

SFA Chapter 29



Kansas City SOF Formal

Our spit and polish event of the year, the Kansas City SOF Formal (formerly "Ball") is about upon us, is this month, on **Saturday**, the **28th** of **March** at the **Westin Crown Center**. Be there or beware.

There is still time to make reservations, if you have not already done so. Just go to the **Chapter 29 web site**, click on the "Special Operations Forces Formal", then on the "Registration" link. Print that form, fill it out, then send it and a check to the address

indicated on the form. It's that easy, easier than falling asleep on guard duty.

Much is planned for this year's formal, in terms of entertainment, raffle winners and speakers, and much is unplanned, in terms of stories, toasts and seeing old friends and new. So, there is no reason not to attend and myriad reasons that you must not miss it.

Tip: Do not forget your coin. Have at least one SF coin on you. Just a word to the wise.

SF News in this Issue

ARMY DISHONESTY EPIDEMIC

Dishonesty and deception are rampant throughout the U.S. Army, according to a study recently released by the The U.S. Army War College. Officers and NCOs often feel overwhelmed by tasks and order and pressured by a culture to sugar-coat information and reporting.

GREEN BERET'S SILVER STAR REVOKED

The Army has revoked the Silver Star of a 3rd Group officer, and stripped him of his SF tab, over allegations of war crimes, when he killed a known Taliban IED maker, details of which that came out during a CIA interview.

FLINTLOCK IN AFRICA

Operation Flintlock is currently ongoing in Nigeria, Chad and numerous other West African countries. The purpose is to train African militaries in counter-insurgency skills and planning. Specific concerns are of Boko Haram, the Muslim insurgent group active in that part of the world, which is know for very savage attacks on civilians and kidnapping young girls.

MORE RAIDS IN A-STAN

SF teams and ANA commandos have been doing many more night raids than were being done before the end of combat ops last year, and in winter, a time when most combat is suspended. This is due to loosened ROEs and concerns, by the US and the new Afghan president, for Taliban spring operations.

Dishonesty and Deception Epidemic at All Ranks, According to Army War College

The U.S. Army War College released a study recently that claims that "dishonesty and deception" are epidemic throughout the Army, at all levels, and is often even encouraged, the purpose of which is usually to convey a false image of success and/or integrity. The study is titled "Lying to Ourselves" and was written by the War College's Strategic Studies Institute.

Key factors in this warping of Army culture, according to the study, are that officers often face a "suffocating amount" of tasks that overwhelm their resources, time and men. A company or platoon can only do so much. Officers And NCOs alike often lie when ordered to do tasks and reporting that they feel is "unreasonable, irritating or dumb," according to the study.

In the battle-space lies will get you killed. Only the truth serves the combat commander, regardless or what he or his commander wants to hear.

The Army is not unique in this phenomenon of dishonesty. American business culture suffers from the same sickness. Standard and Poor, the company that rates corporations and their bonds, to allow investors to accurately assess risk, has been outed and fined for selling better ratings to customers, thus making all bonds "junk" bonds.

Dishonesty is like cancer. It is always with us, roiling and germinating, looking to spread. But, if allowed to run rampant it can kill the body, the body politic and even the greatest army the world has ever seen, an army that once stood on codes and conducts of honor that were sacrosanct, the United States Army.



CALENDAR

2 Mar - BOD meeting, Delta Systems

21 Mar - MORUCK 2.0, Pittsburgh, KS

28 Mar - KC SOF Formal, Westin Crowne Cetner

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

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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Newsletter Editor

Army Revokes Green Beret's Silver Star, Starts Separation Proceedings

The Army has revoke the Silver Star awarded to Maj. Matthew Golsteyn, a decorated 3rd Group officer, stripped him of his Special Forces tab and has initiated separation proceedings following an investigation that claimed that Golsteyn committed war crimes in Afghanistan.

An Army investigation alleges that Golsteyn killed a known insurgent bomb maker, which is good, but did it outside the established Rules of Engagement at the time. That does not sound like a war crime to these editors. Possibly Golsteyn should be punished for disobeying a lawful order, but not for war crimes.

Golsteyn currently remains on active duty at Ft. Bragg and has not been charged with any crimes.

The investigation began during a CIA interview wherein Golsteyn divulged details about the details of the killing of the bomb

maker, a man who was know to be responsible for the recent deaths of U.S. Marines. The CIA then contacted the Army.

Congressman Duncan Hunter (R-CA) has been leading efforts to challenge the Army investigation and vindicate Golsteyn.

Golsteyn received the Silver Star for actions in Marjah, Afghanistan, in February 2010. Golsteyn was commanding an 80-man patrol near Forward Operating Base McQueary and exposed himself to enemy fire in order to evacuate wounded Afghan Army Commandos, at the same time directing tactical air onto Taliban targets.



Chapter Online Store

The chapter has an online store. Available are polos 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.



Operation Flintlock, U.S. Spec Ops in Africa

Operation Flintlock, the annual AFRICOM training exercise, is ongoing in Niger, Chad and numerous other West African countries, despite, or due in part to, increased activity by Boko Haram, the African Muslim terrorist group.

The purpose of Flintlock is to train African militaries in counter-terrorism and counter-insurgency operations.

Boko Haram has displaced one million Nigerians as a result of attacks and random executions of civilians.



Their most recent notoriety in the past year came from kidnapping 200 Nigerian school girls, for the purposes of ransom and to be sex slaves for Boko Haram fighters.

Attacks in Chad, Niger and Cameroon have also been escalating.

Boko Haram's purpose is to overthrow the secular governments of all West African countries and replace them with Muslim governments with strict Sharia laws.

Might our guys be doing more than training in Nigeria and Chad? Your guess might be as good as these editors.

More Nights Raids in Afghanistan

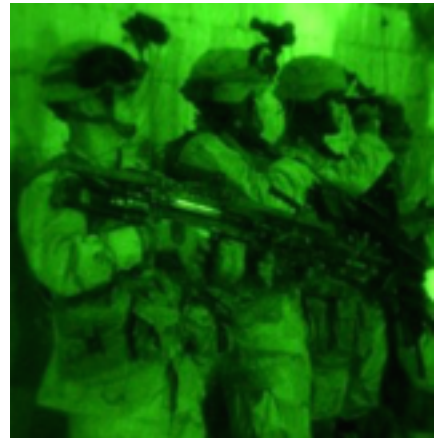
There was been a sharp increase in the number of night raids against the Taliban by US SF and Afghan commandos, in spite of the fact that U.S. combat operations in Afghanistan were to have ended at end of last year.

There are currently around 10,800 US troops in Afghanistan. Plans call for that to be reduced to around 5,500 by end of this year.

Loosened restrictions, allowed by the new Afghan president, Ashraf Ghani, are said to be the reason for the increased night raids, and for the rumors that SF is taking lead, being less the advisers and trying less to get the ANA to kick their own doors.

Another unusual aspect of the these ops is that it is winter in Afghanistan, a time when most combat ops slow or stop altogether in the mountainous country. This might be to give the ANA and US forces an advantage against a foe less equipped for winter warfare and to head off suspected, or known, Taliban plans in the spring. As we all know, it is better to be proactive than reactive.

"It's all in the shadows now," said a former Afghan security official. "The official war for the Americans, the part of the war that you could go see, that's over. It's only the secret war that's still going."



Many in SF have been saying for years this is how we should be fighting over there.

Many US soldiers, of all ranks, are concerned for this coming spring and summer, as to whether the ANA (Army) and ANP (National Police) will be able to fight and stand on their own against the Taliban.

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

Chapter Merchandise Order Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

E-Mail _____



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.

_____ Coins @ \$10.00 + \$_____ Shipping Charge \$_____ Total Charge \$_____

Chapter XXIX Polo Shirts

Sizes: S M L XL 2XL

Color: Forest Green, Black, Burgundy Red, White

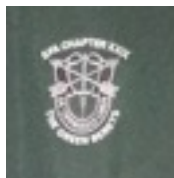
Logo: SFA Flash, SF Patch, SF Crest



SFA Flash



SF Patch



SF Crest

\$30.00 each, Shipping Charge \$7.00

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