

SFA Chapter 29



Kansas City 2015 SOF Formal

The annual Kansas City Special Operations Forces Formal was a roaring success. A record number of people attended this year. The large ballroom was filled.



It was held Saturday, 28 March, at the Westin Crown Center.

MG (ret.)
Kenneth

Bowra was the guest speaker at this year's event. General Bowra spoke on the history of Special Forces, particularly about COL Aaron Banks, one of the founders of Army Special Forces. One

story told of Banks going to Burma in 1945, toward the end of World War II, and met with Ho Chi Minh. The two became friends and Banks recommended in his report that the U.S.

should support Ho and the Viet Minh.

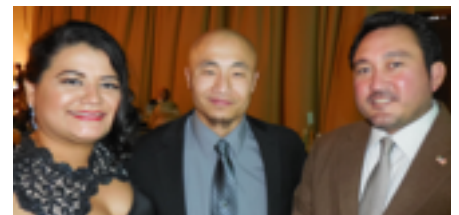
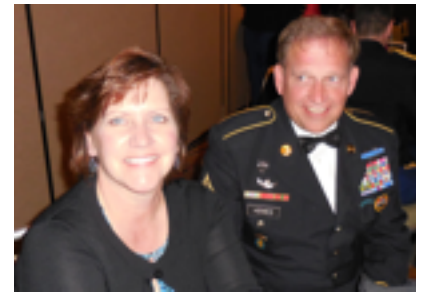
The food was excellent, as usual, although portions were not enormous. One young



major brought a large bag of hamburgers, in anticipation of small dinner portions that would leave him and others hungry after the meal. The burgers all were gone before Gen. Bowra took the stage.

Entertainment was again provided by singer Steve Amerson, and once again these editors say, "Don't mess with the Ballad!" (Amerson likes to sing customized versions of the *Ballad of the Green Berets*.)

The KC SOF Formal started in the early 1980s as a 12th Group picnic. In 1992 a re-activated SFA Chapter 29 reached out to the SOF Cell at CGSC and the first formal "ball" event was held at the Leavenworth Community Center in March of 1993 and has been held annually ever since.



SF MWDs: Green Beret Dogs

Special Forces Military Working Dogs are a relatively new asset within Special Forces. Every group now has its own “kennel,” complete with dogs, handlers and support personnel.

Special Forces used to get dogs and their handlers attached for specific missions from other units outside SF, usually Army Military Police and Air Force Security units, fairly common practice in Vietnam. But, IEDs and the GWOT changed all that.

Starting in 2006, Special Forces groups began forming their own K9 Operational Detachments, or kennels. The initial teams, of dogs and handlers, came from MP units. But, eventually the handlers were replaced by 18 Series guys and the dogs transitioned to the unique SF K9 skill sets.

Each SF group’s K9 OPS DET has 12 to 14 dogs. Unlike conventional dogs, SF dogs are trained for bomb detection,



tracking and attack. Most MWDs are trained for just one of those skill sets. SF dogs are also trained to work much more “off leash” and to work with hand and arm signal more than voice commands.

SF dog handlers are volunteers from within their group, are assessed and selected based on their abilities to work with dogs and K9 tactics. Dog and handler are a team and the handler needs to be able to read and support the dog in ways unique to K9 Ops. The dog is the nose and the handler is the eyes and rifle. He often sees threat before his dog, whose nose is to the ground.

Given all this, and the fact that dogs are often now given NCO ranks, don’t be surprised if in the near future SFA starts offering K9 memberships and kennel reservations at national conventions.

CALENDAR

6 April - BOD meeting, Delta Systems

11 April - Breakfast Mtg, Hilton Garden Inn, KCK

4 May - BOD meeting, Delta Systems

9 May - Breakfast Mtg, Hilton Garden Inn, KCK

June - No BoD or membership meetings.

June - National Convention, 4 to 10 June, Portland , OR.

July - No BoD or membership meetings.

July - Ross Worley’s Annual SF Picnic, date TBA.

Newsletter Submissions:

If ever you have any ideas, info or articles for this newsletter, please, contact Jeff Forker: jaforker@everestkc.net They are due by the 19th of each month.

Chapter Officers

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Army Wants M4A1 Improvements

The Army and Marine Corps is requesting improvements to the M4 that will improve accuracy and performance and, once again, change its appearance.

The M4 is an M16 derivative. You could even say that it is an enhanced M16. Most of the M4, the upper and lower receivers, the magazines, the front sight post, the barrel, are easily recognizable as M16.

The differences are rails, hand-guards, that allow for modularity, easy adding and removing of accessories, such as optics, lights, vertical and angled fore-grips, sights, and miniature espresso machines on some models.

The M4 still fires a 556, although the bullets also have been improved. Magazines, although they look generally the same, have been improved and are now made in various ballistic polymers.

The improvements will involve an improved charging handle, a free floating barrel, a new flash suppressor, a new color option: Coyote, an improved rail system, removable front and rear iron sights and

possibly the end of the iconic triangular front sight. (Whaaat?!)

The Army has for years been considering replacing the M4, but has settled on improvements instead. Replacement would carry vast logistical nightmares.

The Army decided in 2012 to go with the M4A1, which superseded the M4. One of the rifles being considered as a replacement was the SCAR, which was widely adopted and still popular



within SOCOM.

The M16 was first issued by the Air Force in 1961, for MAC crews, and to Army combat troops in Vietnam in 1963.

Chapter Online Store

The chapter has an online store. Available are polo shirts, chapter challenge coins and bracelets.

The web site address is: <http://www.sfa29.org/merchandise.htm>

If you have any ideas on things you would like to see in the store, let us know.

An order form is below.



April Meeting: Mosby Raiders

Roy Williams will talk at the April 11 Chapter 29 breakfast meeting about COL John S. Mosby and the 43d Battalion Virginia Cavalry.

Mosby's Raiders, also known as Mosby's Raiders and Mosby's Rangers, was a unit of Virginia partisan cavalry of the Confederate Army during the Civil War and is considered one of the early Special Operations units, known for their



lightning strikes and guerrilla tactics conducted on Union units and targets, and their ability to consistently elude pursuit, thus, they are, somewhat tangentially, part of Special Forces lineage.

So, come hear Roy wax confederate on Civil War Special Operations at the April chapter breakfast meeting. Lively discussion might ensue as there are other Civil War enthusiasts and aficionados in the chapter.

SOCOM Exercise Ruse for Martial Law



Rumors of impending martial law spread across the Internet recently in anticipation of an upcoming Unconventional Warfare training exercise.

Jade Helm 15 is scheduled to take place this summer across the states of Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Colorado, California and Nevada, involving numerous Special Operations regular Army, National Guard and Marine units.

Think Robin Sage meets Flintlock, the purpose of which will be to provide a large UWOA training area and scenario for Guard and active duty SF ODAs, as well as Civil Affairs and Psyops/MISO units. 82nd and USMC units will play the OPFOR role and will be conducting a mock invasion.

The rumors began when USASOC personnel, who were getting land use agreements, left PowerPoint pages and files with property owners, to explain the

exercise. Some of that got onto the Internet and fed the ravenous appetites of the *online tin-foil hat and conspiracy crowd*, which thrives on fears and claims that the U.S. Government is chomping at the bit to seize all privately owned weapons, instill martial law and usher in the new age of global hierarchy.

USASOC Public Affairs personnel have tried to address the issue, quell the fears, but have been inundated with angry and unhinged emails and phone calls from people who seem to think that Jade Helm 15 will usher in the Apocalypse. One such email read: "I don't fear you sir. God is on our side and if you stage a false flag and pick a fight with us I say justice be done and may the heavens fall."

SF and SOCOM has had to deal with many such misunderstandings in the past. But the internet makes propagation of such rumors more problematic as rumors and fears spread like viruses, and can pose unique risks for FTX participants.

**Chapter XXIX
Special Forces Association
10820 West 64th Street, Suite 202
Shawnee, KS 66203**

Chapter Merchandise Order Form

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Chapter XXIX Coin 2 inches in diameter

\$10.00 each, Shipping Charge \$2.00 for one, \$4.00 for two, \$6.00 for 3 or more.

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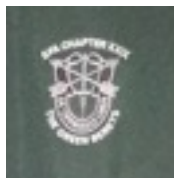
Logo: SFA Flash, SF Patch, SF Crest



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