The Next Chapter Business Meeting:
The next meeting is at the

**Glockenspiel Restaurant**
Tues, Mar 3\(^{rd}\), 2015.

The Glockenspiel is near downtown St. Paul, (605 7\(^{th}\) St W) and the meeting starts at 7:00 pm. [http://www.glockenspielrestaurant.com/](http://www.glockenspielrestaurant.com/)

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. Come on down.

(An Editorial, by way of an apology: This newsletter will be short and to the point—more because of poor planning than anything else. I was not able to make January’s meeting, bad weather, but someone took notes so we information for the newsletter. I was not able to make February’s meeting, the dang flu, but I have no information for you. I should be at March’s meeting and, if you can’t make it, we will get the information out to you.

(Two issues for the meeting involve the next Christmas Dinner, a change of location and a guest speaker possibility. Stay tuned.)

Upcoming Activities: The United Royal Lao Armed Forces & Special Guerrilla Units Veterans of the Vietnam War celebration of the 65\(^{th}\) Royal Lao Army Celebration Day. See the attached flyer for more information.

**The First Special Service Force:** An email from Tom Laney: I watched the presentation of the Congressional Gold Medal to the 1\(^{st}\) Special Service Force because a 1SSF friend from Minnesota was there and I hoped to see him honored during the ceremony. But, they only showed 1 Canadian and 1 American.

I thought the American looked familiar. The American was Eugene Gutierrez of McAllen pictured in the attached with Andi! Eugene accepted the medal for all the 1SSF Americans. He was very gracious. A great man in a small, wonderful world!


Thanks for all you do! ATW,
Tom

And, an email from Cliff Newman, SFA HQ’s: I had the privilege of attending the presentation of the Congressional Gold Medal to the First Special Service Force, the unit in the direct lineage of today’s Special Forces. What an honor to be a part of such a heritage. Many of the Forcemen had their Green Berets and were still proud to wear it. It was a well done event. You can read about the presentation at:

From SFA National Headquarters: Sent out an email on the Chapter 57 Rendezvous. See the attached flyer.

And: SFA sent out a letter on the 2015 SFA Alaska Bear Hunt/ Fishing Trip. The letter is attached to this newsletter.

And: The new Special Forces Outfitters web site features Responsive Web Design (RWD) to provide optimum viewing across a wide range of devices from desktop computers to tablets to mobile phones. For more information, go to: http://specialforcesoutfitters.com/

And: Gentlemen, SGM (R) George Davenport brought this to my attention. If you purchase an item on Amazon, you can have a percentage of the cost donated to the GBF, it does not add to your bill, but gives the money to an excellent group of folks, who do a lot for our troops. Please advise your members of this capability.
Thanks, Jack Tobin, President, SFA

George’s email: Sir, here’s the link. When someone goes to the link, it will ask them to sign in or create an account. Then they can choose/change their charity to the GBF. Pretty simple. Thanks for doing this. https://smile.amazon.com/ch/27-1206961 Regards, George

And: The SFA Bulletin Board was created to centralize the communications between the Board of Directors and the SFA members. As a courtesy, we’ll be sending email notifications when there is new content available. The Bulletin Board is the best way to stay up-to-date with everything that’s happening in the SFA. For more info, go to: https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1/inbox/14bcce95acda30bb

And: SF on Facebook: Special Forces Brothers (SFB), a Face Book group, would like to invite all SFA Decade and general members to join them. SFB was created on 31 December 2010 and now has over 3000 current and former vetted Special Forces members. SFB serves as a medium for SF “qualified” soldiers to gather on the internet; share SF related experiences, photos, stories, history; and generally bring the community together.

Direct access to SFB is not available to non-members and the general public. It is a "secret" Face Book group and only accessible by invitation and nomination from an existing member after which all proposed new members are vetted through the membership by someone who served with them. Once a member of SFB you may obtain access to other groups such as the SF Memorial Wall, a SF job network, and other groups.

If you are on Face Book and wish to join us and participate in the discussions, share our history, find old friends or simply kick back and enjoy the camaraderie contact: Tom Merrill (Group Owner) - thomas.merrill@comcast.net
Bill Ol Senn (Admin) – billolsenjr@gmail.com
Kevin Knapp (Admin) – ARMYLTA@aol.com
George Davenport (Admin) – Snaquebite@earthlink.net
Chip Meeks (Admin) – chipmeeks@hotmail.com
Eric Wardlow (Admin) - wardlowx4@verizon.net
John Engstrom (Admin) bigsunbum@yahoo.com
Please put “Special Forces Brothers” in the subject of your email.

From Ron: I found this website for SF, Ranger, Airborne merchandise. zazzle.com
Thought we could pass this along to members who might be interested in picking up some cool Army stuff. Use the website search bar for SF, Ranger, Airborne, etc.

And: Another wingsuit skydiver dies (this time in Rio). It's unbelievable what these guys will try. Go to the website: WING SUITER MEETS HIS MAKER

Other Information:
WWII History Roundtable: The Minnesota Historical Society and Historic Fort Snelling are holding the Dr. Harold C. Deutsch World War II History Round Tables at the Historic Fort Snelling Visitor Center, 7pm on the nights noted below. If you want a chair then you should be there by 6:15. The Roundtables are normally well attended.

You can get more information at their website www.mn-ww2roundtable.org

The Roundtable Schedule is:

March 12, 2015 The Logistics of War - Beans and Bullets to the Soldiers Dr Jerry Brown, Prof. of History, US Army CGSC, and Veterans of Supply Operations will show the importance of Logistical Opns in winning Wars.

March 26, 2015 Return to the Philippines - The Road to Japan Dr Nathan Prefer, author of Leyte, and Veterans of the Leyte Campaign will discuss the Command controversy and tactical operations of General MacArthur's Return.

April 9, 2015 Air War in the Mediterranean - British and American Operations Col Robert Ehlers, author of upcoming book The Mediterranean Air War, and Veterans of Air Units in the Southern Theater will show the importance of the Southern Front of Operations.

May 14, 2015 Retrospective Look at Goals of 8 WWII Leaders Dr Gerhard Weinberg, author of A World at Arms and Visions of Victory, will review the territorial and other aims of eight World War II Leaders on this 70th Anniversary of V-E Day.

An email from Bill: Interesting video on the development of smart bullets:

And: The story of a WWII Finnish sniper, at White Death • Damn Interesting

As always: on the next DROP Input: If you have pictures or news for Chapter section of The Drop, please email the info and/or pictures to Ron Lachelt at Lachelts@gmail.com. You can also drop off your pictures or news at the next Chapter meeting. Thanks! Ron

From Ed: U.S. Army testers recently evaluated a new type of hand grenade that allows soldiers to connect up to three sections of explosive for a more powerful blast.

The Scalable Offensive Hand Grenade offers conventional soldiers a new capability. Unlike the standard fragmentation grenade, this design offers mainly a blast effect that can be doubled or tripled to suit the job. It has also been fielded to U.S. Special Operations Command since 2010.

Army officials tested it during a recent live-fire portion of the service’s annual Army Expeditionary Warrior Experiment at the Maneuver Center of Excellence at Fort Benning, Ga.

The base grenade has a non-removable, 3.5 second fuse and a body encasing .25 pounds of high explosive. Two separate modules of the same potency can be quickly connected to provide one, simultaneous explosion.

The blast completely collapsed a one-room, adobe-style structure, said Harry Lubin, chief of the Experimentation Branch of MCOE’s Maneuver Battle Lab. “It really has a devastating effect,” he said.

It’s too early to tell if the Army will adopt the new grenade system, but the results of the live-fire assessment will be available to Army
officials who write future lethality requirements, Lubin said.

This was the first year a live-fire portion was added to AEWE. It gave Benning officials the chance to evaluate weapons that might not be looked at otherwise, Lubin said.

Read more:
http://kitup.military.com/2015/02/army-testing-stackable-grenades.html#ixzz3T3U29XUW

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A news release from the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs
<MNDVA@public.govdelivery.com>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Feb. 27, 2015

Media Contact: Ralph Donais, UVLC Chairmen (763) 360-3560

2015 Veterans Day on the Hill Rally

WHAT: The Minnesota Commanders’ Task Force (CTF), together with the United Veterans Legislative Council (UVLC) and the Minnesota Association of County Veterans Service Officers (MACVSOs) will be holding a joint Veterans Day on the Hill event to announce their 2015 legislative agenda. Veterans Day on the Hill, which this year will be held at the Cedar Street Armory is open to the public and is a day when Veterans of all eras in Minnesota unite as one common voice to speak on behalf of the over 369000 Veterans in the state of Minnesota. Veterans from around the state are encouraged to participate and meet with the legislators, by appointment, at the conclusion of the event.

WHO: Veterans, State Legislators, members of Veterans Service Organizations, County Veterans Service Officers and more. This year’s program will also include a presentation of colors, invocation, and brief remarks from the CTF Chair, the UVLC President, and the MACVSO President.

WHEN: Wednesday March 4, 10 a.m.
Cedar Street Armory - 600 Cedar Street, Saint Paul, MN 55101 Map and Parking

WHERE: For more information and to preview the 2015 Legislative Agenda visit http://www.mnctf.org.
Veterans are encouraged to meet with their legislators by appointment at the conclusion of the rally. Use the resources below to schedule a meeting with legislators.
www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members
www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/members