

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

The "20/20" Flash

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The Chapter extends its condolences and sympathy to Ed Komac on the passing of his brother.

New Members: Well, we finally added **Ken Sjodin** to the mailing list. He has asked to be added to the mailing list on several occasions and I have just now gotten around to it. (Hey Ken- Sorry about not getting this done sooner). Please accept my apologies for this terrible mistake. Dan K.)

Chaplain (LTC) **John Morris** sent information to **Matt Mitlyng** on **Jesse Kelley** and we have added him to our email list. Jesse spent 8 years in the SOF community, most recently as an intel guy with 3rd Special Forces Group.

Chaplain Morris also sent word that the SOCOM Command Chaplain, **Chaplain (COL) Glen Bloomstrom** will be retiring to Minnesota in March 2011. CH Morris will link up with CH Bloomstrom when he gets here. "Then I'll have a battle buddy to minister to all the operators in the area." God bless, CH Morris

We have added **Ron Walz** to our mailing list. Ron was with the 82nd Airborne Division from 1968 to 1972. (And, if I am matching the name to the correct face: Ron started in the Army with Jerry Neumann through Jump School and the SF Qualification Course.)

We added **Captain Julie Opfer** to our mailing list. Captain Opfer recently took command of the Minneapolis Recruiting Company. The Company has provided the Honor Guard for the Chapter Christmas Dinner for quite a while now and we had the pleasure of meeting Julie at the Christmas Dinner.

The word from **John Roy** is that Julie started as an enlisted soldier, became a warrant officer, and then picked up her commission. She is a Black Hawk helicopter pilot with a 3rd Infantry Division combat patch.

The Next Chapter Business Meeting:

The next business meeting is at the

Glockenspiel Restaurant

Tues, Jan 4th, 2011.

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

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.

Other Upcoming Events/ Activities:

The Corrigedor/Junction City/Musal Dinner will be in February, but I have no other information at this time. We will publish the next Newsletter so that you will have time to make reservations for the dinner. And, if you don't trust me, I will not be insulted if you call Trudell or Jack

Running to pester them for the latest information.

The Celebration of the 61st Anniversary of the Royal Lao Armed Forces is on March 26th, 2011 and you are invited. Make your reservations as noted on the Celebration Flyer.

Action Needed: Hey: If you have been able to attend any of the Veterans Day activities at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in the State Capitol area—then we want you to **write a letter** to Saint Paul Central High School and let them know how you feel about the Central High School Band playing at the Veterans Day activities. The letter can be mailed to:

Central High School
275 Lexington Parkway North
Saint Paul, MN 55104

If you want to address your letter to a particular person, may I suggest the principal, Mary Mackbee, or the music teacher Matt Oyen.

Matt is the Point of Contact that the Airborne works with for the Veterans Day activities and he sent an email with the following extract:

I was hoping some of your membership would be willing to send comments addressed to the Central staff and administration about the Central Band's participation over the past 20 years.

What role do we play? Why is it important? Why is it important to have music? Why is it important for our students to be a part of the day? What does the ceremony mean to you? What is the significance your particular ceremony? What makes it special, unique, etc.?

It's a major disruption to take 100 kids out of school and the last few years have fallen on 1st quarter finals which has created some push back. Teachers feel strongly about their classes and sending a consistent message about the importance of exams.

I don't disagree with them, I just feel it's important to honor this tradition and relationship. I'm hoping you can tactfully reinforce that.

After Action Reviews:

The December Business Meeting was at 7 pm on December 7th. Present were:

Jeff Arnold	John Stepan
Khao	Art Videen
Oly Olson	Laurie Johnson
John Roy	Jack Running
Bouachan Sinouthasy	Dawn
Somkhith Mounthapanya	Dan
Kaiser	

John Stepan made a motion to accept the Meeting Minutes that were published in the December Newsletter. John Roy seconded the motion and it was carried.

John Roy noted that Dick Henrickson's son sent word that they loved the flowers that the Chapter sent for his Dad's funeral.

Some of the folks that were able to attend the Services at the Camp Ripley National Cemetery included John Stepan, Trudell Guerue, Jack Running, Brad Nichols, Art Kirby, Jerry Huntington Senior and Junior, Ken Sjodin, Pat Burbee, and Joe Nyquist.

At the service, Jerry Huntington Junior presented the National Color to the family and the rest of the Airborne folks formed a Flag Line at the Cemetery. After the service Dick Henrickson's family wanted to show their appreciation to the folks who could attend, so they sang the Ballad of the Green Beret for the Flag Line.

We did an After Action Review on the Christmas Dinner and it is included below.

We discussed the upcoming Corrigedor Dinner. Jack mentioned that the dinner has been renamed to the Corrigedor/ Junction City/Mosal Dinner to celebrate the three combat jumps of the 503rd/173rd.

The Lao will be celebrating the 61st Anniversary of the Royal Lao Armed Forces on March 26th and you are invited. Make your reservations as noted on the Celebration Flyer.

Art Vidden brought up the Saint Paul Central High School Band's support of the Veterans Day activities. The discussion included how much we enjoy their music at the activities and how we can support them.

We are using this Newsletter to try and get you to send letters to the Central High School folks to let them know how you feel about the Band's support at the Veterans Day activity.

(Did you read the **Action Needed** section on the last page? They need our support. We need your support.)

In addition to your individual letters, Art volunteered to write a letter for the Chapter.

Someone, Jack Running I think, will contact Matt Oyen to see what concrete action we can do support the Band. Someone said that a while ago we (the Airborne) bought sheet music that the band wanted. Someone suggested buying an instrument for the band. Jack (I think) said he would check with Matt to see what the band needs.

The meeting adjourned at 7:26.

Christmas Dinner was on Saturday, Decem-ber 4th at the Fort Snelling Officers Club.

Jack Running said it was a "great party with a lot of variety, young and old," and that he has never had a bad meal at the O'Club. John Roy said that Julie Opfer's date Scott Good, USMC, was impressed with the job that the Airborne guys did with the dinner. John also said that a "number of people, and two phone calls, liked the relaxed atmosphere with no head table."

I did not note who relayed the following: Gold Star Mother Jill Stephanson and her date enjoyed the night and Chapter XX's namesake's brother, Keith Worthley,

and his wife, enjoyed the night and appreciated and liked being there.

Trudell sent thanks for how well Vickie Kahler was received at the Christmas Dinner. Trudell said Vickie felt welcomed and like she was of the group. (Vickie's husband's name was recently added to the 173rd's Chapter name.)

There were over 110 people at the dinner. The food (we decided as a group and as a general consensus) was very good and the cost was okay. We did not need to use seat reservations because we had less than 120 people. We will keep the seat reservation plan (after 120 reservations, later reservations will have to sit in the back room) in place for next year.

Folks liked the place tents and nametags, for the convenience and, presumably, for the colored unit patches on the tents and nametags. At the Christmas Dinner, Matt Mitlyng said that if he had known about the nametags he would have brought in the plastic, pin-on, nametag holders. Next year.

Folks loved the First Special Service Force Chocolates that Ted Johnson's daughters brought in for the dinner. The ladies had the chocolate mold done for the last FSSF Reunion and they showed us the chocolates last fall. We will be asking for the chocolates again. (Some said we should get more mint.)

Jerry Carlson sent a thank you to the Chapter for his being selected to receive the Airborne Stein. Jerry does so much for the Airborne and POM/MIA, it was great seeing him receive the Stein. Jerry was so surprised by the presentation that he was at a loss for words.

While the dessert cake "was delicious," it did not quite have the design that a couple of us were expecting: the picture of the Flag being jumped into the Baldwin, Wisconsin drop zone. Some one noted that we should be watching for design/picture ideas for next year—and we will worry about the cake design next fall.

Behind the scenes, the set-up went well, overall. Big kudos' to two people in particular. Tricia Hofeld set up the silent auction through the "fog" of the flu, and Chaplain John Morris came in to do the invocation as he was feeling the flu coming on.

Everyone liked the job John Stepan did as the emcee and Doug Bekke's introducing the WWII and Korean Combat Jumpers was great.

We discussed the photo displays that Doug Brown and Dan Kaiser had brought in. Dan's work was appreciated because he tried so hard and Doug Brown did a great job. (I can add that here: I tried, dang it.) Doug, however, had 8 x 10 inch photos that were seen easily with titles and verbiage on the tri-fold display boards. Man, it was fancy.

We decided to ask the folks who are hosting events through the year to bring in photo displays of the events they host. (I think people like seeing pictures of themselves and the other folks at the events through the year, but I forgot to ask that particular question during the meeting.)

The program was copied wrong: when you opened the program, the inside part was upside down. Okay: I think we've heard enough about that booboo.

The boom box/CD player that I brought in was not very loud. Someone suggested borrowing Tom Eckhoff's boom box next year.

No, seriously—we have heard enough about the dang program printing.

Reservations for next year's Christmas Dinner have been made for December 3rd, 2011, at the O'club.

(I know some of you are still snickering about the dang program printing. Stop it.)

Dues, Dues, Dues

Annual SFA Dues are coming due. If you pay after January 31st, 2011, you will be charged an extra \$5.

Applications and Renewal Forms are attached. Please mail either form to Matt Mitlyng at 3759 Tower Pond Road, Anoka, MN 55303-8308. (You can mail the applications or renewals to SFA National Headquarters, but, if you mail them to Matt, the Chapter gets a small cut of the money.)

If you are not a member of the SFA, we strongly encourage you to join the SFA (if you qualify for membership.) Even if you don't join the SFA, we want to keep you on our mailing list. That's my plan, and I am sticking to it.

From Around The Chapter:

Bill Story sent word that he has moved from Virginia to South Carolina. He and his wife Diane moved into the Charleston, SC area back in September.

Mike McElhiney sent an email that included a note on his recent new job with the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs. Congratulations.

Ron Ruele emailed Christmas Wishes to the Chapter and his regrets for not being able to attend the Christmas Dinner. He is doing some contract work in Washington State.

Jeremy Neumann sent an email that included a note on his process of transferring into the 339th PSYOP, located in the Arden Hills Reserve Center.

Jim Ringland sent an email recommending that you visit <http://www.angelfire.com/ak2/intelligencer/report/drummer.html>

I agree with Jim's comment: when the kid starts letting loose on those drums it becomes even more impressive.

And while I try to avoid politically sensitive issues, someone forwarded an email: Subject: NAILING IT! In less than a minute he brilliantly says it all.

Retired Army Lt. Colonel Allen West, who did combat duty in Iraq, responded to a Marine who asked the question, 'How do

you answer people who say that terrorists are following a "warped" version of Islam?'

LTC West, by the way, was elected to Congress, to represent Florida's 22nd congressional district. He will be the first African-American Republican Congressman to represent Florida since 1870. <http://secure.afa.net/afa/activism/takeaction.asp?id=384>