

Chapter 93 SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION WACO, TX



Raymond J. Vrba Jr. Memorial Chapter

NEWSLETTER

Edition XCIII-11

December 31, 2009

CHAPTER NEWS:

Congratulations to our 2010 Chapter Officers who took office at the Christmas meeting.

President – **John Householder**

Vice President – **Chuck Masterson**

Secretary – **Lee Torbett**

Treasurer – **Kevin Schantz**

Chaplin – **Donald Graves**

MEMBER UPDATES:

NEW MEMBERS: None

MEMBER NEWS:

John **BRISTOW** is again spending Christmas downrange. Based out of England, John has been assigned as the Branch Chief, Intelligence Fusion Centre's Special Operations Branch for NATO. October found John in Belgium. The tour in Belgium was followed by a three month hitch in Afghanistan (again). By February, John should be back in England. Since, 9/11 John has spent four years downrange in Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan. Thanks for your service and dedication John.

Meetings Overview:

At the September meeting the proposed schedule and slate of officers for the upcoming Chapter elections was adopted by the members at the meeting. The meeting also addressed the Veterans' Luncheon at the Outback Steak House, Memorial Day Parade for November 11 and Flag Retirement Ceremony on November 15 at American Legion Post 121. This year's theme for the Veterans' Day Parade – "Let Freedom Ring."

PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

A Message from Jon Ker, Chapter President:

As I am writing this, we are on the verge of Christmas Day. Our nation, one founded on the moral principles of Christianity as clearly stated by our founding fathers, is in a battle over what America will look like even within a few months, including whether we will jettison our Christian heritage and our celebration of the birth of Christ as a people. I for one was shocked, but curiously not surprised, when I heard the White House had decided not to display the traditional nativity scene this year, until the collective gasp of those in attendance at the announcement caused a rethinking of that position. When our national leadership takes such an anti-Christmas position, it is no wonder so many of the younger generation think nothing or

very little of the reason for our celebration. Little do they understand that Christmas is a time to celebrate "Immanuel" - God with us! God in the flesh of Christ coming to be with us, walk among us, and show us the better and only way to the Father, and then to sacrifice Himself for our salvation that we might be reconciled to the Father. Now that is something to celebrate! And so it has been done for these almost 2000 years. I pray we do not abandon the celebration of this Day of Days! As you go through your day, take time to tell God thanks for sending His Son Jesus just for you. It will make the season so much more special and meaningful.

We had our Chapter Christmas party at Frank and Trish Graham's house Saturday, 5 December. First, thanks to the Grahams for opening their home to us. Second, we installed the new officers who will take over with the turn of the New Year. Third, we just had a good time together.

I close out 2 years as the Chapter President and I thank each of you for having confidence in me to hold that post. Our Chapter, with the direct participation of Frank Graham, Jim Savell, Gary Cook, Bert Hernandez, John Bristow and Lee Torbet, was instrumental in analyzing the proposed Constitution and By Laws changes and getting national distribution of our findings prior to the voting on them. That was a project to assure that

even a small chapter like ours would be relevant to the national election, and that the best interest of the national organization be promoted.

We also inaugurated and continued for the second year our "Green Beret Chute-out Charity Golf Tournament". We have given one scholarship from those funds to assist Kevin Schantz's daughter to attend a medical training course for kids looking to enter the medical profession. Kevin is 100% military disabled, so his daughter qualified under our criteria. We have also developed our scholarship guidelines and application forms.

Those will soon be going out to each member, and I ask that you contact the high school counselors in your area so we can get applications distributed as widely as possible.

Lastly, we raffled off the Austin-Healey and made a little over \$5,000 for the Chapter. And then the winner gave it back to the Chapter so we can sell it on e-Bay and make some additional money. I am now working with Bert to get the car placed on e-Bay and sold. That should be completed soon. We will have only a \$15,000 reserve so we should be able to easily sell it.

I had hoped that during my tenure we could have had a full Chapter get-together somewhere at a central location to make it as easy as possible for everyone to attend. Although that did not

materialize, I still hope we can achieve that in the near future.

One other opportunity for us to all get together is to meet at the B-2-12 Reunion in Ruidoso, NM this coming April. It is three short days of good fellowship, "big fish" and tall tale stories (with a few lies(?) thrown in to boot) with a great firing range shoot out for good measure. Try to make it this year, bring your firearms and join in the fun. See the announcement from Gary Cook for the dates and details.

On a personal note, Terri and I are praising God for how well she is doing after having been cut on followed by being poisoned with chemotherapy for almost six months. I pray none of our collective loved ones have to go through that. Terri was given the most harsh chemo cocktail, and it caused her to suffer severely. However, thanks be to God, beginning the Wednesday of the week before Thanksgiving in answer to prayer she began feeling better, so much so we were able to have our youngest son and his family and Terri's parents to our house for Thanksgiving Day, and Terri got to cook the holiday meal !!. It was without doubt the best Thanksgiving either of us ever had. Terri's drive and determination to be victorious over cancer was awe inspiring. She is my hero! Please keep her in your prayers for full recovery, including

recovery from the neuropathy that developed in her feet and hands.

Thanks to John Householder for being the incoming President. John is going to be a great Chapter President and one we can all be proud of.

For those on my left and my right!

STRENGTH AND HONOR

Jon

SF Association, National News: None at press time

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- .November 11 – Veterans’ Day Parade and Luncheon (Completed)
- November 15 – Flag Retirement Ceremony (Completed)

December 5 – Chapter Christmas meeting & party (Completed)

May 2010 – 3rd Annual Green Beret Chute-Out Golf Tournament

*****6th annual B-2-12 SF Reunion in Ruidoso NM. April 23-25, 2010. Details TBP in the 1st quarter newsletter, 2010.**

ODDS & ENDS:

The Ant & the Grasshopper

Courtesy of former 7th SFG medic Chuck Jenkins

OLD VERSION:

The ant works hard in the withering heat all summer long, building his house and laying up supplies for the winter. The grasshopper thinks the ant is a fool and laughs and dances and plays the summer away. Come winter, the ant is warm and well fed. The grasshopper has no food or shelter, so he dies out in the cold.

MORAL OF THE STORY: Be responsible for yourself!

PROGRESSIVE VERSION:

The ant works hard in the withering heat all summer long, building his house and laying up supplies for the winter. The grasshopper thinks the ant is a fool and laughs and dances and plays the summer away. Come

winter, the shivering grasshopper calls a press conference and demands to know why the ant should be allowed to be warm and well fed while others are cold and starving. CBS, NBC , PBS, CNN, and ABC show up to provide pictures of the shivering grasshopper next to a video of the ant in his comfortable home with a table filled with food. America is stunned by the sharp contrast.

How can this be, that in a country of such wealth, this poor grasshopper is allowed to suffer so? Kermit the Frog appears on Oprah with the grasshopper and everybody cries when they sing, "It's Not Easy Being Green". Jesse Jackson stages a demonstration in front of the ant 's house where the news stations film the group singing, 'We shall overcome.' Jesse then has the group kneel down to pray to God for the grasshopper's sake. Nancy Pelosi & Harry Reid exclaim in an interview with Larry King that the ant has gotten rich off the back of the grasshopper, and both call for an immediate tax hike on the ant to make him pay his fair share. Finally, the EEOC drafts the Economic Equity & Anti-Grasshopper Act retroactive to the beginning of the summer.

The ant is fined for failing to hire a proportionate number of green bugs and, having nothing left to pay his retroactive taxes, his home is confiscated by the government. The story ends as we see the grasshopper finishing up the last bits of the ants food while the

government house he is in, which just happens to be the ant's old house, crumbles around him because he doesn't maintain it. The ant has disappeared in the snow. The grasshopper is found dead in a drug related incident and the house, now abandoned, is taken over by a gang of spiders who terrorize the once peaceful neighborhood.

MORAL OF THE STORY : Be careful how you vote in 2010 .

Air Mobility Command unveils AMC Travel Site

Space Available flight (Space-A) flights, also called Military Hops are a benefit available to active duty, reserves, retirees and their families. Under the AMC travel program, once the on-duty space required seats and cargo are manifested, any unused seats on a military or military contracted aircraft can be made available to qualified travelers.

People planning to travel using the AMC military travel system can now go to <http://www.amc.af.mil/amctravel/index.asp> . The site provides updated AMC Passenger Terminal lists, with current phone numbers, e-mail and web links, as well as letters, brochures and other travel documents. You will also find instructions for signing up to travel Space-A.

If you are planning to travel Space-A contact the nearest AMC passenger terminal, a current listing is available on the new AMC travel site. AMC never guarantees travel. Passengers need to be prepared for a Space-A trip to take more time than flying commercial and not every installation has facilities or lodging for stranded passengers.

The above information was extracted from an article in the Army Echoes (retiree magazine)

Editorial Comments

As we all know, on November 5, Major Nidal Malik Hasan committed an act of terrorism, when he opened fire on fellow U.S. Army soldiers at Ft Hood.

The politically correct leftist of our government and our society try to color the terrorist's attack as the criminal act of a mentally unbalanced man. While it is true that both the U.S. Code and the Texas Penal Code make murder a criminal act punishable under either State or Federal law (under these circumstances), it was a terrorist attack and thereby a violation of the UCMJ and Federal law. That is especially true due to the fact that the terrorist was a member of the United States Army at the time of the attack and should therefore face justice in a military court.

Regardless of whether Hasan faces trial in a civil or military court, what we must not lose sight of is

the fact that this was a premeditated act of terrorism by an Islamic jihadist. Had it not been for the heroic acts of the installation police officers and the soldiers at Ft Hood, this attack might have been even more horrific and devastating.

In this Christmas season, we should all give thanks and say an extra prayer for our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines who stand watch in our stead during these trying times. Pray for their vigilance, their safety, and their devotion to each American through their devotion to duty. I don't have to tell you, my fellow brothers-in-arms, what our service personnel sacrifice daily to insure our safety, freedom and our way of life. May God bless and protect them each and every one.

MERRY CHRISTMAS to one and all; and to every service member and their families, wherever they might serve.

Gary Cook, CSM(R)

HEALTH & WELLNESS:

Terri Ker is now over two months past her last round of chemo-therapy. She is still on the road to recovery, but doing better. On Thursday November 19, Terri underwent out-patient surgery to remove

her chemo-therapy port and is now on the road to full recovery.

Thanksgiving found Terri feeling well enough that she cooked a feast for the family. May her recovery continue and gain speed for a full a rapid restoration of good health.



This newsletter is produced for the members of SFA Chapter 93. It is compiled from information supplied by

you, written and or quoted (with credit given to the original sources) by:

Gary Cook

gcook@terrycounty.org or
gary.cook1@us.army.mil

1601 E. Cardwell St
Brownfield, TX 79316

Send submissions for the newsletter to Gary Cook by e-mail or in hardcopy to the address listed above. This publication will be distributed to Chapter members and select other recipients at the end of each month. Submissions must be received no later than the 10th day of the month for inclusion in the current edition. Late submissions will be published in the next available edition.