

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

October 2009

425 3rd Street West
Winthrop, MN 55396

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

Editorially/ Upcoming Activities: I am sending out the Chapter XX October Newsletter early for one reason only: to let you know about all of the upcoming activities in September.

None of these Activities are "Chapter XX" Activities. These activities are Minnesota veterans' activities and we want the Airborne to help make them the great successes that we think they will be. If you can attend something, that would be great. If not, then another time.

The Triple Nickel Reunion: And those activities include World War Two's 555th Parachute Infantry Regiment (The Triple Nickel) Annual Reunion being held in the Twin Cities.

The first sheet of the Newsletter has the details on times and places. If you can make the Parachute Demonstration, Fort Benning's Silver Wings will be jumping on Thursday at the Baldwin Drop Zone.

We want you at the Triple Nickel Memorial Stone Dedication at the Airborne Circle in Fort Snelling National Cemetery. It is a Saturday. It is a big deal. Can you attend?

There is also the Banquet on Saturday night if you are interested. The Honor Guard for the Banquet is the Midwest All Airborne Alliance in the WW II Paratrooper's uniform.

Wounded Warrior Lunch: Officially it is called the "Community Based Warrior Transition Unit Semi Annual Conference," but we shortened it to the Wounded Warrior Lunch. The Lunch is on September 20th in Downtown Minneapolis.

The Official Flyer is the second sheet of this Newsletter, and, again, it has the details on times and places.

Our goal is to have Airborne folks at the Registration/Welcome, from 8 am to 9:15 am, and (primarily) at the Lunch, from 12 to 1 pm. (I presume we will stroll off during their briefings and find some place to have a cup of coffee.)

Our purpose is to be there, showing our support for the Wounded Warriors by our presence and talking with them.

We did this activity at the last Semi Annual Conference and everyone who was there was very happy that they had attended.

At the Chapter Business meeting Trudell spoke quite eloquently on the need to support the Wounded Warriors based on his experiences returning home from Vietnam, wounded, and feeling that he had left the men in his unit behind.

John Stepan added to that idea saying most soldiers return home with their units, to Welcome Home's and Thank You's, while the wounded warrior returns home alone, to very little fanfare.

As noted in their flyer, dress is “business casual” and, as best as I can tell, that means nice pants with a button down shirt. This also means, to me—for our purposes, polo shirts with Airborne or unit emblems or patches.

Without asking permission, if you have any questions, you can contact John Stepan at 612-968-3196 or vpresident@sfaxx.org

The Annual Chapter Picnic: And finally, the last separate page in the Newsletter, we will be having the Chapter XX Annual Picnic on Saturday, October 3rd.

Attend whichever activities you can get to. If you can't make it to any of these activities, keep us in mind for other activities.

The Next Chapter Business Meeting:

The next business meeting is at the

Glockenspiel Restaurant Tues, Oct 6th, 2009.

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. 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. They start with the Flag Raising at the Viet Nam Veterans Memorial on the State Capitol grounds behind the Veterans Affairs Building, 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. 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.

Chapter Christmas Dinner is Saturday, December 5th, is at the Fort Snelling Officers Club with cocktails at 6 pm, Dinner at 7 pm. The dinner menu is Prime Rib, Chicken Burgundy, or Walleye. As I sit here typing, I don't remember the cost. I have to get the flyer typed up. You should see it soon. The flyer will have the RSVP information

We normally have their banquet room that seats one hundred people. The O'Club will reserve another room upstairs for us, so we may seat up to 150.

Dues, Dues, Dues: Dues for 2010 are coming due, but time and energy are preventing me from squeezing in any information here.

Dues have to be paid by January 31st, 2010. More info to follow

After Action Reviews: The Chapter September Business Meeting:

And, for the same reasons as above, I will be including the Minutes for the September Business Meeting in the next Newsletter.

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, <http://fayobserver.com/Articles/2009/08/27/928351>

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

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)

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 Cmd.

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 cuninghameh@fayobserver.com or (910) 486-3585.

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.