

# SFA Chapter 29



## Bill Thompsen Celebrates 95 Years

Chapter member Bill Thompsen will celebrate his 95th birthday this coming August, on the 27th. Bill served with the OSS in World War II, is therefore a wealth of knowledge and experience about the early days of modern Special Operations and Unconventional Warfare, and has been a member of this chapter for decades.

If you would like to send Bill a birthday card, to wish him a happy birthday, his address is:

**Bill THOMPSON**  
657 Eisenhower Street  
RM 306 Twin Oaks  
Lansing, KS 66043

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## Ted White Convalescing

Ted White was taken to the hospital last Saturday due to chest pain. He was seen by cardiologists and other specialists, and had numerous tests run. He is now home and doing fine.

Ted served in the United Nations Partisan Forces, Korea (UNPFK) during the Korean War. UNPFK was activated in 1952, the same year that 10th SFG(A) was activated in Germany. UNPFK and UNPIK veterans are eligible to be members of the SFA because they are considered SF contemporaries, or predecessors, like the OSS and First Special Service Force of World War II.

If you would like to contact Ted, call him, email him or send a card, his contact information is:

**Ted White**  
(913) 236-6569  
[jjfp56@att.net](mailto:jjfp56@att.net)  
5430 Melrose Lane  
Shawnee, KS 66203

# National Convention 2016

## JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

### JUNE 12 - 19

By Jim "Spike" Speicher

I recently had the honor of representing Chapter 29 at the SFA convention. The host hotel was the Hyatt Regency Riverfront and the staff of the hotel was absolutely wonderful. The highlight of the convention was the fact that five Medal of Honor recipients attend, thus the



Photo courtesy of James Speicher



Photo courtesy of James Speicher

motto for the convention "Walking With Giants". The Medal of Honor recipients were Roger H. C. Donlon, Drew Dix, Gary Beikirch, Melvin Morris, and Bennie Adkins. All these men were MOH recipients for action in Vietnam.

There were many briefings given and I was able to attend almost all of them. They ranged from "Status of the Regiment" to "Current Operations of the 20th SFG(A)". All of them were extremely interesting and informative.

# National Convention 2016

(Continued)



Photo courtesy of James Speicher

I went to the convention knowing only two people, Roger and Norma. I left knowing a lot of great SF people. I was present for the SFA change of command ceremony. I talked a lot with our outgoing commander, Jack Tobin. He is quite an interesting fellow. I also got to become fairly well acquainted with our new Commander Gary Koenitzer, previously the secretary of the SFA. I believe our association is in good hands.

The convention basically ended with the SF Ball, which was very well attended. The keynote speaker was LTG John F. Mulholland, Jr. He took time during his talk to recognize one World War II veteran and a couple of Korean War vets.

There were a lot of other activities involved but time and length prohibit me from going into more detail. I will say that it was a tremendous honor for me to represent the awesome members of Chapter 29.



Photo courtesy of Bruce Koch.

# 5th Special Forces Group Reunion

Chapter 38 of the Special Forces Association are hosting their annual 5th SFG Reunion which coincides with 5th Group's 55th Anniversary of the group's activation and original Organization Day on 21 September 1961.

This reunion will span a week, from Monday, 19 September through Saturday, 24 September, and will be in and around Ft. Campbell, KY, and Clarkesville, TN.

Numerous events are planned throughout the week, including an airborne operation, a unit open house, a group picnic, weapons ranges, a color run and obstacle course, combatives events, a Golf Scramble (assume that does not involve eggs), a day trip into Nashville, the home and hub of country Music, and a reunion dinner.

Chapter 38 is also providing numerous family-oriented events at this year's reunion. Those include a Family Shoot on Thursday, a

Family Breakfast, family friendly games at the picnic, children's activities, and even a Family Movie Night on Friday night which will be held at Gabriel Field.

There will also be seminars and "operational discussions" for those who would like to hear about current and ongoing training and operations that 5th Group is involved in and conducting, keeping in mind that OpSec cannot be over-stepped or in any way violated.

There will also, of course, be a Hospitality Room each night at the Reunion Hotel in Clarkesville. And Chapter 38 has a Safe House for those requiring enhanced safety measures, from such as angry wives and ornery kids.

For more information, and to download the registration, and see the week's schedule of events, go to: <http://www.sfa38.org/sfa38/index.php/5th-group-reunion>



## Green Beret Denied Medal of Honor

Sgt. 1st Class Earl D. Plumlee, 1st Special Forces Group, was presented the Silver Star Medal on May 8, 2015, at a ceremony on Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington. The medal was for actions in 2013 when Plumlee fought off Taliban attackers who breached a wall at an FOB in central Afghanistan. Plumlee's actions are credited with stopping a dozen attackers, some wearing suicide vests, from entering the FOB.

The problem is that numerous senior Army leaders wrote that Plumlee deserved the MOH. But the Army Decorations Board downgraded the award to a Silver Star. That downgrade has drawn hostile rumors within SF, some of whom claim it is more proof of a pattern of downgrades by the board and a bias against Army Special Forces.

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## Newsletter Submissions

We need submissions from within the chapter for this newsletter. These editors cannot be everywhere or document everything. Please, send AARs and photos of any chapter or non-chapter event of recent past that you attend, or notification of upcoming events that you think are relevant to SFA, Special Forces, Special Operations, chapter members, veterans, history, etc. It might be a heads-up about posers and wannabes, or about impending or new legislation. It can simply be Army or SF news, such as new vehicle contracts or new regulations or changes to the SF uniform, such as changing the beret color from rifle green to fabulous purple or passionate pink. And we would definitely need photos of that.

### CALENDAR

**JULY 14** - SF Happy Hour,  
Tanner's, Liberty, MO

**JULY 15** - Meet & Greet,  
Grinders, Leavenworth.

**AUG 11** - SF Happy Hour, The  
Levee, KCMO

**SEPT** - Annual OctoberFest  
Picnic (Details forthcoming)

#### Newsletter Submissions:

Submit ideas, info or articles for  
this newsletter to the editors at  
[jaforker@everestkc.net](mailto:jaforker@everestkc.net)

Ans: James Buchanan enlisted as a PVT in  
Henry Shippen's Co, 1st Brigade, 4th Division,  
Pennsylvania Militia, a unit of light dragoons,  
and served in the defense of Baltimore.

### Chapter Officers

TERRY "BULL" BUCKLER

Chapter President

"MAD MIKE" NEER

Vice President

SAM "RICO" RATCLIFFE

Vice President-Ops

ROY "ROGUE" WILLIAMS

Treasurer

JIM "SPIKE" SPEICHER

Secretary

JEFF FORKER

Membership and  
Newsletter Editor

## CGSC Meet & Greet

*by Roy william*

July 15th is our annual meet the students at Leavenworth. This year it will be held at the old Highnoon Saloon now called Grinders. The party starts at 1400hrs. If you can attend it would great to welcome the new class and meet some of the old guys and gals.

This annual event allows local Special Forces and Special Forces Association members to meet the incoming Command General and Staff College students, in particular the SOF Cell students, most of who are Army Special Forces officers.

Grinders, formerly called the High Noon Saloon, is a well known and popular watering hole



Getting things rolling at last years Meet & Greet.

in Leavenworth and is an ideal place to have a few beers and meet and get to know some SF brothers, and hear about what is currently going on in Special Forces and SOCOM.

## SF and SOF History

The following dates and events are offered for your historical and trivial enjoyment.

### July

8 - 20th Gp activated, 1961.

20 - 1SSF activated, 1942.

### August

4 - US military advisers first send to Vietnam, 1950.

10 - Ranger Regt deactivated, 1944.

12 - SFA formed, 1964.

16 - Airborne Day

17 - 1676. In that year COL, Then CPT, Benjamin Church formed the first American Ranger company, during King Philip's War. Their purpose was to go "ranging", basically LRRPs, to see and destroy and punish those indians that were harassing and killing colonists. They adapted and combined indian and Europeans tactics and methods and were successful. So, Church's Rangers were the first rangers, not Roger's Rangers.

19 - US Military Aviation Day

## OctoberFest

Sam Ratcliffe is working on organizing this year's Octoberfest, which we hold each year in September. As soon as details are ironed out, an email will be sent out to the chapter.

OctoberFest is held each year to attract and assemble KC SF to an outdoor picnic and, as well as CGSC students, who often attend, and to recognize the infamous German mega-party. We hold our OctoberFest in September in order to take advantage of the more moderate weather, for the picnic, and avoid the colder temperatures of October.

There are always ample beer and brats at our annual OctoberFest.

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## POTUS Trivia Challenge

Question: Who was the only U.S. President to serve in the U.S. military as an enlisted man and not become an officer?

Answer: Is somewhere in this newsletter.

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## SF Happy Hours

Chapter 29 has been holding SF Happy Hours this summer at various bars across the KC metro area. The first was 16 June at Rock & Brews in South Overland Park. The second was 30 June at The Yard House in The Legends, next to the Kansas Speedway.

The next KC SF Happy Hour will be Thursday, 14 July, at the Tanner's in Liberty. The happy hour after that, and the last one of the summer, will be at The Levee near The Plaza, at 43rd and Main street, just east of St Lukes Hospital.

All KC SF Happy Hours start at 1700hrs and go until . . . well, until everyone is gone, or no one is left standing.

Reminders: Do not forget to bring a thirst, our wallet, a sense of humor, maybe a few good stories, and something that rhymes with . . . well, rhymes maybe with "loin."

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**RETURN TO DEVENS 5-10 Oct 16****ITINERARY: 5-10 October 2016**

**Flights into: Boston, MA or Manchester, NH approximately same distant (30 miles). Manchester, NH is more accessible, taking Rt # 3 south and exit onto Rt #111 taking you through Groton and right into Ayer, MA. It will be a beautiful ride as the leaves will be changing colors Also you will not have to deal with the traffic in Boston.**

**Throughout the week the Hospitality Rm will be open when necessary: Drinks: Pay as you go, will be able to order food from hotel???**

**Wed: 5 Oct:** Arrival: 1900 hrs (Greet & Meet Hospitality Room).

**Thurs: 6 Oct:** Tour: Devens Commons/Ft Devens (Officers Club/Museum)

Afternoon: Abn Opn: Staticline &/or Military Freefall (Ft Devens Drop Zone or Rogers Field: Receive & Welcome One (1) ODA, fr Ft Carson, CO (This is not locked in: Depends on the deployment status of the Group) More info latter.

1800 hrs, Banquet on Devens Commons place TBD. Friday, Sat and Sun were booked!!

**Friday: 7 Oct:** Train Ride/Rd Trip to Boston: Individual Tours of Boston: More info coming soon.

**Sat: 8 Oct:** Morning: Time: 0900, Memorial Ceremony Rogers Field (Flag Pole)

1000 Tandem Jumps: Roger Field or Pepperell, MA Fannie (Skydive MA)

Free Day, on your own, scout your old stomping grounds.

**Sun: 9 Oct:** The Initial NFL Boston Patriots Game has been cancelled, no availability of ticket. Need suggestions from the group what would you like to do!! A list will be provided of churches in the immediate area for those that desire to attend that day.

Continuation of Tandem Jumps (Alternate Rain Day) or both days if sufficient numbers want to jump.

**Mon: 10 Oct:** Depart.

Gary L Baura  
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72-75/82-84/87-88