

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

The "20/20" Flash

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New Members: **Chris Bremicker** met us at the September Business meeting. He was a medic in 7th Group from 1968 to 1970 and he now lives down the street from the Glockenspiel. (He gave us a brief bio at the September meeting, but I forgot to write it down.)

Chanthalay and **Sevieng** are members of the Lao Vets organization who were also able to attend the September meeting. While I think they are members of the SFA, I did not think to ask that question, directly.

There are 50 members of the Lao Vets organization here in the Twin Cities who are also members of the SFA. Currently, they are members of Chapter 38, Fort Campbell but they expressed a desire to change their Chapter affiliation to Chapter XX. We will let you know more about that as it happens.

We have also added **Jim Nelson** to the mailing list. **Dick Coccie** met Jim and few days ago. I don't know how or where Dick they met, but they started talking about the SFA and here we are.

Matt Mitlyng has also added **Mark Bell** to our mailing list. Mark recently retired from the Minnesota National Guard as a Lieutenant Colonel. He is in the process of becoming a teacher. Matt also wrote that Mark was Airborne and mentioned his active Army time, but those are all of the details that I have.

The Next Chapter Business Meeting:

The next business meeting is at the
Glockenspiel Restaurant
Tues 3rd, Nov 2009.

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

We will be ironing details for the Christmas Dinner and seeing who plans attending the Veterans Day activities on November 11th.

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:

Veterans Day, November 11th

The really dedicated folks get together at 6:30 in the morning at the Viet Nam Veterans Memorial on the State Capitol grounds behind the Veterans Affairs Building. They start with the Flag Raising, followed by a spirited breakfast at the Kelly Inn. The breakfast crowd then sets up the chairs and other equipment.

The Ceremony starts at 1100 hours with the Civil War Re-enactors returning this year, with three ranks of members carrying musket, for the Honor Guard Firing Detail. One of the best local high school bands plays an assortment of patriotic songs. And Ray Early is the guest speaker.

The Flag of Honor that will fly during the ceremony will be that of Chapter XV member Ken Johnson who died accidentally in March 2008.

The Chapter Christmas Dinner

Saturday, December 5th,
at the Fort Snelling Officers Club with cocktails at 6 pm, Dinner at 7 pm.

I have a terrible job in getting the flyer published. I am sorry about that. I also need to impose upon you now.

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 30th, 2009.

The dinner menu is Prime Rib, Stuffed Chicken Breast, or Parmesan Walleye. Cost is \$35 per person, with WWII Vets and Korean War Vets paying \$32.

We are also looking for SF and Airborne folks to host members of the Honor Guard for Dinner. While you are welcome to cover the cost of their meal, my intent is to have SF and Airborne folks introduced to members of the Honor Guard, and their dates, so that they Honor Guard members and their dates are

made to feel like a part of the company, rather than a visitor. You can volunteer when you make your reservations with Matt Mitlyng, or you can volunteer at the Dinner.

At the Fort Snelling Officers Club we normally have the banquet room that seats one hundred people. The O'Club will reserve another room upstairs for us, so we may seat up to 150 in adjoining rooms.

Corrigedor Dinner: Chapter 15 of the 173rd (or maybe the Midwest All Airborne) usually schedules the Corrigedor Dinner in February. Again, more information to follow.

Loa New Year Celebration: the Lao Vets organization has invited the Chapter to their New Year Celebration this winter/spring. We will get more information to you.

Dues, Dues, Dues:

Dues for 2010 are coming due. Folks who are current on their dues need to pay their 2010 dues by January 31st, 2010. If you don't, then a \$5.00 is tacked on for reinstatement.

Whether your dues are current or not, or if I can finally talk you into joining the SFA, the prices are on the SFA Membership Application and SFA Renewal forms and they will be in the next Newsletter. You computer savvy folks can download the application and Renewal forms from the SFA website.

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 Christmas Dinner Silent Auction

Just a reminder that you can donate items for the Christmas Silent Auction.

If you want to donate anything contact Tricia (612-807-6281, T_Hofeld@hotmail.com) or Dan (507 -647-3526, kais0063@umn.edu)

After Action Reviews: The Chapter September Business Meeting:

The Meeting was called to order at 7 pm on September 1st, 2009. Present at the meeting were:

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Jeff Arnold | John Wilson |
| Doug Bekke | Bouacham |
| Doug Brown | Chanthalay |
| Chris Bremicker | Khao |
| Travis Hofeld | Khamsene |
| Tricia Hofeld | Sevieng |
| Ed Komac | Somkhith |
| Oly Olson | Dan Kaiser |
| John Roy | Rich Gabatino |
| John Stepan | Trudell Guerue |
| John Wilcox | Olaf Schistad |

Chris Bremicker, Chanthalay, and Sevieng were introduced to the gathered members.

We noted that John Wilcox will be retiring as the Active Army Colonel for the Minnesota National Guard. John is lined up for civilian position with the Central Command (or SOCCENT) in Florida.

Dan Kaiser pointed out some hand outs that he brought, including copies of the Monthly Letters from the SFA President and brochures and membership applications from the SF Museum on Fort Bragg.

John S. made a motion to accept the July Meeting Minutes, as published in the September Newsletter. Ed seconded the motion and it carried.

Oly made a motion to accept the August Meeting Minutes, as published in the September Newsletter. John S. seconded the motion and it carried.

No Financial Report was given, Matt was unable to attend. John R. made a motion to reimburse Jeff for flowers that he purchased in the Chapter's name. Seconded by Ron and carried.

We did a quick AAR on the Summer Odyssey. The summer Odyssey was a plan to visit Chapter and Airborne members in different parts of the State. Several people did send emails to Dan saying they were interested in getting together. Dan did not,

however, pick any date for a get-together. He also did not keep emailing the interested folks to see if any particular dates worked for them. So, in the meeting, Dan concluded that the plan did not work well, primarily and almost exclusively, because of his indecisiveness in setting a date and a location.

Dan then asked the gathered folks if they thought the Odyssey idea was a good enough idea to pursue for next year. There was a significant amount of non-committal behavior going on, we hope, because of Dan's rousing report on why it did not work well. When Dan pressed the gathered folks for an opinion on continuing the Summer Odyssey idea. Doug Bekke said, with a noticeable amount of conviction, he thought it was an important idea and that we should continue with it. We need to continue to reach out to as many people as we can. Most people nodded in agreement.

With the nodding heads as an endorsement, we will try the Summer Odyssey during the summer of 2010.

AAR's for Two Harbors, Lunch with John Hankes, the John Kranich Memorial Ride, and the All Airborne Days were noted in the last Newsletter.

We discussed upcoming events.

The date, time, and place were noted for the 555th Parachute Infantry Regiment Reunion. John Stepan handed out flyers on the Wounded Warrior Lunch. Someone (I don't remember who) was asked to coordinate with Dan Thorson on The Annual Chapter Picnic in September. They mentioned that the picnic is now scheduled for October 3rd. Trudell spoke on Veterans' Day, November 11th.

We made decisions for the Chapter/Airborne Christmas Dinner. Jeff led the discussion on food. We will be having the same meals as last year. Unfortunately, the Officer's Club now charges the same price for all the meals, based on the highest costing meal. So the meals will all cost \$35.00. The

cost of dinner for WWII and Korean War vets was set at \$32.00.

Jeff will coordinate for another cake for dessert and Jeff mentioned that reservations have been made for December 2010.

John Roy will be coordinating with the Minneapolis Recruiting Command for an Honor Guard. We will cover the cost of dinner for the Honor Guard members and dates.

Donations for the Silent Auction are still being accepted. If you can get any donated items to a Chapter Meeting or activity, Tricia Hofeld will be collecting them. If you can't get the donated items to a meeting, let Tricia or Dan know and they will coordinate pick up.

On Chapter Projects:

We have been collecting information for a biography on Ken Worthley. Dan Kaiser asked for a volunteer to compile and type the information. Tim Kirk, who was not at the meeting, seemed like the most logical choice. Dan said he would contact Tim.

We have gotten no word on the lost CSOR Prop Blast Mug. The new mug is at Keith Larson's for some metal work.

On the Website: you can email pictures of any Chapter Activity to Doug Brown (bftc@hutchtel.net) and he will add them to the photo gallery on the website. If you could send along narrative on the pictures, Doug will be working on a way to include text with the pictures.

Jerry Carlson spoke on MIA/POW affairs. He mentioned the return of Spiecher's remains from Iraq, noting how important it is for the family. He provided copies of the VVA Newsletter/Magazine. He then presented a coin to John Wilcox and thanked him for his service. John accepted the coin only on behalf of all the serving members in the armed forces. John went on to say that the Minnesota National Guard supports their soldiers better than any other state.

There being no further business, we adjourned the meeting at 8:15 and then we socialized for a short time.

The October Business Meeting: Okay ... here is the official October Meeting Minutes: Yes, we had a meeting. It started at 7 pm and ended about 7:45. We had a Financial Report. It was moved and seconded for approval. And it was approved.

We did not have any meeting minutes to approve. I can't find the list of who attended. And, while we got a lot done, I don't remember any of it ... except that we did not have to approve money for anything.

There. Those are my meeting minutes.

The Triple Nickel Reunion: The 555th Parachute Infantry Regiment held their 2009 reunion in the Twin Cities over the 11th, 12th, and 13th of September. The Midwest All Airborne supported their reunion. The local folks were proud and happy to support the reunion in anyway they could.

Thursday included a demonstration jump by Fort Benning's Silver Wings Jump Team at Skydive Twin Cities in Baldwin, Wisconsin. The Team sent eight jumpers and they made two lifts of four. The Triple Nickel guys also watched a couple of lifts of regular skydivers.

Hal Roed and Howard Tellin were able to attend the day's activities.

Saturday the Triple Nickel and the Midwest All Airborne Alliance dedicated the Triple Nickel Memorial Stone at the Airborne Circle in Fort Snelling Cemetery.

It was another beautiful day and we were honored to be among the paratroopers of the Triple Nickel. The Midwest All Airborne provided the Firing Detail and Bugler as the Triple Nickel posted the National Colors. Trudell Grurue was the emcee. Brad Nichols spoke on the history of the Airborne Circle. The Triple Nickel President spoke. The Stone was presented to the Cemetery and accepted by Warren Wortz, whose words were very well received by the audience.

After pictures and talking the Midwest All Airborne went to the Richfield American Legion for lunch.

Folks who were able to attend the Memorial Stone dedication include:

| | |
|----------------|------------------|
| Hal Roed | Jerry Huntington |
| Howard Tellin | Noel Johnson |
| Brad Nichols | Ed Komac |
| Trudell Grurue | Jerry Carlson |
| Jack Running | Ken Aumock |
| Bill Butler | Bob Freguson |
| Steve Anderson | Bill Howell |
| John Norden | John Galles |
| Tom Eckhoff | Marcus James |
| John Roy | Warren Wurtz |
| Al Porter | Frank Nelson |
| John Wilcox | Dan Kaiser |

Saturday evening was the Banquet and the Midwest All Airborne provided the Honor Guard. I was not able to attend, so I don't know who was in the Honor Guard and who else just attended the dinner.

Kudos to Jack Runining and Hal Roed. They worked with the Triple Nickel six months ago and during most of their Convention here in the Twin Cities.

(Okay-one little thing: I think Hal was helping Jack. Jack and Hal helped me with the stuff I needed. If someone else was helping Jack and the Triple Nickel folks, I hope you will excuse the omission of your name.)

Wounded Warrior Lunch: (From John Stepan.) The CBWTU (Wounded Warrior) conference was a big success. The wounded soldiers who attended the event were very happy to have the Veterans from the SF and Airborne associations show up and have lunch with them. The group of Lao Vets/ SFA members was a great addition for the wounded warriors.

The wounded warriors rated the lunch with the SF/Airborne/Lao as the best part of the event. The event also had the Wounded Warrior panel. It gave the soldiers a chance to talk to fellow wounded soldiers who were on the CBWTU program earlier.

Thank you to all who attended the Lunch. You showed these soldiers that they are part of a community of Veterans. And that they are not alone!

From the 173rd's Chapter 15 Newsletter: The Wounded Warrior seminar and lunch on Sunday the 20th was very well attended by vets from the 173rd, 101st, 82nd, SF Chapter 20, a contingent of former Lao and Vietnamese Soldiers who served with the SF was also in attendance, as well as family members of Ted Johnson.

It was truly great to meet these YOUNG men and women who serve in the most professional Army in the world. All of us, who were honored to be there, were deeply moved by listening to them and finding out about their families and futures. They really are remarkable Soldiers.

The Annual Chapter Picnic: We had the Annual Chapter Picnic. It was a cold and rainy day.

It never really rained, it was like standing around in a cloud. By midafternoon, the clouds had lifted, a little, it was just low hanging cloud cover for the day. It did not take too long to get a fire going, and then we were all toasty and warm.

Welllllllll, okay. It took a while to get the fire going. All the wood was wet from three days of rain. But we got that fire going and it was nice.

Big thanks to Karen and Dan Thorson for having us out to their place. And thanks to Frank Lopez for cooking the burgers and brats. Rolling Goldsberry was there. He snapped a few pictures and you can find the pictures on the Chapter website.

Ed Komac, Dan Kaiser, Jeff Arnold and a whole bunch of others were there, but I can't remember their names right now.

Welllllllll, okay. There were not that many people there, but I still can't remember who did attend and who missed it.

The food was good, the company was great. The beer was cold, the fire was hot.

We had a great time, wish you were there.
(Poetry by Dan.)

From Around the SFA: From Chapter 54:
Fwd: Special Forces Realignment.

3rd Special Forces Group to focus on Afghanistan, Pakistan by Henry Cuninghame Military editor.

Fort Bragg's 3rd Special Forces Group will be responsible for Afghanistan and Pakistan under a realignment of where the Army's Special Forces groups operate.

In recent years, Ft Bragg's 3rd and 7th Special Forces groups have been swapping rotations of six to nine months to Afghanistan. The 7th Group is currently deployed to Afghanistan and will relocate to Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., in 2011. Under the new plan, one of the 3rd Group's four operational battalions will deploy on every rotation to Afghanistan. "Third Group will provide smaller elements on a more consistent basis," said Ken McGraw, a spokesman for U.S. Special Operations Command at Tampa, Fla.

The 7th Group, McGraw said, will no longer deploy to Afghanistan as a headquarters. Individuals, he said, may deploy to Iraq or Afghanistan for a year to serve on staffs. The U.S. Army Special Forces Command, he said, may send 7th Group battalions to Iraq or Afghanistan.

The realignment is effective immediately for planning purposes and will be fully in place by Feb. 1, 2010, according to a statement from U.S. Special Operations Command.

The changes are intended to spread deployments more evenly, said a statement from U.S. Special Operations. The 3rd Group's new area of orientation will include the eastern and northern Middle East, which includes Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

The 5th Group of Fort Campbell, KY, was formerly the designated group for U.S. Central Command and the Middle East. The group will now be oriented to the region's western and southern half. Its countries will include Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait,

Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Oman, Yemen, Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt.

Special Forces groups are traditionally oriented to a specific region of the world, and their soldiers are trained in the languages and cultures of the regions in which they operate. Twelve-man Special Forces A-teams are prepared to conduct training missions or combat operations in austere or hostile areas, usually away from support available to conventional Army units.

The 3rd Group was reactivated in 1990 at Fort Bragg to focus on Africa and the Caribbean. The group added a fourth operational battalion this month. The key languages for its soldiers were in French and Arabic.

Fort Bragg's 7th Group concentrated on the U.S. Southern Command, which oversees Latin America south of Mexico. Soldiers of the 7th Group are trained in Spanish and have deployed to places such as Colombia and El Salvador. Under the realignment, the 7th Group will continue its orientation to Latin America. Under the realignment, 7th Group will support U.S. Northern Command for matters related to Mexico.

Northern Command was established Oct. 1, 2002, in the wake of the 9/11 attacks, to be in charge of military and homeland defense activities in support of civil authorities.

The 10th Special Forces Group of Fort Carson, Colo., historically has been aligned to U.S. European Command. Under the realignment, the 10th Group will serve Europe as well as U.S. Africa Command. The 10th will support Northern Command in matters related to Canada.

The 1st Special Forces Group of Fort Lewis, Wash., will maintain its current orientation to the Pacific.

Military editor Henry Cuninghame can be reached at cuninghamh@fayobserver.com or (910) 486-3585.

Editorially: There are lots of things to put in the Newsletter, but I am out of time. If I stop now you can get the Newsletter in the mail before the next meeting.

Next Month: Read about the great letter that Bill Story wrote.

And: My apology for not writing back.

PROJECTS:

The Kenneth Worthley Bio: We have been collecting information. Now we just have to start organizing it; more to follow.

82nd Airborne Division Association Viking Chapter: Ed York is trying to restart the Viking Chapter of 82nd Airborne Division Association. He is interested in hearing from anyone interested in getting the Viking Chapter going again. You can give Ed a call at 612-706-9480.

Chapter Friendly Businesses. (This section is not an endorsement of any company, business, or person. This section is collected information on folks in the Chapter, or Chapter friends, who have a business.)

Jake Kranz is selling flagpoles. Call him at (c) 507-327-5882 or 507-237-2571. Available flags include our National Colors, in a variety of sizes, all States, Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine, Coast Guard, and POW.

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