

Three SOA Members Inducted into SF Regimental Hall of Fame

The Special Forces Regimental Day at Ft. Bragg on April 5 was a big day for the Special Forces community in several ways:

- * The regiment celebrated 25 years of service to our country as a separate and distinct Special Forces branch of the Armed Services;

- * The Yarborough/Kennedy statue was formally dedicated, commemorating that moment in Special Forces history when Brig. Gen. William P. Yarborough introduced President John F. Kennedy to S.F. unconventional warfare tactics and training. President Kennedy was so impressed with Yarborough and the Special Forces demonstration and élan that he formally designated the Green Beret as the official headgear for all Special Forces soldiers.

- * Three SOA members, former SOA President, Maj. Gen. Eldon Bargewell, former SOA President, Sergeant First Class Clifford M. Newman and Col. John N. “Jack” Tobin were inducted into the Special Forces Regimental Hall of Fame along with Master Sergeant Robert A. Charest.

Last, but certainly not least, the formal dedication of the statue was held in conjunction with the 267th Special Forces Qualification Course graduation where H. Ross Perot was the guest speaker. Mr. Perot paid for the statue and the beautiful marble base for the Yarborough/Kennedy statue. Mr Perot, an SOA honorary member regaled the audience with old SF stories and presented each graduate with his new Green Beret complete with that soldier’s group flash sown on it.

The Special Forces Regimental Day and statue event and graduation were held in front of John F. Kennedy Hall at Ft. Bragg. During the formal banquet that night Lt. Gen. John F. Mulholland Jr., the commanding general of the U.S. Army Special Operations Command was the guest speaker.

The formal event began with opening remarks from the Host/Honorary Colonel of the Regiment Major General Sidney Shachnow, a WW II prisoner who survived three years in a German concentration camp and was liberated in 1945 when he was nine years old. Shachnow served 32 of his 34 years of commissioned service to our country in Special Forces, where he served as commanding general of the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School, at Ft. Bragg and the U.S. Special Operations Command (Airborne), among other assignments.

After the formal banquet, both Lt. Gen. Mulholland – the SOA’s guest speaker in 2010, and Brigadier General Edward M. Reeder, Jr., the commanding general of the US Army Special Forces Command (Airborne) at Ft. Bragg, sent their personal greetings and salutes to SOA members.

Respectfully submitted,

John S. Meyer
President
Special Operations Association



p.s.: When photos of the event are released, they will be posted on the SOA Web site.