



SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION CHAPTER XI (WASHINGTON AREA)



NEWSLETTER September – December 2011

**SFA CHAPTER XI
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CHAPTER OFFICERS

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SFA Chapter XI Web site	http://www.sfa11.org		

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CHAPTER XI PLANNING CALENDER

Time / Date	Event	Location
1300 hours December 4	Chapter Christmas Party	Hoffman Residence
January TBD	SOF Mixer	Northern Virginia
February TBD	Meeting with guest speaker	TBD
March TDB	Meeting with guest speaker	TBD
April 28	Chapter XI Banquet	Army Navy Club

On Friday 28 October 2011 at the Harvest Moon Restaurant we will be hosting a guest speaker Mr. Gordon M. Ettenson, a member of the Senior Executive Service, and the Deputy Director of Operations, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Plans and Requirements, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C. Mr. Ettenson also assists the Director of Operations with policy, guidance and oversight of Air Force air and weather operations training and resourcing, with specific responsibilities for irregular warfare, special operations and aviation energy. During more than 26 years of military service, Mr. Ettenson spent 22 in a broad range of Air Force and joint operational, staff and command positions in special operations.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

We have completed the Fall chapter activities and are looking forward towards winter and 2012.

Winter 2011

In November there will be NO chapter meeting in recognition of Thanksgiving.



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Additionally, in November the U.S. Army Special Forces Command (Airborne) will conduct a wreath-laying ceremony on 17 November 2011 at Arlington National Cemetery to honor President John F. Kennedy's vision and support of Special Forces Green Berets. The SFA has been invited to participate and attend this event. Our Chapter Secretary John Mohler will officially represent the chapter with the SFA at this ceremony and you are invited to attend as well. Additional information will be provided at the October chapter meeting and SFA members planning to attend the ceremony are asked to wear the SFA green blazer and Green Beret. Active duty members are asked to wear ASUs. The ceremony is to begin at 1010 hours and will conclude at 1055 hours. A Green Beret Cordon, Green Beret Color Guard, and Old Guard Cordon will also reside at the JFK Family Gravesite from 0950 hours to 1100 hours. For more detailed information and coordination you are asked to contact greenberetjfk@yahoo.com.

On Sunday afternoon 4 December 2011 beginning at 1300 hours I will again be hosting the Chapter Christmas Party at my home in Stafford, VA. Come and cheer for your favorite NFL team in that I will have the NFL Red Zone on during the party.

In January 2012, on either a Wednesday or Thursday evening following work, in Old Town Alexandria we will be teaming with other Special Operations Organizations in the DC area for a joint mixer. We are currently working towards a firm date and time for the mixer and more information will follow.

Additionally, in February and March we will be hosting guest speakers at a location to be identified prior to those meetings. We are looking at having a United States Congressman and Active Duty General Officer (Commander) speaking at these meetings.

Like always, I would ask that you make every effort to attend the chapter events in that the chapter is moving forward. The upcoming meetings are an excellent opportunity for you to meet existing friends, network with new acquaintances, and to build camaraderie.

Finally, I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming winter meetings and events. Till then be safe. We have already started planning next year's Army Navy Formal scheduled to occur in May 2012. This event will follow more of a banquet format and we are looking at leveraging regional participation by asking the other SFA Chapters in Region 3 to team with us and participate in the formal.

UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS.

In November the chapter will be participating in and supporting the wreath-laying ceremony on 17 November 2011 at Arlington National Cemetery honoring President John F. Kennedy's vision and support of Special Forces Green Berets.

In December Chapter President Lou Hoffman will be hosting the Chapter Christmas Party at his home in Stafford, VA.

In January 2012 the chapter will be teaming with other Special Operations personnel in the Washington D.C. area to facilitate a Joint Mixer the chapter will host in Old Town Alexandria, VA.

In February and March 2012 the chapter will be hosting a guest speaker each month with tentative commitments already received from a United States Congressman and Active Duty General Officer (Commander).

Finally, in late April the chapter will be hosting its annual banquet at the Army Navy Club in Washington, D.C.



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SECRETARY'S CORNER. John Ferry

I have invested significant effort in past few months into refreshing the public image of the chapter through electronic mediums. Looking at the websites of nearly every other chapter in the entire SFA, the common theme is obvious. Every single page looks old, outdated, shabby, and in many cases has not been updated in MANY years. Our own site was nearly 5 years old when I took it over, through no fault of any individual; it simply reflects the combined interest in the website. The site had no information on it, so no one liked it, so no one cared about it. Well after the hundreds of man hours that I have personally invested in the website, I think that it is a pretty nice site, not as nice as nationals, but right up there. Being that the future mode of receiving information will be through the internet, it is about time that we start using the site to its full potential. This means that it will be the primary source for passive information transfer. For active and dynamic communications, email will be used. The days of paper mailings or electronic newsletters are a decade past. That being said, I know that some will contest the move to electronic mediums, that papers should still be mailed and that some people can't use the internet. This is categorically invalid; Special Forces soldiers have been using the most cutting edge equipment since their inception. Green Berets have always been expected to adapt to the current operating environment and further, to master the capabilities that they are afforded. In conclusion, this will be the final newsletter that I will write, the time and monetary expense that it requires compared to the quantity of information that it conveys does not constitute a sufficient return on investment. If you have any issues or would like help navigating the website please contact me by email.

TREASURER'S CORNER. John Mohler.

1. Total amount in Bank Account: \$21,327.00
Minus SWOF Amount: \$ 1,495.00
Minus Katz Deli funds: \$ 4,574.00

Remaining Operating Funds: \$15,258.00

2. Donations since 13 March:
Lloyd Glover - \$100.00

MONTHLY PHOTOS



THE MEDAL OF HONOR Recipient SFC Leroy Petry at the American Veterans Center, 14th Annual Awards Gala at the Ballroom of the Renaissance Washington Hotel Washington, DC Saturday, 5th of November, 2011.

John Mohler and John Whidden presented him with a SFA token of our gratitude for his sacrifice and patriotic combat service.

SFC Leroy Petry was awarded the Medal for his actions during a firefight in Afghanistan. Upon his presentation ceremony, he became the second living recipient of the award for actions occurring since the Vietnam War.



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At our October meeting we hosted guest speaker Mr. Gordon M. Ettenson, a member of the Senior Executive Service, and the Deputy Director of Operations, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Plans and Requirements, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C. Mr. Ettenson also assists the Director of Operations with policy, guidance and oversight of Air Force air and weather operations training and resourcing, with specific responsibilities for irregular warfare, special operations and aviation energy. During more than 26 years of military service, Mr. Ettenson spent 22 in a broad range of Air Force and joint operational, staff and command positions in special operations.



The OSS Society, held its black tie Donovan Award Dinner on Saturday evening at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Washington. Participants were treated to a splendid evening with a joint service color guard, the US Army Strolling Strings and featuring remarks by General (Retired) David Petraeus and Admiral Eric Olson, former commander of the US SOCOM. Admiral Olson was the recipient of the Donovan Award, named after the legendary founder of the OSS and a Medal of Honor winner from WWI. Chapter XI was well represented with Charley and Virginia Norton, Gene and Sharon Russell, Lynn Mariano, John Whidden, Chuck and Betty Trombetta, Andy Winfrey, Jack and Joan Singlaub, and Vic and Thuy Hugo. Vic was Master of Ceremonies for the event.