



# GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

## *The Alamo Chapter*

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

SPECIAL EDITION

July 2024

President: Jeff Dahlby  
Vice-President: Tom Tannahill  
Secretary: Fred Solis  
Asst. Secretary: Sergio Venegas  
Treasurer: Deon Popoy  
Asst. Treasurer: Merrill Hall  
Sgt at Arms: Raul de la Garza  
Asst. Sgt at Arms: Gordon Lee  
Chaplain: Steve Rindahl

**Visit us at our Home Page:**

[www.sfa-xv.org](http://www.sfa-xv.org)



### Committee Chairs

Nominations: Chuck Rose  
Membership: Sergio Venegas  
JROTC Awards: John Lopez  
Scholarships: Pat Connolly  
Christmas Banquet: Jeff Dahlby  
Budget Committee: Deon Popoy  
Chapter Memorial Svc: Jeff Dahlby  
Fiesta Medals: Gordon Lee  
Fundraising: Jeff Dahlby

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS



### July 13 — Chapter XV Monthly Meeting

VFW Post 8541, 2222 Austin Highway

- 1100 — Board Meeting
- 1200 — Lunch
- 1300 — Membership Meeting



## DON'T FORGET



- Sick call at 1300 every Sunday at VFW Post 8541. POC is Bill Beall.

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

President Sends:

Greetings SFA Chapter XV,

We had a great meeting on 8 June with Chapter members Marti and Ben, JW Martin, John Dominguez and his wife, Daniel Bell, Steve Stevenson, Fred Villareal, and Joe Caballero joining the group after a brief hiatus. Ted Donna and Albert Gonzalez also came to the meeting and we hope to sign them up as new Chapter members.

Outgoing president John Lopez was presented with a plaque for his time and effort as president from 2019-2023 and his continued service with the newsletter together with his wife Amy while also overseeing the Chapter's JROTC outreach program. The Chapter truly appreciates all the support John continues to provide.



Chapter members Dave Holland and Mike Brown conducted a static line jump into Normandy on 5 June to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day. Click [HERE](#) for video.

Chapter members Merrill Hall and Izzy Ortega joined me in welcoming the 19<sup>th</sup> SFGA Group back from their deployment at Longtab Brewery on 7 June. It was great to meet all the "younger crowd" and coordinate a talk with them in November in hopes of getting more of them involved in the Chapter and celebrating Special Forces Day in Texas on 28 June 2025.

Chapter member Steve Damon and I continued to put our handyman skills to work on a bunkhouse at Echo Hill Ranch for Gold Star kid's camps. The rebuild of bunkhouses is an ongoing project and volunteers are still needed as camp counselors or instructors along with other projects. The 2<sup>nd</sup> 2024 camp course will run from 1-10 July. Besides work on the bunkhouse, Chapter XV members presented a check to Echo Hill ranch owner Marcie Friedman prior to the start of camp. On a sadder note, Marcie's brother Kinky Friedman passed in late June. He was a Texas icon who will be missed by all that knew him.

The Chapter will hold its 1<sup>st</sup> inaugural golf tournament fundraiser on 10 September 2024 at the Breckenridge Golf Course with sponsors and golfers being solicited through the website <https://events.golfstatus.com/event/1st-annual-alamo-chapter-xv-golf-tournament/details/registrants>. This link is also available on the home page of our Chapter XV website <https://www.sfa-xv.org/>.

Our next membership meeting is scheduled for Saturday, 13 July 2024 at 1300 hours at VFW Post 8541 located at 2222 Austin Highway, San Antonio. A business meeting will be held at 1100 hours for Chapter Board members and lunch will be available at 1200.

Respectfully,

Jeffrey D. Dahlby  
President  
SFA Chapter XV

# JUNE MEETING MINUTES — 6/9/24

## I. Board members present:

President Jeff Dahlby  
Vice President Tom Tannahill  
Secretary Fred Solis  
Asst. Secretary Sergio Venegas  
Asst. Treasurer Merrill Hall  
SGT-at-Arms Raul de la Garza

II. President Jeff Dahlby called the meeting to order at 1300 hrs., followed by the pledge of allegiance led by V.P. Tom Tannahill and Chaplain's invocation by member Harold McBride. President Dahlby led a moment of silence for our fallen comrades.

III. President Dahlby welcomed and recognized new members, guests, visitors and wives present: besides the "usual crowd," Marti and Ben, J.W. Martin, John Dominguez and his wife, Daniel Bell, Steve Stevenson, Fred Villareal, and Joe Caballero. Non-members Ted Donna and Albert Gonzalez joined us and were invited to sign up as Chapter members.

## IV. Members Sick or In Distress

- a. Associate Member Vito Cellini passed away on Sunday, 28 April 2024. 100-year-old Vito had been ill and in and out of the hospital a few times over the weeks prior to his passing. Numerous members attended his celebration of life at VFW Post 8541 on 1 June. His son Nick donated two powered chairs to the Veteran's Hospice. President Dahlby thanked attendees and commented.
- b. Retired Colonel Daniel (Dan) H. Edwards passed away in the company of his wife Carolyn at their home in San Antonio on April 9, 2024, at the age of 82. He was interred at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery on 9 May 2024. President Dahlby thanked members who attended his funeral. Funeral attendees commented and were also thanked.
- c. A Celebration of Life for Jai Rose, wife of Chuck Rose, was held on 2 June 2024, at VFW Post 8541. Over 100 family members and friends attended. Chuck thanked everyone for their caring and support.

## OLD BUSINESS

- I. Treasurer's Report: Presented by Assistant Treasurer Merrill Hall read April and May's 2024 report which were approved as presented.
- II. Minutes Approval: April 2024 Minutes approved. (No meeting in May)
- III. Membership Report: Sergio provided an updated roster with 244 current members.
- IV. ANNUAL PICNIC: The Special Forces Association Jack Hogue Picnic was held from 3-5 May at Yogi Berra's Jellystone Park™ Camp-Resort Hill Country, 12915 Farm to Market 306, Canyon Lake, TX 78133. Although the location was good, we are considering the possibility of changing locations to the Antler Oaks Lodge in Bandera, TX next year.
- V. FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE (McBride/Coleman/Solis/Walker/Goode/Armezzani)
  - a. Golf Tournament: McBride and Armezzani provided an update on the SFA

# JUNE MEETING MINUTES — CONTINUED

- a. Golf Tournament: McBride and Armezzani provided an update on the SFA Chapter XV golf tournament scheduled for 10 Sep 2024. The golf tournament website is operational for registration and sponsorships. Harold reported we need hole-in-one sponsors, need \$1500 sponsorship each. John asked for the ad so he can send out in social media.
- b. The Donor's Website page is up with four donation levels of Elite, Gold, Silver, and Bronze.
- c. Fred Solis donated \$500 to finish last details of the website.
- d. Discussing a pistol raffle fundraiser as well.
- e. A Perry's Pizza" sponsorship in the works, scheduled for September 3, 2024.

## VI. WEBSITE REPLACEMENT: (Fred/Jeff/LaJazzman Broome)

President Dahlby asked the membership to make any recommendations/modifications to the new site. Our events calendar continues to grow.

- VII. FIESTA MEDAL STATUS: Medals are still available; Long Tab had excellent sales, thank you! A suggestion was made to provide a medal to each golfer in September.
- VIII. SFA CRUISE 19-24 October (Jeff) Still inside rooms available. Marti recommended a Chapter dinner or get together during the cruise.
- IX. JROTC AWARDS. John Lopez was thanked for his support and Steve Stevenson talked about attending four separate ceremonies to provide a medal to the recipients. According to Paul Coleman, another high school is interested in joining the program and he provided the details.
- X. ECHO HILL GOLD STAR CAMP. Steve Damon provided an update and members were invited to continue to assist with construction projects. Much work and support has been provided by our chapter XV members.

## NEW BUSINESS

- I. SCHOLARSHIP AWARD: Pat Connolly provided an overview of the recipient and a combined \$2,000 scholarship (\$1500 from Chapter XV and \$500 from Gen Valenzuela's San Antonio Youth Foundation) was awarded to Duncan Cook the son of Chapter member MSG John Dominguez. Duncan graduated from Holy Cross of San Antonio and was accepted to the College of Engineering at Texas A&M in College Station. Best of luck to Duncan and congratulations.
- II. Outgoing president John Lopez was presented with a plaque for his time his efforts as president from 2019-2023 and his continued service with the newsletter together with his wife Amy and overseeing the JROTC program was highlighted.
- III. Chapter members attended the SFG(A) 19<sup>th</sup> Group get together at Longtab Brewing Co on 7 June and Chapter President discussed with Company SGM Steve Anderson a SFA presentation during their November drill to recruit new members. Chapter members will be provided with the date/time for anyone that is interested in attending also as outreach to active-duty members.
- IV. The Special Operations Medical Association 2024 Scientific Assembly recognized Chapter Member COL(R) Robert L. Mabry as one of the first nine inductees into USSOCOM's Medical Hall of Honor.
- V. Current status of the audit being discussed at our National headquarters was discussed with our Chapter membership who overwhelmingly voted in favor of a complete audit to ensure transparency.

# JUNE MEETING MINUTES — CONTINUED

VI. John Armezzani will coordinate a guest speaker for the September meeting that will discuss and provide information regarding wills, probate, trusts, etc. with Chapter members.

VII. Chapter members Mike Brown and Dave Holland jumped into Normandy on 5 June and their picture will be uploaded to the website.

## VIII. CALENDAR:

14 June                      Flag Day and Army Birthday

15 June                      SF Ranger Brunch at Rock & Brews at 1100 (third Saturday)

15 June                      SFBMC open house at 1700 hours (third Saturday)

16 June                      Father's Day

The 2024 courses for the Echo Hills Gold Star Camp will run from 19-28 June and 1-10 July with 14-18 June scheduled for staff member orientation.

4<sup>th</sup> of July                  Independence Day

13 July                      **Next SFA Chapter XV meeting**

3 September              Fish City Grill fundraiser

16-20 September          American Legion China Post 1 Convention in Las Vegas

14-17 October              SOA Convention in Las Vegas

19-24 October              SFA Cruise departing from Tampa

14 December              SFA Chapter XV Christmas Party

IX. Open Discussion: Mark Goode stated that a gun show table costs \$65.00.

X. Raul conducted our meeting raffle.

XI. Upon request for a motion by President Dahlby, the meeting adjourned at 1410 hrs.

Respectfully submitted,  
Fred Solis,  
SFA Chapter XV Secretary



## What's been happening around the Chapter?



Happy SFA Chapter XV fiesta medal recipient Liam Powell.

Above: Special Operations Medical Association (SOMA) President and SFA XV Chapter member John Dominguez (left rear) poses with the initial nine Inductees into the USSOCOM Medical Hall of Honor. Chapter member Robert Mabry (right rear) was one of the initial inductees.

Former SFA Chapter XV secretary and Chapter member Mike Brown following 5 June 2024 jump into Normandy to commemorate 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Below: Supporting Echo Hill Gold Star Camp (L-R Simone, Mike, Jeff Dahlby, Marcie Friedman, Buddy Gee, Merrill Hall, and Steve Damon)





## Chapter Recognition/Scholarship Recipient



# GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

## 2024 CALENDAR

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>JANUARY</u></b></p> <p>2 Fund Raiser Fish City Grill</p> <p>13 Board Meeting 1100</p> <p>13 Membership Meeting 1300</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>FEBRUARY</u></b></p> <p>10 Board Meeting 1100</p> <p>10 Membership Meeting 1300</p> <p>14 Valentines Day</p> <p>15 Drop Input Due</p> <p>26 Chapter Anniversary (1977)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>MARCH</u></b></p> <p>1 Scholarship Apps Open</p> <p>8-10 Cotulla Wild Hog Cookoff</p> <p>9 Board Meeting 1100</p> <p>9 Membership Meeting 1300</p> <p>17 St. Patrick's Day</p> <p>19 Presidents Day</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>APRIL</u></b></p> <p>13 Chapter Memorial Svc 1000</p> <p>13 Board Meeting 1100</p> <p>13 Membership Meeting 1300</p> <p>18-28 Fiesta Festival 2024</p> <p>30 Scholarship Apps Close</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>MAY</u></b></p> <p>12 Mothers' Day</p> <p>15 Drop Input Due</p> <p>17-19 Annual SFA Chapter Event (Formerly Canyon Lake)</p> <p>27 Memorial Day</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>JUNE</u></b></p> <p>14 Board Meeting 1100</p> <p>14 Membership Meeting 1300</p> <p>14 Flag Day &amp; Army Birthday</p> <p>16 Fathers' Day</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>JULY</u></b></p> <p>4 Independence Day</p> <p>13 Board Meeting 1100</p> <p>13 Membership Meeting 1300</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>AUGUST</u></b></p> <p>13 Board Meeting 1100</p> <p>13 Membership Meeting 1300</p> <p>15 Drop Input Due</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>SEPTEMBER</u></b></p> <p>2 Labor Day</p> <p>14 Board Meeting 1100</p> <p>14 Membership Meeting 1300</p> <p>20 POW/MIA Day</p> <p>17-22 5th SFG 63rd Reunion Clarksville, TN</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>OCTOBER</u></b></p> <p>12 Board Meeting 1100</p> <p>12 Membership Meeting 1300</p> <p>14 Columbus Day</p> <p>19-24 SFA Nat'l Convention Cruise from Tampa, FL</p> <p>31 Halloween</p> <p>TBD Oktoberfest at FSH</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>NOVEMBER</u></b></p> <p>9 Board Meeting 1100</p> <p>9 Membership Meeting 1300</p> <p>11 Veterans Day</p> <p>15 Drop Input Due</p> <p>28 Thanksgiving</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>DECEMBER</u></b></p> <p><b>NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING</b></p> <p>7 Pearl Harbor Day</p> <p>14 Annual Christmas Banquet</p> <p>25 Christmas</p>

**All Chapter Meetings, unless announced otherwise, will be held at VFW Post 8541. Membership Meetings begin at 1300 hrs on the second Saturday of the month (unless otherwise noted in the calendar.) A lunch meal will be served from 1200 to 1300 hours prior to each Meeting.**



## Friends of Chapter XV



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## Friends of Chapter XV

### Echo Hill Gold Star Camp Auction

#### A 1960's-era M-416 Trailer (project) for sale.

By Brian Kanof

The M-416 was the continuation of the M-100, which was towed behind the WWII and Korean War Jeeps (M-38 series). The rounded fenders were changed to squared ones to match the Vietnam series M-151's which were manufactured from 1960 to 1980. Larger trailers were then made to follow behind the Humvees from 1980 to present.

The M-416 survivors are very hard to find in any condition. Because they only weight 600 lbs., they can be towed on or off road by even the smallest 4-cylinder vehicles. There are Facebook sites devoted to them. Modified examples for camping use can drive the price up thousands.

Marcie Friedman is selling hers to support the Echo Hill Gold Star Camp. Bids start at \$500. Sale price will be 1040 deductible, as the camp is a 501c3 nonprofit. The trailer is in need of restoration but is complete. New tires and a bearing repack (and Pintel hitch) are all that are needed to pull it home. Contact Marcie Friedman at [Echo Hill Ranch](#) for more details.



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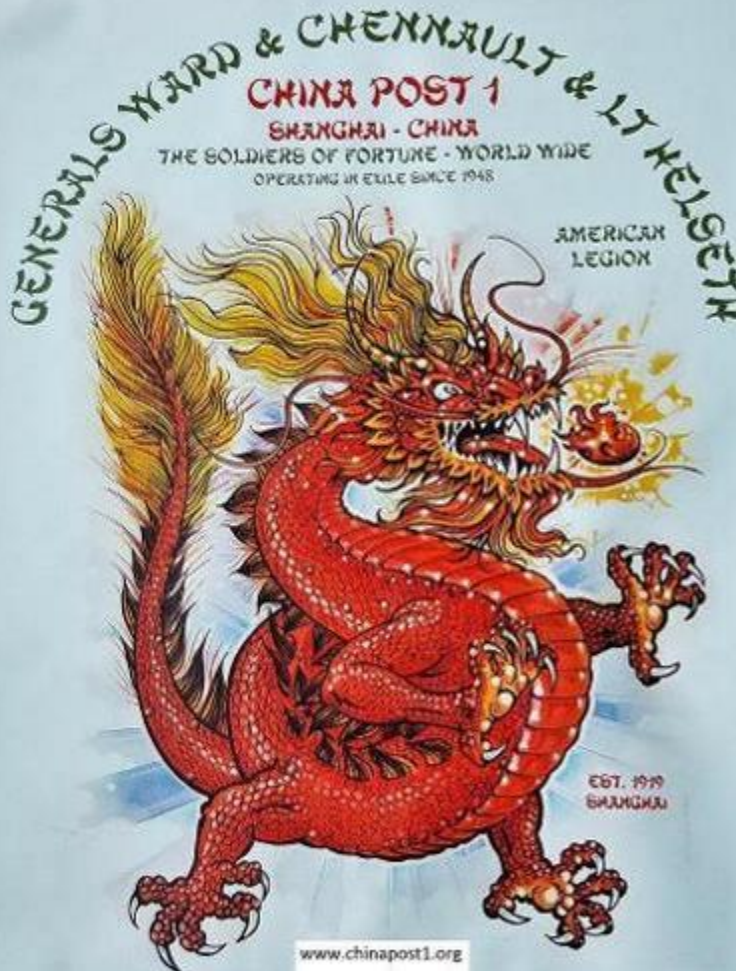
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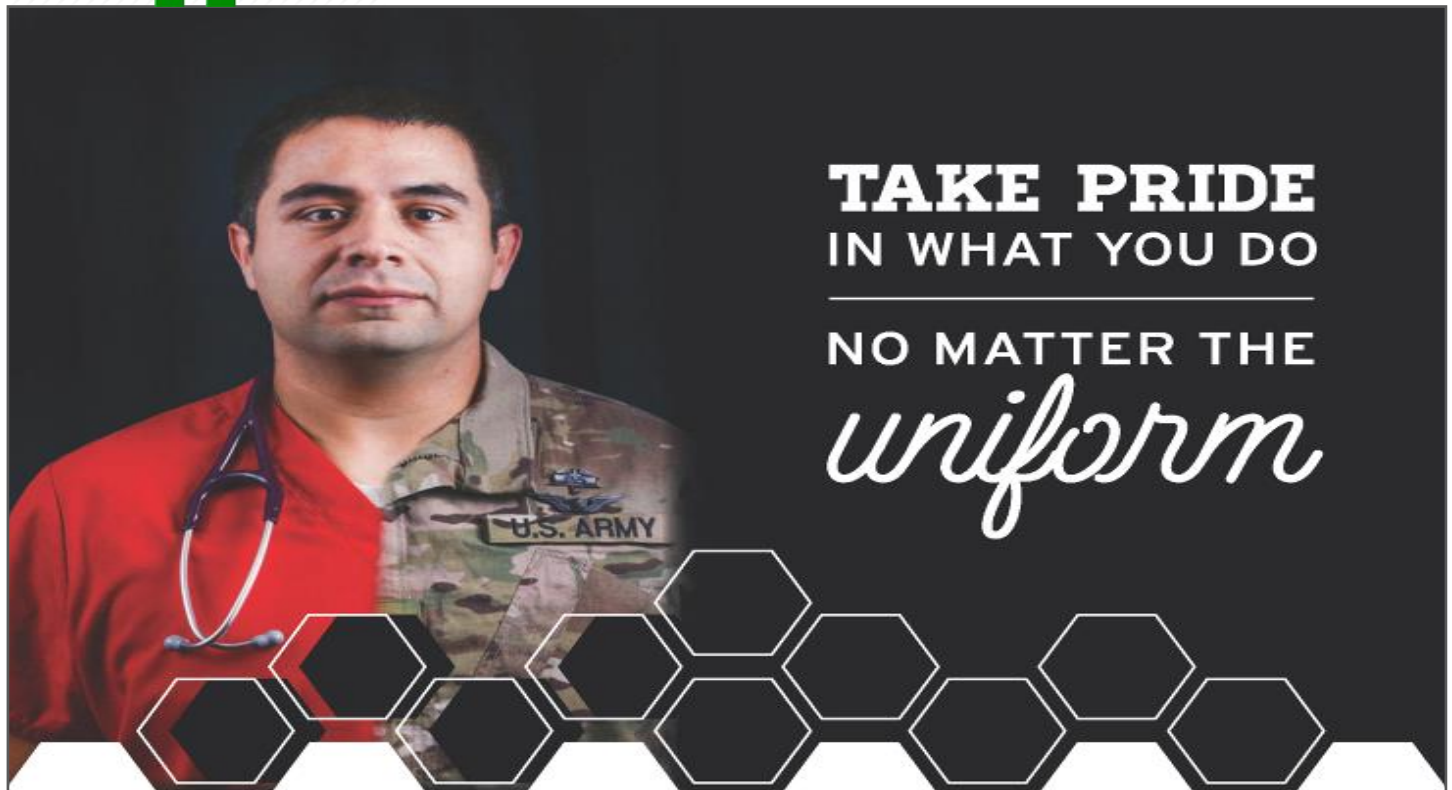


## \$\$\$ Dollars and Cents



Treasurer's Input—Not Received

Update will be given at the upcoming meeting.



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## **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**



### ***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.M. 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*

## Calendar of Significant Special Forces Events

17-22 SEPT 2024 5th Group Reunion  
Country Inn & Suites, Clarksville, TN

16-19 OCT 2024 Special Operations Association Reunion  
The Orleans Hotel, Las Vegas, NV

22-25 OCT 2024 Special Forces Association Convention  
Cruise from Tampa, FL

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 for the newsletter to [editor@sfa-xv.org](mailto:editor@sfa-xv.org), or mail them to Chapter President at SFA Chapter XV, P.O. Box 33782, San Antonio TX 78265.

**John and Amy Lopez**  
**The Editors**

**Helpful Links:**

[Chapter XV Website](#)

[SFA National Website](#)



**"Carry on!"**