they moved to Springfield, MN, in the south central part of the State

### **The Next Chapter Business Meeting:**

The next business meeting is at the Glockenspiel Restaurant

**Tues, Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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 if 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.

I have been out of the loop, as the old saying goes, so I don't know when the dinner is or who to call for reservations. If you are interested, I should get all of that information at the Chapter business meeting on Tuesday, call or email me on Wednesday and I will pass the info along.

**Royal Lao Armed Forces Day:** The Royal Lao Veterans of America have invited the Chapter to their Royal Lao Armed Forces 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The actual Day is March 23<sup>rd</sup>, a Wednesday, but the celebration is on the following Saturday.

The Celebration is in remembrance of all the men and women of all ethnic groups and units who fought in the Secret War in Laos, including U.S. Special Forces, U.S. Air Force, Air America, Air Continental, Royal Thai Army, and the Army of the Republic of Vietnam.

The celebration begins at 6 pm, March 27<sup>th</sup>, at 7324 Lakeland Avenue, Brooklyn Park. Please RSVP to Colonel Khao at [khinsixiengmay@laoamerica.org](mailto:khinsixiengmay@laoamerica.org)

**After Action Reviews: The Chapter January Business Meeting Minutes:** I was not able to make it to the meeting because of car troubles. We may get minutes for the January meeting in the next Newsletter.

(And, just to be fair, we may not get Minutes in the next Newsletter. We will see.)

**From Around The Chapter:**

**An e-mail to Tricia,** on the First Special Service Force Colors.

Tricia, Just spent an enjoyable two days down in Tampa. Special Operations Command Central (SOCCENT) hosted a ceremony where the FSSF colors and battle streamers were turned over to SOCCENT to be kept in their headquarters. Cy Mermelstein arranged it and MG Charles T. Cleveland, the SOCCENT commander, hosted the event.

It was very nice and there was a good turn-out of Forcemen. Cy, Bill Story, Charlie Mann, Sam McGee, Dick Hilton, Paul Zimmerman, Ken Gay, Dan Battiste and Jack Callowhill were present as well as Ann Snyder and Sue Lentz. LTC Chris Allen of the Canadian SOF forces at CENTCOM took part in front of a full auditorium. Lots of troops present.

MG Cleveland hosted a dinner Thursday evening with most of the Forcemen present that was very nice also.

Hope you had a good holiday. A little cold up there, but it is no picnic here either. I missed a couple of golf days because of the cold. Regards to you and your family, Ken Finlayson

**From Tim Guth:** A good thank-you video for the military.

[http://media.causes.com/576542?p\\_id=92681239](http://media.causes.com/576542?p_id=92681239)

**And:** A 13-minute video of Marcus Luttrall, he's the SEAL that wrote "Lone Survivor".

[http://cophetruth.typepad.com/cop\\_the\\_truth/2008/05/marcus-luttrall...](http://cophetruth.typepad.com/cop_the_truth/2008/05/marcus-luttrall...)

**From Jeremy Neuman:** The History Channel is going to have a shooting competition television show. Info from their flyer included: "Email TopShotCasting@gmail.com with your name, city/state, phone number, a recent photo of yourself and a brief explanation of why you are America's "Top Shot." Visit [www.pilgrimfilms.tv](http://www.pilgrimfilms.tv) and click on "CASTING" for more details. Or call our casting hotline at 818-728-3729. Deadline to apply is January 18, 2010.

**From Ron Lachelt:** Information on the latest generation of parachutes, T-11, is at [http://paraglideonline.net/111209\\_news2.html](http://paraglideonline.net/111209_news2.html)

**From Oly:** Monday, January 04, 2010. Subject: I KNEW this was happening, from the AP.

The Arctic Ocean is warming up, icebergs are growing scarcer and in some places the seals are finding the water too hot, according to a report to the Commerce Department yesterday from Consul Ifft, at Bergen, Norway.

Reports from fishermen, seal hunters and explorers all point to a radical change in climate conditions and hitherto unheard-of temperatures in the Arctic zone. Exploration expeditions report that scarcely any ice has been met as far north as 81 degrees 29 minutes. Soundings to a depth of 3,100 meters showed the gulf stream still very warm. Great masses of ice have been replaced by moraines of earth and stones, the report continued, while at many points well known glaciers have entirely disappeared. Very few seals and no white fish are found in the eastern Arctic, while vast shoals of herring and smelts, which have never before ventured so far north, are being encountered in the old seal fishing grounds. Within a few years it is predicted that due to the ice melt the sea

will rise and make most coastal cities uninhabitable.

I'm sorry; I neglected to mention that this report was from November 2, 1922 as reported by the AP and published in The Washington Post.

**From Jeff Arnold:** *The Richmond Times Dispatch:* Anti-Gun Senator Shoots Intruder.

Long time Anti-Gun Advocate State Senator R.C. Soles, 74, shot one of two intruders at his home just outside Tabor City, N.C. about 5 p.m. Sunday, the prosecutor for the politician's home county said.

The victim, Kyle Blackburn, was taken to a South Carolina hospital, but the injuries were not reported to be life-threatening, according to Rex Gore, district attorney for Columbus, Bladen and Brunswick counties. The State Bureau of Investigation and Columbus County Sheriff's Department are investigating the shooting, Gore said.

Soles, who was not arrested, declined to discuss the incident Sunday evening. "I am not in a position to talk to you," Soles said by telephone. "I'm right in the middle of an investigation." The Senator, who has made a career of being against gun ownership for the general public, didn't hesitate to defend himself with his own gun when he believed he was in immediate danger and he was the victim.

In typical hypocritical liberal fashion, the "Do As I Say And Not As I Do" Anti-Gun Activist Lawmaker picked up his gun and took action in what apparently was a self-defense shooting. Why hypocritical you may ask? It is because his long legislative record shows that the actions that he took to protect his family, his own response to a dangerous life threatening situation, are actions that he feels ordinary citizens should not have if they were faced with an identical situation.

It has prompted some to ask if the Senator believes his life and personal safety

is more valuable than yours or mine. But, this is to be expected from those who believe they can run our lives, raise our kids, and protect our families better than we can.

<http://www2.timesdispatch.com/rtd/news/national/article/74-year-old...>

### **From Around The SFA:**

**From Bill Snider:** This is really neat, turn your sound up! Makes you almost want to reup!

<http://www.thewarriorsong.com/video.html>

**And:** A six-minute video on MOH MSG Roy Benavidez

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RZ7968BbMnU>

**And:** you can get a look at the Korean War Memorial at

<http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/projects/WashingtonDC/korean.html>

**And:** Bumper-Stickers Seen On Military Bases.

"Except For Ending Slavery, Fascism, Nazism and Communism, WAR has Never Solved Anything."

"U.S. Marines - Certified Counselors to the 72 Virgins Dating Club."

"Interrogators can't water-board dead guys"

"U.S. Marines - Travel Agents To Allah"

"Stop Global Whining"

"When In Doubt, Empty The Magazine"

"The Marine Corps - When It Absolutely, Positively Has To Be Destroyed Overnight"

"Death Smiles at Everyone - Marines Smile Back"

"Marine Sniper - You can run, but you'll just die tired!"

"What Do I Feel When I Kill A Terrorist? A Little Recoil"

"Marines - Providing Enemies of America an Opportunity to Die For their Country since 1775"

"Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Anyone Who Threatens It"

"Happiness Is A Belt-Fed Weapon" "It's God's Job to Forgive Bin Laden - It's Our Job to Arrange the Meeting"

"Artillery Brings Dignity to What Would Otherwise Be Just A Vulgar Brawl"

"One Shot, Twelve Kills - U.S. Naval Gun Fire Support"

"Do Draft-Dodgers Have Reunions? If So, What Do They Talk About?"

"My Kid Fought In Iraq So Your Kid Can Party In College"

"Machine Gunners - Accuracy By Volume"

"A Dead Enemy Is A Peaceful Enemy - Blessed Be The Peacemakers"

"Some people spend an entire lifetime wondering if they made a difference in the world. But, the Marines don't have that problem." Ronald Reagan

**And:** Forward from Bob Garcia: Someone sent me the link below which is a virtual wall of all those lost during the Viet Nam war with the names, bio's and other information on our lost comrades. It is a very interesting link, and those who served in that time frame and lost friends or family can look them up on this site.

First click on a state.....then when it opens .....a town.....a name.....follow on and then it should show you a picture of the person or at least his bio and medals..... Or click on the name.

<http://www.virtualwall.org/iStates.htm>

**From Bryan:** What it is like from those who are there.

<http://aimpoints.hq.af.mil/display.cfm?id=35673>

**And:** Subject: Article in Army Times: SF Command to Form 5 Special Troops Battalions, By Sean D. Naylor, [snaylor@militarytimes.com](mailto:snaylor@militarytimes.com)

Special Forces Command is drastically changing its plan to add a fourth battalion of A-teams to each of the five

active Special Forces groups and will now convert all five of those battalions to "special troops battalions" by 2015.

The creation of the special troops battalions will provide an organizational home for SF soldiers who have acquired "highend, niche skills," Maj. Gen. Michael Repass, head of SF Command, said in a Jan. 16 interview. In 2001, the Army's five active duty Special Forces groups each had three line battalions, each comprising three line companies of six 12-man operational detachment alphas, or A-teams. But the extraordinary demand for Special Forces in Afghanistan, Iraq and the Philippines in the wake the Sept. 11 attacks and the 2003 invasion of Iraq persuaded the Defense Department to add a fourth line battalion to each active-duty group.

Under SF Command's new plan, the additional battalions — two of which have stood up — will still be created, with the last one completed by the end of 2012. But in 2014, the new battalions will be "realigned." The three companies of A-teams will be redistributed across the other three battalions, one company per line battalion.

Meanwhile, the fourth battalion will convert to a special troops battalion. This will include elements previously in the group support company, such as the Special Forces advanced skills company, the signals detachment and the regional support detachment. New organizations will be added, including a military intelligence company, an unmanned aerial systems platoon, two human intelligence sections, a signals intelligence section and other elements, according to a slide briefing Repass provided to Army Times.

Repass said he decided to convert the fourth battalions into special troops battalions in order to capture and retain the skills gained by those SF soldiers who attend highly specialized schools, such as the special operations target interdiction course (essentially a sniper school) and the

Special Forces advanced reconnaissance target analysis and exploitation course.

"You send a guy to a school and he uses it for a period of time and then he walks away from it, because he's changed his job or he's changed the focus of what he's doing, and so you only have a short period of time where there's that expertise in the organization," Repass said.

As Repass envisions it, in the future an SF sergeant attends one of the schools and would return to his A-team after graduation, but his next assignment might move him to the special troops battalion, where he would join a unit filled with others who share his "niche" skill set. That unit would then be used to augment the A teams and B-teams (SF companies) for specific missions, and to train soldiers in the line units.

"We've got to take the best of the best and put them in these cadre formations that are in the redesignated fourth battalion because that's our high-end skill set," Repass said. "That's how we grow these guys long term and turn them into the masters of their trade." The special troops battalions will have the added advantage of providing a way for SF soldiers who have been worn down physically by multiple combat tours to remain productive, Repass said.

"This is a place for veteran operators to go and still contribute," he said. "We've got lots of guys that want to be on teams, but they're physically not able anymore. What do we do? We can't just cast these guys away, they're at the height — potentially — of their professional contribution in some skill level. And this is a place to put those guys ... [where] they don't have to operate at the same op tempo as a regular ODA guy would." Grouping most of the specially trained soldiers in one battalion will not lower the experience level in the line battalions, Repass said. "We haven't altered the rank structure at all down at the detachments [i.e. the A- and B-teams]," he said. "It's

not like I'm taking an E-7 off of a team and taking that slot for that E-7 and moving it to the fourth battalion. There's still an E-7 slot on that team." But that statement is "disingenuous at best," said a field grade SF officer. "Clearly that doesn't jive. The experience or the training that you desire in the special troops battalion is not due to rank, it's due to the additional schooling and the additional training. ... Rank has nothing to do with this. You have guys that are E-6s that have these skills. ... Yeah, there will be experienced people at the ODA level and in the line battalions, but you are going to have either none or at least far fewer of these soldiers who have received this extra specialized training.

"Each ODA has one or two of these guys who have been specially trained," the field grade officer said. "But if you pull them all together, yeah, you've got a really high-end group of guys who can do that stuff, but ... to isolate it is going to reduce the capability of the ODAs." The prospect of creating elite organizations within a community that already regards itself as elite was also causing unrest, he said. "What you're doing is you're creating special units within SF and that is pissing off a lot of people," he said.

Doing away with the fourth line battalion will also reduce the ability of a Special Forces group to provide battalion-level special operations task forces (SOTFs) to combat theaters, the field grade SF officer said.

"The whole point of doing this fourth battalion is you give the group some flexibility," he said. "If you had a two SOTF requirement [in a combat theater], then you can have two in and two out. Now if you go to three [battalions], you're losing an entire deployable SOTF headquarters." But Repass said it is at the A- and B-team level that Special Forces is experiencing a deployment strain. "We're not having that issue at the SOTF level," he said. "We don't count noses at the battalion level, we count them at the ODA level." The redesigned SF

group would still contain almost a battalion's worth of A and B-teams more available for deployment than it had prior to the expansion, he said. (As part of the redesign, each group will lose one A-team as "a manpower bill.")

**From Frank Wisniewski**, same writer: SOCom directive announces major changes, by Sean D. Naylor - Staff Writer Army Times

U.S. Special Operations Command is changing the structure and organization of its task forces in Iraq and Afghanistan, while realigning the traditional regional orientation of most Special Forces groups.

The changes will mean longer deployments for Special Forces and some other special ops personnel, but overall should lead to more dwell time between deployments, SOCom deputy commander Army Lt. Gen. Frank Kearney said in a Wednesday interview with Army Times.

The new plan, announced in an Aug. 21 SOCom directive, is aimed at delivering continuity of leadership for the combined joint special operations task forces in Iraq and Afghanistan while developing depth in experience, culture and understanding of the mission, the country, and relationships with host nation leaders and people, Kearney said.

The plan, which SOCom intends to fully implement by Feb. 1, divides the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility, which previously had been the sole preserve of 5th Special Forces Group, between 5th and 3rd Groups. Under the plan, 5th Group will focus on the western and southern half of the CentCom region, including Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Oman, Yemen, Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt. The eastern and northern parts of the CentCom region, including Afghanistan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, will become 3rd Group's responsibility.

With regard to Afghanistan and Iraq, the plan formalizes the reality that has developed on the ground since the 2003 invasion of Iraq. In both Iraq and Afghanistan, the leadership of the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force, or CJSOTF (pronounced see-juh-so-tiff), in that country has swapped back and forth between two Special Forces groups on seven-month rotations. In Iraq, 5th Group has shared responsibility for commanding Joint Special Operations Task Force Arabian Peninsula with 10th Group, a unit traditionally focused on Europe. Fifth Groups Iraq focus has meant 3rd Group, traditionally oriented on Africa, has been heavily committed to the fight in Afghanistan, where it has shared responsibility for running CJSOTF-Afghanistan with 7th Group, whose area of responsibility is Latin America. Under the new plan, the 3rd and 7th Group headquarters will no longer have a role in running the two CJSOTFs, although they will continue to provide battalion-level special operations task forces to the CJSOTFs. In Afghanistan, 3rd Group will become the framework group for CJSOTF-A, with 5th Group playing the same role in Iraq, according to an Aug. 25 SOCOM news release.

As framework groups, 3rd and 5th Groups will each provide about 40 percent of the staff to their respective CJSOTF. The other 60 percent of the staffs will be manned by personnel from across the joint special operations community, according to the news release.

As part of the plan, 10th Group will assume responsibility for Africa from 3rd Group, while also retaining responsibility for Europe. Asked whether U.S. Army Special Operations Command might move some 3rd Group personnel with deep experience and language skills tied to Africa to 10th Group in order to make the transition as smooth as possible, Kearney said he was not aware of any USASOC proposal to do so, but that it was a

suggestion with merit that Lt. Gen. Mulholland should consider.

The new plan also directs 7th Group to support U.S. Northern Command as required for matters related to Mexico while retaining [the group's] regional orientation with U.S. Southern Command, the SOCom news release said. Of the five active-duty SF groups, only 1st Group's regional orientation the U.S. Pacific Command area of responsibility remains unchanged. While the tours for the CJSOTF staff will lengthen from seven months to 12 months, the tours for the battalion level task forces will increase from seven months to nine months.

The new rotation cycle should ease the operational tempo for Special Forces personnel, some of whom only spend three or four months at home between deployments. Lengthening the dwell time between rotations was a factor behind the new plan, Kearney said. When combined with the ongoing addition of a fourth battalion to each active SF group by 2013 (5th and 3rd Groups have already stood their fourth battalions up), Kearney said he expects the plan to result in all SF troops spending longer periods between deployments. Tours for the CJSOTF leaders and staff will lengthen from seven months to roughly 12 months. However, while the colonels who command 3rd and 5th Groups will likely spend one year of their two-year command tours at the head of a CJSOTF, it appears that the new plan will for the first time leave the door open for other special operations officers, not necessarily from Special Forces, to also command CJSOTFs.

SOCOM still has to decide exactly how commanders will be selected for the CJSOTF, Kearney said. Clearly the [SF] group commanders are perfectly positioned and command selected to command a CJSOTF, but as we are a joint command with components capable of O6 level joint command of a CJSOTF, we believe we need to keep this door open to select the right

commander to lead these headquarters, he said in an e-mail to Army Times.

The potential for non-Special Forces officers to command the CJSOTFs has spread ripples of unease among some SF soldiers. But Kearney dismissed as conspiracy theories speculation in the SF community that SOCOM commander Adm. Eric Olson, a Navy SEAL, had set the system up to enable Navy SEALs to command CJSOTFs. I don't think we've said that were going to put a SEAL in command, Kearney said, but he added that limiting the field to just SF officers would amount to narrowing the options unnecessarily. Ideally, don't we want to find the best guy he said?

Up until now the CJSOTFs in Afghanistan and Iraq have always been led by SF group commanders, who are products of the Army's command selection process. Kearney acknowledged that appointing non-SF group commanders to head up the CJSOTFs would require SOCOM to establish a command screening system that would be viewed as fair across all the service special operations components. While the framework groups will provide about 40 percent of the personnel for their respective CJSOTFs, no decisions have been made as to whether these personnel will be organized as a cohort and deployed together, or whether troops will be identified and deployed individually from the group headquarters. U.S. Army Special Operations Command head Lt. Gen. John Mulholland will work this out with his staff and commanders and brief SOCOM on their plan, Kearney said.

The SOCOM plan does not include any attempt to grow the size of the SF group headquarters, but SOCOM is studying whether to change the structure and composition of the CJSOTF, he said.

Each CJSOTF will command at least three battalion level special operations task forces, including one from the framework group and one from another SF group. (There are five active-duty and two reserve

SF groups.) The third battalion will be provided by Marine special operations forces in Afghanistan and the Navy SEALs in Iraq.

The new plan will allow Marine Corps Forces, Special Operations Command, (MarSOC) to focus its training on Afghanistan, Kearney said. The key was to focus them, he added, explaining that MarSOC and its commander Maj. Gen. Mastin Robeson have been working with SOCom to determine areas to focus their language and cultural depth.

The MarSOC deployment to Afghanistan next year will be the first battalion-level deployment to a combat theater for the Marines fledgling special

operations component. There have been complaints within the Special Forces community that SF units are being forced to give up communications gear and training slots in order to help the Marines reach full readiness. Kearney's response to this criticism was matter of fact.

I assume everyone understands that when SOCom decides to send forces, in this case a MarSOC SOTF, into harm's way, we are going to equip them to be successful and since they are a unit still reaching full operational capability, it was a requirement to outfit them for success, he said. This is not unusual, we have done this with any unit preparing to deploy. "What commander would not do this?"