



Chapter XXXI Dallas/ Fort Worth Special Forces Association



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Billy M Smith
Memorial Chapter



1st SPECIAL FORCES GROUP (AIRBORNE)



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50 Years of Commitment



1952



2002



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Special Forces Association Chapter XXXI



www.sfa31.org

Presents

Annual Fundraising Event

When November 11th, 2009

Time 6:30pm - ???

Cost \$25 per person | \$10 with Military ID

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All proceeds go towards the direct support of our SFA National and Chapter programs.

Special Forces Association Chapter XXXI is a 501(c)(19) veteran's organization. All donations are tax deductible. Visit <http://www.sfa31.org> to purchase tickets or make a contribution. Visa & MC accepted.

Special Forces Association Chapter 31 - Annual Fundraiser
Wednesday, November 11th 6:30pm - 10:30pm
Dick's Last Resort 2211 N Lamar, Dallas, TX

Attention all Members! Tickets are on sale now! This year's Annual Fundraiser promises to be even better than last year! We have excellent items available for the auction and silent auction, check out the Chapter's website for a preview of the items that will be available and share with your friends and family. Be sure and check out the custom Colt .45 automatic pistol, and WW II shadow boxes that will be available for the auction!

We'll also be awarding excellent prizes to our raffle winners, too! Dallas Stars tickets, Dinner for 2, Concert tickets, and more will be awarded to the lucky winners.

Start selling tickets early! Request tickets by contacting Phil Stone or Ron Piper or by directing people to the Chapter website.

We also need Chapter members to volunteer for the following positions on the night of the event:

1. Outside Greeter - 2 volunteers needed to take shift to meet patrons as they approach the entrance.
2. Raffle Ticket Sales - 4 volunteers needed (this is where we can earn extra \$\$ but we need folks to work the tables.)
3. Silent Auction table - 2 volunteers to take shifts to guard items and answer questions
4. Dinner Ticket Sales - 3 volunteers to register persons at the door
5. Auction table - 2 volunteers to guard items and answer questions

Send an Email to Phil Stone at stonep59@gmail.com if you'd like to volunteer.

Don't forget to mention "DONATIONS"! Contact your corporate employers and direct them to our website to make a contribution! Remember all donations are tax deductible!

Invite your friends, family, co-workers and colleagues to come on out and share this Veteran's Day with a Vet this Wednesday November 11th at Dick's Last Resort and help us raise \$\$ for our National and Local programs.

Visit us on the web at: www.sfa31.org.

De Oppresso Liber

Phil Stone

SF in Afghanistan

Author tells of Special Forces in Afghanistan

By John Flesher - The Associated Press

Posted : Monday May 11, 2009 10:36:56 EDT

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. — Shortly after the 2001 terrorist attacks ignited the first U.S. war of the millennium, a couple dozen Army Special Forces personnel and CIA operatives slipped quietly into Afghanistan and, seemingly, back in time.

As outraged Americans waited for a full-scale invasion of the country giving refuge to Osama bin Laden, the Green Berets teamed with Afghan warlords and their militias struggling to overthrow the Taliban regime. Conditions were so primitive that U.S. fighters schooled in modern warfare and high-tech weaponry galloped into battle on horseback, like 19th-century cavalrymen.

“It was like a time warp,” said Col. Mark Mitchell, a key figure in **“[Horse Soldiers.](#)”** a new book by Michigan author Doug Stanton that tells their story. **“You’re living in caves, watching these [Afghan] guys with rifles so old they could have been out of museums. You’re transported back into this era that few people in the United States and the Western world really can imagine.”**

As Sgt. 1st Class Ben Milo told Stanton: “It’s as if the Jetsons had met the Flintstones.”

Against the odds, the horse soldiers’ mission was accomplished within two months, as the oppressive Afghan rulers were swept from power.

Now, with the Taliban bidding for a comeback, Stanton says U.S. policymakers should heed lessons from the earlier success story.

“Instead of large-scale occupations, we should rely on small units of Special Forces who have proved it’s infinitely more effective to work with a country’s soldiers and citizens at eye level,” he writes in the book, just published by Scribner.

Special Forces are more adaptable than regular military personnel and more sensitive to the culture they’re entering, Stanton said in an interview at his Traverse City home. “They’re trained to land, fight, negotiate peace and then rebuild the environment that they’ve just been fighting in.”

Military analyst Daniel Goure said the way Special Forces and support units were deployed in Afghanistan represented a **new approach to warfare and worked so well, “it’s now enshrined in our doctrine and planning.”**

Still, the delayed arrival of regular troops may have enabled bin Laden to escape during the battle of Tora Bora in December 2001, added Goure, vice president of the Lexington Institute in Arlington, Va. The experience, he said, **“taught us the use of Special Forces but also taught us what the limits were.”**

Stanton, whose 2001 New York Times bestseller **“In Harm’s Way”** recounted the sinking of the USS Indianapolis during World War II, spent five years researching and writing **“Horse Soldiers.”** Movie rights have been sold to Jerry Bruckheimer Productions (**“Black Hawk Down”**).

The 46-year-old author retraced part of the soldiers’ route in Afghanistan and tracked down most for interviews, including Mitchell, now a national security fellow at Harvard’s John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Mitchell told AP by telephone that respecting the Afghans’ culture and treating them as equals proved crucial to the

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horse soldiers' success. So was another distinctive characteristic of Green Berets: adaptability.

Whether giving themselves crash courses in Afghan language and tribal politics, using satellite technology to coordinate precision bomb strikes from planes 20,000 feet above the desert, or surviving a revolt by hundreds of die-hard Taliban prisoners, they improvised constantly to deal with the unexpected.

Nothing illustrated their flexibility more than the startling realization that engaging the enemy would require long horse-back rides — sometimes along narrow mountain paths where one false move could mean a fatal plunge.

After a harrowing helicopter ride into the fogbound Afghanistan desert, a dozen members of the Fifth Special Forces Group from Fort Campbell, Ky., rendezvoused with several CIA paramilitary officers. They soon met a dashing Afghan general, Rashid Dostum, one of the warlords whose Northern Alliance was battling the Taliban. Immediate goal: Capture the strategically important city of Mazar-e-Sharif.

Few of the Americans had riding experience, Stanton writes: “No one in Washington, D.C., had imagined that modern American soldiers would be riding horses to war.”

Their borrowed steeds were smaller than most U.S. horses. The saddles were wooden slabs covered with goatskin; ill-fitting stirrups bent the Americans' legs awkwardly. After hours on the move, they were so cramped they could hardly walk.

“At one point, we're on a trail about 2 feet wide and even with my night vision goggles I can't see the bottom of the ravine off to one side,” Mitchell told AP. “If my horse falls or if I fall off, I'm going maybe 1,000 feet down. Every time the horse stumbles a little bit, it makes your heart stop.”

As Dostum's riders battled Taliban forces hand-to-hand, the Americans used GPS devices and satellite radios to pinpoint bombing locations for Navy and Air Force pilots. Another Special Forces team did likewise, teaming with warlord Usted Atta. The tide turned in the Northern Alliance's favor.

Meanwhile, Sgt. 1st Class Andy Marchal and a roving band of Americans and Afghans were making the enemy miserable. They blew up ammunition dumps, tanks and other hardware in advance of Dostum's army. So stealthy and lethal were Marchal's guerrillas, Stanton writes, Taliban troops speculated on their radios that a monster was loose.

“If we could find it, we destroyed it or had the Air Force destroy it,” said Marchal, 48, whom Stanton identified with a pseudonym for security purposes. Now retired and living in Cadiz, Ky., Marchal consented by phone for his real name to be used for this story.

His band moved 10 hours a day for three consecutive weeks, walking at times to rest the weary horses. Traveling lightly, they were often short of food. Marchal once paid a herdsman \$100 for three sheep, which the group slaughtered and devoured.

“You could eat about every piece of sheep but the hoof,” he said. “That was good chow.”

Cheering throngs greeted the horse soldiers and their allies as they entered Mazar-e-Sharif in early November. Mitchell and his crew began planning reconstruction of the battered city.

But a couple of weeks later, 600 enemy fighters imprisoned in a fortress called Qala-i-Janghi rebelled — a last-ditch gambit that could have boosted the Taliban's chances. They killed CIA officer Mike Spann, the first American to die in the war.

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Badly outnumbered, the Special Forces summoned repeated air strikes, one of which mistakenly slammed into a U.S. position, injuring several of the group. After a week-long bloodbath, the decimated rebels finally surrendered. Among them was John Walker Lindh, the “American Taliban.”

The horse soldiers’ mission ended as regular Army and Marine units arrived. They returned to Fort Campbell and eventually were deployed to Iraq. Some would die there.

As Stanton notes, Special Forces consider themselves “the quiet professionals” and seldom talk publicly about their dangerous work. Getting their cooperation for his book wasn’t always easy.

But Mitchell, 43, said Americans should know the inside story of their victory in Afghanistan.

“It was a major accomplishment that doesn’t get a lot of publicity,” he said. “In terms of the mission we were given, the manner in which we accomplished it and the time frame, we stunned the whole world.”

Chapter 91 Coins

Would you be kind enough to place a notice in your Chapter Newsletter for interested coin collectors.

Chapter XCI (91) The Crossed Swords Chapter in Baghdad has a new batch of coins for interested collectors.

They can be purchased through one of the Chapters Wives at the following address.

**Dale Crowley
PO Box 51
Bath, ME
04530-0051**

Price is \$20 which includes shipping and insurance.

Picture attached.

Gratefully,

*Crowley, Thomas
Chapter XCI
Baghdad, Iraq APOAE 09432
Crowleybt@yahoo.com*

Crowley, B. T.
crowleybt@yahoo.com

1st SFG History

The History of

1st Special Forces Group (Airborne), First Special Service Force

The Forefathers – 1956



1st Special Forces Group draws much of its tradition from many predecessors in the field of unconventional warfare. Rogers' Rangers of colonial days; Francis Marion, the Swamp Fox, and his irregulars of the American Revolutionary War; Mosby's Rangers of the Civil War; and the First Special Service Force, the Office of Strategic Services and Merrill's Marauders of World War II.



The First Special Service Force (1942 – 1945). 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne), First Special Forces was constituted as Second Company, First Battalion, First Regiment, First Special Service Force. This joint Canadian-American unit, known as the "Devil's Brigade", was formed on 5 July 1942, constituted on 9 July 1942 and activated on 20 July 1942 at Fort William Harrison, Helena, Montana. The unit was created to perform sustained direct-action missions against German occupation forces in Norway, Romania, and other mountainous areas. The name First Special Service Force was deliberately selected to resemble a unit under the Special Services Branch (Army recreation activities) to maintain security and confuse the enemy as to the true purpose and organization of the force. In anticipation of its demanding mission, the First Special Service Force was thoroughly trained in airborne, amphibious, mountain, and winter operations, as well as specialized demolitions and communications techniques.

The intended Force missions in Norway and Romania were never ordered by Allied headquarters. The Force instead served with distinction in major campaigns in both the Pacific and Mediterranean Theaters. 1st Regiment served as amphibious pathfinders marking the beaches for the Kiska landing in the Aleutians in August 1943. Immediately following the successful recapture of Attu and Kiska from Japanese forces, the unit was transferred to North Africa and then to Italy. Assigned to Fifth U.S. Army which was stalled along the "Winter Line" south of Rome, the First Special Service Force broke the stalemate with a surprise attack on two supposedly impregnable German mountain positions at Monte la Difensa and Monte la Remetanea. These attacks on 2 December 1943 were soon followed thereafter by the seizure of Monte Sammucro, Monte Radicosa, and Monte Majo which secured the key terrain for U.S. forces and the capture of the German defensive line.

In February 1944 the First Special Service Force was committed to the amphibious operations at the Anzio beachhead, an attempt to bypass German resistance with a seaborne flank attack. Once again a stalemate developed with German forces surrounding the Allied beachhead. First Special Service Force performed the roles of screening and protecting the right flank of the Allied force, and conducting raid and recon patrols behind German lines. During action at Anzio, the Force earned the nickname "The Devil's Brigade", a name coined by Germans but soon used by friend and foe alike to describe this unique fighting force. On 23 May 1944, First Special Service Force spearheaded the Allied breakout from Anzio, and one week later entered Rome in a dawn attack to seize Tiber River bridges for the use of following conventional units. Colonel Alfred C. Marshall, Commanding Officer of the 1st Regiment, was killed in action at Rome on 4 June 1944. Brigadier General Robert T. Fredrick, Commanding General of the First Special Service Force, was wounded in action three times that day; he incurred a total of nine combat wounds while in command of the Force, a re-

cord for an American general officer and an indicator of the nature of Special Service Force leadership. Two months later, on 15 August 1944, the First Special Service Force once again served as a spearhead, seizing the Hyeres Islands off the coast of Southern France preparatory to a combined airborne-amphibious assault by the First Airborne Task Force. For its part in the operation, 1st Regiment seized the heavily fortified Ile de Port-Cros near Toulon. The Force then transferred to the mainland and pushed eastward, occupying Menton and Villeneuve-Loubet.

Throughout the course of its campaigns, the force had incurred extremely heavy casualties (2,300 killed and wounded in a unit with an authorized strength of only 1,600). At first, strength and force quality were maintained by infusing survivors of decimated Ranger companies as individual replacements. Eventually it became impossible to maintain the First Special Service Force with qualified replacements. On 5 December 1944, the Force was officially inactivated at Menton, France and on 6 January 1945, at Villeneuve-Loubet, the last few cadre were transferred to other units. Most survivors were transferred to Canadian and U.S. airborne units, while one group formed the nucleus of the 474th Infantry Regiment. This unit, somewhat ironically, was employed as a U.S. occupation force in Norway, the original objective of the First Special Service Force.



The Office of Strategic Services

(1941 – 1945)



Official Seal & Unofficial Patch: Patch was worn from July 1942 - October 1945

(Unauthorized). The color black alludes to special operations performed under the cover of darkness. The spearhead suggests the fighting capabilities of the service. The two bands on the spearhead represent the army and the navy.

Although the relationship has never been formally recognized in official Army lineage, Special Forces draws a strong historical tradition from the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) of World War II. The mission and the organization of this clandestine, paramilitary organization in many ways established later doctrine for modern Special Forces units. 1st Special Forces Group can trace its OSS heritage to Detachment 101, the OSS unit which operated in the Southeast Asian theater during the Second World War. In addition to carrying out behind-the-lines reconnaissance missions this detachment, under the command of Colonel W.R. Peers, organized a large force of Burmese guerrillas known as the "Kachin Rangers". This outfit wrought considerable havoc on Japanese occupation forces, and amply demonstrated the potential of Special Forces unconventional warfare operations. Detachment 101 was disbanded in 1945 (**WHERE**) following the collapse of Japanese resistance.

The Office of Strategic Services was the product of William Donovan, an imposing man - a visionary whose propensity for freewheeling activity earned him the nickname of "Wild Bill." Donovan was tough and smart, a veteran of World War I who received the Medal of Honor for heroism on the Western Front in October 1918, and who made a fortune as a Wall Street lawyer during the Twenties and Thirties. When World War II finally erupted in Europe and threatened to engulf the United States, Donovan was able to convince President Franklin D. Roosevelt that a new type of organization would have to be formed, one that would collect intelligence and wage secret operations behind enemy lines.

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In 1941, President Roosevelt directed Donovan to form this agency, called the Coordinator of Intelligence (COI), and Donovan, who had been a civilian since World War I, was made a colonel. COI blossomed quickly, forming operational sites in England, North Africa, India, Burma and China. In 1942, the agency was renamed the OSS and Donovan became a major general. The primary operation of the OSS in Europe was called the Jedburgh mission. It consisted of dropping three-man teams into France, Belgium and Holland, where they trained partisan resistance movements and conducted guerrilla operations against the Germans in preparation for the D-Day invasion. Other OSS operations took place in Asia, most spectacularly in Burma, where OSS Detachment 101 organized 11,000 Kachin tribesmen into a force that eventually killed 10,000 Japanese at a loss of only 206 of its own.

Apart from Detachment 101 in Burma, OSS did not contribute much to the struggle against Japan until the last year of the war. Early in the conflict, Army and Navy commanders excluded OSS from their sectors of the Pacific, thereby forcing Donovan to fight the Japanese in the only region left open to him, the distant China-Burma-India Theater. The difficult geography involved and the complicated relations with America's British and Chinese allies further delayed OSS's deployments. When OSS finally began operating in strength, however, its operations made an impact on both the Japanese and on the shape of post-war policies in the region.

OSS Set-101 supported the movements of Merrill's Marauders by building rope and bamboo bridges in advance of them and by screening their front and flanks.

Although it never attained Donovan's goal of full independence in China, OSS was a key player in operations and analysis there by the war's end. On 9 August 1945—the day that Nagasaki was destroyed by an atomic bomb—Maj. Paul Cyr, leading a team of Chinese guerrillas on "Mission Hound," dropped a strategic railroad bridge across the Yellow River near Kaifeng. Two spans of the bridge collapsed just as a Japanese troop train was crossing it. As soon as Japan capitulated, additional OSS teams ran "mercy missions" in Japanese-held territory to locate and evacuate Allied prisoners captured early in the war.

OSS officers in Thailand faced a different set of policy issues and demonstrated a high degree of teamwork in tackling them. Thailand had actually declared war on the United States and Great Britain after Pearl Harbor and was host to several Japanese bases. Washington had ignored Bangkok's declaration, however, when it became clear that a portion of the Thai ruling elite quietly opposed Japan and hoped to keep their nation from being drawn more deeply into the conflict. For the rest of the war the British, Americans, and Japanese danced a complicated minuet around the possibility that the Thai opposition would rise against Japan and force Tokyo to divert badly needed combat troops to subjugating the country. Since the United States had no embassy in Bangkok, OSS officers eventually found themselves in the unlikely role of diplomats under the very noses of the Japanese troops guarding the city.

OSS efforts to contact the rumored Thai underground movement did not bear fruit until late 1944, after moderate opposition leaders in Bangkok ousted the dictatorship that had declared war on the Allies. Thai students recruited and trained by OSS (the "Free Thai") and the British SOE were able to meet with underground leaders and even to broadcast reports from secret locations. Encouraged by the sudden surge of reporting, General Donovan in January 1945 dispatched two OSS majors, Richard Greenlee and John Wester, on a mission to Bangkok. Hiding in a spare palace by day and working by night, Greenlee and Wester confirmed that the Thai underground was secretly led by the de facto head of state, Prince Regent Pridi Phanomyong (codenamed Ruth). Pridi and his followers provided intelligence on the Japanese and offered to rise up in revolt, but they needed arms and training which only SOE and OSS could provide. To complicate matters,

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Pridi and the Free Thai (as well as OSS observers) suspected that the British harbored imperial designs on Thailand. If Americans could build a Thai guerrilla force, OSS men on the scene believed, the Thais could harass the Japanese and bolster a postwar claim to independence from British tutelage.

OSS officers promised American help for the projected Thai guerrillas. Back in Washington, the Department of State retroactively endorsed this commitment, which amounted to a change in US policy. In Bangkok, Greenlee, Wester, and their successors shuttled to meetings with Pridi and SOE in curtained limousines driven past the Japanese, who doubled their garrison in the country but dared not tear up the paper alliance between Thailand and Japan. The war ended in August 1945 before actual fighting broke out, but the diplomatic maneuvering continued. OSS officers close to the Thai peace delegation kept Washington informed of the course of Anglo-Thai peace talks and assisted American diplomats in advocating a settlement that ultimately helped ensure Thai independence.

In China and Thailand, OSS graduated from a reporter of events to a shaper of American foreign policy. In China, OSS demonstrated that an American intelligence service aiding a foreign government against internal enemies could not remain aloof from the exhausting policy debates in Washington over the wisdom and means of backing the incumbent regime. By contrast, OSS officers in Thailand showed how much could be done through clandestine means to help a popular movement struggling against foreign domination.

After the war, President Harry S. Truman disbanded the OSS, but not before it had left a legacy still felt today. From its intelligence operations came the nucleus of men and techniques that would give birth to the Central Intelligence Agency on September 18, 1947. (Indeed, the first directors of the CIA were veterans of the OSS.) From its guerrilla operations came the nucleus of men and techniques that would give birth to the Special Forces in June 1952.

The OSS developed most of our airborne infiltration doctrine including automatic resupply, emergency resupply and the pilot team. The OSS also was the first to experiment with the size and composition of the A-Team and came up with pretty much what we have today. Some of their experiments were repeated in the 70s; probably by people who hadn't read Peers and Berils' book _____.

United Nations Partisan Forces-Korea – UNPFK

(February 1951 to February 1954)



PARTISAN HONOR MEDAL
Awarded to Korean and American personnel who served with the 8086th and 8240th Army Units

By the end of 1952 the first Special Forces troops to operate behind enemy lines had been deployed to Korea on missions that remained classified for nearly 30 years. Anti-communist guerrillas with homes in North Korea and historical ties to Seoul had joined the United Nations Partisan Forces-Korea (UNPFK).

Known in Korean as "fighters of liberty," the UNPFK soon became known as "donkeys" by Americans who derived the nickname from the Korean word for liberty, dong-il. From tiny islands off the Korean coast, the Donkeys conducted



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raids, rescued downed airmen and maintained electronic facilities. Under the guidance of the Special Forces and other U.S. cadre, they eventually numbered 22,000 and claimed 69,000 enemy casualties.)

As told by Ed Evanhoe; The night of 20-21 February 1954 was overcast with occasional snow flurries and the temperature was near zero as two 50-foot patrol boats slipped quietly across the Han River Estuary mud flats. Shortly before midnight they glided to a stop two hundred yards off the beach at Haenam-ni, North Korea. Minutes later two black assault boats rode a still rising tide to a mud beach, quickly loaded thirty-two survivors from the ill-fated BEEHIVE stay-behind mission, and returned to the waiting boats. The last man boarded and at zero zero four-three hours the 50-footers executed the well known maneuver, 'Haul Ass, thus ending the last operational mission by United Nations Partisan Infantry Korea, the 8240th Army Unit

UN partisan operations in Korea came about more by chance than from planning. During the retreat out of North Korea in Nov-Dec 1950, thousands of anti-communist North Koreans citizens were left behind to fend for themselves. Facing almost certain death at the hands of the communists, these people fought their way to North Korea's west coast and sailed to offshore islands where they prepared to fight a last ditch battle.

The fact that armed friendly North Koreans still held the off-shore islands came to the attention of 8th Army on 8 January 1951. A mad scramble ensued to utilize these unexpected assets and on January 15th, the Guerrilla Section, Eighth Army G3 Miscellaneous, came into being.

A six man cadre originally code named TASKFORCE WILLIAM ABLE but soon changed to LEOPARD, arrived on Paengnyong-do, a large island off the North Korean held west coast, on February 15, 1951 starting the massive task of bringing partisan groups under Eighth Army command.

This in itself was a major undertaking since these groups held islands from the Han River Estuary to the mouth of the Yalu River. All initial contact by LEOPARD team members was made only after a slow, several-day ride in a hot-head diesel fishing junk but by mid-March all individual groups, now bearing a designation of DONKEY plus a unit number, were under LEOPARDs control.

LEOPARDs west coast seaborne and interior North Korea operations started producing immediate results. With the influx of arms, ammunition, explosives, medical supplies, food and communications equipment and improving weather, LEOPARD sent infiltration teams to contact and supply partisan groups already operating within North Korea. Bridges were blown, roads and railroads interdicted, small North Korean and Chinese detachments wiped out, and, just as importantly, reliable agent nets established. This activity forced the CCF and NK commands to divert badly needed front line units to local security/anti-partisan operations.

LEOPARDs strength expanded daily and, by June 1951, west coast partisans counted over eight thousand men on the active roster. This, plus distance and poor communications, made Miscellaneous Group Headquarters rethink its organization. WOLFPACK Headquarters was established to command partisan operations on the south coast of Hwanghae Province while LEOPARD moved its forward headquarters north to Ch'o-do and commanded west coast operations from the 38th Parallel north to the Yalu River. WOLFPACK initially established its headquarters on Yonp'yong-do, an island group at the mouth of Haeju Estuary centrally located between Paengnyong-do to the west and the mouth of the Han River to the east.

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WOLFPACK Headquarters later moved to Kanghwa-do, an island at the mouth of the Han adjacent to the mainland.

Results by these two units were excellent. By the Cease-fire, they were credited with forcing the enemy to have 75,000 troops on security duty in Hwanghae Province alone. Additionally, they compiled a phenomenal record of successful actions combined with a relatively small loss record.

Shortly, [within the] LEOPARD organization, an airborne special missions unit, BAKER, became operational at Kijang near Pusan. This unit had the multiple mission of [providing] airborne training [to] agents and partisan raider groups, planning and carrying out agent or partisan drops, and controlling and resupplying these people once they were in North Korea. This was a tall order for the two officers and two Noncoms initially assigned to BAKER, particularly when you consider these men lacked formal UW training or UW experience and everything was OJT.

BAKER mounted its first airborne operation, VIRGINIA ONE, 15 March 1951. This was a mission to destroy a key rail-road tunnel. It ended in failure with a helicopter exfiltration of three Americans from a hot LZ, one helicopter lost, two Americans captured and the nineteen South Koreans killed or captured and later executed. This was followed on 18 June 1951 by SPITFIRE, a joint US, British SAS, and South Korean mission intended to establish a semi-permanent base near the main MSR between Wonsan and Kumhwa.

SPITFIRE enjoyed initial success but their location was revealed when an US Air Force pilot, unable to find the DZ at night, loitered until daylight and made a supply drop directly over SPITFIREs hideout. The team quickly relocated but was attacked at dawn the following day by a Chinese battalion. SFC William T. Miles and a South Korean partisan were lost in this action. He and the four South Koreans fought a rear-guard battle that allowed the main group to escape. Neither rejoined the main group. Sergeant Miles is still carried missing-in-action.

Meanwhile, a new section was organized to handle partisan operations on Korea's east coast, TASKFORCE KIRKLAND. After training at Samchok, this group took control of two islands; Nam-do on the 39th Parallel and 15 miles off the North Korean east coast and Sam-do a few miles south of the 39th Parallel and 1000 yards from the mainland. Some successful operations were launched by this group but most failed since the KIRKLAND partisans were not from the local area and thus did not enjoy local support nor did they have an intimate knowledge of the terrain.

On May 5, 1951, the Guerrilla Section, 8th Army G3 Miscellaneous Division, became an independent Army unit - the 8086th Army Unit. This was changed to Far East Command Liaison Detachment, Korea, FECLD-K 8240th AU on 10 Dec 1951 and all partisan operations came under its Guerrilla Division, United Nations Partisan Forces, Korea (UNPIK). At this time, all division TAC-Intel (TLO units) and 8th Army positive intelligence operations were consolidated under Combined Command Reconnaissance Activities, Korea (CCRACK), 8240th AU. BAKER split. The training section remained at Kijang as the 1st Partisan Airborne Infantry Regiment (PAIR). The operational section moved to K-16 (Seoul City Airport between Seoul and Yongdong-po), was redesignated the Airborne Special Missions Platoon, and given the code name AVIARY.

This structure remained in place until December 1952 when LEOPARD, WOLFPACK, AND TASK FORCE SCAN-NON (formerly KIRKLAND) were redesignated Partisan Infantry Regiments (PIR) and UNPFK headquarters the United

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Nations Partisan Infantry, Korea (UNPIK). The 1st PIR moved to Yongdong-po at this time. All units retained these designations until disbandment in April, 1954.

The first airborne mission by AVIARY was MUSTANG III - a mission to set up E&E operations near POW camps. This flight went down near Wonsan, North Korea, the night of 22/ 23 January, when the last man of the Chinese team threw a hand grenade back as he exited the C-47. MSG Davis T. Harrison managed to jump as did a badly wounded CPL George Tatarakis. Harrison was returned during the POW exchanges in 1953 but nothing was ever learned of Tatarakis fate although there are reports he was seen alive at Paks Palace in Pyongyang later

Over the next ten months AVIARY dispatched more MUSTANG operations (establishment of E&E routes from POW camps). These were MUSTANG IV, V, VI, VII and VIII. Some MUSTANG teams never made contact after their drop. Others checked in but dropped out of the net in a few days time. It is fairly obvious that these missions were compromised before they left the ground.

The MUSTANG operations were followed by JESSE JAMES I, II and III on the nights of 28-30 Dec 1952. These were radio team augmentations to Donkey units already operating in Hwanghae Province. All drops were successful and the teams came out of North Korea with their Donkey units a few weeks prior to the cease-fire.

The next operation, named GREEN DRAGON, was the largest drop attempted. On the night of 25/26 Jan 1953,97 Partisans dropped from five C-47s into the mountains northeast of Kumhwa. This was the same DZ and area used by SPIT-FIRE in June 1951. The mission was also the same - to establish a semi-permanent base of operations. Radio contact was established and regular resupply drops were made for the next seven months. GREEN DRAGON was augmented twice, adding another 56 partisans for a total of 153 men dropped. Communication with GREEN DRAGON became suspect after the last augmentation and ceased a few days later. No GREEN DRAGON partisans returned to UN lines.

AVIARY made four more drops on east coast targets in February 1953. These were BOXER I, II, III and IV. Little is known of the actual targets or the results since these teams belonged to JACK (CIA). The reported targets were railroad tunnels on the Wonsan-Vladivostok railroad. US Navy ships exfiltrated each team after mission completion.

The last three team infiltrations of the war made by AVIARY were:

HURRICANE (31 March), to contact a reported 200 partisans operating in the ANJU area; RABBIT 1(1 April), to establish stay-behind bases southwest of WONSAN and another northeast of Pyongyang; and RABBIT 11(6 April), a six man (three men to each RABBIT I location) augmentation. All infiltrations succeeded but, as often happened in the past, radio contact failed shortly after insertion.

UNPIK disbanded in 1954. In its three years there were successes and failures but lessons were learned from both. Fortunately these carried over to future special operations as men rotated from Korea and brought their experience to Special Forces.

1st SFG History

From 10th and 77th Special Forces Groups to 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne) (1952 – 1956)



Beret with Crest
1953 - 1960

Colonel Aaron Bank and Colonel Russell Volckmann, two OSS operatives who remained in the military after the war, worked tirelessly to convince the Army to adopt its own unconventional guerrilla-style force. They had an ally in Brigadier General Robert McClure, who headed the Army's psychological warfare staff in the Pentagon. Bank and Volckmann convinced the Army chiefs that there were

areas in the world not susceptible to conventional warfare - Soviet-dominated Eastern Europe especially - but that would make ideal targets for unconventional harassment and guerrilla fighting. Special operations as envisioned by the two men, and by Bank in particular, were a force multiplier: a small number of soldiers who could sow a disproportionately large amount of trouble for the enemy. Confusion would reign among enemy ranks and objectives would be accomplished with an extreme economy of manpower. It was a bold idea, one that went against the grain of traditional concepts, but by 1952 the Army was finally ready to embark on a new era of unconventional warfare.

The new organization was dubbed Special Forces, a designation derived from the OSS whose operational teams in the field were given the same name in 1944. The Army allocated 2,300 personnel slots for the unit and assigned it to Fort Bragg, North Carolina. In the spring of 1952, Bank went to Fort Bragg to choose a suitable location for a Psychological Warfare/Special Forces center. He chose a remote area of the post known as Smoke Bomb Hill, not knowing that within ten years it would become one of the busiest places in the Army.

He then went about assembling a cadre of officers and NCOs who would serve as the hard-core foundation of the new unit, and who would act as a training staff to perpetuate and flesh out the fledgling organization. Bank didn't want raw recruits. He wanted the best troops in the Army, and he got them: former OSS officers, airborne troops, ex-Ranger troops and combat veterans of World War II and Korea. They were an unusual lot, a motivated bunch, men who were looking for new challenges to conquer - the more arduous the better. Virtually all spoke at least two languages, had at least a sergeant's rank, and were trained in infantry and parachute skills. They were all volunteers willing to work behind enemy lines, in civilian clothes if necessary.

That last item was no small matter. If caught operating in civilian clothes, a soldier was no longer protected by the Geneva Convention and would more than likely be shot on sight if captured. But these first volunteers didn't worry about the risks: they were long accustomed to living with anger. Many of them had come from Eastern Europe where they had fled the tyranny of communist rule at the end of World War II.

After months of intense preparation, Bank's unit was finally activated on 19 June 1952, at Fort Bragg. It was designated the 10th Special Forces Group, with Bank as commander. On the day of activation, the total strength of the group was ten soldiers - Bank, one warrant officer, and eight enlisted men. That was soon to change.



Crest
1953 - 1960

1st SFG History

Within months, the first volunteers reported to the 10th Group by the hundreds as they completed the initial phase of their Special Forces training. As soon as the 10th Group became large enough, Bank began training his troops in the most advanced techniques of unconventional warfare. As defined by the Army, the main mission of Bank's unit was "to infiltrate by land, sea or air, deep into enemy-occupied territory and organize the resistance/guerrilla potential to conduct Special Forces operations, with emphasis on guerrilla warfare", but there were secondary missions as well.

They included deep-penetration raids, intelligence missions and counterinsurgency operations. It was a tall order, one which demanded a commitment to professionalism and excellence perhaps unparalleled in American military history. But Bank's men were up to the challenge.

They had been through tough training before; their airborne and Ranger tabs were proof of that. But working for Special Forces was not going to be simply a rehash of Ranger techniques. If the volunteers didn't appreciate the difference between Rangers and Special Forces when they first signed up, they did when they went through Bank's training. As Bank put it; "Our training included many more complex subjects and was geared to entirely different, more difficult, comprehensive missions and complex operations."

The Rangers of World War II and Korea had been designed as light-infantry shock troops; their mission was to hit hard, hit fast, then get out so larger and more heavily armed units could follow through, much the same as the modern Ranger force. Special Forces, however, were designed to spend months, even years, deep within hostile territory. They would have to be self-sustaining. They would have to speak the language of their target area. They would have to know how to survive on their own without extensive resupply from the outside.

After less than a year and a half together as a full Special Forces group, Bank's men proved to the Army's satisfaction that they had mastered the skills of their new trade. So on November 11, 1953, in the aftermath of an aborted uprising in East Germany, half of the 10th Special Forces Group was permanently deployed to Bad To1z, West Germany. The other half remained at Fort Bragg, where they were redesignated as the 77th Special Forces Group.

The split of the 10th and the 77th was the first sign that Special Forces had established themselves as an essential part of the Army's basic structure. For the rest of the 1950s, Special Forces would grow slowly but consistently into a formidable organization.

In 1956 soldiers from the 77th Special Forces Group (Airborne) were hand-picked to form the 14th SFOD (Area) – along with the 12th, 13th, and 16th SFOD – they were specifically selected and trained for the purpose of establishing a special operations capacity in the Asian-Pacific Theater. These units were transferred to the Pacific in two increments. The 14th SFOD (Area), under the cover of "8251st Army Service Unit" was transferred to Fort Shafter, Hawaii in June 1956. Shortly afterwards, the 12th SFOD (Regiment), 13th SFOD (Regiment), and 16th SFOD (District) were moved to Camp Drake, Japan (Northwest of Tokyo) under the cover of "8231st Army Unit". Special Forces were now casting their glance to the Far East, departing from their previously heavy European orientation. The 14th SFOD (Area) along with the 12th, 13th, and 16th SFOD would become 1st Special Forces Group on 24 June 1957.

FROM THE CHAPTER CHAPLAIN



“Tis The Season To Be . . . Unordinary”

Every year at this time we all begin to gather and plan for the holidays with family, friends, churches and other organizations like our own. It's considered a favorite time of the year when you ask most folks. The heat of the summer is almost past, cool evenings and mornings are setting in, the State Fair is beckoning us all to come and join in on all the fun, and time to set our clocks back is right around the corner. These are all ordinary and annual Fall ways of life in Texas.

We are living in very unusual times in our world right now that has caused us all to pause and think about our freedoms in ways we may have begun to take for granted . . .yes, even those of us who have served our country through the Armed Forces. I would like to do the unordinary thing this unordinary year by encouraging each of you to join me in doing the same. How and what do you mean, perhaps you are wondering as you read this. We have three major holidays coming up during these last 3 months of the year, as well as our own Veteran's Day in November. Might I add to that list the New Year Celebrations of our Jewish friends that occur at the same time on different days. Some of you may be saying to yourself, that's unordinary to be reminded of that while others may say that is ordinary in your opinion.

I will stop beating around the bush and tell you what I mean by doing the unordinary thing this year. Let me explain by giving you some fresh new ideas of how to end this unordinary year of 2009 by doing something unordinary.

Ordinary can be changed to unordinary by greeting your neighborhood Trick or Treaters with something other than candy. Perhaps a scripture attached to something sweet could touch the heart of one who doesn't know Jesus. How about inviting a retirement home person to your home to share Thanksgiving Dinner with your family? That might be very unordinary for most. Let's take Veteran's Day for example. Why not call up some old military buddies that you haven't spoken to in a long time and encourage them to come to our meetings. Or, better yet, how about inviting them to your home? Christmas is coming soon and there are many people who will not receive gifts or visits or some are simply hurting because of loss of family and this is their first Christmas without them. Have you thought about visiting that one and share from your own abundance so that they can have a moment of joy. Have you given thought to attending a Christmas Eve or Christmas Day service and celebrate what Christmas is all about . . .the birth of Jesus Christ? You know, reading up on the traditions, feasts, and festivals of the Jews could make you a more understanding person of why our country supports Israel and the blessing that is promised in God's Word if we do.

Each of these things I mentioned are unordinary to many, but are ways to obey God's command to love one another as our self. I pray that as you observe these special days this year you will resolve to do at least one thing of loving another before 2010 that is "unordinary". I promise you that you will be the one to receive an unordinary blessing by doing so!

"You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Galatians 5:13-14 NIV

Your Chaplain and friend,
Mike Edwards

Chapter Calendar

Oktoberfest is October 17th. Bavarian Grill in Plano 17 October 1800 hours.

Vet-to-Vet is at VA Spinal Injury Ward 1800 hours on October 28th

November 11th is the annual fundraiser at Dick's Last Resort 1830 hours: until ???

November 11th Is Veteran's Day Parade . Details later

SFA Convention is 7 thru 13 June 2010



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Well another month has come and gone and here I am trying to pound out another message of wit, wisdom and inspiration to you folks that make up what is Chapter 31, SFA. As we get closer to Veterans Day and our annual fund raiser we still need folks to step up and and make contact with the fund raiser committee and sign up to help us the day and night of the event. Our fund raiser chair, Phil Stone, had to go to Paris, (France, not Texas, tough job) until 4 October, so Linda and Jerry are at the helm until Phil gets back.

Our Oktoberfest dinner will be at the Bavarian Grill on 17 October starting around 1800 hrs.. Directions and information will be posted on the web site. Speaking of the website, Jim Webb is working very hard to get our new site up and into the 21st century. We are trying to get to the point that all information , including the monthly newsletter will be at that location. So please use it...

On a health note, our brother, Tillman Cooper has had his other leg removed and is at the VA Hospital. Anyone that doesn't have his phone or location and would like it, send me an email...

Again, If you have suggestions, complaints, or thoughts you'd like to pass on, please contact me and let me know. Lets keep our young men and women in uniform in our thoughts and prayers as they continue to fight the good fight..Until next month, lets stay safe out there...

De Oppresso Liber
Ron

CHAPTER OFFICERS

- President: Ron Piper

817-488-5651

scuba.folk@verizon.net

- SR VP: Jerry Jochum

972-882-5436

Jerry.jochum@us.army.mil

- VP North Texas: Bill Adair

- VP Dallas: Phil Stone

- VP Ft. Worth: Mike Plante

- Secretary: Gene Pugh

- Treasurer: Dave Kidd

- VP Associate Membership Linda Weston



CHAPTER XXXI (31) SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION
2141 Branchwood Drive Grapevine Texas 76051
sfa31.org website

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Please submit ideas for publication
sam_wylie@yahoo.com,
817 860 5349