

# SFA Chapter 29



## Kansas City SOF Formal 2016

*The Kansas City Special Operations Forces Formal*, also known throughout SOFdom as the *Annual KCSF Blowout and Melee*, is nearly upon us. It is being held this year on April 9th at

the Westin Crowne Center. It has become a key event for all active duty and former SOF personnel, nationally, but especially for those in the Kansas City area.

The purpose of the KC SOF Formal is to celebrate and honor the history and lineage of United States Military Special Operations units, in particular the 1st Special Service Force, also known as the Devil's Brigade, and a key player in the formation of



Some of the last year's attendees showing off their dance moves.

modern U.S. Special Operations.

Each year this event is attended by a large crowd of SOF people and supporters, all of whom enjoy an outstanding dinner and speakers, music

and dancing, and conversation with old and new friends. Young SF officers have the opportunity to learn from older SF guys, who in turn can hear from the younger guys what is currently going on in SF.

Rumors are that there will be some surprises this year, one possibly being reactivation of the "grog bowl" and paintball matches with tables as teams.

**Details** for the event are included in a flyer **below**.



Some of the guys lining up for the buffet at last year's formal.

# Votel: Shut the Hell Up!

Foreign Policy SITREP, 1/28/16

Gen. Joseph Votel, the CO of SOCOM, in December sent a memo to Defense Secretary Ash Carter demanding that Pentagon officials stop violating OPSEC and telling the media about sensitive operations. The 8 Dec memo was sent just days after Carter and White House officials announced that a force of about 200 SOF would be deployed to Iraq to target ISIS leaders.

Gen. Votel, who was nominated earlier this year to take over US Central Command, said in the memo, "I am concerned with increased public exposure of SOF activities and operations and I assess that it is time to get our forces back into the shadows." Votel knows something about secrecy as he ran JSOC from June 2011 to August 2014.



Gen. Votel isn't the only one to be angered over loose politician lips. Defense Secretary Bob Gates and other Pentagon officials were angered when White House officials publicized key details soon after the 2011 raid that killed Bin Laden.

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## Change of Command in Afghanistan

If confirmed by the US Senate, Army Lt. Gen. John "Mick" Nicholson will pin on a fourth star and head to Kabul in coming months to replace Gen. John Campbell who is retiring. Nicholson, a veteran of multiple deployments to Afghanistan, is currently commander of NATO's Allied Land Command in Izmir, Turkey.

# The SFC Martland Case

Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-CA) sent a letter to Sen. Pat Roberts (R-Kansas), asking him to consider the case of SF SFC Charles Martland who the Army is trying to drum out of the service. An Army review panel recently moved SFC Martland's case for his separation from the service forward. The Army Review Boards Agency still has the final say and their decision is expected in several weeks.

Roberts has a hold on Eric Fanning as the new Secretary of the Army while Obama attempts to close GITMO by going around Congress. Hunter wrote, "The only suitable course of action, I firmly believe, is to permit SFC Martland to continue his service in the US Army". SFC Martland is accused of assaulting an Afghan police commander who was raping a young boy at their shared FOB in 2011. Martland's case has created a robust dialogue, inside and outside SF, about what we can and cannot abide and ignore in the name of building rapport with foreign troops.

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# US Troops In Libya

In a recent Pentagon briefing, spokesman Peter Cook said that the US is "looking at military options" for dealing with the rise of ISIS in Libya. His remarks follow Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Joe Dunford, who recently said that the US is looking at ways to "take decisive military action" to "check" the expansion of ISIS in Libya.



Cook quickly said that military action is not forthcoming but he confirmed that US SOF forces have been on the ground in Libya and have made contact with people on the ground there to try and get a better sense not only of the threat ISIS poses but also understand "the dynamic on the ground in terms of the security situation".

## Renewal for 2016

Renewals for 2016 are due by end of this month, January. After that a \$5.00 penalty/reinstatement fee is charged.

The reason for sending in your renewal, for any SF member or veteran to join, is to stay linked into the net, for us all to stay connected. Toward that end, members receive...

- 1) Email updates and notices about chapter and KC SF events.
- 2) The chapter newsletter, of which every issue is bursting with important information and updates.
- 3) Kansas City SF Facebook page.

Bottomline, as an SFA Chapter 29 member you are linked in and connected with all the other SF guys and vets, and the SOF community, of all ages, in the Kansas City AO.

So, what are you waiting for? Renew today. Get it done.

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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 or 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 a photo of that.

### CALENDAR

**7 Mar** - BoD meeting, Delta Systems

No chapter meetings or events planned for March.

**4 Apr** - BoD meeting, Delta Systems

**9 Apr** - KC SOF Formal

#### SOF History - March

6 - 6th SFG deactivated, 1971

15 - UNPKF activated, 1951

15 - 2nd SFG activated, 1961

24 - 12 SFG activated, 1961

#### Newsletter Submissions:

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

### Chapter Officers

TERRY "BULL" BUCKLER

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"MAD MIKE" NEER

Vice President

SAM "RICO" RATCLIFFE

Vice President-Ops

ROY "ROGUE" WILLIAMS

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JEFF FORKER

Membership and  
Newsletter Editor

# KC SOF Spring Formal

The Special Operations Forces Military Formal takes place each spring here in Kansas City. This year it is on April 9th, 2016, and will be held at The Westin KC Crown Center. Your attendance is required. Don't make us come and get you.

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*The Co-chairs of the  
SOF Formal Committee are pleased to  
announce that the 2016*

## **Special Operations Forces Formal**

will be held on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016

at the

Westin Crown Center Hotel  
1 East Pershing Road, Kansas City, Missouri

The social hour will begin at 5:00 PM.

Featured speaker: LTG(R) David P. Fridovich

Cost per individual is \$60.

Attire: Mess Dress, Tuxedo or Business Suit

35 rooms have been reserved at the Westin Crown Center. The charge for each standard single or double room will be the current government rate of \$106. The rate for a triple room (3 adults) will be \$131. The rate for a quad room (4 adults) will be \$156. For reservations call Alex Filart direct at the Westin at 816.283.4978.

The formal event will begin with the opening of the doors to the Century Ballroom at 5:45 PM. The sound of pipes and drums will fill the air as bagpipers in full regalia march through the doors to lead the attendees into the Ballroom.

**In celebration of the lineage of the Special Operations Forces of the United States we will specifically recognize and honor the First Special Service Force (The Devil's Brigade).**

A short history of the Special Operations Forces Formal can be read online at: [www.sfa29.org](http://www.sfa29.org) For additional information please call one of the following:

Roy Williams, Chapter 29- Special Forces Association Cell # 816.589.8569 or 816.320.3887

Sam Ratcliffe, Chapter 29- Special Forces Association Cell # 660.232.0926 or 660.259.2470

LTC Monique Guerrero, CGSC SOF Faculty, Ft. Leavenworth, KS. (913)684-2994 or email: [monique.g.guerrero.mil@mail.mil](mailto:monique.g.guerrero.mil@mail.mil)

**Special Forces Association  
Chapter XXIX  
10820 W 64<sup>th</sup> St, Suite 202  
Shawnee, KS 66203  
Application for Membership Renewal**

I. \_\_\_\_\_ hereby apply for renewal of my  
(Print Last Name, First Name, MI) (Membership Number)  
 membership in Chapter XXIX of the Special Forces Association and submit the following information:

**CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING BOXES:**

- Annual Dues.** Enclosed is a check or money order for **\$30.00** for a one-year renewal of my membership. Note: Annual renewal is \$30.00 if paid before 30 January of each year.
- Reinstatement.** Enclosed is a check or money order for **\$35.00**, which includes a \$5.00 reinstatement fee along with the \$30.00 annual renewal fee. Note: annual renewals are \$35.00 after 30 January of each year.
- Life Membership.** Enclosed is a check or money order for **\$400.00** for a lifetime membership. The \$400.00 fee applies to members in good standing only.
- Reinstatement & Life Membership.** Enclosed is a check or money for **\$435.00** for reinstatement and lifetime membership of which \$400.00 is the life membership fee, \$30.00 is for annual dues and \$5.00 is for reinstatement.
- Life Membership (65 and over). Date of Birth** \_\_\_\_\_. Enclosed is a check or money for **\$280.00** for a lifetime membership. The \$280.00 fee applies to members in good standing only
- Reinstatement & Life Membership (65 and over). Date of Birth** \_\_\_\_\_. Enclosed is a check or money order for **\$315.00** for reinstatement and lifetime membership of which \$280.00 is the life membership fee, \$30.00 is the annual dues and \$5.00 is for reinstatement.

**Current mailing address:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Address City State Zip + 4  
 Home Telephone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Work Telephone :(\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Rank at Separation: \_\_\_\_\_

Check or money order should be made payable to: **Chapter XXIX, SFA**

**Send dues to:** Delta System, ATTN: Treasurer, Chapter 29, Special Forces Assoc, 12426 W. 62nd Terr,  
 Shawnee, KS 66216

**For Chapter Use Only**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Check No. \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Date Sent to SFA National: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Member # \_\_\_\_\_

# Total Army Force Numbers

Defense News, 1/28/16.

The Army Force Commission states that the Army's minimal force strength should be 980,000 men for maintaining national security and the National Guard should keep some attack helicopters, the National Commission of the Future of the Army declared in a new report.

These are among 63 recommendations made by the Commission in a released report. The findings partly work to settle frictions between the Army and the Guard.

The Commission recommends 450,000 AD troops, 335,000 for the Guard and 195,000 in the Reserves. The full time army has already reduced its brigade combat teams from 45 to 32 and plans to take out 2 more BCTs.

The National Guard has 28 BCTs and is now cutting it structure to 26.

The Army has cut 80,000 soldiers and is in the process of cutting another 40,000. The Guard has lost 8,000 and is shrinking by an additional 15,000 while the Reserve has lost 5,000 and will lose 10,000 more troops, leaving the total force at only 920,000.

The Army will have shrunk more than 14 percent from the 1.1 million force it had at its height in 2012.

