

SFA Chapter 29



Horse Soldier Dedication, New York

A ceremony was held last 13 September (2016) to dedicate the America's Response Monument, the central component of which is the Horse Soldiers statue, a depiction of a mounted Special Forces soldier, which was inspired by photos of SF operators of Task Force Dagger on horseback during the early days of the October, 2001, Operation Enduring Freedom

Several Chapter 29 members attended the dedication ceremony, including Roger Donlon, Roy Williams and Mark Nutsch. Mark commanded ODA 595, which was part of Task Force Dagger and was one of the first teams into Afghanistan

The 13 foot tall statue resides at the One World Trade Center in New York City. It was conceived by sculptor Douwe Blumberg and commissioned by an anonymous group of Wall Street bankers who lost friends in the 9/11 attacks. It was dedicated in a November 11, 2011 ceremony.

Like the soldiers it honors, the statue carries a piece of steel from the World Trade Center. It is visible under the plinth,

embedded in the base. The monument's inscription states that the steel "symbolizes the connection between the events of 9/11 and the actions of the special operations heroes this monument honors."

The *Horse Soldier Statue*, its unofficial name, is the first publicly accessible monument dedicated to the United States Special Forces.



From left to right: unknown, Roger Donlon, Roy Williams, Mark Nutsch.

Veterans Day Parade in Leavenworth

11 November is Veterans Day. This year it falls on a Friday. Each year the chapter marches in the Veterans Day Parade in Leavenworth, Kansas. Ruck-sacks are not required.

We assemble, each year, at the county courthouse, at 4th Street and Walnut, right next to the Leavenworth Justice Center (which is convenient for bailing out rowdy chapter members after the parade). Just look for the gaggle of guys wearing green berets. Be there NLT 0930hrs. Earlier would be better.

There are at this point twelve (12) of us committed to showing up and marching in the parade. If you cannot, or will not, march, we have a truck that you can ride . . . for a small chapter donation. (See Terry Buckler about “truck bribes.”) Seriously, come on out and join us. We gair-own-tee you will have a good time.

Afterward, we all will head to the Grinders in downtown Leavenworth for lunch and brotherhood. The parade will help build an appetite.



SF Trivia

- 1) When Charlie Beckwith was assembling the men for Delta and training up the unit in the mid 1970s, there was an interim unit that was on-call anti-terrorist unit until Delta was ready. What was the name of that unit.
- 2) Task Force Dagger was the JSOTF that infiltrated northern Afghanistan in October of 2001. What was the name of the Task Force that deployed to southern Afghanistan?
- 3) The Son Tay Raider force was organized into three platoons, Assault, Security and Support. What were the code names for those three platoons.
- 4) Barry Sadler died in a VA hospital in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, on November 5, 1989, from a gun shot wound the previous year. In what city was he shot?

Weekly Podcast

One of our editors, Jeff Forker, hosts a **weekly podcast** that focuses on veterans issues, but sometimes issues having to do with Special Forces and other elements of the military.

Past shows have been about equine therapy, veterans courts, the importance of exercise, assault rifles, tactical shooting, sailing therapy, the VA, Stolen Valor, military cinema, music therapy, veteran hunts, injuries, pain killers, fitness strategies, politics, books, nutrition, veteran entrepreneurs, sports for vets, kids of vets, meditation, others.

The purpose of the show is to be a platform for veterans to talk about their issues, businesses, organizations and passions.

If you would like to come on the podcast, be a guest on the show, or have some ideas for the show, contact Jeff Forker.

Menton Day

5 December is recognized each year throughout Special Forces as Menton Day.

Menton Day commemorates the day in 1944 that the 1st Special Service Force was deactivated in Menton, France. The 1st SSF is, of course, one of the World War 2 Special Operations units that we, Special Forces, traces our lineage.

Several SF and SFA members have suggested that we have some sort of assembly on Menton Day (a Monday) for some beers and cheers, toasts and boasts. If you are interested, contact Jeff Forker.



CALENDAR

7 Nov - Chapter BOD meeting, Delta Systems, 1700.

12 Nov - Chapter breakfast, 0900-1100, Hilton Garden Inn, Downtown KCKS.

Dec - Chapter BOD meeting, Delta Systems, 1700.

Dec - Annual Xmas Party

17 Dec - Annual Xmas Ruck

The **2017 Calendar** is forthcoming.

Newsletter Submissions:

Submit ideas, info or articles for this newsletter to the editors at jaforker@everestkc.net

Answers: Blue Light; TF K-Bar; Blueboy, Greenleaf and Redwine; Guatemala City

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

First 10 Women Graduate From Army Infantry Officer Basic Course

by Jeff Forker

The first ten female lieutenants last week (26 Oct) completed the Infantry Officer Basic Leader Course. Twelve women started the 17-week course at Fort Benning, Georgia, alongside 156 male classmates. All ten of the newly minted female Infantry officers will be headed to Infantry platoon leaders at various units across the U.S. Army.

This graduation comes a little more than a year after Capt. Kristen Griest and 1st Lt. Shaye Haver became the first women to graduate from Army Ranger School in August 2015. Maj. Lisa A. Jaster became the third woman to graduate from a gender-integrated Ranger course two months later.

Three women started Special Forces Assessment and Selection two months ago, but none of those women finished Selection. However, it is certain that eventually women will graduate the SFQC, as well as BUDS and every other combat arms and SOCOM selection and training course.

All military jobs, including special operations, have been open to women since 1 January of this year, 2016, by order of Ash Carter, Secretary of Defense. That order followed a 2013 Pentagon order that the military open all positions to women by early 2016.

"There has been no change in the standards," said Infantry Officer Basic Leader Course CSM Joe Davis. "There is no change in the course. We are in the business of producing leaders. It doesn't matter if they are males or females."

Many are the critics and the defenders of women in the military, of women in the Infantry and of women in Special Forces. Arguments for and against range from the absurd to the archaic. Many lack any semblance of logic. For that reason there never has been a time when we, the United States, and the U.S. Military, need to separate the wheat from the chaffe, the myth and the misogyny of women warriors from the truth. Doing this is essential for our national defense.

The next stop for these ten female newly minted Infantry lieutenants is Ranger School. It is likely that some of these 10 will not make it there and will not get their tab. But, the same is true for men. Not all get the Ranger tab.



CPT Kristen Griest and 1LT Shaye Haver



Christmas Party

This year's annual Chapter 29 Christmas Party will be on 10 December, starting at 1100hrs, at Luigi's in Leavenworth. The menu will be a choice of three entrees, between \$15 and \$25.

WHERE: Luigi's Restaurant, 418 Cherokee Street, Leavenworth, KS

WHEN: December 10th, 2016

TIME: 11:00 AM, but they will allow entrance as early as 10:30 AM

DRESS: Holiday Casual

This party each year is a great opportunity to see and meet members of the chapter, to catch up on chapter, SFA and SF news and rumors. RSVPs will be required. Be watching your email for messages with details regarding the Christmas Party.

Christmas Ruck

This year's annual Christmas Ruck will be on 17 December. The assembly and start point is yet to be announced (but will probably be at the Liberty Memorial, up the hill from the Union Station and next to Crowne Center). The route will again be a mere 5 miles of festivity and frivolity.

The purpose of this light ruck is to provide ruckers a chance to get some light exercise while traipsing around downtown Kansas City and seeing the holiday sights and lights. Beside the Union Station, which is very festive at Christmastime, another stop will be the Mayor's Christmas Tree.

Anyone is welcome to come and ruck. Anyone. Not just SFA or SF. Each person just needs to bring their own ruck or backpack, or any weight, they will not be weighed, and be will and able to cover 5 miles and to sing some songs and drink some grog and have some fun.

Afterward everyone will assemble at a restaurant or tavern, yet to be determined, for gifts and fellowship. Kids are also welcome. This is a family-friendly event. And you do not have to attend the ruck to attend the party afterward. Just come when and to what you can.

This is not an SFA or chapter sponsored event. It is simply an excuse for friends to get together and have some fun. Last year's ruck was attended by thirty-two people, seven of whom were SOF vets. More people still showed up at Grinder's for the after-party.

If interested, go to the The Stephanie & Mother Birthday and Christmas Ruck & Xmas Party on Facebook, or contact Jeff Forker by email (jaforker@everestkc.net) or phone (588-5650).

SF Dates - Nov & Dec

November

- 8 - SWC activated, 1950.
- 9 - November 1989, Berlin Wall comes down.
- 15 - Alamo Scouts deactivated, 1945.
- 20 - Bosnia Operation begin, 1995.
- 20 - Son Tay Raid, 1970.
- 21 - End of combat phase of Granada Invasion, 1983.
- 22 - JFK assassinated, Nov, 1963.
- 28 - Alamo Scouts activated, 1943.



December

- 1 - USASOC activated, 1989.
- 5 - Menton Day, 1SSF deactivated in Menton, France, 1944.
- 5 - 3rd SF Gp activated, 1963,
- 6 - Somalia Operation begins, 1992
- 13 - Army National Guard begin operations, 1636 - The modern Army National Guard traces its origins to December 13, 1636, the day the Massachusetts Bay Colony established three regiments by organizing existing separate militia companies in the town around Boston. The activation of those militia regiments was due to the need to defend the Bay Colony against hostile indian tribes, as well as colonists and military members from other European powers who were operating in North America, including: the French in what is now Canada; the Spanish in what is now Florida, The Carolinas, and Georgia; and the Dutch in what was then New Netherland, which comprised what is now parts of New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts.
- 15 - JSOC activated, 1980.
- 20 - Panama Invasion launches, 1989



Chapter Donations to 2 Foundations

Editors of the Chapter 29 Newsletter,

At the last chapter meeting a motion passed unanimously to authorize two donations. Following the passage of the authorization the chapter recently made a donation of \$1,000. to The Gary Sinise Foundation with the request that the money be specifically used for the construction of adaptive housing for severely disabled veterans. Attached above is the letter from The Gary Sinise Foundation indicating that they have received the donation and it will be used for the requested purpose.



Chapter 29 also made a \$1,000. donation to the Green Beret Foundation. Our Chapter 29 bank account shows that the GBF cashed our check, but we have not yet received any communication from them.

The GBF was the major entity that supported the final dedication of the America's Response Monument (aka, The Horse Soldier Monument) that now stands overlooking Ground Zero in New York City. You will remember that Chapter 29 member Mark Nutsch led Operational Detachment 595 into Afghanistan in October 2001 and his team was part of the 60 or so Special Forces men who became known as The Horse Soldiers. Roger Donlon and I were honored to be able to attend the final dedication ceremony on September 13th. We were glad that Mark Nutsch was one of the featured speakers along with Generals Keane and Mulholland.

DOL,

Roy Williams



Letter: Report on Damages

SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION

"The Green Berets"

Post Office Box 41436

Fayetteville, North Carolina 28309-1436

October 29, 2016

Reference: Hurricane Matthew/Damage to SFA Memorial Grounds and Facilities

Special Forces Association Officers and Members,

It is my duty to report to you regarding the damage assessment at the Memorial Grounds in Fayetteville, the actions taken to date by the National Board of Officers, the Memorial Building Fund Officers and the Employees of the Special Forces Association and the plan of action going forward to make the Memorial Grounds and Facilities once again the "home away from home" for the entirety of the Special Forces Regimental Community.

Damage Assessment: The National Headquarters Building, the Special Forces Association "Team House" and the Maintenance Building all received varying depths of flooding. The Nation HQ's Building was flooded to a depth of 3.5+/- feet. The Special Forces Association Team House was flooded to a depth of 3.0+/- feet and the Maintenance Building was flooded to a depth of 2.5+/- feet. Some of the Statuary in the lower memorial park were overturned, the fence along Rockfish Creek and across the east end of the property was knocked down.

The property damage sustained is not covered in our insurance policy since the loss was caused by flood. The SFA will therefore have to pay out of pocket to rebuild from the loss. We are working with our insurance company, and final deposition to follow.

We are working with local and national sponsors for support.

I cannot THANK enough James Parker, Billy Akers and Jamie Carpenter from the MBF, their efforts have been above and beyond.

Actions Taken to-date:

1. The National Headquarters Building, has been cleared and cleaned, water damaged sheet rock has been removed, carpeting has been removed, all furniture has been removed, all files have been moved and the drying operation continues, all computers were lost and the hard drives have been removed and data has been recovered. This building was the hardest hit and will be the highest priority to bring back on line. The expense to accomplish this task has been conservatively estimated by our Insurance Adjuster at \$250,000.00. Everything in this building that was below 3.5 feet is basically a total loss.
2. The Special Forces Association "Team House", has had the non-replaceable mementos removed for safe keeping, our tenant Chapter 1-18 has begun removing their Chapter specific business equipment and documents for safe keeping. The "heart pine" floors have buckled and will all need to be replaced, the roof has been damaged by wind and flying debris, the windows and doors have been left open to aid in drying out the interior of the building. The facility repairs may or may not be feasible this determination will be made and reported as more information on costs, permits, engineering, and other factors become known.

Letter: Report on Damages (continued)

Actions Taken to-date (continued):

3. The Maintenance Building sustained the least damage of all three buildings and, with the exception of some equipment issues, there remains no major reported repairs required.

Plan Going Forward: We have arrangements with the Green Beret Foundation to use their facilities in Fayetteville to temporarily house our Head Quarter's Operations. This space will allow us to get the business activities back on-line in the most expeditious manner. Phones will be transferred to that location and our P.O. Box mail will be recovered and responded to until we can move back to the Memorial Grounds. **Do Not Mail items to the Street Address on Doc Bennett Road until notified. Reminder Address, P.O.Box 41436, Fayetteville, NC 28309-1436**

Working with the MBF and Staff, the NBO will continue to work toward getting the National Headquarters Building re-occupied, at the earliest possible date, and transfer the "flag" back to that location.

Recovery from this disaster is going to be costly and we respectfully request donations from the Membership to help defray the costs involved in setting this issue straight. Donations sent should be marked "Disaster Recovery". Funds received as marked will be used to bring the Special Forces Association Memorial Grounds and Facilities back to a position which will be representative of all the Members of the Regiment who have gone before and who will in the future earn a place in the Regiment.

I will keep all posted as we move forward, we will continue Operations and rebuild better than ever.

De Oppresso Liber,

////Signed////

Gary Koenitzer

President

Special Forces Association



Renewal Time!

Yes, it's that time of year.



"I'm pretty sure I gave you my renewal to mail."
"Shut up, Carl."

Send in your renewals anytime. You have until the end of the year. Renewals are only \$30. In January you are late. Late renewals are charged a late fee. After **31 January, 2017**, you will receive orders to report to the *Late Renewal Penal Platoon*.

It takes only a couple minutes to fill out the renewal form, write the check and stuff it all in an envelope.

Orders to report to the LRPP will be issued in early February. Flights and buses will be departing for Camp McCall several weeks later. Make sure that you are not on one of them. **Plan ahead. Renew** your SFA membership. Or start working out. Hard.

Remember: Send your renewals to Chapter 29, not SFA National, at Bragg.

10,005!

The Drop reports that SFA total membership is now at 10,005 members. Yes, we are over 10,000 members. By 5. Let's keep it above 10K. *Renew Today!*



"The bright side to this is that I'm saving tons on CrossFit membership fees."
"Shut up, Carl."



"Oh, Bob, thank goodness you renewed on time!"



ODA-375 renewed as a team. "My fingers were crossed." "Shut up, Carl."



We all just renewed and the beer is even tastier!

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

I, _____ (Print Last Name, First Name, MI) _____ (Membership Number) hereby apply for renewal of my

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, Assoc, 12426 W. 62nd Terr, Shawnee, KS 66216

For Chapter Use Only

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

Date Sent to SFA National: ____/____/____

Name: _____ Member # _____