



GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

The Alamo Chapter

P.O. BOX 33782 SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78265-3782

Issue # 4-17

April 2017

President: Bill Smith
Vice-President: Barry Archer
Secretary: Juan Lopez
Treasurer: Buddy Gee
Sgt at Arms: Raul de la Garza
Asst. Treasurer: Toby Todd
Asst. Sgt at Arms: Gordon Lee
Membership Secy: Marti Scott
Past President: Chuck Rose
Editors: Buddy & Sharon Gee
Webmaster: Scotty Codename
VGSA Rep: Raul de la Garza
DAV/VA: JR Garza
Chaplains: R. Johnson & A. Flores

**Visit us at our Home Page:
www.sfa-xv.org**



Committee Chairs

By-Laws: Bill Smith
Nominations: TBD
Motorcycle Challenge: Gordon Lee
JROTC Awards: Jose Campos
Scholarships: Pat Connolly
Wounded Warriors: JW Martin
FSH Cemetery Events: Raul de la Garza
Canyon Lake Picnic: Raul de la Garza
Dick's Fund Raiser: Fred Solis
Christmas Banquet: Bill Smith
Budget Committee: Buddy Gee
Chapter Memorial Svc: JW Martin

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

March 30 — Board Meeting

1400 - VFW Post 8541, 2222 Austin Highway

April 1- Memorial Service & Membership Meeting

1000 - Chapter XV Memorial Service

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery

1200 - Noon Meal (chicken enchiladas, rice & beans), VFW Post 8541

1300 - April Membership Meeting



DON'T FORGET



- Chapter XV's annual memorial service for departed members and spouses will be held prior to our regular meeting on April 1. Meet at 10 a.m. at the New Assembly Area in back part of Fort Sam

Cemetery to remember them and help distribute roses to the grave sites.

- May 4 is the deadline to reserve (and pay for) cottages at the annual Canyon Lake weekend. Three-bedroom trailers are \$110 per night. See Picnic details on P. 6.
- We still have tickets for the AR-15 and Glock drawing. \$10 each.
- Sick Call and "Choir Practice" every Sunday, noon at VFW Post 8541.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

President Sends:

Our Membership meeting is set for 1 April at the VFW. It is our Chapter Memorial and we will first meet at Fort Sam Cemetery at 1000. After the memorial, we will return to the VFW for a lunch and our meeting. Our board meeting will be this coming Thursday, 30 March at the VFW. We will meet at 1400.

There continue to be some major issues at the VFW. The membership is attempting to stop some changes and the State from placing their people in leadership positions. I will detail a little more at our meeting. Things are not good there right now. **I need everyone possible who are members of 8541 to attend the VFW meeting on Thursday 6 April at 1830.** I will be nominated for Senior Vice. Nominations and the elections are going to be held the same night. I am asking for your assistance in keeping the VFW the way it was; a good place with good people.

Cotulla was a great success. Mike and Steve did an outstanding job. There were a few beverages had during the weekend, but all had a great time. This event continues to grow and we are getting closer and closer to placing in the wild hog cooking competition.

I still have tickets for our AR-15 and Glock. We are close to the 500 mark and will most likely draw a winner at our April Memorial. Thanks to the members who have sold tickets.

Our next chapter social event is Canyon Lake. If you still need a trailer, let Raul know immediately. He must turn them back in by May 4. We will discuss more at the meeting.

There is no membership meeting in May due to Canyon Lake. We will have our Board Meeting on the first Thursday in May which is May 4. Until the Board Meeting I hope everyone stays safe and has a great remainder of the month. My email is listed below if anyone wants to email me.

presidentchapterxv@gmail.com

William Smith
Chapter XV President



\$\$\$ DOLLARS AND CENTS

Treasurer's Report, March 2017

At this writing, 17 members have let their membership lapse. Renewal fees are now \$40, plus a \$5 reinstatement fee payable by check to SFA Chapter XV, or with cash to the Treasurer Buddy Gee or Membership Chair Marsha Scott. It helps if you include your member number with your payment.

Our annual Canyon Lake outing is scheduled for 19-21 May. The rate for three-bedroom cabins is \$110 per night. Raul de la Garza at dragonrose_10602@yahoo.com is taking reservations. Payment must be paid to the treasurer by 4 May.

Revenues for March were mostly AR-15 ticket drawing sales. Thanks to Mike Pagel, who sold 23 tickets at Fort Sam Houston, and Monica Dahlby, who sold 28 at the Cotulla Wild Hog Cookoff. March expenses included \$375 in charitable contributions to the Veterans of Greater San Antonio and Save the Montagnard Project. The Wild Hog Cookoff budget included \$200 for space rental and \$200 for expenses. So far, \$250 has been paid.

The March meeting was canceled. Treasurer reports for February and March will be presented and voted at the April meeting.

Buddy Gee
Chapter XV Treasurer
sgmgee@aol.com

COTULLA WILD HOG COOKOFF



Cookin' in Cotulla

Above: hog cookers of Chapter XV stand with Lt. Michael Bostwick of the La Salle County Sheriff's Department during his visit to the camp.

At left: Chef Steve Hermann and Cookoff Chairman Mike Brown show off finished entry ready for the judges.

At right: Raul de la Garza takes a break; Mike tackles birthday cake.

Below: Mike, Buddy Gee, Bill Smith and Juan Lopez indulge in some Cuban cigars while staying dry under the new canopy donated by Ken Sienko.





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HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER.**

School of Nursing

1/18

CHAPTER XV MEETING MINUTES

Due to problems at VFW Post 8541, the March meeting was canceled. No meeting minutes to report.

COTULLA WILD HOG COOKOFF – 2

It was a dark and stormy night ...

... Actually, it was cloudy and drizzling rain when a few hardy Chapter XV members showed up at LaSalle County Fairgrounds for the annual Cotulla Hog Cookoff. Two wild pigs had lost their lives in **Raul de la Garza's** back yard and were butchered by Chef **Steve Hermann**, with supervision by **Raul** and **Mike Brown**.

Next day, the pigs were cooked to perfection at our campground in Cotulla, and the rest is history. No, we didn't win a trophy (the H.E.B. team won) but we had a really good time!

Our crew did deserve a trophy because the pig was truly delicious. **Steve** and wife **Karen** also kept the workers well fueled with breakfast tacos, pulled pork sandwiches, jerk chicken, pinto beans and other delectable stuff.

Notable events that happened during the cookoff: Chairman **Mike Brown** celebrated another 39th birthday ... **Monica Dahlby** sold 28 tickets (!) for the AR-15 drawing ... **Raul** and **Juan Lopez** soaked up some local "culture," after which **Raul** took an early-morning walking tour of Cotulla. (Ask him about it.)



CANYON LAKE WEEKEND

Come for the Fun!

The annual Canyon Lake Weekend and Jack Hogue Picnic are coming up May 19-21. Please put it on your calendar for a great weekend of SF camaraderie, wonderful food and who-knows-what outdoor adventures. Bring your kids, friends, even your dogs (a limited number of pet-friendly trailers are available.) Cottage rentals are \$110 per night and must be paid by May 4.



For those who have not attended one of our past picnics, the weekend goes like this:

- Friday afternoon, check in to the campground and claim your cottage (fully furnished three-bedroom trailer, but bring your own towels.) Then come on down to the pavilion for fajitas, margaritas, and general merrymaking.
- Saturday morning, get your side dish or dessert ready for the big barbecue spread at noon. Bring your goodies to the pavilion and prepare for an afternoon of eating, drinking, visiting, tall-tale-telling, boating, swimming, card-playing, napping or whatever you enjoy. Stay late for more food and more fellowship.
- Sunday morning, get up early for a traditional breakfast of SOS and Bloody Mary's. Prepare your trailer for check-out by noon.

The event is held at the Joint Base SA Recreation Area at Canyon Lake, 698 Jacobs Creek Park Rd. It's about an hour's drive from San Antonio.

Directions: Take I-35 north from San Antonio to Canyon Lake exit (Exit 191). Turn left on Farm Road 306, follow for 16 miles through Canyon City. Turn left onto Jacobs Creek Park Road (sign for Recreation Area). Go straight for approximately 1/2 mile. Randolph Recreation Area is on one side of the road, Fort Sam area on the other. Tell the gate guard you are with Special Forces group to waive the \$5 entrance fee.



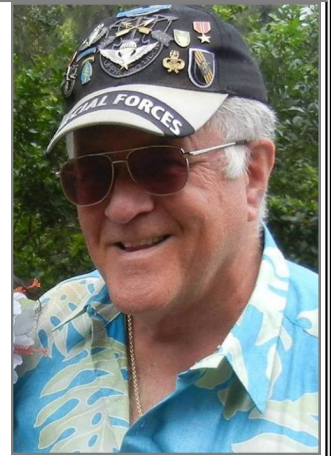
FYI ...

- Green Berets who liberated Afghanistan from the Taliban tell their stories in a new documentary, "Legion of Brothers." It is set for a limited release over Memorial Day weekend and will air on CNN this fall before going to Hulu. For more on this story follow this link: [Green Berets who liberated Afghanistan from the Taliban tell their stories in new documentary](#) .
- Vietnamese Special Forces (LLDB) veterans are hosting a national reunion in Houston May 26 and 27. 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) Vietnam veterans are invited to attend. The schedule of events and registration form are at page 12.

Memory Lane



Chapter XV Vice President Barry Archer is seen at left just in from a 3-week Mike Force operation in the jungle covered mountains surrounding Thuong Duc in I Corps, RVN. He remembers: "The 5th NVA Division conducted a 3-month siege of the Special Forces camp at Thuong Duc, Detachment A-109. We helped break that siege. On this operation one other Green Beret, about 100 of my Montagnard strikers and I were inserted near the Laotian border and worked our way back to A-109's camp, engaging the enemy along the way... I'm hot, tired, smelly, hungry, need a beer, need everything. Glad to be alive."



Friends of Chapter XV

Louis Dracoulis

Past Master

1414 Vista del Monte
San Antonio, TX 78216

DRACOULIS45@YAHOO.COM



4/4/17

Disabled American Veterans

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BGARZ@SATX.RR.COM



2/2/18

St Francis Church



**Welcomes You
To Join Us in Worship**

Fr Steven G Rindahl, DMin
SFA Life Member – ASWAA Life Member

Pax et Bonum
www.StFrancis.Church



8/4/17

From Raul de la Garza

Volunteers needed

I need five volunteers to be flag bearers at the Memorial Day Ceremony at Fort Sam Houston on May 29.

Also, we will need some people to pick up groceries for the picnic at Canyon Lake. Will need three trucks to meet at VFW on the morning of May 19 to help haul supplies to Canyon Lake.

Please let me know if you can volunteer for any of these duties. Email dragonrose_10602@yahoo.com

From SFA National Headquarters



*Major General James B. Linder
Commanding General
United States Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School
requests the pleasure of your company at the*

Building Dedication Ceremony

in honor of

Colonel Robert L. Howard, United States Army, Retired

*on Thursday, the twenty-seventh of April, two thousand seventeen
at eleven o'clock in the morning
Rowe Training Facility, Building T-3357
Camp Mackall, North Carolina*

*R.S.V.P. by: 20 April 2017
Gina.I.andries@socom.mil
or 910-432-7020*

*Military: Duty
Civilian: Business Casual*

From J.R. Garza—DAV/VA



VA Fixes Veterans Crisis Line

WASHINGTON — In response to the recently released VA Office of Inspector General (OIG) report that reviewed processes from June 6 through Dec. 15, 2016, of the Veterans Crisis Line (VCL), the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) released the following statement:

"The Department of Veterans Affairs is proud to announce that the challenges with the Veterans Crisis Line have been resolved. Prior to the opening of our new Atlanta call center, our call rollover rate often exceeded 30 percent. Our current call rollover rate is less than 1 percent, with over 99 percent of all calls being answered by the VCL."

"Suicide prevention is one of our highest priorities," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs David J. Shulkin. "Fixing the Veterans Crisis Line was a critical step in keeping our commitment to Veterans."

To reach a VA professional, who is specially trained to attend to emotional crises for Veterans and service members:

- Dial the National Suicide Prevention Hotline number, 800-273-TALK (8255). Veterans should choose option 1 to reach a VCL responder;
 - Text 838255 — A VCL responder will text back.
- Chat online at <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/>



Forgotten Warrior:

A Moment in Time

A Military Science Fiction novel by SFA member Glenn A. Barnes (M9559)



- US Army Ranger Mark Chandler tries to cheat death and end up 500 years in the future. Is he ready for the 26th century...is the 26th century ready for a Ranger?
- 5 stars Amazon.com
- Reviews:
 - Fast paced tale of a man out of his element slowly finding familiar links to grow back into his element. Enough medical realism to allow for that thread of possibility. Fun read.
 - OUTSTANDING BOOK GLENN !! I cant wait for the next book in the series. I enjoyed the detail or each aspect of this rangers journey. Along with what must have been hours of research describing the multitude of equipment and new environments your corrector encounters. RLTW !! look forward to the next one.
 - <https://www.amazon.com/dp/1520227295>

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GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

2017 CALENDAR

<u>JANUARY</u>	<u>FEBRUARY</u>	<u>MARCH</u>
5 Board Meeting 1400 7 Membership Meeting 1300	2 Board Meeting 1400 4 Membership Meeting 1200 40th Anniv celebration 1300 10 Drop Input Due	7 Board Meeting 1300 4 Membership Meeting 1300 10-12 Cotulla Hog Cook-off 30 Apr Board Meeting 1400
<u>APRIL</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>JUNE</u>
1 Membership Meeting 1300 1 Chpt Memorial Service 1000 JROTC Presentations TBD	4 Board Meeting 1400 10 Drop Input Due 19-20 Jack Hogue Picnic 29 Memorial Day Serv 0930 JROTC Presentations TBD NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING	1 Board Meeting 1400 3 Membership Meeting 1300 12-17 National Convention JROTC Presentations TBD 29 July Board Meeting 1400
<u>JULY</u>	<u>AUGUST</u>	<u>SEPTEMBER</u>
1 Membership Meeting 1300 4 Fourth of July Parade TBD Poss Mini Convention TBD	3 Board Meeting 1300 5 Membership Meeting 1300 Poss Mini Convention TBD	7 Board Meeting 1400 9 Membership Meeting 1300 (Nomination of Officers & Scholarship Applications)
<u>OCTOBER</u>	<u>NOVEMBER</u>	<u>DECEMBER</u>
5 Oct Board Meeting 1400 7 Membership Meeting 1300 TBD Motorcycle Ride TBD Dick's Fund Raiser	2 Board Meeting 1400 4 Membership Meeting 1300 (Election and Scholarship) 11 Veterans Day Cerem 1000 28 Scholarship Results	7 Dec Board Meeting 1400 9 Christmas Banquet 1730 & Installation of Officers NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING

All Chapter Meetings unless announced otherwise, will be held at VFW Post 8541. Membership Meetings are held at 1300 hrs on the first Saturday of the month (unless otherwise noted in the calendar). A meal will be served at 1200 to 1300 hrs prior to each Membership Meeting. Board Meeting will be held during the Thursday prior to the Membership Meeting at 1400 hours unless announced otherwise.



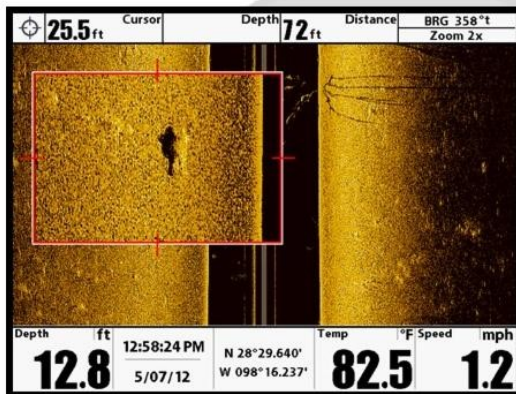
Looking for your next challenge?

San Marcos Area Recovery Team

Who we are & what we do:

SMART was established in 1988 as a volunteer public safety dive team operating in the South/Central Texas region and it is a division of Hays County Emergency Services District #3.

SMART specializes in the underwater search for and recovery of missing persons and vehicles, and conducts underwater crime scene investigation.



Who we are looking for:

Dedicated members of the Austin / San Marcos / San Antonio diving community that have the time, physical fitness, and energy to take on the mental and physical challenges of being a member of a public safety teams.

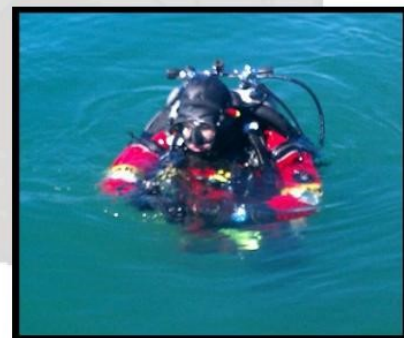
Even if you can't dive and just want to be a part of the team, we need you as a tender or support staff.

How much time does it take?

SMART members are expected train 1 day and have 3 – 4 hours of station time working on equipment and maintenance a month.

SMART responds to 3-7 calls per year, mostly in the summer months.

Members are expected to attend 80% of the training and 50% of the calls



Visit our website: www.smartdivers.com
Follow us on Facebook: [@sanmarcosarearecoveryteam](https://www.facebook.com/sanmarcosarearecoveryteam)
Email us at smartrecruiting@southhaysfire.com

The standards are high but the rewards are great.

LLDB Invitation

Dear Comrades-In-Arms,

The Vietnam War was ended for over 42 years, but as Gen. McArthur said: “The old soldiers never die, they only fade away”

You’re cordially invited to attend our nation-wide event for the “Reunification of the ARVN Special Forces/81st Airborne Rangers” in Houston, Texas.

Schedules:

Friday May 26 2017 from 6:30 PM to 11:00 PM

The Reunion party at Thiên phú restaurant (\$20 each person).

Address: 11215 Bellaire BLVD suite #100, Houston TX 77072 - Phone 281-568-1448.

Saturday May 27 2017 from 6:00 PM to 12:00 PM Suggest wearing Uniform

The Ceremony and dinner party at Ocean Place restaurant (\$35 each person)

Address 11205 Bellaire blvd Houston TX 77072 - Phone : 281-988-8898.

Sunday May 28 2017 from Noon to 8 PM

The farewell party at Riverstones Clubs House Complemented Meals and drink

Address 9300 River Stone Ranch Dr. Houston TX 77089

Hotel:

Hilton garden Inn Houston, West Belt – Phone: 713-270-6100.

Military rate \$89, Self booking and subject to change so book as soon as possible

Address: 6855 W Sam Houston Pkwy S, Houston, TX 77072

Hampton Inn & Suites Houston-Westchase - Phone: 281- 530-7776

Military rate \$80 include breakfast and subject to change so book as soon as possible.

Block Rate is \$79 for **Vietnamese Green Beret Houston Chapter**, however the room must book by the end of April 2017 and the code is **BCD**

Address: 6440 W Sam Houston Pkwy S, Houston, TX 77072

Contact: - Nguyen Dinh Thanh 281-967-3400

- Nguyen Trong Hieu 832-995-7198

- Bich Phuong 832-955-7179

----- **cut here and return for RSVP** -----

RSVP by May 15 2017 - For arrangement, please write down

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Number of people attending:

Friday May 26 2017 _____

Saturday May 27 2017 _____

Sunday May 28 2017 _____

Write check to: Gia dinh 81/Houston

Mail to: Nguyen van Dai

1998 Honey Meadow Ln,

Houston TX 77089



Special Forces Creed

*I am an American Special Forces Soldier. A professional!
I will do all that my nation requires of me.
I am a volunteer, knowing well the hazards of my profession.
I serve with the memory of those who have gone before me:
Roger's Rangers, Francis Marion, Mosby's Rangers,
the 1st Special Service Force, the Jedburghs, Detachment 101,
and the Special Forces Soldiers of the Vietnam War,
Who were awarded 17 Medals of Honor and 90 Distinguished Service Crosses.
I pledge to uphold the honor and integrity of all these,
In all That I am, all I do.
I am a professional soldier.
I will teach and fight whatever my nation requires,
To liberate the oppressed.
I will strive always, to excel in every art and artifice of war.
I know that I will be called upon to perform tasks in isolation
Far from familiar faces and voices.
With the help and guidance of my God,
I will conquer my fears and succeed.
I will keep my mind and body clean, alert and strong, for this is my debt
to those who depend upon me.
I will not fail those with whom I serve, I will not bring shame upon myself or the
Forces. I will maintain myself, my arms, and my equipment
In an immaculate state as befits a Special Forces Soldier.
My goal is to succeed in any mission—and live to succeed again.
I may not be found wanting, that I will not fail in this sacred trust*

Special Forces Poem

By P.A. White

*I've lifted my glass and drank my fill, Of the wine that's known as pride.
I've walked among some gallant men,
And watched them stride for stride. I've crammed my head with devious ways
To defeat the enemy's goal. And kept inside for loyalty's sake,
The tales that can't be told. The need is gone for my service now,
I'll hang up my green beret and sip no more the wine of pride,
Till called again someday.
The strength and character of an organization are measured by its members.
Bob and Vicki Walker*

RECUERDO (REMEMBRANCE)

**I sing of one who would remain unsung,
whose name would fade like tracks upon the
sand. For him no bells were ordered to be
rung; no banners lowered by a grieving
land. No bugles blew the moment that he
expired; no clock was stopped to fix the final
hour; no doors were draped in black, no
cannons fired. These are the rites of men of
rank and power.**

**But still I sing of him with mounting pride,
who seized the challenge with uncommon
heart then ran the course with firm
unfaltering stride to reach the mark
determined from the start.**

**The measure of a man who runs the race —
lies in his distance from the starting place.**

Anonymous



Notice to members and friends of SFA Chapter XV, The Alamo Chapter:

A FULL-PAGE AD in this Newsletter is only \$100 for 12 issues.

To start your ad or keep it running, contact Buddy Gee,
sgmgee@aol.com



Other ad sizes available:

This is a half-page ad (horizontal)

8" x 5"

\$60



This is a quarter-page ad (vertical)

3 3/4" x 5"

\$40

These are business-card ads

3 3/4" x 2"

\$25



Chapter XV, Special Forces Association

P.O. Box 33782

San Antonio, Texas 78265-3782

President: William E. Smith

presidentchapterxv@gmail.com



Calendar of Significant Special Forces Events

- 26-28 MAY Reunification of the ARVN Special Forces/81st Airborne Rangers
Houston, TX
POC: Nguyen Dinh Thanh 281-967-3400
- 05-10 JUN 2017 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne) Reunion
El Paso, TX
POC: jsthong@hotmail.com
- 12-17 JUN 2017 Special Forces Association International Conference 2017
Fayetteville, NC
POC: <http://sfa1-18.org/2017-convention.html>
- 20-23 SEPT 2017 5th Special Forces (Airborne) Group Reunion
Fort Campbell, KY
POC: <http://www.sfa38.org>
-

When submitting articles or photos for the newsletter please enter "SFA newsletter input" in the subject line of your email. Please submit articles and pictures (copies only) for the newsletter to Buddy Gee at sgmgee@aol.com, or mail them to Chapter President Bill Smith at SFA Chapter XV, P.O. Box 33782, San Antonio, TX 78265.

The Editors



"Carry on!"