

Spearhead

SFA Chapter 28 News



Spring 2020

SFA 28 mission statement **To serve former and active duty special operations members and their families**



Winter respite * Whitefish, Mt. * January 6, 2020

SFA Chapter 28 sponsors four annual respites in support of the USSOCOM Preservation of the Force and Family (POTFF) program. The POTFF program is aimed at improving the short and long term well being of SOF warriors and their families.

On January 6, 2020, 26 family members, including six children ranging in age from 4 months to 8 years, arrived in Whitefish, MT for the annual Winter Respite sponsored by SFA Chapter 28. January 26 proved to be a challenging weather day for traveling but despite flight delays and cancellations all families eventually arrived at The Lodge at Whitefish Lake and were greeted by Chapter 28 representatives. Due to the scattered arrivals and late hour, the usual welcome briefing and dinner was rescheduled for the next evening.

The next four days saw the families engaging in a variety of activities offered as part of the respite program. The primary activities were skiing, snowboarding, snowmobiling, dog sledding, and horse-drawn sleigh rides. Our program is structured so that each family can design their own schedule and select which activities they want to participate in.

Each activity was coordinated and facilitated by volunteer Chapter members

and they deserve recognition and thanks for their time and effort. Shawn Modula, Roger Newman, and Cowboy Bob Blackman facilitated the skiing and snowboarding guide program on the mountain at Whitefish Mountain Resort. The snowmobiling and horse-drawn sleigh ride activities were coordinated by Kelly Snapp and the dog sledding activity was coordinated by Thom Browne. Thanks to everyone who helped out!

Families were provided the opportunity to use the sponsored child care services at the Whitefish Mountain Resort while participating in any of the respite activities. Sponsored skiing and snowboarding lessons were also offered for all family members while at the resort.

During the evenings, families relaxed and socialized at The Lodge at Whitefish Lake or in the town of Whitefish. While at the Lodge family members could choose to relax with one of the many amenities offered by the hotel such as the Spa, the hot tub by the lake or just sitting around the fire pit roasting marshmallows for their s'mores. Couples also enjoyed the Big Sky Brews Cruise tour of selected local craft breweries for sampling the excellent beers offered in the area.

By any measure the SFA Chapter 28 Winter

Respite was an outstanding success. Success was measured by the ability of the program to meet the needs of SOF warriors and their families. The operational tempo of SOF over the past decade has put unprecedented stresses on the SOF organizations and their warrior families. This Winter Respite provided families with the critical restorative elements and relationship resiliency needed to offset the stresses and toll SOF missions place on families.

We would like to give a shout out to all of the volunteers, vendors, sponsors and donors that made this respite such a success for our SOF families. We would especially like to thank Donnie from Kalispell Toyota who arranged donated rental vehicles for all the families. Thanks to The Lodge at Whitefish Lake, Whitefish Mountain Resort, Swan Mountain Outfitters, Dog Sled Adventures, Bar W Ranch, Rocky Mountains Transport, and the wonderful citizens of Whitefish Montana who welcomed our SOF warriors and families as one of their own.



HERE'S WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO (past operations)

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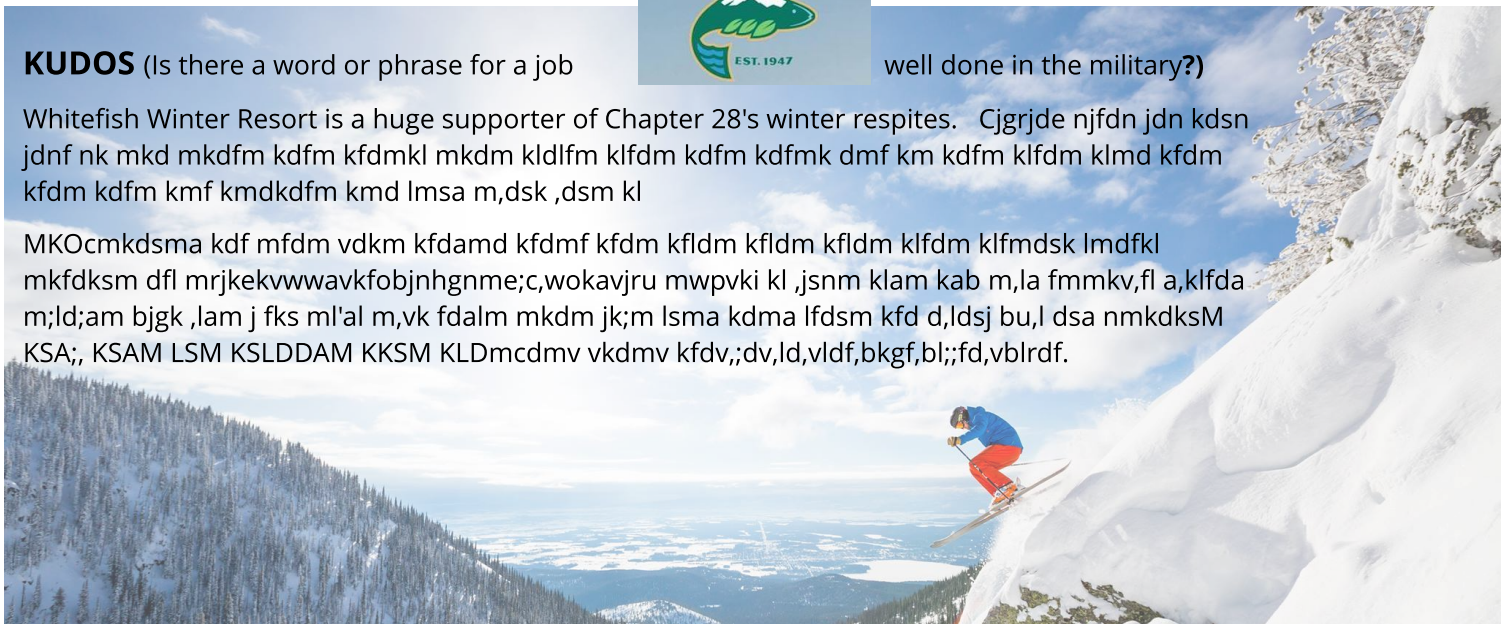


KUDOS (Is there a word or phrase for a job

well done in the military?)

Whitefish Winter Resort is a huge supporter of Chapter 28's winter respites. Cjgrjde njfdn jdn kdsn jdnf nk mkd mkdfm kdfm kfdmkl mkdm kldlfm klfdm kdfm kdfmk dmf km kdfm klfdm klmd kfdm kfdm kdfm kmf kmdkdfm kmd lmsa m,dsk ,dsm kl

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[Click here for US/Canadian Military discount](#)

Spearhead SFA Chapter 28 news

Spring 2020

Current operations. This is what we are currently planning/executing. (Fundraising campaign, future respites, member get-together, etc.)



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Looking Ahead

Future operations. Put this on your radar

Join Us The fight continues after we redeploy. As we move on to new chapters in our lives, we look back at our brothers who are still "Action Guys" and ask ourselves what we can do. It seems like the rucksacks keeps getting heavier, the deployments longer and the missions more complex. This takes a toll on the teams and their families.

[Click to download membership form](#)

Welcome Home Charlie Company 23-29 August 2020, Whitefish, Mt.

A Nation reveals itself not only by the men it produces, but also by the men it honors, the men it remembers.— President John F. Kennedy

Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group recently completed a violent, aggressive, and high-tempo deployment to Afghanistan. The Green Berets of Charlie Company relentlessly pursued the accomplishment of our nation's strategic objective, to aggressively combat the Taliban on the battlefield which in turn led to signing a negotiated settlement. Many people are hoping this negotiation is the beginning to the end of America's involvement in the nearly 20-year conflict. Despite the fact that none of Charlie Company's Green Berets knew if or when the true end would come, they had no choice but to continue to fight toward the same end state in hopes of reaching our stated objective of a settlement agreement. This required unparalleled levels of combat engagements and tactical operations that many of the unit members have not experienced despite their multiple combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Charlie Company returned to the United States and the Taliban signed the settlement agreement. The fact that our nation achieved its top political and strategic counterterrorism objective in the region is a direct result of the intense dedication and the sacrifice of many men and women in the US military and other government agencies. Without a doubt, the Green Berets of Charlie Company carried a large part of the burden required to get the job done. It should be noted that a number of US military service

members were killed and wounded in Afghanistan during this campaign and many of the killed and wounded were Green Berets from 7th Special Forces Group. Upon their recent return to the United States, all of them still carry the lasting physical, emotional, and psychological effects that come with the relentless pursuit of the enemy that resulted in a level of enemy killed in action that had previously only been accomplished by a larger battalion-sized unit over the same time span. Charlie Company did exactly what was asked of them and what was required of them, and they are honored to have had the opportunity to serve their nation in such a direct and meaningful way.

Now that they have returned to the United States, it's time for them to reunite with their families before preparing for the next mission. This is a critical time to ensure the long-term effects of sustained stress and traumatic experiences are mitigated. This will be accomplished through support programs and family-based respites. These programs will have positive life-changing restorative effects on them. This is an investment and a commitment to the Green Berets of Charlie Company and their families in order to build resiliency and get them ready for whatever it is the nation asks them to do next.

Montana has a special opportunity to welcome the Green Berets and their families' home. The Special Forces Association, Chapter 28, in Montana is sponsoring a respite for Charlie Company and their families in Whitefish, Montana Aug 23-28 2020. There is no better place than Montana to provide the peace, support, gratitude, and respite for the Green Berets and their families. Let's welcome our heroes of 7th Special Forces Group home.....home to Montana.

You can help support welcoming Charlie Company home by donating to the "Welcome Home Charlie Company" funding campaign. [Insert links to "Welcome Home Charlie Company" funding campaign](#)



7th Special Forces Group Fallen Heroes

August 2019 - August 2020



SFC Javier J. Gutierrez
7th Special Forces Group (Airborne)
SFC Javier J. Gutierrez, 28, died February 8, 2020 from wounds sustained during combat operations in Nangarhar Province, Afghanistan.



SFC Michael J. Goble
7th Special Forces Group (Airborne)
SFC Michael James Goble, 33, died December 22, 2019 from wounds sustained during combat operations in Kunduz Province, Afghanistan.



MSG Jose J. Gonzalez
MSG Luis F. Deleon-Figueroa
7th Special Forces Group (Airborne)
MSG Jose J. Gonzalez, 35, and MSG Luis F. Deleon-Figueroa 31, died August 21, 2019 from wounds sustained during combat operations in Faryab Province, Afghanistan.

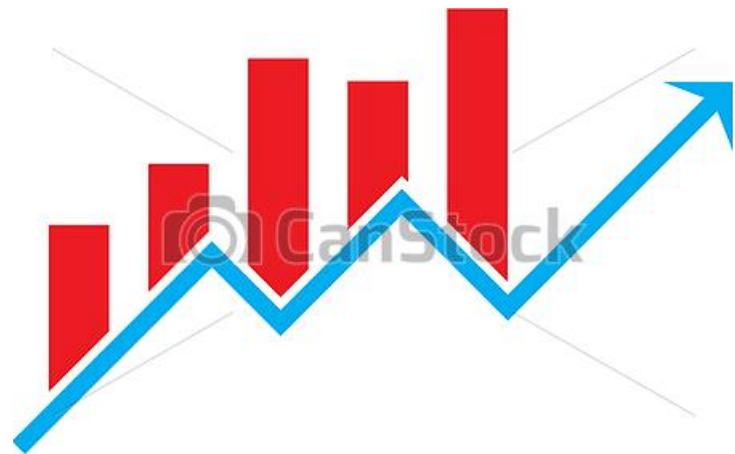
Fundraising Campaign

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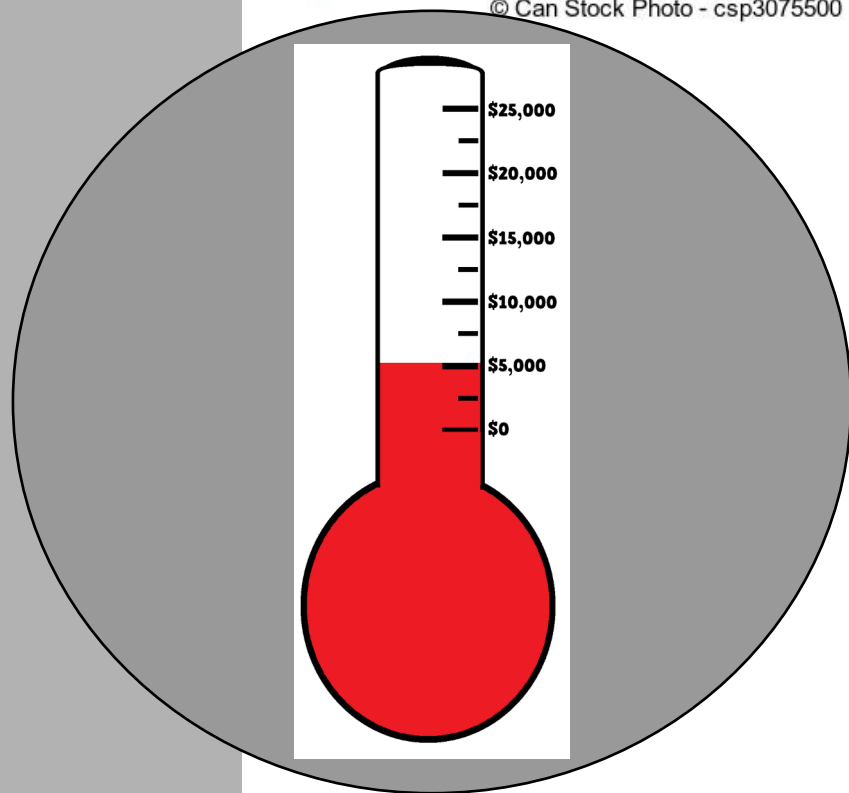
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THANK YOU SPONSORS

AMERICAN AIRLINES

American Airlines through the Air Power Foundation generously provides air transportation for the Active Duty Special Forces participants in our Warrior Retreats and Wounded Warrior events.

TASK FORCE DAGGER

Task Force Dagger (TFD) is one of our partner non profits. They assist us in our Wounded Warrior Support Programs. Since they specialize in severely wounded Special Operation Soldiers they have a wealth of experience in taking care of these soldiers and their families. We work together making sure that each wounded service member is given support appropriate to his condition. TFD generously assists us by taking on the very severely wounded and helping us support soldiers and families that are within our capabilities.

HS MUNITIONS, INC (HSM)

HSM was founded by one of our Vietnam era Special Forces veterans and has grown into a very successful Montana Company. They are always willing to donate ammo and funds to support our efforts to help the active Special Forces in whatever way we can. Whenever you see HSM's signature orange boxes of ammo at one of our events, you know they are once again stepping up to support the Special Forces

CASE KNIVES

W.R. Case & Sons Cutlery Company goes all the way back to the First Special Service Force of WWII and the V-42 dagger. Case crafted this legendary military dagger before modern Special Forces were created. Case Knives has always been a patriotic company and a trusted supplier of edged weapons for elite military units. They continue to support us today keeping alive a relationship several decades old.

WHITEFISH MOUNTAIN RESORT

A strong supporter of SFA and the military. In the true spirit of the Devil's Brigade, Whitefish Mountain Resort is also an enthusiastic supporter of the Canadian Military.

AVERILL'S FLATHEAD LAKE LODGE

The Flathead Lake Lodge has been an extraordinary supporter of the Montana

Special Forces Association. They generously host many events for our Warrior Retreats during the height of tourist season in Montana. For some families, this is the first "real" vacation they've had since 9/11. Flathead Lake Lodge and the Big Fork Community ensure it is an "epic" event for these families.

RUBY SPRINGS LODGE

Another heroically patriotic supporter of our Warrior Retreats. Ruby Springs lodge treats our Special Forces Soldiers to the fly fishing trip of a lifetime. We could say they are treated like "rock stars" but that might be a step down from the experience they have at Ruby Springs.

THE RIO INDILO LODGE

A Nicaraguan sport fishing and eco tour lodge located between the 2,640 square kilometer Indio - Maíz Biological reserve, Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua and the Rio San Juan River that defines the border with Costa Rica. Partially owned by US Special Forces veterans, the Rio Indio Lodge donates two all-inclusive trips a year to support our annual fundraiser.

JIM AND WHITNEY CROSBY - THE LONGVIEW FOUNDATION

The Crosby's and Longview foundation are strong supporters of Chapter 28. This family is an outstanding Montana example of how to live the American Dream and give back to those that continue the fight.

KALISPELL TOYOTA

Kalispell Toyota has been an enthusiastic sponsor of our Warrior Retreats. They donate rental cars and do everything they can to make sure these warriors and their families have a great vacation in Montana.

BIG SKY BREWING COMPANY

Big Sky Brewing Company is a sponsor and avid supporter of the Montana Special Forces Association. Some of our members are also investors in the brewery. Special Forces and great beer just go together!

WILLIE'S DISTILLERY

Willie's Distillery was founded by one of our Special Forces Brothers, Willie Blazer, and his wife Robin in Ennis, Montana. They are strong supporters of the Special Forces Association and an inspiring Montana success story.

VALERIE MCINTYRE PHOTOGRAPHY

Valerie McIntyre has generously donated her skill and time to photograph Chapter banquets and events. These professional images are priceless. We've learned the hard way that some of us won't make it back next year and Valerie's photos may be some of the only images of us together.

PRACTICAL SHOOTING INSTRUCTION (PSI)

Another Montana Company supporting the Montana Special Forces. Shooting is a big part of many of our activities and PSI is always willing to make sure our shooting events are what you would expect from the Special Forces.

THE ART OF BRENT COTTON

Brent Cotton, a very talented Montana Artist, is a long time supporter of SFA 28. He has generously donated many fine works of art for our auctions and fundraisers.

VIGILANTE SECURITY SERVICES

Provides logistics and training solutions to agencies and units attached to the Dept. of Defense (and other federal agencies), private security contractors, as well as local and federal law enforcement agencies.

FREEDOM BANK

A local Montana bank located in Columbia Falls that supports the Glacier Country community and the military. This is a bank that clearly shares the values of the SFA "Freedom is not a right, freedom is earned." Without local banks like Freedom Bank, many small Montana businesses would never get a chance to open their doors and our nation would be less competitive as a result.

STRIDER KNIVES

Strider Knives generously supports the Gen. Fredrick Award with V42 reproductions.

HOWLING WIND FORGE

A local Montana company founded by an avid Montana bowhunter. Howling Wind Forge custom knives are handmade and unique, giving every owner a "one of a kind" knife that will last a lifetime. Specializing in fixed blade and folding knives, designed and crafted primarily from D2 and Damascus, worthy of heavy use or as a show piece for your collection.

A message from

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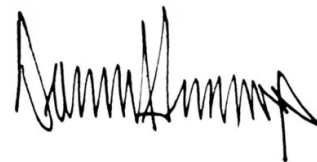
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Sincerely,



Officers

President Max Carpenter email address

Vice President Frank Norbury email address

Secretary Shawn Modula email address

Treasurer Bob brugh email address

Contact us: 25685 Nine Mile Rd., Huson, Mt. 59846

