



SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION WASHINGTON AREA



**CHAPTER XI
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NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2007 NEWSLETTER

HOLIDAY PARTY The Schram's Residence 9 DECEMBER 2007 Start Time: 1400	JANUARY 2008 Mtg Harvest Moon Restaurant 25 JANUARY 2008 Start Time: 1830
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

We experienced a special event in mid-October. On Monday, 15 October, I received emails from SFA National and SFA Chapter 60 asking for our support. Geraldine January, the widow of SSG Aynand Taha, 5th SFG, who was KIA in Afghanistan in December 2005, was being tested and sworn in on 16 October for her US citizenship. She is a native of Botswana, South Africa, and has one child, a 2 ½ year old daughter. The USSOCOM Care Coalition, and, specifically, SFC Daniel Mckinney, had expedited the process for her to obtain citizenship. Both SFC Mckinney and Chapter 60 asked us to provide some members to attend the swearing-in ceremony.

That evening I sent out an email to a number of chapter members, and Lynn Mariano, Gene Russell, George Farris, Scot Crerar, Charlie Norton, and John McNamara attended. Geraldine attended our chapter meeting on 26 October, and we presented her with a framed photo of the swearing in. She lives in Vienna, VA, is applying for an SFA Associate Membership, and will join our chapter.

I am proud and appreciative of the manner in which members reacted to this event on very short notice. This gives me the opportunity, however, to reiterate our long-standing request for email addresses. It enables us to get out information like Geraldine's event, and funerals, that occur between newsletters. Thanks to those who have responded.

Finally, I want to thank John and Reyna Schram for hosting our annual Christmas party. Theresa and I hope to see many of you there.

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE: There are a few issues I need to discuss thus the reason for a "Secretary's Message" in this newsletter.

For those who are annual members, your 2008 membership renewal fees are due. Dues this year are \$30. Please visit the following web link for the renewal form:

<http://sfa11.org/Renewal%20Form.pdf>.

Enclose your check to the Special Forces Association and mail it to the address on Page 1. Please mail your renewal forms prior to 31 December. After 31 December your dues will be \$35.

As you know we have been trying to send out this newsletter via e-mail in order to reduce costs. Many members have sent their e-mail addresses to both Al Paddock and me, and we greatly appreciate it. However I have been informed that some have not been receiving messages from me. The only reason I can come up with is that your Internet Service Provider has my e-mail address blocked so you cannot receive e-mail from me. To fix this, all you have to do is to add my e-mail address, secretary@sfa11.org, to your "safe recipient list". This will then allow you to receive my e-mail without my messages getting sent to your "junk mail" folder.

Finally, in an attempt to not crash my computer system when trying to send out the newsletters via e-mail, I am now going to send a web link to our newsletter that is on our chapter website. This will eliminate the chances of you not receiving the newsletter due to your e-mail mailbox size limit. As always, our newsletters can be found at the following link: <http://www.sfa11.org/Newsletter.html> and click on the Adobe icon. The latest newsletter will automatically open.

Thank you for your attention and if you have any questions please call me at 703-915-2536.

OCTOBER MEETING: On 26 October 2007, 52 members and guests were in attendance to hear **LTG (Ret) Richard G. Trefry**, founder and head of the Armed Forces Management

School, speak about the state of the Army today and the importance of Special Forces in providing personnel with cultural and linguistic capabilities. He also believes that the Army should resurrect the MILGP and MAAG concepts, which would take some of the pressure off Special Forces' increasing worldwide commitments. Tim Stoy made an announcement about the Society of the 3d Infantry Division. It will host a luncheon at Walter Reed, the Mologne House, on 25 November, to celebrate its 90th birthday.

Our 50-50 raffle winner was a guest, who donated his winnings to the Special Operations Warrior Foundation.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY: Our next official function will be our annual Christmas party which will be on 9 December from 1400-1700 and will be hosted by John and Reyna Schram. Please bring a dish with you to share. A map to the Schram's residence can be found on the last page of this newsletter. If you need more specific directions, please e-mail Pete Stemniski at secretary@sfa11.org. Please include the address of your residence as this will help in getting you the most accurate directions. The Schram's can be reached at 703-495-8022 if you wish to talk with them directly.

UPCOMING SCHEDULE: The following events are scheduled:

- 25 January 2008: Guest Speaker – Dr. John McNamara will speak on personal disaster preparedness.
- 29 February 2008: Guest Speaker – Colonel (Dr.) Paul Fredrichs, USAF, who will speak on medical support for the armed forces.
- 28 March 2008: Guest Speaker – TBD
- 18 April 2008: Guest Speaker – TBD
- 3 May 2008: Annual Dinner Dance at the Army-Navy Country Club.

BURIAL FOR ALBERT DEPROSPERO:

Former Chapter XI member COL (Ret) Albert DeProspero will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery on 20 November at 1300. We will send you more information regarding where to meet as the date approaches.

CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY FOR GERALDINE JANUARY:

On 16 October members of Chapter XI were in attendance to see Ms. Geraldine January, widow of former 5th Special Forces Group member SSG Aynand Taha who was killed in action in December 2005 in Iraq, become a United States Citizen in Fairfax, Virginia. Chapter XI members in attendance at Ms. January's ceremony included **Gene Russell, George Farris, Scot Crerar, Charlie Norton, John McNamara, and Lynn Mariano.**

CHAPTER XI FINANCIAL REPORT:

Chapter bank account: \$12,959.53
Less funds designated for SOWF: \$631.00
Less funds to be sent to SFAHQ: \$0
Remaining chapter operating funds:
\$12,328.53

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GENERAL FUND:

- Gene Russell, \$300.00
- Al Paddock, \$100.00 IMO Aynand Taya

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CHAPTER SPECIAL OPERATIONS WARRIOR FOUNDATION ACCOUNT:

- Charlie Norton, \$20.00
- Dinner raffle profit, \$137.00
- Anonymous, \$74.00

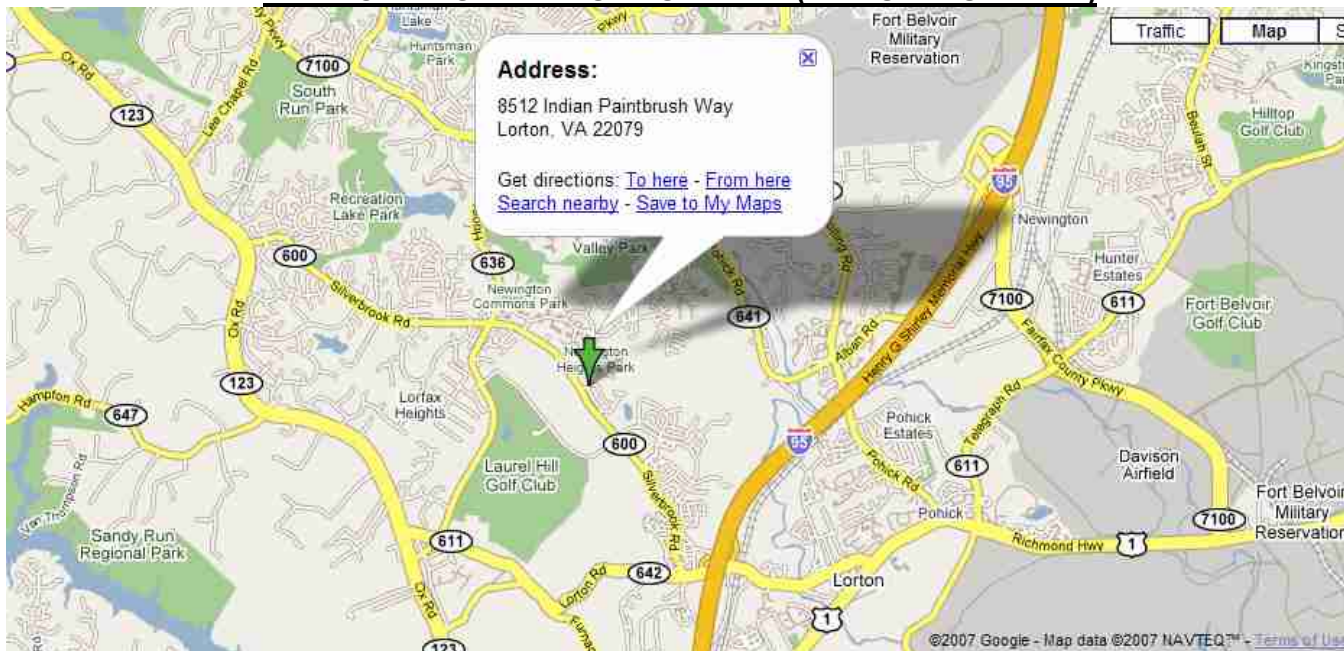
SICK AND SHUT INS:

If you know of anyone who is ill or having difficulty, please let our chaplain, **Gene Russell**, know so we can contact them.

CHAPTER NOTES:

- A few errors and omissions from the September 2007 newsletter are as follows:
 - John Daly's contribution of \$300 was also for the Special Operations Warrior Foundation. Sorry John for this mistake.
 - Also in attendance at the burial for CSM (Ret) Matteo was **MG (Ret) Mike Healy**. MG (Ret) Healy is the last surviving officer of the 4TH Ranger Company.
- The National Officers of the Special Forces Association request that members donate \$10 for the annual SFA scholarships. Please send your donations to: SFAHQ, PO Box 41436, Fayetteville, NC 28309-1436. For more information regarding this request, please read the fall version of The Drop.
- Several Chapter XI members participated in the 1ST Special Forces Group reunion from 3-7 September in Seattle, WA. Members who were in attendance included **Craig Firth, Reub Mooradian, Charlie and Ginny Norton, Leo Roppo, and Joe and Patty Vacarro**. Charlie Norton reports that this was an outstanding reunion and the displays of amphibious and communications equipment was very impressive.
- Chapter XI member **Art Mott** has transferred to Lyons, France working for INTERPOL. He finds the job interesting but expensive due to the unfavorable exchange rate of the U.S. dollar versus the Euro.
- For those interested in obtaining Chapter XI clothing, coins, and associated materials, please contact **Wally Johnson** at wjohnso6@gmu.edu.
- Mark this date on your calendar – 3 May 2008. This will be the date of our annual dinner dance at the Army-Navy Country Club.
- Our next newsletter will be released around 10 January 2008.
- The chapter officers would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

MAP TO THE SCHRAM'S RESIDENCE (CHRISTMAS PARTY)



PHOTOS FROM RECENT CHAPTER XI EVENTS



Chapter XI members attending the citizenship ceremony for Ms. Geraldine January.



LTG (Ret) Trefry speaking at the October meeting



Al Paddock presenting a photo to Ms. January



Al Paddock presenting a gift to LTG (Ret) Trefry.