



**CHAPTER I-XVIII  
PO BOX 118 FAYETTEVILLE, NC  
28302-0118  
WWW.SFA1-18.ORG**



**APRIL**

**2008**

**MR. AND MRS. DAVID CLARK**



Mr. David Clark and Ms. Sylvia McCarley were married 22 April 2008 at Chapter 1-18 Team house.  
Congratulations Dave and Sylvia. We wish you many years of love and happiness.



Mr David Clark, MS Sylvia McCarley, CDR Miller (hidden) and Pastor Jeff Isenhour.

**FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Another good month has come and gone. We had an excellent meeting, good food and a good turnout. Keith and his helpers did an outstanding job as always. His helpers will be listed later.

We have Hugh Teague coming all the way from New Orleans for the meeting. Surely you people from Fayetteville can come out.

The bus was cancelled by the bus company because they were losing money.

You received your ballot to vote in your last "Drop.". Do not sit on it, mail it and vote. There is also a proxy vote on the constitution update. Mail it in, if you don't, you can't gripe.

Remember the picnic on the 26th of May.. Come out and enjoy the good times with your friends.

If you haven't mailed your raffle tickets back to the chapter, do so. This helps the chapter.

See you at the next meeting. Come out and enjoy your old friends.  
Robby!!!

**FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT**

31 May will be here quick! Get your scholarship applications in! At this time I have received seven, I know there are more.

Bad News! The travel agency canceled the bus!



Mr. Harry Clark, Dave, Sylvia, Jeff Isenhour (Pastor Aran Lake Baptist Church). Commander Michelle Miller (Sylvia's daughter)

They did in fact try to arrange another one for us, however the cost was prohibitive. I know that some members are going to travel by train so I am in the process of gathering information regarding rail schedules and cost. I will have the info for the next meeting.

My "Drum Beating" last month must have brought back memories. I have had quite a few comments. I have also been asked to publish the graduation schedule. Alas! there is none available. In conversation with Mel, I was told that National gets notified a few days prior, as to time and place. I will do my best to get the word out as soon as I am aware of a ceremony.

Hope to see you at the next meeting!

Bill

**FROM THE TREASURER  
CHAPTER I-XVIII DONATIONS REPORT  
April 2008**

Charles Levorse	\$110.00
Jerry Pond	\$20.00
Bogdan Kociuba	\$100.00
Larry Pilon	\$20.00

Mike

## CHAPTER OFFICERS

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SERGEANT AT ARMS	Reggie Newsholme	910-574-3533	

### THE SECRETARY SPEAKS

1. Attendees: 97 members and 34 guests = 131 total.
2. Guests at meeting: Steve Hink's sister Joyce & her husband Bruce Lambert. William Steele's buddy Butch Kendrick.
3. Sick & Distressed and Taps:



### TAPS

Larry Simms  
 Robert Lee Reagen  
 Minster Hoover  
 Johnny Bagget  
 Chester Sullivan  
 Tom Kemmer  
 Dennis Mock's wife

We sometimes congratulate ourselves at the moment of waking from a troubled dream: it may be so the moment after death.

NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE, *American Note-Books*,  
1836

I would like to mention the death of an old team mate of mine.

**Robert Colvin**, SFA D-7196, Chapter 16 and former 1st SFG(A) Soldier, Passed away April 15, 2008. There will be a graveside memorial service at Tahoma National Cemetery in Kent, WA on Monday, April 21, 2008 at 1:45 PM (1345 Hrs). The Soldiers of the 1st SFG are his Honor Guard. Mrs. Colvin requests the presence of Robert's SFA C-16 team-mates at his memorial service.

### SICK

John (Jack) Manthey, Association President early 1970s, Village Green Rehab.

Charlie Miller

Steve Sosa - heart problem

4. Lickem/Stickem crew on 2 April: John Barstow, Tommy Batchelor, Roy Bradford, Joe Brock, Bart Brown, Jim Busby, Walt Campbell, Jim Everett, Keith Futch, Frank Jaks, John Kotz, George Kuchen, Ralph Loff, Robby Robbins, Bill Tibbit, and Bill Dadek.

NextLickem/Stickemon 30April 2008.



5. Award: Ralph Loff awarded a plaque as the Chapter's Member of the Quarter for the 1st Quarter 2008.



6. 50/50 winner was Charles Brigis.

7. QM raffle winner was Robert Kotin.

**George**

### MY TURN



Hoke County  
VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER  
Frank J. Orians  
910-875-2147

Frank briefed the Chapter on some of the latest changes to the VA regulations. It was very informative. Luckily Frank happens to be a member of Chapter 1-18. We had questions and he answered them.

If you have any questions, feel free to call Frank.



Frank, Rhonda, Sara, Keith, JoJo, Bart

I would like to thank the guys and ladies who put the kitchen together every meeting. The chow doesn't just get there, someone has to be there to arrange the food, pass out the food and get to the back sink and wash the pots and pans. Thanks folks. We couldn't do without you.

The ones who worked in the kitchen this month were; Keith Fultch, Hugh Teague, Frank Byrne, Bart Brown, L.O. (Robby) Robbins, Phyllis Matteson, Rhonda Frovarp and JoJo Frank. They are the ones who work behind the kitchen door while we are attending the meeting.

While we are thinking about food, I would like to thank who ever it was that brought those Pinto Beans. They were great. By the way, I was not the only one who commented on how good they were.

I would like to invite the active duty guys out. I know the Op Tempo is high and you get so precious little time home, but we would like to see you. Bill made some fine comments in last months BTB. I'm not going to get on my soap box because I couldn't say anything as well as Bill did. So, come on out, we would like to hear what has been going on and what you have done. The Chapter meets on the second Saturday of each month at 1330. Our next meeting will be the 10th of May.

**DO NOT FORGET TO VOTE**

BALLOTS MUST BE TO SFA BY 15 MAY 08



MG. Thomas Csrnko (left), commander of U.S. Special Forces Command presents the Silver Star Apr. 19 at Yerba Buena Island, Calif. to Doris Hallberg, mother of Staff Sgt. Roger Hallberg, a Special Forces Soldier that became missing in action during the Vietnam War. Accepting the award with Doris is Ann Hallberg Holt (far right) and Bruce Hallberg, both siblings of Roger. The award was presented 41 years after Roger's disappearance. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Andrew Kosterman, 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne))

## Special Forces MIA awarded Silver Star

By Staff Sgt. Andrew Kosterman  
1st Special Forces Group (Airborne)

YERBA BUENA ISLAND, Calif. (USASOC News Service, Apr. 20, 2008) - The journey that began more than 41 years ago to recognize a Special Forces sergeant that went missing in the jungles of Vietnam came to a close Apr. 19 with the presentation of the Green Beret's Silver Star to his mother.

Staff Sgt. Roger Hallberg was the point man Mar. 24, 1967 on a mission deep behind enemy lines when a force estimated to be in the hundreds ambushed him and the men of Special Forces Detachment A-302. His actions that day saved the lives of other Americans and the indigenous force he was working with. Roger, who led a counterattack while the main element pulled back, was never heard from again. He was later listed as missing in action.

The awarding of the nation's third highest medal for valor "brings some resolution" to Anne Hallberg Holt, sister of the missing Green Beret. However, it does not bring closure to what happened to her brother.

The medal was presented to 88-year-old Doris Cobb Hallberg, Roger's mother, by Maj. Gen. Thomas R. Csrnko, commander of the U.S. Army Special Forces Command. With clutching hands, she gripped the citation and medal case with her two progenies in the shadow of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter George Cobb.

The ship is named after Roger's grandfather, who, in 1896, rescued three sailors while keeping a lighthouse at California's Point Bonita. George Cobb was awarded the Silver Lifesaving Medal for his heroism. It is the Coast Guard's equivalent to the Silver Star.

Holt said even though it was a "sad situation" that has linked the heroism of her grandfather and brother together, she is proud of the accomplishments of her grandfather and brother.

Csrnko described the family as "amazing," and said that Cobb and Roger "are cut from the same cloth."

Retired Capt. James P. Monaghan followed Csrnko. Monaghan served with Roger in Vietnam. During his speech, Monaghan described a combat rookie's typical reaction to an ambush and that Hallberg was not that type of person.

"When the U.S. is at war, we can manufacture and purchase the best and most expensive weaponry in the world," said Monaghan. "But, you can never purchase (Hallberg's) courage."

### "Where is he?"

Hallberg's family first received word of his status in 1967 while they were living in Venezuela. The head of the family, Lewis Hallberg, was stationed there while working for Chevron Oil. It was there that the search for information regarding Hallberg's incident began.

"As time went on, I hoped they would find him," said Doris. "I kept thinking, 'where is he?'"

A few years later, the Hallbergs' moved back to the United States. In a quest that led the family to the North Vietnamese consulate in France decades ago to Washington D.C., the Hallbergs' carried on a search for information on Roger's disappearance.

The manhunt for those who might be able to shed some light on the situation took a turn about five years ago when the Hallberg family met with John M. Throckmorton, a former Special Forces Soldier that served with Roger on that early spring day. In talking with the Hallberg's, Throckmorton realized that the award recommendation he had submitted years before never made it through the system.

In a letter re-recommending Roger for the award, Throckmorton described the hell Roger was last seen in.

"I witnessed (Staff Sgt.) Hallberg expose himself to this intense fire in an effort to coordinate an effective response. At least twice he ran through the maelstrom to deliver tactical information to (Capt.) Stewart. He then fought his way forward, returning to his troops in an effort to rally them and mount a coordinated response to the enemy. It looked as if he were running through a blizzard of confetti, which in fact was leaves, bits of bark and clumps of earth churned up by enemy fire," wrote Throckmorton.

That was the last time Roger was seen alive.

His actions diverted the attention of two battalions of communists enough to create an opening that his comrades escaped through. After a day evading the enemy, the Americans and Vietnamese partisans were safely evacuated from the area by helicopter. Hallberg and his commander were placed on a MIA status shortly after the mission.

### **Tough and Determined**

Holt describes her brother as a "tough and determined" individual who could overcome anything he set his mind to. Roger started his career outdoors as an Eagle Scout and later went on to graduate from the University of Oregon with a degree in forestry.

It was Roger's determination that led to his siblings' mission to find out what happened to their brother.

With the help of Throckmorton, the family has been able to direct the Joint Prisoners of War and Missing in Action Accounting Command to the area Roger was last seen in.

In the search for Roger, Holt says she has become an advocate in spreading the word on prisoners of war and those missing in action. She has spoken publicly about her brother across the country in an effort to make people aware of POWs and MIAs.

"There is no closure for us," said Holt. "We can not give up. This chapter is not closed until everyone comes home."

With the help of Throckmorton and JPAC, the Hallberg family may soon find word on status of their brother and son. The Command has informed them that a mission will be searching the area Roger was last seen next year.

The Defense Department will no longer issue identification cards with full Social Security numbers. Plans are to remove the Social Security numbers from identification cards issued to military family members by the end of this year. Between 2009 and 2010, all department-issued identification cards will feature only the last four digits of a holder's Social Security number. New identification cards will be issued as they reach their expiration dates. TRICARE already removed Social Security numbers from its members' identification cards.

## **Burial Expense Reimbursement**

### **TIP:**

Families should prepare in advance by discussing cemetery options, collecting the veteran's military information including discharge papers (DD-214 form), and by contacting the cemetery where burial is desired.

VA burial allowances are partial reimbursements of an eligible veteran's burial and funeral costs. When the cause of death is not service-related, the reimbursements are generally described as two payments: (1) a burial and funeral expense allowance, and (2) a plot interment allowance.

**Service-Related Death** - VA will pay up to \$2,000 toward burial expenses for deaths on or after September 11, 2001. VA will pay up to \$1,500 for deaths prior to September 10, 2001. If the veteran is buried in a VA national cemetery, some or all of the cost of transporting the deceased may be reimbursed.

**Nonservice-Related Death** - VA will pay up to \$300 toward burial and funeral expenses, and a \$300 plot-interment allowance.

## Eligibility

You may be eligible for a VA burial allowance if:

- you paid for a veteran's burial or funeral *and*
- you have not been reimbursed by another government agency or some other source, such as the deceased veteran's employer *and*
- the veteran was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

In addition, at least one of the following conditions must be met:

- the veteran died because of a service-related disability *or*
- the veteran was receiving VA pension or compensation at the time of death *or*
- the veteran was entitled to receive VA pension or compensation, but decided not to reduce his/her military retirement or disability pay *or*
- the veteran died in a VA hospital, in a nursing home under VA contract, or while in an approved state nursing home.

## Application

You can apply by filling out [VA Form 21-530, Application for Burial Benefits](#). You should attach proof of the veteran's military service (DD 214), a death certificate, and copies of funeral and burial bills you have paid.

Concerning service-connected deaths, there is no time limit for filing reimbursement claims. In other deaths, claims must be filed within two years after permanent burial or cremation.

Note: If burial expenses were paid by the deceased's employer or a state agency, the burial allowance will not be reimbursed to those making interment arrangements

## Getting Information from TRICARE

Week of April 14, 2008

TRICARE has many resources available for beneficiaries to access information about their benefits. Beneficiaries should first contact their region or area offices toll-free at Health Net Federal Services, LLC (North Region), (877) 874-2273; Humana Military Healthcare Services, Inc. (South Region), (800) 444-5445; TriWest Healthcare Alliance (West Region), (888) 874-9378; and TRICARE Overseas (Europe, Pacific, Latin America and Canada), (888) 777-8343 (toll-free from the U.S. and its territories). Beneficiaries can find their nearest TRICARE Service Center by visiting the [TRICARE contacts](#) webpage. To find a nearby Beneficiary Counseling and Assistance Coordinator (BCAC), visit the [BCAC Directory](#). Watch a video on [TRICARE Service Centers](#).

To learn more about TRICARE, visit [www.military.com/benefits/tricare](http://www.military.com/benefits/tricare).



Charlie and Barbara Gray and part of Tom Zumbahlen

Time Limits for Making Claims

Special Forces Association  
PO Box 118  
Fayetteville, NC 28302-0118

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## Calendar of Events for MAY AND JUNE 2008

1. Chapter Officer's meeting. 061300May08 at the "Team House".
2. Chapter 1-18 Members meeting. 101330May08 at the "Team House"
3. Food theme for May. BBQ Eating outside, BBQ Chicken. Members bring veggies, salads, breads, baked beans, **PINTO BEANS**, Cole Slaw and those wonderful desserts that you make. BBQ Eating outside, BBQ Chicken. Members bring veggies, salads, breads, baked beans, **PINTO BEANS**, Cole Slaw and those wonderful desserts that you make.
4. "Lick'em and Stick'em" Gang. 040600June08 at the "Team House."
5. Memorial Day Service 261000May08 at USASOC HQ at Fort Bragg. I encourage all that can to attend.

The BTB is not an official publication of the Special Forces Association. The information, opinions, and comments are those of the officers, members, and editor of Chapter 1-18 and are not to be construed as the official opinion of the Special Forces Association. The BTB is published under the guidance of the President of Chapter 1-18, but the editor is solely responsible for the content.