

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

# *The "20/20" Flash*

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**July 2017**

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## **The Next Chapter Business Meeting: There will be no meeting in July.**

Editorially: if we did a better planning we probably would have noticed that our meeting was scheduled for Independence Day. What the heck were we thinking?

As it stands now, after talking to Ron, we will not have a meeting in July. If you can not be in Two Harbors for the Parade, then we will see you next month, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017, at the Richfield American Legion.

### **Upcoming Activities:**

**Two Harbors Heritage Day Parade:** The Two Harbors Heritage Days Parade is on **Saturday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017.**

Come on up. If you get this Newsletter, then you are invited. (You do not have to be SF to come up.)

You do not have to march in the Parade. Bring your family, bring your friends. We want to see you there, for the socializing, for the fraternity. For the food?- Whatever works.

**The Ben Kopp Memorial Ride** is on **Friday, July 28<sup>th</sup> 2017.**

See the enclosed Flyer for details.

**Midwest All Airborne Days:** Starts at the Fort Snelling National Cemetery on **Saturday, Aug 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017.**

**Skydive for Vets:** is scheduled for **Saturday, Sep 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017** with a weather back-up day of Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>.

We will be using the Skydive Twin Cities Drop Zone in Baldwin, Wisconsin (about 30 minutes into Wisconsin on I-94.)

**Monthly Activities:** 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the Month: Chapter XX, SF Association Meeting.  
1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the Month: **Ranger** Breakfast at the Perkins on Lyndale in Bloomington, at 10 am. An informal gathering and all are invited.

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the Month:  
**Chapter XV, 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade** Association at the Hearthside Pizza, 1640 Rice Street, St. Paul.

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the Month: **Midwest All Airborne Alliance** at the Richfield American Legion, 6501 Portland Avenue South, Richfield.

If you have a group to add to this list, just let me know, Dan at 507-647-3526.

**After Action Reviews: Meeting Minutes:**  
**The June 6<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting:** Folks who were able to attend the meeting:  
Doug Bekke                      Bob Pike

Laurie Johnson      Sevieng Suparat  
Ron Lachelt        Dan Kaiser

Bob made a motion to accept the May Meeting Minutes, as published in the June Newsletter. Laurie seconded the motion and it was carried.

Under old business we discussed the Upcoming Activities. We briefly talked about the Two Harbors Heritage Day Parade: Flags, Bob's truck, and the link-up point. Look for detailed information in the Flyer.

We discussed Midwest All Airborne Days: the Memorial Stone Dedication will be August 19<sup>th</sup> at the Fort Snelling National Cemetery. We will be putting in the last of the Memorial Stones, six of them, to finish the Airborne Circle. The Airborne Circle represents over twenty years of work by so many people and it is very impressive. Come celebrate with us as we place the last six Stones.

We do not have any more information for the follow-on picnic, more information to follow.

We will have the Chapter's Roger Rangers Replica Tomahawk on display. The Tomahawk was commissioned and donated by Steve Hudson several years ago, with the intent that the Chapter could use for whatever purposes it felt appropriate. In our well-oiled, machine-like operation we are finally making decisions and taking some action. First we will get it on display and we will be doing some kind fundraising activities with the Hackett, culminating at the next Christmas Dinner

We then talked about the "Skydive for Vets" plans: Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup> (with a weather back-up of Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>.) More information to follow.

After a discussion led by Bob, Laurie made a motion that we pay for the tandem skydive for the JROTC cadet, from the Washington Magnate School, who was the recipient of our Chapter's SFA Award of Excellence in May. Doug seconded the motion. In the discussion on the motion, the cadet will have to arrange the tandem jump through the Chapter. We expect the jump to

go through Skydive Twin Cities. The cadet will have to jump by the time he is nineteen years old. And the Cadet will have to sign a wavier with the Chapter, absolving the Chapter of liability for the jump. With all of that said, the motion was carried.

We talked about John Roy's induction into the Ranger Hall of Fame. Ron said that John and DaleLynn were going to the induction.

Under New Business Laurie told us about a letter that John Hankes received on his being awarded the French Legion of Honor Medal. She will get more details and let us know.

We also talked about finding a new location for the Chapter Business Meeting. (Laurie started a spreadsheet on possible locations. Her spread sheet included detailed information, where it was available. This is just a list of places that she noted: DiGidios, Gabes, Lexington, Mancinis, O'Garas, and the VFW Mendota.

There being no further business, Bob made a motion to close the meeting. Doug seconded the meeting and it was carried.

**From Rick Pieper:** Quite some time ago Rick sent a copy of an article on the Special Forces soldiers who, after getting out of the Army, returned to Afghanistan to continue the fight there. The Article was published in the Saturday/Sunday, April 1st-2<sup>nd</sup>, The Wall Street Journal.

#### **A note from Ron Lachelt on the SFA National Convention:**

Here is a quick summary of some of the activities I participated in and people I met.

I traveled to Fayetteville on Sunday and met and talked with Ike Isola and Louis Fernandez on the plane and later at the convention. Both are veterans of Project B-52 in Vietnam. Lot of history made by that group of guys.

Monday was registration and visiting the vendors. Talked a bit with Jason Hardy and Steve Sherman. I also met retired army major Tibor Bierbaum, a Hungarian, who

served in about every airborne unit in Vietnam. He was selling a book he had written-Our Walk with God. As it turns out, we have a mutual Hungarian friend and I was able to put Tibor in contact with him. Google Tibor's name to read about a very interesting soldier. Talked with Joe "China Boy" Lopez (Mike Force Nungs,) he was my 1stSGT at Ft. Devens. His chapter is hosting next year's convention in El Paso, so he and other chapter members were publicizing it. Joe is a good friend of John Roy

Talked with author Dave Stockwell about his book on the battle of Lang Vei. He interviewed a lot of participants, including Tim Kirk for the book.

Tuesday morning we boarded a bus and went to the Special Operations Medical Training Facility (SWMG) on Ft. Bragg. This is a very impressive facility, with classes in session and training all special operations personnel from all the services. After a brief introduction to the 18 Delta program, we visited the 12 computer controlled surgical suites that allow trainees to work on a patient and have various symptoms and scenarios play out. Cutting edge stuff! We visited a couple more anatomy labs and watched some students working on a sucking chest wound scenario outside. We didn't get a chance to visit the goats, as we did at the convention in 2012.

Tuesday afternoon we traveled to Camp Mackall to the Rowe Training Facility. Had a great lunch served by civilian employees. No pull-ups to do, or hot C-rats! We attended a powerpoint presentation in Bob Howard hall (seats 500) summarizing the training at Camp Mackall. We had a quick walking tour of the grounds. Lots of 3 story brick buildings. There is only one building remaining from the early 70's when I went through training. It looks like the chow hall and is used for storage now. We walked by the "Nasty Nick" obstacle course and I was able to see the one obstacle that gave me the most trouble, but I subsequently conquered. It has all changed so much.

My overall impression of the training that the prospective SF troopers get is that it is very impressive, well-thought out, and well worth the investment to ensure that SF soldiers are the best.

Tuesday evening I went to a restaurant on Hay Street in Fayetteville with an old classmate of mine. Pat Snyder retired from the military and got a GS job with SOCOM Security. Just retired from there last year. Hay Street looks nothing like the sixties and seventies, many outside dining cafes, nice wide streets, and storefronts with all sorts of things. Reminds me a bit of Paris.

Wednesday was the pistol range. I didn't participate, but Jim Hovda took 6th place. There was a Mike Force picnic at the SFA National Headquarters. I spent a bit of time talking with Major Loring Martin. He was coordinating the transportation and a number of other convention activities for Chapter I-XVIII. Great guy, I am sure you will be hearing more about him in the next year or so.

Thursday was a tour of part of the SOMTC (Special Operations Mission Training Command. We did a virtual reality parachute jump while in a harness on St. Mere Eglise. They can also configure HALO. From there we did some shooting on the virtual shooting range with M4 carbines and Glock pistols. Other parts of the facility were classified and used by teams getting ready to go downrange.

Traveling through Ft. Bragg, I was amazed by the amount of construction and POV's, --6 story brick barracks that look like fancy hotels. Acres of land being clear cut and leveled for new construction. Whoever owns the company that supplies bricks to Ft. Bragg is making a lot of money.

Friday was the Chapter President's meeting. We spent a bit of time talking about the flood that devastated the SFA HQs building and grounds. Water was 4 ft high in the HQ, but since it was a steel construction building, they just ripped out the damaged sheet rock and repainted. Many of the glass cases with displays were ruined,

but much was salvaged and can be cleaned. The major problem is that the file cabinets with records were damaged and the paper is all stuck together. It is a lengthy and expensive process to salvage the records, but it will be saved and digitized. The Chapter I-XVIII team house is made from wood and will probably be demolished. Chapter I-XVIII is looking for a new site for a team house.

Presentations were made for the 2018 SFA convention in El Paso and 2019 convention in Jacksonville Florida. Talked a bit with Bill Brugh from the Montana chapter. He gave a presentation at the President's meeting about his chapter's successful fund raising.

Friday afternoon was the picnic and I arrived just as the 3 jumpers from the Green Beret Parachute Team landed. There was a miniature Gabriel demo set up and some all-terrain vehicles with a mini-gun, no rounds, but set up electrically so kids of all ages could pull the trigger and make the barrels spin. Nice lunch and I met Bridget there. She had arrived the night before.

I was able to go out to the SFAHQ on Saturday morning. I wanted to see if the brick pavers we had sponsored were installed. They were not in yet. With the flood and clean-up they were not able to put them in yet. They wait until they have a large number of the pavers and set them all at once.

Saturday evening was the banquet at the Charlie Rose Convention Center. Guest speaker was Billy Waugh. Very entertaining. Seated at the table next to me was Sammy Hernandez. Sammy was on the mission with Allen "Baby Jesus" Lloyd, (KIA-BNR) I wasn't able to talk with him, but Billy was on the Brightlight that rescued Sammy and had an interesting anecdote. (Google the mission to read about it.)

One of the things that made an impression on me was when Billy asked all of the Vietnam veterans to stand. Nearly all of the men in attendance stood up. They were not spring chickens. It occurred to me that when they pass, who will replace them in

SFA? They are all getting older and the hall was not as full as when I was there in 2002.

It was nice to talk to so many SF and see how everything has gone for them.

Picked up some new books:

Surrender Not An Option- Gene H. Pugh-Novel about SOG

Mike Force-Shaun Darragh-Novel

Route 9 Problem-the battle for Lang Vei-

Dave Stockwell-Non-fiction

There was a book about the Berlin Brigade, but each time I was going to buy it, it was gone. The JFK bookstore has it.

I am also reading Dereliction of Duty-H.R. McMaster (from public Library) Shows the decision making process and obfuscations by Johnson, McNamara, and Taylor that lead to the increasing involvement in Vietnam. Outstanding documentation. Troubling to see all the missed opportunities and the arrogance of politicians.

That's about it, Ron.

**From SFA HQ's:** Please note the following bidding auction site that SF Brothers is doing with 100% proceeds going to the Green Beret Foundation. Some good stuff for a worthy cause.

[biddingowl.com/auction/index.cfm?auctionid=11581](http://biddingowl.com/auction/index.cfm?auctionid=11581)

**And:** Proposed Green Beret Memorial. Please direct any questions to Rebecca Clark.

Cliff Newman, Executive Director, SFA  
---Original Message--- From: Rclarkfineart, May 26, 2017, Subject: Website-The National Special Forces Green Beret Memorial  
Dear Cliff,

FYI, the website for The National Special Forces Green Beret Memorial project is: [www.specialforcesgreenberetmemorial.org](http://www.specialforcesgreenberetmemorial.org)

The National Special Forces Green Beret Memorial is honoring the elite Special Forces "Green Beret" Soldiers of every era and the legacy of the Special Forces Regiment with a historic and magnificent memorial park.

The National Special Forces Green Beret Memorial Park will be one of the most inspirational memorials in world to honor our Special Forces "Green Beret" Heroes. This historic memorial park is planned to be placed on public view, as a premier international tourist destination, near Fort Bragg in North Carolina.

Our website is a work in progress, and we plan to layer in monumental SF bronze sculpture images as we move forward.

The Task Force Dagger Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, is our Foundation for The National Special Forces Green Beret Memorial. Keith David, the Managing Director of the Task Force Dagger Foundation is a retired Special Forces "Green Beret" Officer and their Board of Directors Members are all "Green Beret" qualified.

I am honored to work with the Task Force Dagger Foundation and also our distinguished Advisory Board project team, including retired three star and two star, former Special Forces Commanding Generals, Officers, Non Commissioned Officers, Distinguished Members of the Special Forces Regiment, Special Forces Medal of Honor Recipient and other extraordinary Advisors.

All donations for this project are tax deductible. Founding Patrons, Corporate Sponsors, Partners and Organizations, that donate at a certain level, will be honored with their names/logos engraved on a bronze plaque at The National Special Forces Green Beret Memorial park site and also will be invited to the premier unveiling events and VIP receptions and will receive other unique benefits.

Please feel free to forward this email to all Special Forces Association Chapter Presidents, so that they can forward it to their chapter SFA Members, and feel free to contact me for more information.

Working with our distinguished SF team, I remain passionately dedicated to honoring Special Forces "Green Beret" Soldiers of

every era and the legacy of the Special Forces Regiment with The National Special Forces Green Beret Memorial.

I look forward to seeing you again at the International SFA Convention in June 2017!

De Oppresso Liber!

With great respect and admiration,

Rebecca A. Clark, Commissioned Artist & Project Executive Consultant, The National Special Forces Green Beret Memorial, Tel: [310-770-9831](tel:310-770-9831), Email:

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**Forwarded by Bill:** Alcon, there is a new company that makes the hunter green blazer and it's less expensive. You have to order your own blazer and work with the company for any size issues. They don't embroider the SFA patch so you have to order those separate from national. Website for the blazer: <http://www.blazerboutique.com/product/hunter-green-mens-blazer>

The patch is available thru National, advertised in the DROP.

**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](mailto:Lachelts@gmail.com). You can also drop off your pictures or news at the next Chapter meeting. Thanks! Ron

**The Chapter Facebook page:** is located at [www.facebook.com/sfachapterXX](http://www.facebook.com/sfachapterXX)

Go often to the house of thy friend; for weeds soon choke up the unused path. Scandinavian Proverb, from [Laura Moncur's Motivational Quotations](#)