First-Coast Arrow

Newsletter of the Special Forces Association Chapter 88, Northeast Florida -- MAR-APR 2025, Vol 25-2

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dewey Walker, CSM (Ret)

"We understand, We've been there, We've done that, and We speak Special Op."

My favorite time of the year is the end of the year and the beginning of the new year. Life changes for a few weeks as people travel and many celebrate at home. The daily menu often varies during the holiday season, and if you're a father or grandfather, you have likely brought joy to many people, but not to your banker. Welcome back, Soldier!

As we enter a new year, unresolved issues from the previous year often carry over. However, the experience gained from facing past challenges equips us to tackle new ones more effectively. This aligns with the idea that my old Sergeant Major used to say, "There are no problems, only solutions." He encouraged a focus on finding ways forward, rather than dwelling on difficulties.

One of our significant challenges, which I addressed in the January-February issue of the First Coast Arrow, is the human resource management of our chapter. The problem is not a lack of qualified personnel – we have plenty of talent – the real challenge lies in securing a commitment from our members to serve. We are one of the top chapters in the Special Forces Association, well-established in Jacksonville and the surrounding communities, and positively impacting many lives.

To support our growth, I have identified two key priorities. First, we must ensure that our organization is fully staffed. Every chapter member should serve either in a leadership role, hold a staff position, or be a supporting committee member. Second, we need to increase our membership by attracting younger individuals. Regardless of their Special Forces background, we offer opportunities for them to be involved, continue being part of something bigger than themselves, and blessing others. Let's stay committed to a winning team.

We have several objectives this year and we're now entering our third month. I am issuing a "Call-to-Arms" for our members to get more involved and help your fellow veterans. The successes we've achieved today, and in the past, have come from the commitment of a few dedicated members, and they are tired.

President's Message *Continued…*

President's Message *Continued…*

On behalf of your chapter and those who are serving, it's time to ask others to also step forward to volunteer. I invite you to give me, or our executive vice president Steve Muskett, a call or send us an email. We can help find you a place to serve. "STAND IN THE DOOR, GO!"

De Oppresso Liber,
Dewey Walker
President

In Memoriam

Richard "Dick" Ellis Cunningham
M-13617, 82, of Jacksonville Beach, Fla., passed peacefully Jan. 15, 2025. Born Feb. 28, 1942, he enlisted at 18 in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve serving five years. In 1965, he enlisted in the Army for the Infantry training and the Airborne and Pathfinder courses. He volunteered for Vietnam, joining the 11th Pathfinder Co. (Abn), 1st Cav. Div., serving in Ahn Khe Province from 1965 to 1967. After his initial tour, he volunteered for two extra 6-month tours, earning the Bronze Star, Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal with V and Oak Leaf Cluster devices, the Presidential Unit and Meritorious Unit citations, Combat Infantryman Badge, Vietnam Campaign and Service Medals, and the Vietnam Combat Jump badge. He is in the Army Pathfinder Hall of Fame for his team's night combat jump to establish LZ Moon during the 1st Cav's operation in the Ia-Drang Valley. The operation was "The battle of LZ X-Ray" reported in Joe Galloway's book "We Were Soldiers Once...and Young." In 1971, he joined the Reserves and Co. A, 3rd Bn., 11th Special Forces Group (Abn), serving on a free-fall detachment. In 1981, he was injured in a parachute accident, resulting in amputation of his right leg and forced medical retirement after over 20-years of service. His other decorations include the Special Forces tab; Parachutist, Pathfinder and Military Free Fall badges, and the Marine Corps M-1 and Army Expert Rifle badges. Cunningham was an active member with the SFA Chapter 88 and recently attended the 20-year Chapter Anniversary. He was interred in the H. Warren Smith Mausoleum in Jacksonville Beach.

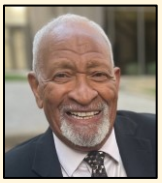
Please keep the Cunningham family in your prayers

"Rest in Peace my Warrior Brother,
we shall meet again."

FALLEN HERO

SGT Collin Bryce Wood
Born Sept. 19, 1986, age 38, of Riverton, Utah, was killed on Jan. 10, 2025, in a pedestrian-vehicle accident while participating in an early morning rucksack training march on Camp Blanding, Fla. Wood was with the 3rd Bn., 20th Special Forces Group, Colorado Army National Guard, and attending the SF pre-qualification course when he was struck by a civilian truck. Collin is survived by his parents and two sisters, Nicholette Dawn Lambert and Eryn Virginia Hunt. He was interned in the Utah Veterans Cemetery and Memorial Park in Bluffdale on January 31.

"Rest in Peace my Warrior Brother,
we shall meet again."



In Memoriam

Clarence "Squeak" Augustus Hebron, Jr.
M-13731, 79, died peacefully on Oct. 25, 2024. Born Jan. 25, 1945 in Rockville, Md., he grew up there until graduating high school. Hebron briefly attended West Virginia State College before joining the U.S. Army and serving in Special Forces during Vietnam. His war service earned him a Bronze Star medal while assigned to the Military Assistance Command Vietnam–Studies and Observations Group (MACV-SOG) with Command and Control Central in the Central Highlands region of Vietnam near the Laos and Cambodia borders at Forward Operating Base Kontum. After an honorable discharge as a Sgt. (E5), Hebron returned to West Virginia State and earned a B.S. degree in Business Administration (accounting). He also served with 20th Special Forces Group and was a longtime member of the Special Forces Association and Chapter 88. Hebron is survived by his wife of fifty years Tiny; son Trey; by brothers-in-law Charles Jackson, Ronald Jackson (Adrienne) and Ernest Higgs (Lessie); and many nephews and nieces. He was interred Dec. 6, 2024 in section 15, site 20 of the Jacksonville National Cemetery.

Please keep the Hebron family in your prayers

"Rest in Peace my Warrior Brother,
we shall meet again."

3rd Bn, 20th SFG(A) Barbeque and Farewell

The new year began with an opportunity to break bread, or buns, with our sponsored Special Forces unit on January 11 at Camp Blanding.

The leadership of the 3rd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group, invited Chapter 88 members and former 20th SFG unit members to come join with current active Soldiers, former and retired members, and with the families, for a BBQ dinner and a farewell to a retiring unit member.

Chapter 88 partners with the 3-20th SFG(A), Florida Army National Guard. Many of our chapter members are also alumni of the 20th SFG, having served in the various units across the country.

About 80 people participated, along with 25 SF veterans, including 10 members from SFA-88.

Before beginning the festivities, a moment of silence and prayer was held in remembrance of a fallen 3-20th Soldier. Just a day prior, unit member Sgt. Collin Wood was killed locally by a motorist while on a training rucksack march (See *Fallen Hero* on page 2). Our hearts and prayers go out to his family and friends.

A 3/20th SFG Reunion is planned for March 29 (see ad this page).

Steve and Jill Meeks enjoy the warm January evening weather. In the background, Joey Browning mans the Chapter 88 recruitment booth, passing out information on membership and upcoming events, and selling some cool SF chapter merchandise.

Just after sunset hungry attendees lined up for delicious pulled-pork sandwiches, hotdogs, chips and fixings under the Airborne parachuting landing training facility.

Chapter Executive Vice President Steve Muskett (standing left) gives a pitch on joining the Special Forces Association and provides information about Chapter 88. SGM Kyle Harth (standing right) introduced Muskett after welcoming the troops, families and veterans to the evening event.

3/20th SFG Reunion Time!

Saturday, March 29, 12 noon to 5 pm

American Legion Post 26 (Same as last year)
2207 W. Baker Street, Plant City, FL

Cost: $25 per person. Make checks payable to "Chris Bell" – with "Reunion" memo line. Mail to: Chris Bell, 1111 Jungle Ave. North, St. Petersburg, FL 33710-4327 For Info: Chris (727) 244-1016 or Darryl (813) 833-4035 Please RSVP before March 25.

We are looking forward to seeing each of you and don't hesitate to reach out if you have any ideas or questions. Food, Drink, War Stories and more!

10th Annual GBC Golf Tourney

Save the date and support the chapter! This is the 10th annual golf fundraiser hosted by Chapter 88 and is being led by ***Wade Carroll*** and ***Steve Meeks***. The goal is 120 golfers, but this also means we need member support – both golfers and volunteers. Putting on a big tournament requires people to work many of the supporting roles before, during and after the golfers compete. Not a golfer? Please consider being a volunteer. It is a fun day with a great BBQ dinner. Proceeds from the tournament provide funds for our 501(c)(19) chapter administrative, charity and support services. We also need sponsors and silent auction item donations. To sign up as a golfer, a sponsor or to volunteer, visit the website or contact golf Chairman Wade Carroll at wdcarroll9@comcast.net or (904) 868-3861; or Steve Meeks at stephen_meeks@yahoo.com or (904) 669-1628.

Scan Here for Golf Registration

THANK YOU GOLF SPONSORS!
A special thanks to our Title Sponsor ***Jim Owens*** of Rome, Ga., a longtime supporter; and to the Putting Contest and Hole Sponsor ***Koala Insulation of Jacksonville***. We appreciate your generosity and support!

A Gathering of Green Berets

SFACON 2025 **is heading to the**
Orleans Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, NV!

SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION **14-17 Oct 2025**

See Event Details on SFA Website

Welcome New Chapter Members
Buddy Brueck, Christopher Cahall, Eric Dean, Adrian Lane, Thomas Page and *Scott Taylor!*

Chapter Meetings are held on the first Saturday of the month at 10 a.m. in the *Chapel of the High-Speed Pass,* 6112 POW-MIA Parkway on *Cecil Field.*

MAR 1 -- APR 5 -- MAY 3

Helping Vets Behind Bars

Chapter 88 member ***Joey Browning***, left, presented a certificate of appreciation on Jan. 30, to retired Air Force Col. Jerry Stalnaker, accepting it on behalf of the **Vietnam Veterans Association Chapter** in Jacksonville Beach. The local chapter helped with donations for the purchase and assembly of wooden urn kits (seen on table). Browning works with the **Prison Vietnam Veterans Chapter 1080** to build wooden urns to hold the ash remains of unclaimed local veterans who are cremated and then laid to rest. Browning has been leading this prison ministry at Raiford Florida State Prison for over a year.

Chapter Member Honored for Service-Above-Self

On Feb. 3, 2025, during the annual interfaith memorial service in memory of four men known as “The Four Chaplains,” a Jacksonville Army veteran was honored with his service-above-self. Rev. Patrick Archuleta, with Chaplain Lt. Col. Derek Boucher, USAR, announced former Army National Guard Captain **Padraic E. "Pat" Mulvihill** as a 2025 honoree of the Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation’s Legion of Honor Bronze Medallion. The medallion is the second highest award granted by the FCMF for extraordinary contributions to the well-being of others at the state, regional or national level. Only six bronze medallions are awarded nationally each year. The presentation was at the Chapel of High-Speed Pass, the future site of the National POW-MIA Memorial and Museum, on Cecil Field near Jacksonville. Mulvihill was nominated by Archuleta and approved by the FCMF for his many volunteer contributions and service. Several key issues include his efforts to establish the military lounge to host traveling service-members and their families at the Jacksonville International airport, support of the Jacksonville National Cemetery, serving on the Duvall County Veterans Council, and helping the underserved. Mulvihill is a green beret with service in the 19th and 20th SF Groups and an active member of Chapter 88 of the Special Forces Association.

From left, Rev. Patrick Archuleta, Honoree Pat and Mati Mulvihill, and Lt. Col. Derek Boucher.

Rev. Patrick Archuleta presents Mrs. Mati Mulvihill with a lovely floral bouquet as a thank you for her support of her husband, as Honoree Pat Mulvihill looks on.

The Four Chaplains

The Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation recognizes the service-above-self sacrifice of four U.S. Army first lieutenants (all chaplains) who died during World War II. On Jan. 23, 1943, the SS Dorchester, part of a three-ship convoy crossing the North Atlantic escorted by three U.S. Coast Guard cutters, left New York enroute to a stop in Greenland before England. In the early morning hours of Feb. 3 off the coast of Newfoundland, a German submarine U-223 torpedoed the Dorchester. The four onboard chaplains gave up their own life jackets and helped fellow passengers into lifeboats. Then they joined arms and said prayers and sang hymns to comfort others as the ship sank. The ship carried 902, only 230 survived. The chaplains were: Methodist minister Rev. George L. Fox, Reform Rabbi Alexander D. Goode, Roman Catholic priest Father John P. Washington and Reformed Church in America minister Rev. Clark V. Poling. Each were posthumously awarded the Medal of Heroism, the Distinguished Service Cross and the Purple Heart.

SFA CHAPTER 88 ONLINE

Website Visit:
https://https://www.sfa88.org

Or scan the QR Code with your cell phone.

A great way to get and share the Chapter's information and connect with the SF community.

Did you know you can follow our Chapter online? You can find us on ***Facebook*** at "Special Forces Association Chapter 88" and our website SFA/Chapter 88 at ***sfa88.org*.** Our *Facebook* page is currently maintained by **Steve Muskett**, our chapter executive vice president; but we are looking for a new page administrator. We have just over 2,800 followers. You can find current member news and upcoming events. Our website has information on Chapter officers, membership renewals, joining the SFA, past issues of the FCA newsletter, an "In Memoriam" page for our members, and event information. If you have webmaster skills, we are looking for someone to help us with the website. You can contact chapter leadership to volunteer with our social media sites.

FAREWELL TO CHAPTER BROTHER

On February 8, a dozen members of Chapter 88 attended the memorial service of longtime SFA and chapter member ***Richard "Dick" Cunningham*** (See *In Memoriam* page 2)**.** The service with military honors was held at the Quinn Shalz Funeral Home in Jacksonville Beach. The family requests in lieu of flowers to please consider making a donation to the *Wounded Warrior Project* in memory of Richard and help an injured veteran. Cunningham, who had a service-connected amputation himself, was a supporter of the WWP.

USSOCOM 2025 FACT BOOK

The U.S. Special Operations Command released in December 2024 their unclassified 2025 Fact Book, a 40-page publication covering the headquarters command and subordinate service commands. It provides an update on the mission, locations, people and major equipment of the various service commands. The content is edited and provided by the USSOCOM Office of Communication. An electronic PDF copy can be viewed online or downloaded from https://www.socom.mil/latest-factbook. Or you can scan the QR Code to view on your cell phone.

Happy 38th Anniversary

SPECIAL FORCES

DE OPPRESSO LIBER

The Special Forces Branch was established as a U.S. Army combat arms branch by General Orders No 35, dated June 19, 1987, with an effective date of **April 9, 1987**.

Keeping You in the Know...

The **U.S. Army Special Operations Command** (USASOC) includes approximately 36,000 Soldiers from the active Army, National Guard and Army Reserve, organized into Special Forces, Ranger, Special Operations Aviation units, along with Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations units, and special operations training and support units. The Army's Special Operation Command headquarters and other resources, such as the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School, are located at Fort Bragg, NC. Five active-duty Special Forces Groups (Airborne)—each consisting of about 1,400 soldiers per group—are stationed at Fort Bragg, NC; Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA; Fort Campbell, KY; Fort Carson, CO; and at Eglin Air Force Base, FL. Special Forces Soldiers—known as the Green Berets—are trained in various skills, including foreign languages, that allow teams to operate independently throughout the world. Two Army National Guard Special Forces groups, the 19th and 20th, are headquartered in Utah and Alabama.

Special Forces **Operational Detachment-Alpha** (ODA) are elite teams consisting of mature, intense, highly-trained operators. SF Operators receive specialized training in advanced weapons, language, demolitions, combat medicine, military free-fall, and advanced combat tactics. Today's quiet professional operates in autonomous environments as the most trusted force in America's Army.

New Fort Bragg

On Feb. 10, 2025, new Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth signed a memorandum renaming Fort Liberty to **Fort Bragg** – not after the same Confederate general, but after a World War II hero. Originally Fort Bragg was named in 1918 after Braxton Bragg, a former West Point graduate and an Army artillery officer who became a general for the Confederacy during the Civil War. Hegseth's directive instead honored another Soldier with a similar last name. Hegseth paid tribute to Army **Private First Class Roland L. Bragg**, a paratrooper in the 513th Parachute Infantry Regiment, who earned the Silver Star and Purple Heart for his exceptional courage during the Battle of the Bulge. A fitting renaming of the iconic Army base and the Home of the Airborne.

Today's Special Duty Pay

Current and qualified SF Soldiers, depending on their position and assignment, can be eligible to receive additional monthly special duty pay.
This pay may include one or more of the following:

- *Special Duty Assignments* pay ($300-450)
- *Language proficiency* pay ($150-1000)
- *Static Line Parachutist* pay ($150)
- *Military Free Fall* pay ($225)
- *Combat Diver/Scuba* pay ($215)
- *Demolition* pay ($150)

Special Advanced Training Operational Detachments consist of:

Military Free-Fall Teams	Free-Fall ODAs are trained in high-altitude low-opening (HALO), oxygen-assisted parachute insertions. All members of a Military Free-Fall (MFF) ODA will complete the MFF course with two members being MFF jumpmasters.
Combat Diver Teams	Trained in amphibious infiltration and exfiltration, including small boat ops and SCUBA diving. All members of a Combat Diver Team will have passed the SF combat diver qualification course.
Mountain Teams	Mountain ODAs have been trained in mountaineering, rock climbing and associated disciplines such as horsemanship and cold-weather operations.
Mobility/Mounted Teams	Mounted ODAs specialize in the use of the ground mobility vehicle (GMV) for fast assault direct action operations.

February Guest Speaker

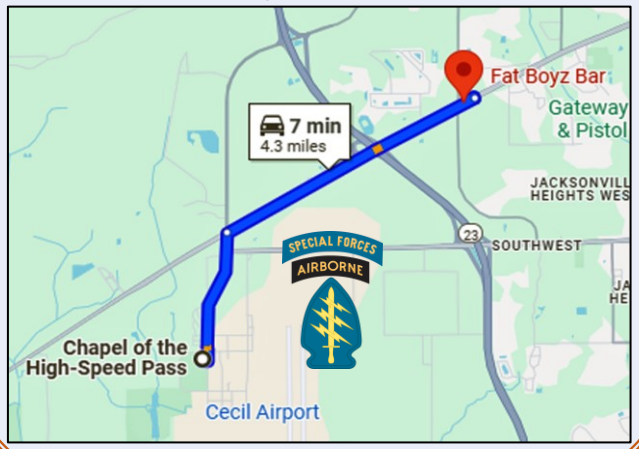
by Steve Muskett

Chapter members attending the February meeting were treated to a special presentation by **Carlton Robinson**, vice president of the Entrepreneurial Growth Division with the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce. Robinson is also the JAX USA chief innovation officer and spoke on innovation and the growth of high-tech programs in northeast Florida. Topics included a number of cutting-edge subjects ranging from artificial intelligence, ChatGPT, to machine learning and workforce development in the cyber domain. He also took time for a short question and answer session with chapter members.

Robinson, a former Army Sergeant, spoke in his old Class-A uniform, which he hasn't worn in nearly 30 years. He served as a logistics support NCO with the 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Fort Lewis, Wash., back in the day. Good for Robinson for still staying in shape to fight and fit into his uniform! Here, Chapter President Dewey Walker thanks Robinson by presenting him with a certificate of appreciation and a chapter coin.

After the Monthly Meeting…

Come join members rallying for a post-meeting drink at ***Fat Boyz Bar*** located at 11137 Normandy Blvd, Jacksonville. From the Chapel of the High-Speed Pass, it's an easy 4.2 mile or 7-minute drive. Chapter 88 members receive free coffee. Find "Fat Boyz Bar" on *Facebook*.



Chapter Readies to Support Annual JROTC Awards

John Page and ***Scott Eder*** lead our chapter efforts to connect with and support the high school Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) programs in the greater Jacksonville area.

If you have not had an opportunity to be a chapter presenter, please consider volunteering in March, April and May. Past member presenters will vouch it is a worthwhile experience to engage with these young outstanding future leaders. Please contact Page or Elder now to learn where or how you can serve.

SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION

Serves as the Voice for the Special Forces Community, Perpetuates the Traditions and Brotherhood; Advances the Public Image, and Promotes the General Welfare of the Soldiers, Families and Community.

First-Coast Arrow is published bi-monthly by Chapter 88 and is an un-official publication of the Special Forces Association. The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Special Forces Association or the U.S. Department of Defense. If you have news, suggestions or ideas you think would be useful, email us at jbullinger@sw.rr.com.
SFA Chapter 88, P.O. Box 7452, Jacksonville, FL 32238

Newsletter Submission Deadlines 2025

- May-Jun = *Apr 15*
- Jul-Aug = *Jun 15*
- Sep-Oct = *Aug 15*
- Nov-Dec = *Oct 15*
- Jan-Feb = *Dec 15*