

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

The "20/20" Flash

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The Next Chapter Business Meeting:

The next Chapter meeting is at 7pm, on

Tues, Apr 2nd, 2019,

at the

Cherokee Tavern,

formerly the Cherokee Steak House at 886 Smith Ave S, West St Paul.

I used all of my computer skills, but I could not get a good map image from any of the map programs that I tried. So, I made a quick strip map of where the Cherokee Tavern is located. The strip map is attached.

The Tavern does have a Tuesday Night Special on hamburgers, and they are incredibly good. I ordered a Philly and it was also great. The management and staff were great to work with. Stop by.

I plan to be there early for dinner, about 6 pm. Some folks show up early and socialize until the meeting. Some folks just come to the meeting. Either way, come on out and enjoy the evening.

Upcoming Activities:

Monthly Activities: 1st Tuesday of the Month: Chapter XX, SF Association Meeting.

1st Saturday of the Month: **Ranger** Breakfast at the Perkins on Lyndale in Bloomington, at 10 am. An informal gathering and all are invited.

3rd Wednesday of the Month:

Chapter XV, 173rd Airborne Brigade

Association at the Hearthside Pizza, 1640 Rice Street, St. Paul.

3rd Thursday of the Month: **Midwest**

All Airborne Alliance at the Richfield American Legion, 6501 Portland Avenue South, Richfield.

In support of Minnesota's Airborne and Veterans Groups, we invite all interested folks to receive a copy of this Newsletter. To support those Airborne folks, we do include information from those groups in this letter.

After Action Reports: Meeting Minutes:

We did finally get to hold another Chapter Business Meeting. At the March 5th, 2019 Chapter XX, present at the meeting were:

Doug Bekke	Jack Running
Ron Lachelt	Scott Walker
Bob Pike	Dan Kaiser
John Wilcox	

Jack donated an SF hat to the Chapter, for our use. Thanks Jack.

Because he had to leave early, Doug had the floor for a few minutes and he talk for a few minutes on getting attendance up at Chapter Business meetings, the Christmas Dinner, and other activities. He noted that the Vietnam War Roundtable at Concordia University is going well.

Bob made a motion to accept the December Business Meeting Minutes, as printed in January Newsletter. Ron seconded the motion and it was carried.

There was no financial report or after action reports on activities.

We discussed Memorial Day as an upcoming activity. Last year a few folks attended the Memorial Day Activities at the Fort Snelling National Cemetery and we will be there again. More information to follow.

Someone (I don't remember who) talked about the Honor Flight program, to fly WWII veterans to Washington, DC to see the WWII Monument. Information is at <https://www.honorflighttwincities.org/> but I could not get the hyperlink to work.

They have expanded to flying Korean War vets to Washington and they will have a "push" to let these veterans know about this opportunity.

Bob talked about attending the Minnesota Veterans Legislature Council. We will continue to look into this forum.

There being no further business, we closed the meeting.

AAR, From Bob: On March 12th the Minnesota House held a hearing on the Allied Force Veterans Day was held. Bill 1774 includes all members of allied forces that served with the US, both in Vietnam and elsewhere, to establish a special day of remembrance. The tentative date is June 30th the Day after General Vessey Day which has already been established.

On the 14th of March a second meeting at the Senate in St. Paul was held in the Veterans Committee room. Several members of the allied nations appeared and testified in support of Bill 1774. The only suggestion to change the Bill was the date of the Allied Forces day. That was declined and the Bill went forward.

Currently, we are waiting to hear if there are any other changes to the existing Bill that Scott Walker introduced in conjunction with the Hmong Veterans Day Bill which is 818.

Several people have forwarded emails on the you tube video covering Special Operations Medal of Honor Awardees, at <https://youtu.be/hq7yqVNFs9o>

SFA Chapter 7 is doing "Honor Bricks" at the SF Memorial at Eglin Air Force Base, the Headquarters of 7th Special Forces Group. Memorialize your association with 7th Special Forces Group with an Honor Brick for your Unit, Team, or Loved One. A limited amount of bricks will be available for a contribution as low as \$77.00. Two sizes available to accommodate for organizational symbols or emblems. Spaces are limited and this offer closes on **April 15, 2019**.

Honor Bricks will be engraved with personalized messages and will become a permanent addition to the 7th SFG(A) Memorial Plaza during Red Empire Week in 2019. To order your personalized brick go to:

<https://www.bricksrus.com/donorsite/sfa7/>

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.

The Chapter Facebook page: is located at www.facebook.com/sfchapterXX

While Jim H. set up the Facebook account, Matt has been added as an administrator. I hope this means something to you. I presume: if you spot a problem or have a suggestion, then you can contact either guy. Of course, I am only presuming.

Okay, now, I am going back to the Twentieth Century.

For The History Buff: The United States Army Special Operations Command History Office has mailed the latest edition of the *Veritas*, the Journal of Army Special Operations History. We will be carrying the few extra copies that we have to meetings and activities and everyone is welcome to pick up the latest edition while we have them.

As noted on the inside cover, the Azimuth, the format of the *Veritas* will be changing to a “multimedia approach.” I am under the impression that this includes an updated website location on the official USASOC portal.

The Dr. Harold C. Duetsch World War II History Round Table is committed to preserving the factual history of World War II. With the input of historians, first-hand accounts from individuals, and [travel](#) we seek to promote the study of this influential era. Check out their website at: <http://www.mn-ww2roundtable.org/>

The Harold C Deutch World War Two Round Table is the oldest and largest ongoing WWII lecture series in the United States and it is now in its 31st year presenting programs. The program starts at 7:00 pm on the second Thursday of every month from September through May in the [History Center](#) at Historic Fort Snelling, unless otherwise noted in the [Schedule](#). Seating is limited and it is recommended that you arrive by 6:30.

A \$5.00 [donation](#) is requested to help defray costs. Students and Vets are admitted free.

April 11, 2019; *The Chief of Logistics in the European Theater – LTG J.C.H. Lee*, Hank Cox, Author of *The General Who Wore SIX Stars*, and Veterans of logistical operations in support of offensive operations will tell the value of support of supply.

May 9, 2019; *Remembering the 75th Anniversary of the Normandy Landings*, Stephen Alan Bourque, Author of *Beyond the Beach*, and Veterans of the June 6th Landings on D-Day will discuss the struggle that ended with the liberation of Europe.

<https://www.mnvietnam.org/roundtable/>

The Vietnam War Roundtable 2018-2019 is a new series at Concordia University. This is an opportunity for veterans, students, and those interested in the war and its legacy to gather the third Monday of each month to honor, remember and understand this tumultuous time.

Directions: Concordia University’s Buetow Auditorium on Hamline Avenue just south of Interstate 94. Parking is free: Concordia University, 300 Hamline Avenue North, St Paul, MN 55104

April 15, 7PM, Reporting on the War – Impact of the News Media. Don Shelby, a Vietnam War veteran who went on to become a news anchor in the Twin Cities, will reflect on his experiences and take a broader look at the news media’s impact on public opinion at home and the feelings of service men and women overseas.

May 20, 7PM, The Minnesota Connection to the Battle of Soui Tre. In 1966 a significant number of Minnesota men entered the army together, trained together, deployed to Vietnam together, were assigned together in units of the 25th and 4th Infantry Divisions, and found themselves fighting together in the bloody Battle of Soui Tre in March of 1967. The Fire Support Base was commanded by then Lieutenant Colonel Jack Vessey, a Minnesotan, who received the nation’s second highest award for valor at Soui Tre and went on to become the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the nation’s highest ranking military officer during the Reagan Administration. Major General Rick Nash, the recently retired Adjutant General of the Minnesota National Guard, will give a brief overview of his extensive knowledge of General Vessey’s leadership skills. Retired Army Chaplain Colonel John Morris will give an overview of the battle based on his research for the book he is writing on General Vessey, and numerous veterans of Soui Tre will discuss their varied participation in the battle.

Forwarded by Bob, From a “Defense One” article by Patrick Tucker.

For six years, an elite Army team waged psychological warfare against a murderous warlord. Here’s how they won.

In 2011, the Obama administration had a big problem. A violent rebel group called the Lord’s Resistance Army, or LRA, led by warlord Joseph Kony, was terrorizing portions of South Sudan, the Congo, the Central African Republic, and particularly Uganda. Kony had kidnapped more than 60 children, many of whom he had pressed into service as fighters. The administration was

seeing rising public concern...and there was an election coming.

Like previous administrations, they turned to a small team of elite soldiers that (they hoped) could tackle the problem quietly, in a way that could minimize the overt American presence and keep costs down: the U.S. Army's psychological operations soldiers of its special operations forces.

As part of a broader effort, experts in PSYOPs, or what is called Military Information Support Operations, or MISO, undertook a unique mission: disintegrating the Lord's Resistance Army by finding key members of Kony's gang and persuading them to defect. It was a difficult task under almost any circumstance, but doubly so against marauders moving constantly through thick jungle across national borders.

"In the beginning, we had broad target audiences. Knowing that most of the LRA combatants were child soldiers who had been abducted, we assessed that they were susceptible to defection," Army Col. Bethany C. Aragon told a crowd at a conference in Washington, D.C. last week, heavily attended by Army folk.

The job was to figure out who did what in Kony's Army and how to reach them. "The Ugandan government decided to offer amnesty to LRA combatants who did defect," said Aragon. "For the defection campaign to be successful, we had to make sure that when combatants defected, they had to be treated fairly."

The operation relied on a lot of partners, and not just other African governments and the Ugandan People's Defense Force. Others included local leaders; advocacy groups such as Pathways to Peace and Invisible Children (the organization behind the famous #Kony2012 movement); and even the families of Kony's soldiers. These partners brought crucial information to help the Special Forces target their messages.

"What we were able to do is identify key leaders within the LRA that were prone to defection who would then be able to inspire multiple defections," Aragon said.

Most importantly, the communications would have to ring true: LRA members had to believe that they would be able to return home and not be jailed or worse, which was what Kony was telling them would happen, Aragon said.

Message by message, defection by defection, the operation built momentum.

In January, the group achieved another key victory: the defection of Michael Omono, Joseph Kony's personal radio telephone operator. As RTO, Omono knew essentially everything about what Kony said to anyone under his command, when he communicated with troops, and how. After Pathways to Peace tracked down Omono's mother, his daughter, and his uncle, the team convinced the family to help. What followed was a textbook example of military psychological operations, or psy-ops.

Omono left the LRA and walked for two weeks through tropical forests to turn himself into the African Union regional task force. That single defection turned out to be hugely significant.

"Because he was the RTO, we got valuable information from him that let us know when their communication windows were. They had a special code language that they would use. He gave us the key to that. It was monumental in rapidly ending the LRA's effectiveness in the area."

Over the summer, the special operations team wrapped up the mission; Aragon said they rendered LRA "irrelevant." An army of 2,000 fighters had been whittled to fewer than 100. The LRA had nearly ceased to inflict casualties. More than 500 of its former leaders were either dead or on trial.

A Model Operation