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## President’s Message

Brothers,

Every now and then I find it good measure to re-examine the SFA Mission Statement. With all we do and with all we are asked to do, keeping in mind that changes occur as time and people move on, a review is a good way to make sure we are focusing our efforts in the right direction. It is short and to the point:

“The Special Forces Association Serves as the Voice for the Special Forces Community; Perpetuates Special Forces Traditions and Brotherhood; Advances the Public Image of Special Forces and Promotes the General Welfare of the Special Forces Community.”

In this regard we’ve had several initiatives in the last year that speak directly to the SFA Mission. The first is our Chapter Scholarship Program. We gave away $1000 dollars in scholarship money to families of Chapter members and would have liked to give away even more, but did not because of the small number of applicants. Next year promises to be bigger. SFA National also has a scholarship program called the SFA Scholarship Fund and I encourage you to take advantage of it. Information can be found on the SFA website.

We were also asked, and agreed, to award knives to 1st SFG(A) superlatives in the name of the Chapter and this year have presented custom made Chris Reeve Knives to the Jumpmaster Course Honor Graduate, the 1st Group NCO of the Year, and the 1st Group Soldier of the Year. It was an SF tradition for many years that superlative Green Berets be awarded a Buck knife, which gave rise to that great disparaging cliché “hunting the Buck Knife” used to describe aggressive over achievers.

We donated $200 to the Tahoma National Cemetery after it was vandalized, resulting in the loss of thousands of dollars in brass plaques to include the Special Forces plaque we placed there years ago. It has since been restored thanks to the many donations from veterans groups around the area and especially the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe.

We assisted in the funding, memorial, and the rendering of final military honors to several in our ranks who passed this year. Every single family expressed abounding thanks and gratitude to us for helping to
make for a proper and memorable SF send off. I believe that one of our most important roles is seeing to it that our people are laid to rest with our full attention, support for their loved ones, and in a manner that befits and honors their lifetime of accomplishments and sacrifices. I think that in the end we all want our SF brothers to be standing there, have one last blast of the song, have one final rifle volley, and have a case of cold ones waiting at the Team House to help commemorate the solemn occasion.

We are also helping to fund several 1st Group morale and esprit events that include Trunk or Treat this Halloween, the Menton Day Ball, and the 3rd Battalion Ball set for February when they return from Afghanistan. The 1st Group is always inclusive of the SFA at these events and we always enjoy the festivities and camaraderie.

A new initiative for us is our work with other groups and associations in the area that support Special Forces, who in turn are helping and supporting us. Symbiosis would be the word (I think I heard an SF Medic use it one time). Organizations in the area that we are now closely associated with are OASIS Group, First in Asia, the 1st SFG(A) Family Readiness Group, and the Vietnamese Special Forces and Montagnard community.

We also anted up to assist Chapter member Harlow Stevens plan and execute the 1st SFG(A) Reunion in the summer of 2013. It could be the best one yet and I am excited about all the possibilities and the chance to see old friends and maybe settle a few old scores. So far, Harlow has lain on the accommodations and has drafted a calendar of events that includes a tour of the Group compound, 1st Group Ops brief, viewing airborne operations, a visit to the Tacoma National Cemetery, a mixer at Capt. Ron’s, and shopping trips around the area. We are currently designing the reunion coin and logos for T-shirts and various other sundries.

Lastly, we are newly committed to the recognition of those members of the Chapter who have been truly exceptional in their careers and post military contributions to SF. We have become an active participant in USAF’s distinguished member program and recently had our nomination of SGM (Ret) Walt Hetzler approved. We are in the process of nominating another Chapter member who more than deserves the recognition if we can convince him to cooperate.

It has taken time, but through hard work and persistence we are finding that both the Group and other WA State veterans groups are looking to us for support and I am proud to say that other SFA Chapters view us as a model for what they might be able to build in their areas.

I would like to thank all of you for your continued support of the Chapter and want to encourage you to make the SFA a priority activity. The greater your participation the more we can accomplish.

Fraternally, Dave Shell

**J. K. Wright Memorial Breakfast September 3, 2011**

The following members and wives were in attendance: Jim & Elaine Lessler (IMO Tony Green), Stan Hatten (IMO J. J. Boyington), Dave Shell (IMO J. J. Boyington), Fred Callahan (IMO Bart Heimsness), Ramiro Alonso (IMO Bart Heimsness), Harlow Stevens (IMO Willy Card), Mike & Joy Cassidy (IMO Del Richards), Glen Craig, Ted Wicorek, and Eugene De La Montagne. Jerry Hampton (IMO Eulis Presley and Gary Wright) representing Chapter 43.

**Dinosaurs Luncheon September 30, 2011**

The following members and guests attended the luncheon at the Fort Lewis Golf Course: Jim & Elaine Lessler, Nick Marvais, Steve Kubiszewski, Harlow Stevens, Ed Booth, Glen Craig, Steve Epperson, and Ron Rismon. Members from Chapter 43 who attended: Skip Ettinger and Bob Ervin.

**J. K. Wright Memorial Breakfast October 1, 2011**

The following members attended the breakfast: Jim & Elaine Lessler (IMO Dan Kayanon), John Gebbie, Nick Marvais (IMO Eulis Presley), Steve Epperson, Fred Callahan (IMO Bart Heimsness), Butch Hall, Glen Craig, Wayne & Yoko Karvonen, Norm Mastalski, Bill Butler (IMO Mike Karr), and Ramiro Alonso (IMO Bart Heimsness). Members from Chap. 43 in attendance: John Armezzani (IMO Eulis Presley) and Skip Ettinger.
William R Card Chapter Meeting Minutes Oct. 8, 2011

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 11:10 with the playing of the Ballad of the Green Beret. The following officers were present: Dave Shell, President; Ron Risman, Vice President; John Patterson, Secretary; Kevin Patton, Treasurer.

Location: Multi Function Facility, 1st SFG(A) compound, Joint Base Lewis McChord (JBLM). Lewis, WA.

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by President Dave Shell.

Opening Prayer: Chaplain Jake Robinson.

Welcome and President’s Report: Dave Shell welcomed members to our first meeting at the 1st Group compound and thanked CW5 Rick Kuntz, the 1st Group Command Chief Warrant Officer, for attending and acting as host for our first meeting on post. Apologies were made re: logistical breakdown resulting in some delay getting past JBLM security at the front gate. Steps will be taken to prevent a reoccurrence.

A fee of $5.00 for members and $7.00 per family will be collected for the post meeting Oktoberfest potluck to cover food and beverage costs.

Welcome Steve Konek Sr. representing the 173rd Airborne Brigade Association who will speak to the membership regarding fundraising to support the Montagnard people living in the Central Highlands, Kontum, Vietnam.

Members Present: Jorge Calero, Jake Robinson, Roy Sayer, Harlow Stevens, Jim Lessler, Glen Craig, Paul Waldeburger, Butch Hall, Mike Cassidy, Red Davis, Nick Marvais, Bud Lawson, John Gebbe, Ron Risman, Jay Lathrop, John Armezzani, Bill Butler, Wayne Karvonen, Rick Thomas, and Gino Lamoli. The meeting was well attended although a little disorganized (due to the new environment) resulting in several members not signing in.

Wives Present: Alice Calero, Carol Stevens, Elaine Lessler, GG Waldburger, Regina Hall, Joy Cassidy, Tammy Edge (s.o.), Nancy Davis, Inge Gebbe, Yoko Karvonen, Cindy Thomas, Nipson Shell, and Carmel Lamoli.

Guests Present: Steve Konek Sr, Chuyen Nguyen, Thai Phan, Rick Kuntz and Jodi Knieper.

Sick Call & Deaths: SSG Mike Hosey 1st SFG KIA Afghanistan. A member inquired as to how many wounded SF soldiers were in military hospitals (ie: Walter Reid, San Antonio, Madigan) and how could we help them on a local level. Rick Kuntz offered that there were approximately 17 total Soldiers dispersed between several different military hospitals and felt everything that can be done is being done. Motion dropped.

Secretary’s Report: Reported that the annual picnic report (minutes) was submitted and approved with corrections, but unfortunately, not before it was published in the online newsletter.

Reminded membership that annual dues should be paid by December 31st and submitted along with completed renewal forms so we can update Chapter member’s personal data information.

Treasurer’s Report: Expenses for the year totaled $5500.00 including the college scholarship program $1000.00, NCO Soldier of the Year $800.00 and the annual picnic expenses. The raffle, Coffee Stop and picnic proceeds put us in good financial position with an ending balance of $13,316.32.

Quartermaster’s Report: New black t-shirts with the Chapter logo are selling for $15.00. More of the chapter baseball caps are available. Mike Cassidy encourages the members to shop!

Old Business: Pres. Dave Shell thanked Kevin Patton for finalizing the annual picnic AAR. Dave Shell recognized the induction of Chapter 16 member Walt Hetzler as a “Distinguished Member of the Regiment” and requested that all members are encouraged to identify persons they feel are worthy of a nomination.

New Business: The 1st SFG(A) Menton Day Ball will be held at Clover Park Technical College this year. The Chapter will hold a raffle in conjunction with it. Kevin Patton suggested one pistol be put in the safe for next year’s annual picnic raffle leaving two for the Menton Ball raffle. Kevin Patton seconded the motion for the chapter to participate in the raffle. General consensus from the membership present was positive. The tickets will sell for $5.00 each. The drawing will be at the Ball on 12/9/11. Speaking of raffles, the 3rd Battalion is having a Homecoming Ball in late February and has asked the chapter to assist with the fundraising for it.
It was suggested we just give an outright gift of $$$ or sell group coins or other Quartermaster items. The motion to participate was seconded by Butch Hall although the details were not decided. In addition, a turkey shoot open to active duty personnel charging $1.00 p/round involving 6 birds was suggested as a possible fundraiser as well.

Sensitive issue: The addition of a small plaque on the WA State Vietnam Veterans Memorial honoring soldiers of the former South Vietnamese military. We currently have many of these veterans now living in Washington. This has created a controversy between those in favor and those opposed. Those opposed feeling that the memorial should be only for Washington State veterans. President Dave Shell made a motion on whether or not we as a Chapter should take a position. The motion was seconded and a position will be decided upon a private vote of the membership at a future date.

For the Good of the Order: Discussed our participation as a Chapter in the 2013 1st SFG reunion to be held in the Seattle-Tacoma area on June 14-18, 2013 at the Double Tree Inn (Tukwila). A description of the hotel amenities, nearby attractions and possible SF demonstrations was given. Volunteers are requested from the membership to support this event.

Steve Konek of the 173rd Airborne Brigade is selling Montagnard bracelets for $20.00 ($5.00 going back to the Chapter) to support orphanages, libraries and a leper colony at Kontum, Vietnam.

Roy Sayer was present at the meeting and available to answer membership questions or discuss other issues.

Chaplain Jake said that plaques stolen from the Tahoma National Cemetery have been replaced due in large part to the generosity of the Muckleshoot Tribe.

Bud Lawson continues to be the driving force behind the Coffee Stop fundraiser, which generates funds for the chapter and sure could use some help. Members are encouraged to participate when the dates are determined.

Closing Prayer: Chaplain Jake Robinson

Meeting Adjourned: 12:10 and followed by the Oktoberfest Potluck

Respectfully submitted,

John Patterson
Secretary Chapter XVI SFA

October Fest Photos
Staff Sgt. Michael W. Hosey

A Clay-Chalkville High School graduate and United States Army soldier was killed Saturday in Afghanistan.
Staff Sgt. Michael W. Hosey, 27, died in Uruzgan province, Afghanistan, of injuries suffered when insurgents attacked his unit using small arms fire, according to a statement from the Department of Defense. He was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

Hosey, a 2001 Clay-Chalkville graduate, was a part of Operation Enduring Freedom, according to the statement. Hosey, has been posthumously awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star Medal.

Hosey joined the Army in 2001 as a communications intelligence specialist. After attending basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C., and the Defense Language Institute, Foreign Language Center at the Presidio of Monterey in Monterey, Calif., He attended Advanced Individual Training at Goodfellow Air Force Base in San Angelo, Texas. His first duty assignment was with Company B, 304th Military Intelligence Battalion, 111th MI Brigade where he instructed officers in the MI Officer Basic Course and Officer Training Corps, in the proper deployment of a Signal Intelligence Company on the battlefield; he also instructed Air Force Surface Weather Officer assigned to Army units and worked with U.S. Border Patrol in the emplacement of Remote Battlefield Sensor System for joint task forces.

In 2003, Hosey was assigned to Fort Huachuca, Ariz., where he served as a communications intelligence specialist. In 2005, Hosey was assigned to Fort Lewis, Wash.


His awards and decorations include the Army Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Army Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Army Good Conduct Medal with bronze clasp (two Loops), the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal (with Campaign Star), the Iraq Campaign Medal (with Campaign Star), the Global War on Terror Service Medal, the Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon with the Numeral 2, the Army Service Ribbon, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Medal.

Hosey is survived by his mother, Condi Hosey, and father, Michael Fred.
WHITE STAR was a clandestine operation, under the auspices of the CIA, but thru the Ambassador to Laos to "assist" Laos in fighting the communists. The teams worked with the Laotian people, mainly the Hmoungs and other ethnic groups. It was all designed to support Vang Pao's Arme Clandestine which was supported by CIA/Air Americas Projects 404 and 603.

LTC "Bull" Simons was the Group I commander of the first group inserted in July 1959, then called "Hotfoot", and remained for the next group (II) in Dec 59 to June of 60 when he was replaced by LTC Magnus L. Smith. In November 1960, Group IV took over, commanded by LTC John "Shark" Little, and on 28Jan61 it was augmented with a 12-man Psywar team under LTC Chuck Murray.

In April of 1961, Group V replaced Group IV and was renamed "White Star". In October of 1961 LTC Bull Simons took command again.

Summary of Events Leading Up to Operation WHITE STAR

(Events as recounted to Special Operations.Com by Bill Bowles) Late in 1958 and early 1959 our political and military leaders decided to put a highly trained military force into the Laotian Kingdom (Laos) with the mission to organize, train and develop their military forces so they could control, suppress and eliminate the growing communist forces in country, The PATHET LAO.

Then LTC Arthur Simon (Legendary combat leader BULL SIMONS) was tasked to select, organize and train a staff for the mission. He was further tasked to select, organize and train Special Forces "A" teams from the 77th Special Forces Group (Airborne) based at Fort Bragg, NC.

The mission was initially designated Operation Ambidextrous. Later it was changed to Operation Hot Foot. The Colonel was additionally tasked to develop the logistical support that would be required for a minimum six months mission. That included developing the medical, communications, postal, personnel, combat supplies, even to the development of a cover story for the deploying personnel.

All personnel (hereinafter called the team) were given intensive training and cross training. New communications equipment was introduced and taught to the team. All personnel took daily language lessons in both French and Laotian. Area studies of the country was introduced and studied. Required reading of selected books became mandatory, such books as the "Ugly American" and Street Without Joy are examples. Week after week this continued.

We were to deploy in civilian clothing, with all military identification left behind. One cover story was, we were members of a Geodetic Survey team. I think (no longer sure) there were about seven, 12 man A teams and the staff to be deployed, Somewhere around one hundred-four personnel in all.
After weeks of training in June 1959 at 0330 hours we departed Fort Bragg. All our equipment and personnel loaded aboard two C124’s both decks on each plane loaded to the hilt. All dressed in our civilian clothes).

We landed in California and stayed for a couple of days. Reloaded and was ready to continue the journey. The engine on one of the planes caught fire which delayed the second plane departure for a day or so. The team continued on to Kadena AFB on Okinawa. There a hitch developed as the India representative to the UN questioned our status and our mission. We had to stay on Okinawa for a couple of weeks while that was straightened out. Finally the full team was ready to go. We flew from Kadena AFB to Bangkok, Thailand. There we loaded onto C-54’s and flew into Vientiane, Laos.

Once there rapport was established with the American Ambassador and the MAAG group in country. All A teams were deployed throughout the country, from Pakse to Plain DE Belovens, from Savanaket to Saravan. In civilian clothes they began to accomplish the mission they had been assigned. A communications net was established and operational; a logistical support system established and became operational. June soon became January; the team was extended past the 180 day Max TDY status and continued their operations. Finally the order was given that replacement teams would arrive. The operation was changed to Operation Whitestar. Colonel Simon and selected members of his staff remained to lead the replacement teams. The original A teams redeployed back to Fort Bragg in late February 1960. The 77th SFG(A) had been redesignated the 7th SFG(A).

Whitestar teams continued to deploy and rotate in and out of Laos. In 1961 the Special Forces initial A team entry and buildup began in South Vietnam. Our SF troops in Laos rotated in and out of the country for the next ten years.

I do not know when the end of Operation Whitestar was declared.

**Chronological Overview**

July 59 - "Hotfoot" advance party arrived in Vientiane.
17 Dec 60 - Kong Le’s coup fell - Mission Militair Francaise d’Instruction withdrawn.
13 Feb 61 - PEO (Project Evaluation Office) requests 9 additional teams (PEO-OPT627) to supplement - authorized strength of 12 - 11 man teams, a 22 man control team.
19 Apr 61- MAAG is established to replace PEO.
22 Apr 61 - FTT-54 (Capt. Walter Moon team CO) at Ban Pha Home is overrun - Capt. Moon captured and held prisoner until he died - was awarded Silver Star posthumously.
3 May 61 - Truce
13 May 61 - Team FB-A "Operation Pin Cushion", K-1 Kha Hune (natives) "Kha Maquis" is formed.
16 Aug 61 - 12 additional SF Intel specialists authorized.
23 Jul 62 Declaration of Neutrality signed, White Star peak strength was 433.

**SF losses in LAOS between 1959 and 1962: All were from 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne)**

MIA - BNR (body not recovered) Sgt Gerald M Biber, 4/22/61
MIA - BNR - Sgt John M Bischoff, 4/22/61
MIA - Killed in Captivity - CPT Walter Moon, 7/22/61
KIA - Sgt Theodore Berlett, 1/28/62
MIA - SSG Raymond Parkes, 7/17/62
The History of Special Forces

From Special Forces Association [A special thanks to the JFK Special Warfare Center and School for their assistance in providing this Brief History of Special Forces]

To Free The Oppressed...
Deployed on every continent, operating in remote areas under Spartan conditions, with a tenuous radio link their only connection to higher headquarters, small detachments of U.S. forces are training their allies to defend themselves against dangerous insurgents.
Often they are the sole American military presence in a nation, every day making tough decisions in unheard-of situations, with no one looking over their shoulders. They volunteered for this duty because they prefer the challenge of working in an austere, uncertain and unstructured environment.
The Army’s Special Forces, known popularly as the Green Berets, are specially selected and trained. They are America’s main weapon for waging unconventional warfare in an age when conventional conflicts have become increasingly rare.
In the future as in the past, U.S. Special Forces will be called upon to conduct critical missions in the face of overwhelming odds. It is a task they can look forward to with confidence because the tradition of Army Special Forces is one of excellence. It is because of this record that the modern-day Special Forces remain devoted to their Latin motto, De Oppresso Liber – To Free the Oppressed.

The Origin of Special Forces
The Army’s premier proponent of unconventional warfare, SF traces its historical roots from the elite Army formations of World War II and the Office of Strategic Services, or OSS. The OSS was formed in World War II to gather strategic intelligence and conduct operations behind enemy lines in support of resistance groups in Europe and the Far East. After the war, individuals such as Colonel Aaron Bank, a former OSS operative, and Colonel Wendell Fertig and Lieutenant Colonel Russell Volckmann, both of whom fought as guerrillas in the Philippines, used their wartime experience to formulate the doctrine of unconventional warfare that became the cornerstone of SF. In the Army’s official lineage and honors, the SF groups are linked to the regiments of the First Special Service Force, an elite combined Canadian-American unit that fought in the Aleutians, Italy and southern France.

Special Operations Units of World War II
The First Special Service Force, nicknamed the Devil’s Brigade, was a joint Canadian-American unit formed on July 9, 1942, at Fort William Henry Harrison, Mont. Airborne-qualified and intensively trained in mountaineering, skiing and amphibious operations, the First Special Service Force saw action in the Aleutians; in Italy, where the soldiers scaled the heights of Monte Le Defensa to break the German winter line; at Anzio; and as the amphibious spearhead for the invasion of southern France. The force was inactivated in December 1944 near Menton, France. Menton Day is still observed by the SF groups in honor of this elite infantry formation. The Force adopted the crossed arrows of the U.S. Army’s Indian Scouts, which later became the branch insignia of Special Forces.
The Army Rangers of World War II began with the activation of the 1st Ranger Battalion on June 19, 1942, in Carrickfergus, Ireland. The 1st Battalion was nicknamed Darby’s Rangers for their commander, Colonel William O. Darby. Six Ranger battalions were created during World War II. The 1st through 5th Ranger battalions fought in North Africa, Italy and other parts of Europe. Unaffiliated with these battalions was the 6th Ranger Battalion, which fought in the Southwest Pacific Theater. The 6th Ranger Battalion was created in December 1943 at the direction of General Douglas MacArthur, who saw the need for a Ranger force to replicate the Marine Raider battalions in the Pacific Theater. The Ranger battalions were disbanded at the end of World War II.
Merrill’s Marauders was the title given to Brigadier General Frank D. Merrill’s, 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional), a 3,000-man long-range penetration force modeled on the British “Chindits.” The Marauders fought in five major battles and 17 skirmishes in the China-Burma-India Theater. The Marauders’ greatest feat was their march through miles of thick Burmese jungle en route to the capture of the vital airfield at Myitkyina. Decimated by disease and battle casualties, the Marauders were disbanded after the battle and replaced by the Mars Task Force, a similar infantry formation that fought in Burma and China until the end of the war. While with the Mars Task Force, First Sergeant Jack Knight earned the only Medal of Honor awarded to a special-operations Soldier.
during World War II. In the Southwest Pacific Theater, Lieutenant General Walter Krueger, the innovative commander of the Sixth Army, established an elite reconnaissance unit called the Alamo Scouts. The Scouts ran more than 80 reconnaissance missions in New Guinea and the Philippines, providing accurate, timely intelligence for the Sixth Army. In perhaps their greatest feat, the Scouts led a company of the 6th Ranger Battalion and Filipino guerrillas in an attack on the Japanese prison camp at Cabanatuan, 30 miles behind the Japanese lines, freeing all 513 Allied prisoners. Never numbering more than 70 volunteers, the Alamo Scouts earned 44 Silver Star Medals, 33 Bronze Star Medals and four Soldier’s Medals by the end of the war. In more than 80 hazardous missions, they never lost a man in action. Command Sergeant Major Galen Kittleson, a Son Tay raider, began his career with the Alamo Scouts.

Lieutenant General Krueger also formed the 6th Ranger Battalion to provide his Army with the capability of conducting raids behind enemy lines. Lieutenant Colonel Henry Mucci, the battalion commander, led the raid on Cabanatuan. Captain Arthur “Bull” Simons, a key figure in the early days of Special Forces, served as a company commander with the 6th Ranger Battalion.

Besides these organized special-operations efforts, a number of U.S. Army officers chose not to surrender at Bataan and conducted guerrilla operations behind Japanese lines in the Philippines. Major Russell Volckmann, who later played an important role in the birth of Special Forces, escaped from the enemy and with First Lieutenant Donald D. Blackburn, formed a Filipino guerrilla band in northern Luzon, which by 1945 consisted of five regiments. Colonel Wendell Fertig raised his own guerrilla force on Mindanao that ultimately totaled some 20,000 fighters. These men organized the insurgency against the Japanese and waged a classic guerrilla campaign until the end of the war.

**Shadow Warriors: The OSS**

The Office of Strategic Services was the product of Major General William O. Donovan, an energetic visionary whose propensity for freewheeling activity earned him the nickname “Wild Bill.” Donovan was a tough and smart veteran of World War I who received the Medal of Honor for heroism on the Western Front in October 1918, and who made a fortune as a Wall Street lawyer during the 1920s and ’30s. When World War II erupted in Europe and threatened to engulf the United States, Donovan convinced President Franklin D. Roosevelt that a new type of organization was needed, one that would collect intelligence and wage secret operations behind enemy lines. In 1941, President Roosevelt directed Donovan to form this agency, called the Coordinator of Information, or COI, and Donovan, who had been a civilian since World War I, was reinstated as a colonel. COI blossomed quickly, establishing operational sites in England, North Africa, India, Burma and China. In 1942, the agency was renamed the OSS. Donovan became a major general in 1944. The primary combat operations of the OSS in Europe were those of the Jedburgh’s missions and the Operational Groups. The Jedburgh mission consisted of parachuting three-man multinational teams into France, Belgium and Holland, where they trained partisan resistance movements and conducted guerrilla operations against the Germans. The OGs were 34-man elements designed to operate in two sections and perform sabotage missions and raids behind enemy lines. Other OSS operations took place in Asia, most spectacularly in Burma, where OSS Detachment 101 organized 11,000 Kachin tribesmen into a force that eventually killed 10,000 Japanese with a minimal loss of its own. Other OSS detachments operated in China and Southeast Asia. Soldiers John K. Singlaub, Caesar Civitella and Herbert Brucker were among the many former OSS members who later served in Special Forces. After the war, President Harry S. Truman disbanded the OSS, but not before creating a legacy still felt today. Many veterans of OSS were part of the cadre of the early SF groups.

OSS operative Colonel Aaron Bank and Colonel Russell Volckmann, the Philippine guerrilla leader, remained in the military after the war. They worked tirelessly to convince the Army to adopt its own unconventional, guerrilla-style force. They had an ally in Brigadier General Robert McClure, who headed the Army’s psychological-warfare staff in the Pentagon. McClure convinced the Army that there were areas in the world not susceptible to conventional warfare -Soviet-dominated Eastern Europe especially -- but that would make ideal targets for unconventional harassment and guerrilla fighting. Special operations, as envisioned by these men, was a force multiplier: a small number of soldiers who could sow a disproportionately large amount of trouble for the enemy. It was a bold idea, one that went against the grain of traditional concepts, but by 1952 the Army was finally ready to embark on a new era of unconventional warfare.
Special Forces: The Early Years

Special Forces grew out of the establishment of the Special Operations Division of the Psychological Warfare Center, activated at Fort Bragg, N.C., in May 1952. The Army allocated 2,300 personnel slots to be used to stand up the first SF unit when the Ranger companies fighting in the Korean War were disbanded. The 10th SF Group was established with Colonel Aaron Bank as the first commander. Concurrent with this was the establishment of the Psychological Warfare School, which ultimately became today’s John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School.

Bank assembled a cadre of officers and NCOs to serve as the foundation of the new unit and act as a training staff for the fledgling organization. Bank didn’t want raw recruits. He wanted the best troops in the Army, and he got them: former OSS officers, airborne troops, ex-Rangers and combat veterans of World War II and Korea. After months of preparation, the 10th SF Group was activated on June 11, 1952, at Fort Bragg. On the day of its activation, the total strength of the group was 10 Soldiers – Bank, one warrant officer and eight enlisted men. Within months, the first volunteers reported to the 10th SF Group by the hundreds as they completed the initial phase of their SF training. As soon as the 10th Group became large enough, Bank began training his troops in the most advanced techniques of unconventional warfare. As defined by the Army, the main mission of the 10th SF Group was “to infiltrate by land, sea or air, deep into enemy-occupied territory and organize the resistance/guerrilla potential to conduct Special Forces operations, with emphasis on guerrilla warfare.” As Bank put it, “Our training included many more complex subjects and was geared to entirely different, more difficult, comprehensive missions and complex operations.”

After less than a year and a half as a full SF group, Bank’s men proved to the Army’s satisfaction that they had mastered the skills of their new trade. On Nov. 11 1953, half of the 10th SF Group was deployed to Bad Tolz, West Germany. The other half remained at Fort Bragg, where it was redesignated as the 77th SF Group. The split of the 10th and the 77th was the first sign that SF had established itself as an integral part of the Army’s basic structure. For the rest of the 1950s, SF would grow slowly but consistently. By the end of 1952, the 10th Group had mastered the skills of their new trade. On Nov. 11, 1953, half of the 10th SF Group was deployed to Bad Tolz, West Germany. The other half remained at Fort Bragg, where it was redesignated as the 77th SF Group. The split of the 10th and the 77th was the first sign that SF had established itself as an integral part of the Army’s basic structure.

By the end of 1952, the first SF troops to operate behind enemy lines had been deployed to Korea on missions that remained classified for nearly 30 years. Anti-communist guerrillas with homes in North Korea and historical ties to Seoul had joined the United Nations Partisan Forces-Korea. Known as “Donkeys” and “Wolfpacks,” the guerrilla units and their American cadre operated from tiny islands off the North Korean coast. The partisans conducted raids on the mainland and rescued downed airmen. Under the guidance of a select group from the 10th SF Group and other U.S. cadre, they eventually numbered 22,000 and claimed 69,000 enemy casualties. On April 1, 1956, the 14th Special Forces Operational Detachment with select members from 77th SF Group, 12th, 13th and 16th operational detachments, under the cover unit of the 8251st Army Service Unit, transferred to Fort Shaffer, Hawaii from Fort Bragg, N.C., in June 1956. Shortly afterward, the 12th, 13th and 16th SFOD (Regiment) were moved to Camp Drake, Japan under the cover unit identification of 8231st Army Unit. 1st Special Forces Group was officially activated on June 24, 1957 at Camp Drake, however, the activation ceremony was held on July 14, 1957 at Camp Buckner, Okinawa. On Oct. 30, 1960, all SF groups were reorganized under the combat arms regimental system. 1st SF Group was regimented 1st SF Group in recognition of its lineage with the First Special Service Force of World War II.

By 1958, the basic operational unit of SF had evolved into a 12-man team known as the SF ODA. Each member of the team – two officers, two operations and intelligence sergeants, two weapons sergeants, two communications sergeants, two medics and two engineers – were trained in unconventional warfare, were cross-trained in each others’ specialties, and spoke at least one foreign language. This composition allowed each detachment to operate if necessary in two six-man teams, or split-A teams.

By the time John F. Kennedy was inaugurated as president in January 1961, the three SF groups – the 10th, the 7th (redesignated from the 77th on June 6, 1960) and the 1st – were actively engaged in missions around the world. Under the patronage of President Kennedy, SF flourished. In 1961, President Kennedy visited Fort Bragg. He inspected the 82nd Airborne Division and other conventional troops of the XVIII Airborne Corps. As a student of military affairs, President Kennedy had developed an interest in counterinsurgency – the art and method of defeating guerrilla movements. As he gazed at the ranks of SF troops, he realized he had the ideal vehicle for carrying out such missions. With President Kennedy firmly behind them, new SF groups sprang up rapidly. On Sept. 21, 1961, the 5th Group was activated, followed in 1963 by the 8th Group on April 1, the 6th on May 1, and the 3rd on Dec. 5. In April 1966, the 46th SF Company was activated at Fort Bragg. Formerly Company D, 1st SF Group, 46th Company deployed to Thailand to train the Royal Thai Army until November 1967.
President Kennedy’s interest in SF resulted in the adoption of the Green Beret as the official headgear of all SF troops. Until then, the beret had faced an uphill fight in its struggle to achieve official Army recognition. After his visit to Fort Bragg, the president told the Pentagon that he considered the Green Beret to be “symbolic of one of the highest levels of courage and achievement of the United States military.” Soon, the Green Beret became synonymous with SF.

**The Story Behind the Green Beret**

The Green Beret was originally designed in 1953 by SF Major Herbert Brucker, a veteran of the OSS. Later that year, First Lieutenant Roger Pezelle adopted it as the unofficial headgear for his A-team, Operational Detachment FA32. They wore it whenever they went to the field for prolonged exercises. Soon it spread throughout all of SF, although the Army refused to authorize its official use. Finally, in 1961, President John F. Kennedy planned to visit Fort Bragg. He sent word to the Special Warfare Center commander, Brigadier General William P. Yarborough, for all SF Soldiers to wear their berets for the event. President Kennedy felt that since they had a special mission, SF should have something to set them apart from the rest. Even before the presidential request, however, the Department of the Army had acquiesced and teletyped a message to the center authorizing the beret as a part of the SF uniform.

When President Kennedy came to Fort Bragg Oct. 12, 1961, General Yarborough wore his Green Beret to greet the commander-in-chief. The president remarked, “Those are nice. How do you like the Green Beret?” General Yarborough replied, “They're fine, Sir. We've wanted them a long time.”

A message from President Kennedy to General Yarborough later that day stated, “My congratulations to you personally for your part in the presentation today ... The challenge of this old but new form of operations is a real one, and I know that you and the members of your command will carry on for us and the free world in a manner which is both worthy and inspiring. I am sure that the Green Beret will be a mark of distinction in the trying times ahead.”

In an April 1962 White House memorandum for the U.S. Army, President Kennedy showed his continued support for SF, calling the Green Beret “a symbol of excellence, a badge of courage, a mark of distinction in the fight for freedom.”

**Special Forces during the Vietnam Era**

Nam Dong, Lang Vei, Dak To, A Shau, Plei Mei – these were just some of the places SF troops fought and died during their 15-year stay in South Vietnam. It was a stay that began in June 1957, when the original 16 members of the 14th SF Operational Detachment deployed to Vietnam to train a cadre of indigenous Vietnamese SF teams. The first and last American Soldiers to die in Vietnam due to enemy action were members of the 1st SF Group. On Oct. 21, 1957, Captain Harry G. Cramer Jr. was killed, and on Oct. 12, 1972, Sgt. Fred C. Mick was killed.

Throughout the latter years of the 1950s and early 1960s, the number of Special Forces advisers in Vietnam steadily increased. Their responsibility was to train South Vietnamese soldiers in the art of counterinsurgency and to mold various native tribes into a credible anti-communist threat. Initially, elements from the different SF groups were involved in advising the South Vietnamese. In September 1964, the 5th SF Group was formed exclusively to conduct operations in Vietnam. The 5th Group set up its provisional headquarters in Nha Trang. Nearly six months later, in February, Nha Trang became the 5th’s permanent headquarters. From that point on, all SF Soldiers in Vietnam were assigned to the 5th until 1971, when the group returned to Fort Bragg.

By the time the 5th left Southeast Asia, SF soldiers had earned 17 Medals of Honor, one Distinguished Service Medal, 90 Distinguished Service Crosses, 814 Silver Star Medals, 13,234 Bronze Star Medals, 235 Legions of Merit, 46 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 232 Soldier’s Medals, 4,891 Air Medals, 6,908 Army Commendation Medals and 2,658 Purple Hearts. It was a brilliant record, built on blood and sacrifice.

Not to be overlooked, other SF training teams were operating in the 1960s in Bolivia, Venezuela, Guatemala, Colombia and the Dominican Republic. Counterinsurgency forces of the 8th SF Group conducted clandestine operations against guerrilla forces, carrying out some 450 missions between 1965 and 1968. In 1968, SF-trained Bolivian rangers were involved in tracking down and capturing the notorious revolutionary, Che Guevara, in the wilds of south-central Bolivia.

Southeast Asia, however, was the SF’s primary focus. Through their unstinting labors, SF troops eventually established 254 outposts throughout Vietnam, many of them defended by a single A-team and hundreds of friendly
natives.
But fighting in remote areas of Vietnam – publicity to the contrary – wasn’t the only mission of SF. It was also responsible for training thousands of Vietnam’s ethnic tribesmen in the techniques of guerrilla warfare. SF took the Montagnards, the Nungs, the Cao Dei and others and molded them into the 60,000-strong Civilian Irregular Defense Group, or CIDG. CIDG troops became the SF’s most valuable ally in battles fought in faraway corners of Vietnam, out of reach of conventional back-up forces. Other missions included civic-action projects, in which SF troops built schools, hospitals and government buildings, provided medical care to civilians and dredged canals. This was the other side of the SF mission, the part of the war designed to win the hearts and minds of the people. SF personnel were instrumental in the covert war against North Vietnam. The Military Assistance Command Vietnam-Studies and Observations Group, or MACV-SOG, conducted cross-border operations into Laos, Cambodia and North Vietnam to disrupt the enemy’s use of the Ho Chi Minh Trail. SF-led teams ran in-country long-range reconnaissance patrols under the Delta, Sigma and Omega projects. In one of the most daring missions of the war, 100 Special Forces Soldiers under Colonel “Bull” Simons launched a raid to rescue 70 American prisoners of war from the Son Tay Prison outside Hanoi. Staged out of Thailand, the assault was successful, but unbeknownst to the U.S., the prisoners had been relocated due to the flooding of a nearby river. The valiant attempt, known as Operation Ivory Coast, raised the morale of the POWs and forced the North Vietnamese into improving the treatment of the captives. On March 5, 1971, the 5th Group returned to Fort Bragg, although some SF teams remained in Thailand, from where they launched secret missions into Vietnam. But by the end of 1972, the SF role in Vietnam was over.

The Son Tay Raid
By the spring of 1970, more than 350 U.S. pilots had been downed in North Vietnam and were being held prisoner. Exposed to horrific conditions and frequent torture, most American prisoners of war were never allowed to contact the outside world. In May 1970, reconnaissance photographs revealed the existence of two prison camps west of Hanoi. At Son Tay, one photograph identified large “K” – a code for “come get us” – drawn in the dirt. Brigadier General Donald D. Blackburn, who had trained Filipino guerrillas in World War II, suggested that a small group of SF volunteers rescue the prisoners of war. He chose Lieutenant Colonel Arthur D. “Bull” Simons to lead the group. Because the compound was more than 20 miles west of Hanoi, planners of the operation believed that Son Tay was isolated enough to enable a small group to land, release prisoners and withdraw. A full-scale replica of the compound was constructed at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., where a select group of SF Soldiers trained at night. The mock compound was dismantled during the day to elude detection by Soviet satellites. Despite security measures, time was running out. Evidence, although inconclusive, showed that perhaps Son Tay was being emptied.

On Nov. 18, 1970, the Son Tay raiders moved to Takhli, Thailand. Only Simons and three others knew what the mission was to be. Five hours before takeoff Nov. 20, Simons told his 59 men: “We are going to rescue 70 American prisoners of war, maybe more, from a camp called Son Tay. This is something American prisoners have a right to expect from their fellow Soldiers. The target is 23 miles west of Hanoi.” As Simons left the room, the Soldiers broke into applause.
The Navy provided diversionary fire as the raid began. The raiders had less than 30 minutes to complete their mission or face North Vietnamese reinforcements. Nine minutes into the raid, Simons was outside the prison walls after his chopper mistakenly touched down at another site. Most of the 60-plus guards at Son Tay were dead or wounded, but a disturbing fact was becoming obvious. There were no prisoners – they had been moved to another camp when a nearby river threatened to flood. The Son Tay raid ended after 27 minutes. Simons had not lost a single man, and although there were no prisoners to rescue, the operation itself was nearly flawless.

Special Forces: Post-Vietnam
The years immediately following Vietnam were lean ones for SF. The 1st, 3rd, 6th and 8th SF groups were inactivated, and there was a general de-emphasis of special operations as the Army concentrated once more on conventional warfare, turning its gaze from the jungles of Asia to the plains of Central Europe.
To prevent a further reduction of their capabilities, SF leaders adopted a program called SPARTAN – Special Proficiency at Rugged Training and Nation-building. SPARTAN was designed to demonstrate the multiplicity of talents...
SF troops possessed, showing that they were not outmoded simply because the Vietnam war was over. Under the aegis of SPARTAN, the 5th and 7th groups worked with Indian tribes in Florida, Arizona and Montana to build roads and medical facilities, and they provided free medical treatment to impoverished citizens of Hoke and Anson counties in North Carolina. However noble SPARTAN was, it was not what SF was designed for. SF existed to train and fight unconventional warfare, and when President Ronald W. Reagan took office in 1981, they got that chance again. During the Reagan presidency, national defense received renewed emphasis. SF in particular was among the beneficiaries of this new attention. The need for SF capabilities had become apparent with the rise of insurgencies as far away as Africa and Asia, and as close to home as Central America. To meet the challenges of a changing world, the Army revitalized SF. The Special Forces Qualification Course, or SFQQC, was made longer and tougher to ensure that the highest-caliber Soldiers joined the ranks of the Green Berets. In June 1983, the Army authorized a uniform tab for wear on the left shoulder by SF troops. The Army established a separate career management field (CMF 18) for SF enlisted men on Oct. 1, 1984. The Special Forces warrant officer career field (180A) soon followed and, on April 9 1987, the Army Chief of Staff established a separate branch for SF officers (18A). Despite the numerous changes after Vietnam, the basic element – the SF ODA – remained largely unchanged. The only detachment position to change was that of the team executive officer, no longer filled by a lieutenant, but by an SF Warrant Officer with several years of detachment experience. During the 1980s, SF teams were deployed to dozens of countries around the globe. Missions varied from training allied nations to defend themselves to offering humanitarian aid, like medical care and building construction, in remote villages of Third World countries. SF proved particularly successful in El Salvador and Honduras, preventing the civil war in neighboring Nicaragua from spreading beyond its borders. In Colombia, SF teams conducted a long-term program of upgrading the capabilities of the Colombian military in its counterinsurgent fight against the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia insurgency and the drug cartels.

In December 1989, SF was called upon in Operation Just Cause, the invasion of Panama. Designated Task Force Black, Soldiers from the 7th SF Group, many of whom were already stationed in Panama, supported the entire operation by conducting surveillance and implementing blocking tactics. At H-hour, Task Force Black secured a bridge at the Pacora River, engaged units of the Panama Defense Forces in an intense firefight and, despite being outnumbered, succeeded in preventing PDF reinforcements from reaching U.S. Rangers. During Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm in 1990-91, elements of the 3rd, 5th and 10th SF groups deployed in support of the coalition. The teams performed strategic-reconnaissance missions and supported training for the forces of the allies. From 1992 to 1995, SF teams from the 3rd and 5th groups worked with the UN to re-establish stability in Somalia. This highlighted SF’s first exposure to military operations other than war in a peacekeeping environment.

Special Forces in the Modern Era
As conflict continues to threaten U.S. allies throughout the world, the Defense Department looks to the unique training and experience of the Green Berets. Fort Bragg’s John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School, where prospective SF Soldiers are carefully selected, is training more men than ever for SF qualification and dangerous tasks like free-fall parachuting, escape and evasion, and maritime operations. The June 1990 reactivation of Fort Bragg’s 3rd SF Group brought to five the number of SF groups on active duty. Other SF groups are the original 10th Group, stationed at Fort Carson, CO, with its 1st Battalion stationed in Stuttgart, Germany; 1st Group at Fort Lewis, WA, with 1st Battalion stationed in Okinawa; 5th Group at Fort Campbell, KY; and 7th Group at Fort Bragg. National Guard units include the 19th and 20th Groups.

In September 1994, U.S. forces were deployed to the Caribbean island of Haiti. The 2nd Battalion, 3rd SF Group’s mission was to support the Multinational Force-Haiti in establishing and maintaining a stable and secure environment in order to facilitate the transition of the new government of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. The signing of the General Framework Agreement for Peace, commonly known as the Dayton Accords, ended the three-and-a-half year war that ravaged Bosnia and Herzegovina, and it led to another mission for SF. SF in Bosnia participated in Operations Joint Endeavor (December 1995 – December 1996), Joint Guard (December 1996 – June 1998), and Joint Forge (June 1998 – December 2004)]. A combined joint special-operations task force, lead by the 10th SF Group, served as the command and control headquarters for three NATO-controlled division areas.
Each division (U.K., U.S. and French) was assigned a special-operations command and control element, or SOCCE, to provide the division commanders with command and control of SOF in their sectors ensure dedicated and secure communications to SOF elements, coordinate SOF and conventional force operations, and advise the division commanders on SOF capabilities and employment options. Each SOCCE controlled several coalition support teams, or CSTs, to provide their non-NATO counterparts with five capabilities: close air support, medical evacuation, secure communications with higher headquarters and other units (for obvious reasons, NATO was unwilling to simply hand over secure satellite equipment and cryptological codes to non-NATO countries), intelligence connectivity with higher headquarters, and liaison support. While the 10th SF Group took the majority of the mission, ODAs from 1st, 3rd and 7th SF groups served as CSTs during the operation. The CSTs changed their designation to liaison coordination element by the summer of 1996, but little changed with the mission. In December 1996, SF added the joint commission observer, or JCO, mission. JCOs’ primary mission was to serve as the commander’s eyes and ears on the ground and to verify information or intelligence derived from other sources. A typical JCO team of 10 included support and Civil Affairs personnel, and sometimes was augmented with up to 10 Soldiers as a quick-reaction force. USSF provided JCOs in as many as 19 locations in Bosnia. Between September 1997 and early 1999, the 3rd SF Group trained battalions of the Senegalese Army as part of the African Crisis Response Initiative. SF engagement in Africa reflected the global mission of SF as the U.S. entered the 21st Century.

Operation Iraqi Freedom
March 19, 2003 signaled the start of the second major campaign in the United States’ war on terror, Operation Iraqi Freedom, or OIF. The U.S. led coalition that invaded Iraq to overthrow the government of Saddam Hussein included two SF groups. In the south, the 5th SF Group, in a reprise of Task Force Dagger, had the mission of “Scud-hunting” to prevent the launch of Iraqi missiles against Israel coalition forces and Israel. The ODAs of TF Dagger ranged far and wide in the trackless desert, preventing the deployment of missiles and halting the reinforcement of Saddam’s forces by outside terrorist groups. In northern Iraq, the 10th SF Group augmented with one Battalion from the 3rd SF Group, operating as Task Force Viking, worked with the Kurdish militias to fix the Iraqi divisions stationed along the political boundary known as the Green Line and prevented their reinforcing Saddam’s army in Baghdad. Executing a classic SF mission, TF Viking trained and supplied the Kurdish forces that subsequently drove the Iraqi army out of the towns of Mosul and Irbil and secured the northern flank of the U.S. coalition. OIF rotations have continued with the 5th and 10th SF groups training the rebuilt Iraqi army and police forces, as well as conducting operations to capture high-value targets.

SF and the War on Terror
Special Forces have been a key element of the U.S. campaign against terrorism worldwide. The SF groups regularly rotate through Afghanistan, Iraq, and the Philippines, as well as Africa and South America. In addition to these rotations, the traditional support to partner nations in Central and South America, the Far East, and other locations continues as SF units are deployed around the globe. The demand for SF today has resulted in an increased production from SWCS. A retooling of the selection-and-assessment process and a reorganization of the SFQC now produce more than 700 SF enlisted graduates each year. In addition, a fourth battalion has been authorized for each SF group as the demand for expertise in UW increases.

Viet Nam: SOBERING STATISTICS OF THE MEN ON THE VIETNAM WALL

Something to think about. "Carved on these walls is the story of America, of a continuing quest to preserve both democracy and decency, and to protect a national treasure that we call the American dream."

Something to think about: Most of the surviving parents of the dead are now deceased themselves. There are 58,267 names now listed on that polished black wall, including those added in 2010.
The names are arranged in the order in which they were taken from us by date and within each date the names are alphabetized. It is hard to believe it is 36 years since the last casualties.

The first known casualty was Richard B. Fitzgibbon, of North Weymouth, Mass., listed by the U.S. Department of Defense as having been killed on June 8, 1956. His name is listed on the Wall with that of his son, Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Richard B. Fitzgibbon III, who was killed on Sept. 7, 1965.

There are three sets of fathers and sons on the Wall. 39,996 on the Wall were just 22 or younger.

The largest age group, 8,283 were just 19 years old 33,103 were 18 years old.

12 soldiers on the Wall were 17 years old.

5 soldiers on the Wall were 16 years old.

One soldier, PFC Dan Bullock was 15 years old.

997 soldiers were killed on their first day in Vietnam.

1,448 soldiers were killed on their last scheduled day in Vietnam.

31 sets of brothers are on the Wall.

Thirty one sets of parents lost two of their sons.

54 soldiers on the Wall attended Thomas Edison High School in Philadelphia....wonder why so many from one school?

8 Women are on the Wall -- nursing the wounded.

244 soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War; 153 of them are on the Wall.

Beallsville, Ohio with a population of 475 lost 6 of her sons.

West Virginia had the highest casualty rate per capita in the nation.

There are 711 West Virginians on the Wall

The Marines of Morenci - They led some of the scrappiest high school football and basketball teams that the little Arizona copper town of Morenci (pop. 5,058) had ever known and cheered. They enjoyed roaring beer busts. In quieter moments, they rode horses along the Coronado Trail, stalked deer in the Apache National Forest. And in the patriotic camaraderie typical of Morenci's mining families, the nine graduates of Morenci High enlisted as a group in the Marine Corps. Their service began on Independence Day, 1966. Only 3 returned home.

The Buddies of Midvale - LeRoy Tafoya, Jimmy Martinez, Tom Gonzales were all boyhood friends and lived on three consecutive streets in Midvale, Utah on Fifth, Sixth and Seventh avenues. They lived only a few yards
apart. They played ball at the adjacent sandlot ball field. And they all went to Vietnam. In a span of 16 dark days in late 1967, all three would be killed. LeRoy was killed on Wednesday, Nov. 22, the fourth anniversary of John F. Kennedy's assassination. Jimmy died less than 24 hours later on Thanksgiving Day. Tom was shot dead assauling the enemy on Dec. 7, Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

The most casualty deaths for a single day were on January 31, 1968 -- 245 deaths.

The most casualty deaths for a single month were May 1968 -- 2,415 casualties were incurred.

For many Americans who read this they will only see the numbers that the Vietnam War created. To those of us who survived the war, and to the families of those who did not, we see the faces, we feel the pain that these numbers created. We are, until we too pass away, haunted with these numbers, because they were our friends, fathers, husbands, wife's, sons and daughters.

There are no noble wars, just noble warriors...

"That we never forget"

Chapter 16 SF Association Quartermaster Store

The Quartermaster Store has the new SF Crest uniform and blazer buttons for sale, they are very sharp. They can replace the buttons (Army Dress Uniform) or the buttons on the SF Association green blazer. The Cost for buttons is $5.00 each so a set of 10 buttons is only $50.00. If you want them mailed there is a Shipping and Handling cost of $4.50. We have quite few other items Of SF interest available so give me an e-mail for what you may need. Mike Cassidy " hopalong@skynetbb.com
In 1966 during the Vietnam war Brig. Gen. Walter S. McIlhenny, son of the 2nd company president of McIlhenny Company from his experiences with C-Rations as a soldier during WWII came up with the idea to send soldiers copies of the Charlie Ration Cookbook filled with recipes for spicing up C-rations with Tabasco Pepper Sauce wrapped around two-ounce bottles of Tabasco Pepper Sauce along with a handful of a P-38 type can openers all in a waterproof canister. It was illustrated by Fred Rhoads. The first picture is the canister and it's contents. The second is a copy of the magazine ad sent to me by the Historian & Curator of the McIlhenny Company. The next picture is of a Charlie Ration Cookbook that was sent in an envelope without the Tabasco Sauce or openers.