

THE 10TH SPECIAL FORCES

# *The Originals*

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 2 APRIL 2026

***THE NEXT CHAPTER***  
10TH SFG(A) TO BAUMHOLDER

***SNOW FADES***  
SF VETERANS TO BAVARIA

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Soldiers assigned to the 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) and participants, including personnel from the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), stand in a line during the Parade of Flags at Ski Cooper in Leadville, Colorado, Feb. 27, 2026. Hosted by descendants of the 10th Mountain Division (LI), Soldiers and participants carried American, state and unit flags to honor the division's World War II heritage and historical alpine roots. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Mercedez Grove)



# COMMAND GROUP



COMMANDER  
COL NATHANAEL JOSLYN



COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR  
CSM GEORGE GRAHAM



CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER  
CW5 JERIMIAH BROWN

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### GROUP SECRETARY:

[DIANA.AGUILERA.CIV@SOCOM.MIL](mailto:DIANA.AGUILERA.CIV@SOCOM.MIL)

719-756-6001

➤➤ Memorial Day

MAY

15

➤➤ CSM GRAHAM  
Change of  
Responsibility

JUNE

4

➤➤ CW5 BROWN  
Change of  
Responsibility

JUNE

5



DEPUTY COMMANDER  
COL BRIAN HANRAHAN

DEPUTY COMMANDER  
COL JASON DUFFY

EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
LTC ISAAC HILES

»» ORG Week

JUNE

8

»» 10th SFG (A) 74th  
Annual Military Ball.

JUNE

12

»» Pikes Peak

JUNE

15

# COMMANDER'S CORNER



## COMMANDER'S CORNER

COL NATHANAEL JOSLYN

Team, Over the last quarter, I've had some great opportunities to reflect on our unit's past, present, and future – and how they are deeply connected. In February at Ski Cooper, we honored our OSS forebearers and connected with many of our distinguished alumni. We also had the chance to host Originals alumni at the LaRoche DFAC for a unit update and breakfast in March. In the present, we are already at the beginning of the busy PCS season, a period of transition that is vital to the health and readiness of our organization. While we will be saying farewell to some valued members of our team, we will also be welcoming new families and fresh perspectives into our ranks. Change is a constant in our profession, and I am confident that we will manage this season with the same professionalism and effectiveness that you apply to every other task. A significant part of this transition involves our forward-deployed element. This year, 1st Battalion will be relocating from Panzer Kaserne in Stuttgart to U.S. Army Garrison Rheinland-Pfalz in Baumholder. This strategic move is designed to provide our formation with expanded training space and modernized facilities, ensuring that our European-based force remains at the cutting edge of mission readiness. This relocation will posture 1st Battalion for even greater success in the years to come, providing them with the resources they need to train, innovate, and prepare for any contingency. While the future is never certain, we know that the coming months will usher in a season of transformative change as 1st Battalion relocates, 4th Battalion changes mission, and we stand up new capabilities within our formation. Our vision for the future remains the same: we will build new lethal capabilities and warfighting skills on a firm foundation of well-honed proficiency in the fundamentals of our profession – the combat skills that make us credible partners and a formidable fighting force that is jealously sought after by our friends and feared by our foes. Understanding the legacy and proud history of our past is crucial to situating ourselves in this season of change and guiding our actions in the present. Likewise, we must remember where we come from to keep charting our path into the future. I remain immensely proud to be your teammate as we continue down that path in the weeks and months to come.

De Oppresso Liber.

# FROM THE CSM'S DESK



## CSM'S DESK

CSM GEORGE GRAHAM

Team, I am writing to you today to address the remarkable pace and significant efforts each of you is contributing across the Group. We are in a period of intense and meaningful activity. From our organization-wide transformation efforts and the crucial integration of Next Generation Command and Control systems to the strategic relocation of 1st Battalion to its new home in Baumholder, Germany, your dedication is shaping the future of this storied unit. As we navigate these demanding times, we must not lose sight of what powers our force: our families. April is the Month of the Military Child, a time to recognize the unique sacrifices and unwavering resilience of our youngest Originals. To our spouses, children, and loved ones, we extend our deepest gratitude. Your support is the bedrock upon which our operational readiness is built. This is also a busy PCS season, and we want to ensure a smooth transition for all incoming and outgoing personnel. We are a family, and we take care of our own. The current global landscape demands a force that is lethal, agile, and always prepared. Our commitment to realistic, challenging training is non-negotiable. We must continue to hold ourselves and our teammates to the highest standard, ensuring we are ready for any emerging conflict. The high operational tempo you sustain is a testament to your professionalism and warrior spirit. It is your discipline and resilience that provide our nation with a decisive edge. Let's also look forward to celebrating our heritage and building camaraderie. I am excited to announce our upcoming "Originals Week," which will run from June 8th to the 12th. This will be a fantastic opportunity to come together for competition and esprit de corps. The week will culminate with our 74th 10SFG Anniversary Ball on the evening of June 12th, where we will celebrate our legacy and achievements. Finally, I am continually humbled by the sacrifices made by our Soldiers, past and present. We stand on the shoulders of giants and will never forget those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Your commitment to the mission and to each other is what makes the 10th Special Forces Group the premier fighting force it is today. Thank you for all that you do.

*De Oppresso Liber.*

# THIS QUARTER

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

*BEST OF THE QUARTER*

**STAFF SGT. DAVID CORDOVA**, is a Mass Communications Noncommissioned Officer assigned to 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Fort Carson, Colorado. He entered the Army in 2018, completing Basic Combat Training that same year and Advanced Individual Training in 2019. His previous assignments include American Forces Network (AFN) Sembach, Germany, and 1st Armored Division at Fort Bliss, Texas. Throughout his career, Staff Sgt. Cordova has demonstrated a strong commitment to excellence, contributing to strategic communication efforts across multiple theaters. While assigned to Fort Bliss, Texas, he supported Operation Allies Welcome from Aug. 18 to Dec. 31, 2021, earning the Humanitarian Service Medal and Armed Forces Service Medal for his contributions. During his time in Germany, Cordova produced more than 60 multimedia products, reaching an audience of over 325,000 service members and their families in support of U.S. European Command communication objectives. His notable achievements also include completing the Bataan Memorial Death March and graduating from Airborne School. His awards and decorations include the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal (four awards), Joint Service Achievement Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal and the Meritorious Unit Commendation. Staff Sgt. Cordova's professionalism, commitment to excellence and technical expertise in the Public Affairs field have distinguished him as an exceptional communicator and visual storyteller within 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne). During the unit's rotation to Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center (JPMRC) 2026, he consistently delivered high-quality visual information products under demanding and austere conditions, accurately capturing training events that showcased the Group's lethality, readiness and global mission. His ability to operate in complex environments while maintaining strict adherence to Department of Defense Visual Information standards ensured timely, accurate and impactful dissemination of content across multiple platforms. Cordova's efforts directly enhanced the command's ability to communicate its strategic narrative, reinforcing key lines of effort and strengthening public trust through transparent, professional storytelling. His leadership, attention to detail and dedication to mission success set a standard for Public Affairs professionals across the formation. In recognition of his superior performance and sustained contributions to mission accomplishment, Staff Sgt. Cordova was selected as the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) Public Affairs Representative of the Quarter.



## STAFF

*BEST OF THE QUARTER*

**KAY WILSON**, serves as the Military and Family Life Counselor (MFLC) for 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), where she provides confidential, short-term, non-medical counseling to Soldiers and their Families. Through her work, she supports resilience across the formation, assists single Soldiers, and helps families navigate the unique challenges of military life. In 2019, during a deployment to Afghanistan, Mrs. Wilson helped lead the creation of the Special Forces Kids (SF Kids) program alongside the Group Chaplain, service members, and several dedicated families. The initiative began as a way to support spouses and children at home during deployment and quickly grew into a community-driven program that fosters connection through activities, events, and shared experiences for military families. Mrs. Wilson also works closely with the Soldier and Family Readiness Group (SFRG), an official command-sponsored organization of family members, volunteers, and Soldiers that provides an avenue of support and assistance for unit families. Through the SFRG, she helps ensure information and resources flow between the unit, the Fort Carson community, and military families. Beyond counseling, Mrs. Wilson volunteers her time supporting social and community events throughout 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), helping strengthen connections and build a supportive network for Soldiers, Families, and children within the Group. Mrs. Wilson is also committed to recognizing the strength of military children and raising awareness for April's Month of the Military Child, which honors the resilience and sacrifices of youth in military families. Throughout the month, purple is worn to symbolize unity across all service branches, representing the combined colors of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force, and Coast Guard. The dandelion is also widely recognized as a symbol of military children—reflecting their resilience and adaptability, as they grow and thrive wherever they are planted. Events such as "Purple Up! Day" highlight their strength and celebrate the important role military children play within the military community.



# ENLISTED

BEST OF THE QUARTER



**MSG CASEY O'TOOLE** -The burst of machine gun fire came without warning. Perched on a rooftop in Kapisa Province, Afghanistan, then-Sgt. Casey O'Toole and his teammates had just settled into position when rounds ripped through the air. In an instant, a single shot from a PKM struck him in the face—entering below his jaw, traveling through his neck and exiting his back. By every measure, he should not have survived. "I got shot... and it doesn't make any sense," O'Toole said. "But I'm just blessed to be alive." More than a decade later, Master Sgt. Casey O'Toole, an 18Z Special Forces operations sergeant assigned to 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), carries that moment not as an ending—but as part of a larger story of resilience, service and purpose. Today, that purpose is helping others prepare for what comes next. As the 10th SFG(A) SUMMIT liaison, O'Toole supports service members and their families as they plan for transition from military service to civilian life, one of the most uncertain phases of a Soldier's career. O'Toole joined the Army in June 2005, beginning his career as an infantryman before earning his place in the Special Forces Regiment. Over more than two decades of service, he deployed across multiple theaters and served in a variety of operational assignments within 10th SFG(A). Throughout his time in the unit, he credits the organization's culture as a defining factor in his development. "It's always had a phenomenal culture," O'Toole said. "One that ensures we're prepared to do whatever is asked of us, but also takes care of people, you're not just a line number." Even after sustaining life-threatening injuries in Afghanistan, O'Toole remained focused on returning to his team. After months of recovery, including having his jaw wired shut, he resumed training and continued his career in Special Forces. "The unit took care of me," he said. "That kept my spirits up, I was still part of the team." After years serving on a Special Forces team, O'Toole transitioned into his role with the SUMMIT program, a command initiative designed to provide service members with resources and guidance throughout their careers, with a focus on successful transition. In that role, he has worked to refine the program into a centralized hub for knowledge and planning, helping Soldiers navigate everything from education pathways and credentialing opportunities to resume building, networking and long-term career mapping. He has emphasized the importance of starting early, encouraging service members not to wait until their final months in uniform, but to build a deliberate plan, years in advance. "What we do is provide resources to help people create a plan to be successful, not just in their military goals, but in their life, their family and their future," O'Toole said. Through one-on-one mentorship, group sessions and coordination with external partners, O'Toole has helped Soldiers translate their military experience into meaningful opportunities outside the force. He has guided peers, subordinates and senior leaders alike through the uncertainty of transition, often helping them identify interests, refine goals and connect with professional networks they had never previously considered. "Almost everybody you see going through transition has a little bit of fear," he said. "None of us have gotten out of the military before." Now approaching retirement after 21 years of service, O'Toole is preparing for his own transition, applying the same principles he has encouraged in others. He is focused on building a deliberate plan for his family, exploring career opportunities and taking the time to rediscover personal interests that were often set aside during years of operational tempo. His approach reflects the same discipline he applied throughout his military career: thoughtful planning, adaptability and a commitment to long-term success. "We plan everything in our careers, training cycles, missions, resourcing," he said. "We should have that same plan for our personal lives." As O'Toole prepares to leave the Army, he reflects on the relationships, experiences and opportunities that defined his career. "This is such a great place to be," he said. "Be present. Be thankful. Enjoy it while you're here." From combat operations to mentorship and transition support, O'Toole's career represents a commitment to both mission success and taking care of people. Through his work with SUMMIT, and the countless Soldiers he has helped along the way, that commitment will continue to shape the next generation as they move from service to their next purpose.



# COMMISSIONED


BEST OF THE QUARTER

**MAJ JOHN "JAYSIN" WILLIAMS** - The idea didn't begin with a tasking order or formal directive, it started with curiosity. Sitting in on a briefing at 4th Infantry Division, Maj. John "Jaysin" Williams recognized something others hadn't yet fully grasped, the Army's Next Generation Command and Control (NGC2) initiative would fundamentally change how the battlefield operates. "This is really important, this is a huge transformation that the Army is going through," Williams recalled. What followed was not assignment, but initiative, an officer stepping forward to ensure 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) would not be left behind. A seasoned Green Beret with more than 20 years of service, Williams brought a depth of operational experience and academic insight to the challenge. After deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan, time in operational detachments, and advanced studies in defense analysis and astronautics, he returned to 10th SFG(A) with a mindset geared toward innovation. Initially serving as a training and exercises officer, he began informally embedding himself into NGC2 working groups. "Nobody asked me," he said. "I recognized its importance and I'm going to start working on it." That decision would ultimately position him as the driving force behind SOF integration into one of the Army's most significant modernization efforts. Williams developed three clear lines of effort to bridge the gap between conventional and special operations forces: enabling shared positional awareness across networks, integrating SOF targeting into NGC2 systems, and evaluating emerging applications to ensure they meet SOF-specific needs. His approach emphasized efficiency and practicality, reducing cognitive burden on commanders while increasing operational speed. "If we can make that automated, then we don't have to worry about it," he explained. Through persistent engagement, relationship-building, and resource-sharing, Williams helped establish 10th SFG(A) as a critical partner in the NGC2 prototyping effort, even though SOF integration was not originally included in the program. Operating without a formal team, dedicated funding, or tasking authority, Williams built what he calls a "coalition of the willing" a network of professionals across units and echelons aligned by shared purpose. His efforts gained traction at senior levels, influencing conversations that may shape future contracts to formally include SOF integration. Despite the challenges, Williams remains focused on the operational end state. "This thing is happening whether we like it or not," he said. "We have to be able to integrate so that we can affect the battlefield at machine speed." For Williams, the stakes are clear. Beyond technology and systems, the work is about survivability and relevance on future battlefields. "I think it saves lives when we go to war," he said. For him, leadership is about action, seeing a gap and moving forward before being told. Progress doesn't always start with direction, it starts with someone willing to step up and lead.





# BATTALION

A photograph of several Green Berets in camouflage uniforms and helmets, carrying large backpacks, as they navigate a rocky, narrow path in a canyon. The terrain is rugged with large, reddish-brown rock formations and sparse green vegetation. The scene is captured from a low angle, looking down the path.

Green Berets, assigned to the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), maneuvers from the tactical operations center to test communications accuracy and conduct reconnaissance during Ivy Sting IV at Pinon Canyon Maneuvering Site, Colorado, Feb. 4, 2026. The training enhanced Special Operations Forces integration into Next Generational Command and Control (NGC2) systems alongside 4th Infantry Division to improve mission command capabilities and interoperability in large-scale combat operations. (U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Christian Dela Cruz)

# HIGHLIGHTS

# 1ST BATTALION

This quarter brings a busy training schedule for the Viking Battalion as it looks to prepare for its next deployment to the European theater.



Throughout recent months, 1st Battalion has remained focused on maintaining operational effectiveness while supporting partner relationships and recognizing the accomplishments of its Soldiers. Individual achievements and contributions continue to highlight the professionalism and dedication found across the formation, reinforcing the battalion's commitment to excellence.

In addition to mission-focused efforts, the battalion has prioritized family and community engagement. Events bringing together service members and their families have helped foster resilience, strengthen bonds, and maintain morale, reflecting the importance of a connected and supported force.



Simultaneously, 1st Battalion is actively executing movement operations, including the coordinated staging and transition of equipment and personnel in preparation for relocation. These efforts demonstrate the unit's adaptability and logistical capability as it postures itself for continued success within 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne).



The battalion remains grateful for the continued support from leadership, families, and the broader community during this period of transition. As 1st Battalion looks ahead to its move and future operations, it does so with appreciation, confidence, and a shared commitment to mission readiness.

# 2ND BATTALION

This quarter brings a busy training schedule for the Viking Battalion as we look to prepare for our next deployment to the European theater.



Alpha Company is knee deep in winter training—in some cases literally knee-deep in powder—across the United States as they execute a series of cold weather training events. A Co. participated in the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center to enhance mountaineering capability and winter mountain mobility. A Co. successfully completed the Intermediate Winter Operator Course, while A Co. completed the Intermediate Winter Operator Course. A Co. participated in exercise ARCTIC EDGE in Alaska to train on survival, communication, and movement in an extreme cold weather environment. All 2/10 ODAs displayed grit and determination tackling lethality tasks in difficult and challenging weather conditions.

Bravo Company completed a rigorous validation exercise in Indiana, proving themselves as the master of modern urban warfare as they tested themselves against a myriad of capabilities. B Co. conducted a deep area operation exercise in Hohenfels, Germany. The Team moved over 100+ km during their infiltration, successfully crossing the Forward Line of Enemy Troops undetected. They overcame adverse weather, a battlefield saturated with opposition forces, and a physically demanding movement. We are incredibly proud of the company for forging new ground on the modern battlefield.



Every ODA from Charlie Company is in the middle of the intensive four-week Special Forces Advanced Urban Combat training on Fort Carson. The company has tackled the training with the focus for which the company is known. Additionally, C Co. executed two weeks of back country cold weather training—culminating with a 30km movement through mountainous terrain. C Co. executed an intensive Level I Military Free Fall requalification, testing new techniques including incorporating drones into their freefall operations. Charlie Company's lethality will be unmatched upon the completion of this training cycle.

None of these events would be possible without the world-class enablers and staff from the Battalion's two support companies, BSC and FSC, supporting mission success in the background every day.

The Viking Battalion Command Team looks forward to the coming months of intensive training to provide the Battalion's families opportunities to relax during the SF Kids Club Q Course, Original's Week, and a much-deserved summer block leave.

De Oppresso Liber

# 3RD BATTALION

This quarter, 3rd Battalion sharpened its edge through demanding training across multiple environments, demonstrating its ability to adapt, integrate with partners, and execute complex missions in preparation for future operations.



Alpha Company deployed to Fort Wainwright, Alaska, in preparation for Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center rotation 26-02, sharpening its ability to fight and operate in extreme Arctic conditions. Soldiers executed a progressive cold weather training program focused on survival, ski and snow machine mobility, and winter patrol operations. The company also integrated with conventional and partner forces while refining specialized infiltration techniques. Through disciplined training and deliberate planning, Alpha Company strengthened its readiness to operate in some of the world's most demanding environments.

Bravo Company participated in Exercise DIESEL at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico, testing next-generation command and control systems in a disrupted and contested communications environment. Detachments executed communications exercises, situational training lanes, and a full mission profile that included reconnaissance and raid operations. Despite electronic warfare challenges, teams successfully maintained operational connectivity using a layered communications plan. The exercise strengthened Bravo Company's ability to adapt and communicate effectively in complex and contested environments.



Charlie Company continued to sharpen its operational edge through demanding training and experimentation across multiple mission sets. ODAs refined infiltration techniques and reconnaissance operations while operating in contested communications environments designed to challenge command and control systems. Soldiers employed emerging technologies and layered communications plans to maintain connectivity and situational awareness during complex mission profiles. Through disciplined training and innovation, Charlie Company strengthened its ability to operate effectively in disrupted and contested environments.

Through rigorous training, experimentation, and integration with joint and partner forces, 3rd Battalion continues to refine tactics, validate emerging capabilities, and strengthen its readiness to operate effectively in complex and contested environments.

(This reflects the Arctic readiness and integration from the JPMRC document and the experimentation/communications resilience focus from the DIESEL exercise.)

# 4TH BATTALION



4th Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) is actively advancing its operational capabilities through focused unmanned aircraft systems training designed to meet the demands of modern warfare. Soldiers are developing deeper technical expertise in drone design, performance, and sustainment, enabling them to independently maintain, adapt, and troubleshoot critical equipment in complex and unpredictable environments. This training reflects the battalion's emphasis on innovation, self-reliance, and integrating emerging technologies to enhance mission effectiveness and overall force readiness.

52 Soldiers from 4th Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) recently concluded the demanding "Little Group of Paratroopers" (LGOP) training exercise, a comprehensive evaluation of core warfighting skills. The exercise pushed participants with continuous day and night land navigation courses, testing their ability to operate in challenging, low-visibility conditions. The training culminated with two days of intensive day and night live-fire drills with both small arms and crew-served weapons systems, building readiness for a wide range of combat scenarios.



## SOLDIER HIGHLIGHT

Pfc. Saul Barraza, a 35F All-Source Intelligence Analyst assigned to 4th Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), quickly distinguished himself through strong military bearing, initiative and dedication to mastering his craft. Supporting battalion leadership with intelligence products that enhance operational awareness and readiness, Barraza demonstrated his growth during the TROJAN FOX intelligence competition, where he confidently briefed senior leaders and contributed to his team's victory, earning an Army Commendation Medal.

Building on that success, Barraza volunteered for the Soldier of the Quarter competition, where he excelled across multiple events, finishing first overall with a 498 Army Fitness Test score and a strong ruck march time. His performance earned him the opportunity to attend Ranger School, reinforcing his commitment to continuous improvement and excellence. Through mentorship, discipline and a willingness to embrace challenges, Barraza exemplifies the high standards and readiness culture of 4th Battalion as he prepares for the next phase of his professional development.



# GROUP SUPPORT BATTALION

## Soldiers Train Above the Snowline

U.S. Army Soldiers assigned to the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) conduct a six-mile snow shoe hike up Snodgrass Trailhead at Crested Butte, Colorado, Feb. 10, 2026. This hike was used as a familiarization of their snow shoes and ski poles during Cold Weather Training. (U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Alec Brueggemann)



## Ruck, Eat, Repeat: 10th SFG(A) Soldiers Train in the Cold

A U.S. Army Soldier assigned to the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) carries a Meal Ready-to-Eat box on his shoulder during a ruck march as part of Cold Weather Training at Taylor Park, Colorado, Feb. 10, 2026. The exercise taught Soldiers how to use specialized gear and survival techniques to remain effective and safe when temperatures drop below zero, allowing them to operate in austere environments. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Cheyenne Mayer)

# 6TH PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS BATTALION

The 6th Psychological Operations Battalion continues to play a vital role in advancing information capabilities and strengthening partnerships across the operational environment.



ACTIVE VOLCANO 2026, conducted in Germany from March 11–18, highlighted the battalion's contributions to readiness for large-scale, collective defense operations. A major milestone was the integration of a Combined Joint Psychological Operations Task Force, where battalion personnel supported the elevation of information-related capabilities to the strategic level. Their efforts enhanced coordination with multinational partners, improved planning processes, and accelerated decision-making in a complex environment. The battalion extends its appreciation to all participating allies and partners for their professionalism and collaboration.

Throughout the exercise, the battalion played a key role in fostering multinational collaboration and ensuring effective integration across all levels of operations. From strategic planning elements to forward-positioned teams, their involvement helped align messaging with operational objectives while maintaining flexibility in rapidly changing conditions. This multi-level engagement reinforced the importance of synchronized communication and cooperation among allied forces.

The battalion also contributed to addressing modern challenges, including disinformation and emerging technologies, within realistic training scenarios. By applying adaptive thinking and maintaining continuous feedback loops, they helped ensure messaging remained relevant and effective. Overall, their participation demonstrated the value of integrated psychological operations in enhancing resilience, strengthening partnerships, and supporting mission success in today's evolving security landscape.



The 6th Psychological Operations Battalion remains grateful for the continued support from allied partners, leadership, and supporting elements who contributed to the success of this exercise. Their collaboration, professionalism, and shared commitment to mission objectives were essential in building a cohesive and effective team. This collective effort reinforces the strength of our partnerships and ensures continued readiness to meet future challenges together.

# 92ND CIVIL AFFAIRS BATTALION



## Team SF takes on the historic JFK 50 Mile Ultramarathon

U.S. Army Cpt. Payton Heitkamp, civil affairs officer, 92nd Civil Affairs Battalion, participates in the JFK 50 Mile Boonsboro, Md., Nov. 22, 2025. Heitkamp finished 12th in the Overall Female Division. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Jimmie Baker)

The 92nd Civil Affairs hosted a 1788(a) Re-deployment Gathering, Empowering, Mentoring, Spouses (GEMS) Event at Main Event in Fayetteville, NC. This initiative was designed to ensure a smooth and successful transition for our Soldiers and their families post-deployment. At the GEMS event, A Co, 92nd Soldiers, and their families were proactively equipped with essential resources, connecting them directly with the Family Advocacy Program, our Community Resource Coordinator, and the Chaplain. The Unit Ministry Team (UMT) played a vital role in mitigating common reintegration stressors, helping to safeguard the long-term stability and mission focus of our warfighters



D/92nd Special Operations Combat Medics led the company through Tactical Combat Casualty Care and Advanced Medical Training, culminating in a Prolonged Field Care scenario to test individual medical skills and build team confidence. The Medics demonstrated exceptional proficiency in cross training their teams to perform lifesaving interventions through the full spectrum of casualty operation from point of injury to delayed evacuation. These skills not only increase teams' survivability in crisis but serve as a foundation to train partners in a deployed setting increasing interoperability among SOF units.

# LETHALITY



Green Berets assigned to 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), walk an unmanned aerial system to the launch pad prior to their final course evaluations during the Advance Drone Course at Fort Carson, Colo., Feb. 25, 2026. The training enhances operators' understanding of drone capabilities and mission integration, strengthening the unit's ability to adapt unmanned systems to evolving operational requirements while maintaining precision and effectiveness in complex environments. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Zachary Myers)

Green Berets assigned to 3rd Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), approach an entry point during a force-on-force training scenario at Fort Carson, Colorado, March 10, 2026. The exercise focused on small-unit maneuver and coordination during simulated urban operations. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Shelby Jones)





A soldier in camouflage uniform is seen from behind, looking at a computer monitor. The monitor displays a map with various colored markers and text. The soldier's head is bald. The background is a dimly lit room with a desk and other equipment.

**1ST BATTALION, 10TH SFG  
STRENGTHENS PRESENCE IN  
GERMANY BY RELOCATING TO  
BAUMHOLDER**

STORY BY SSG LISETH ESPINEL

➤ Photo by Staff Sgt. Denasia Brooks

## FORT CARSON, COLO.

1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) is relocating from Stuttgart, Germany, to U.S. Army Garrison Rheinland-Pfalz in Baumholder as part of a long-term move beginning in early 2026 and scheduled for completion in 2028.

The unit, originally activated in 1952 and continuously stationed in Europe since 1953, when they deployed to Flint Kaserne in Bad Tölz in southern Bavaria, Germany. After the Cold War and the fall of the Berlin Wall, the battalion adapted to new challenges, relocating to Panzer Kaserne in Stuttgart in 1991 to be closer to U.S. European Command (EUCOM). The unit has played a central role in the U.S. Special Operations throughout the Cold War and beyond.

The move to Baumholder marks the latest chapter in the battalion's long European history and ongoing evolution to meet modern mission requirements, according to an officer of 1-10th SFG(A).

The relocation is designed to provide SOF with significantly expanded training space and modernized facilities to support mission readiness. Baumholder's training area is approximately 18 times larger than the current footprint in Stuttgart, enabling more comprehensive and realistic training opportunities.

USAG Rheinland-Pfalz affirms that the installation improvements and construction at Baumholder strengthen ties with the local community and demonstrate the Army's commitment to the well-being of Soldiers and their families, ensuring their comfort, security, and quality of life.



### 10th Group, 1-10 Predeployment Site Survey

Green Berets assigned to 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) tour a site of new construction, at Baumholder, Germany, March 26, 2026. The construction of the area of operations has commenced as members of 1-10 SFG(A) transition from Stuttgart, Germany, and Fort Carson. (U.S. Army photo by Staff. Sgt. Denasia Brooks)



1952  
Activated at Fort Bragg

1960-70s  
Cold War Operations

1995  
Bosnia Rescue

1996  
Croatia Recovery

1953  
Moved to Germany

1990s  
Shift to Regional Conflict

1996  
Kurdish Refugee Evac

2001+  
GWOT

2026  
MOVE TO BAUMHOLDER

*1st Battalion was activated on June 19, 1952, at Fort Bragg, North Carolina under Colonel Aaron Bank, and in 1953, 782 members relocated to Germany, establishing the beginning of its longstanding European presence.*



### 10th Group, 1-10 Predeployment Site Survey

Green Berets assigned to 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) receive an informational brief from senior students attending Baumholder Middle High School on Baumholder, Germany, March 25, 2026. The students provided a range of opportunities offered to service members and their families as they scout out educational services during the transition from Stuttgart and Fort Carson. (U.S. Army photo by Staff. Sgt. Denasia Brooks)

This scale of construction brings increased local economic activity and construction jobs, as many projects are being delivered by German-based contracting companies, states Allie Joura, Europe District's Special Forces program manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Europe District.

The design and construction program at Baumholder includes more than 60 projects, including 40 facility renovations that are in the planning, underway, or completed stages. These projects aim to modernize existing buildings, provide updated administrative workspaces, barracks, and other facilities to support SOF personnel in accomplishing their missions.

"We have several key projects, including building renovations that take existing facilities and turn them into modern workspaces and living facilities for SOF personnel on Smith Barracks," said Chris Gardner, Deputy Chief of Public Affairs of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Europe District. "We are focused on two key efforts: delivering a wide range of operational facilities intended to ensure SOF personnel have everything they need to remain ready and lethal, and projects that will benefit the entire Baumholder Military Community like new schools, housing, etc."

The renovations are designed to preserve the historical character of the base while modernizing its facilities for current operational needs.



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Europe District Baumholder Resident Engineer Chris Hood looks on as early site preparation progress is visible on the second active contract for Army Family Housing construction at the Wetzel Housing Area in Baumholder, Germany March 28, 2025. On-site work began earlier this year and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Europe District is managing construction of the project in close coordination with German construction partners and U.S. Army Garrison Rheinland-Pfalz. (U.S. Army photo by Stephanie Logue) (Photo Credit: Stephanie Logue)

*1st Battalion played a vital role during the Cold War, regional crises, and emerging conflicts. In 1996 1-10 SFG(A) played a key role in humanitarian efforts during crises in Iraq and Turkiye.*

"There are historical design and architectural features of the buildings that are being maintained that preserve the history of the site, particularly stone and archway elements of facades and entryways where feasible", said Joura. "Some of these buildings date back to before World War II, and renovations are being done so that the workspaces and living spaces are completely redone to be contemporary and modern while unique historic character is maintained."

Of the 60 projects being developed or still in the planning process, 29 involve new construction, including a brand-new Army Lodge on Smith Barracks

"In the Wetzel Housing Area, construction is underway on more than 175 new, modern townhomes as well as a new 21st-century design elementary school," said Joura.



### 10th Group, 1-10 Predeployment Site Survey

Green Berets assigned to 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) receive information about the new builds on Baumholder, Germany, March 26, 2026. In efforts to familiarize themselves with new areas of operations by conducting a Predeployment Site Survey (PDSS) for incoming personnel 2026. (U.S. Army photo by Staff. Sgt. Denasia Brooks)

The next major construction effort in 2026 will focus on range improvements, with USACE planning four of a total of nine range improvement projects.

"These projects include shoot houses, small arms ranges and more, delivered in close partnership with German Bundeswehr allies as they are on Bundeswehr training range tracts of land used by U.S. forces," said Gardner. "Ensuring modern, top-of-the-line training ranges and other facilities is paramount to ensuring SOF personnel can hone their lethality and remain to deter adversaries and defeat enemies."

The new Baumholder Elementary School and Baumholder Middle/High School are being designed with a 21st-century concept that emphasizes collaboration, adaptable learning spaces, and multidisciplinary instruction to help students develop real-world skills, USACE officials said. Both schools are expected to be completed by 2028.

As the 1-10 SFG(A) transitions to Baumholder, it continues both its own legacy of movement and mastery and the enduring significance of Baumholder as a foundation for American and allied missions in Europe. The combined history and infrastructure ensure Baumholder's place as a vital hub for U.S. Army operations and a key asset for future security strategies in the United States European Command area of responsibility, mentioned an officer of 1-10th SFG(A).

Following 9/11, the 10th SFG shifted focus to the Global War on Terrorism. Today, 1-10 SFG(A) remains an essential piece of the United States security strategy in Europe.

### 10th Group, 1-10 Predeployment Site Survey

Mr. Richard Dye (center) principal at Smith Elementary School hosts a question and answer session during tour of the school on Baumholder, Germany, March 25, 2026. Dye provided an overview of the educational services and curriculum for incoming personnel and their families relocating from Stuttgart. (U.S. Army photo by Staff. Sgt. Denasia Brooks)



### 10TH SFG (A) TRIVIA

*Did You Know?*

*During the Cold War, Soldiers from the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) secretly operated in West Berlin as part of Detachment A, a clandestine unit preparing resistance operations in case of a Soviet invasion. To stay undercover, Green Berets used civilian identities like plumbers, laborers—  
**and one even posed as a magician.***

*Not exactly the kind of trick you expect from a Special Forces Soldier.*





A U.S. Army Soldier waits on a snowmobile to begin movement during Cold Weather Training at Taylor Park, Colorado, Feb. 12, 2026. Snowmobile training equips Soldiers to navigate challenging terrain in cold weather conditions. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Cheyenne Mayer)



# LAROCHE RETURNS TO 'ARMY HOME'

STORY BY PFC MERCEDEZ GROVE



Col. Marc V. LaRoche poses for a photo with his two sons before a retirement ceremony at Fort Carson, Colorado, Jan. 7, 2026. Col. LaRoche officially retires Feb. 28, 2026, after nearly 30 years of service in the U.S. Army. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Mercedes Grove)

## FORT CARSON, COLO.

Col. Marc V. LaRoche was honored during a retirement ceremony at Fort Carson, Colorado, Jan. 7, 2026, marking the culmination of a nearly three-decade Army career ahead of his official retirement Feb. 28, 2026.

LaRoche, whose service spanned conventional armor units, Special Forces deployments, and senior multinational commands, returned to what he calls his "Army home." The ceremony was marked by reflection, remembrance and gratitude.

"This is really our Army home," LaRoche said. "Seven and a half out of 30 years, a quarter of the time I've spent in the Army, is quite significant."

Hosted by Retired U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Richard Quirk IV, the ceremony brought together Soldiers, family members, friends, and leaders from across the Special Forces community, including members of the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), where LaRoche served multiple tours and commanded 3rd Battalion.

"LaRoche is very attuned to operational details," Quirk said. "His attention to detail is really one of the things that sets him apart, we were able to work well together."

The ceremony was held at Quinn Hall, named in honor of Staff Sgt. Patrick Quinn, a Green Beret assigned to 3rd Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), who was killed in action during a 2013 deployment to Afghanistan. Serving as the battalion commander at the time, LaRoche reflected emotionally on Quinn's sacrifice and emphasized the lasting responsibility to honor fallen Soldiers.

"This was one of our youngest Green Berets to have joined the battalion," LaRoche said. "This is a very, very special building to us, and it will always have that meaning."



During his speech, LaRoche credited two pillars for his success: steadfast family support and exceptional noncommissioned officers.

"I did not do it alone," LaRoche said. "No matter what level I served at, whether it was detachment, company, battalion, or higher, it was the Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs) who really helped me along the way." During his remarks, LaRoche recognized two exceptional NCOs, Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret) Jerry Lambert and Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret) Hillman "Beau" Dufour, as his guests of honor.

Over the course of his career, LaRoche spent more than 15 years overseas, deploying multiple times to Iraq and Afghanistan and serving in other locations, including Jordan and Africa. These opportunities sharpened his operational judgment, strengthened his cultural understanding, and directly shaped his development as a senior leader in high-impact command roles.

As he closed his remarks, LaRoche thanked the Soldiers and families who shared his journey, acknowledging the impact and opportunities that the Army and the Special Forces Regiment gifted his family.

Col. Marc V. LaRoche gives a speech during his retirement ceremony at Fort Carson, Colorado, Jan. 7, 2026. Col. LaRoche officially retires Feb. 28, 2026, after nearly 30 years of service in the U.S. Army. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Mercedes Grove)



## 10TH SFG (A) TRIVIA

*One of the most famous members of the 10th SFG was Major Lauri Törni (later known as Larry Thorne). He is uniquely distinguished for having served in three different armies to fight communism:*

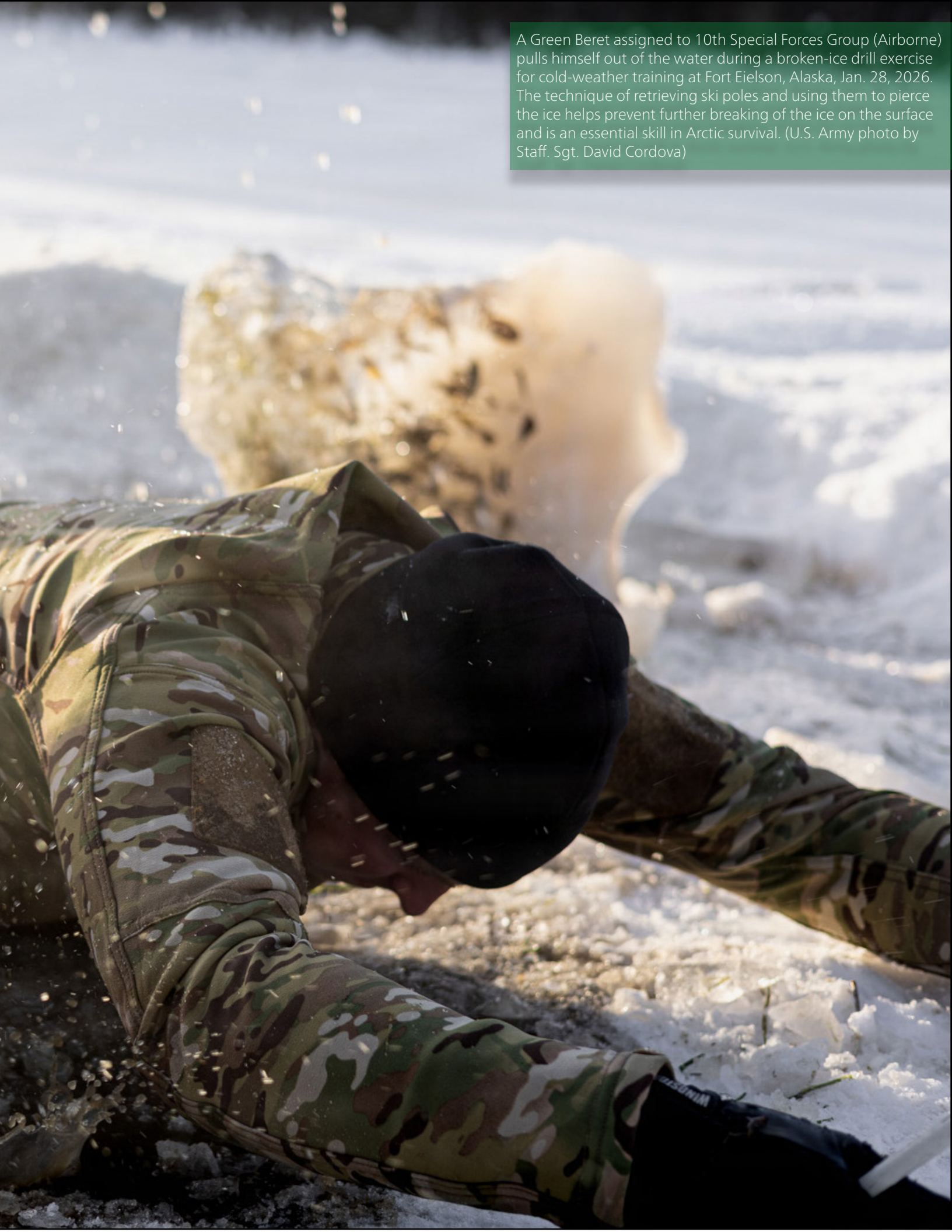
*Do you know which ones?*

*Finland, Germany, & United States*





A Green Beret assigned to 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) pulls himself out of the water during a broken-ice drill exercise for cold-weather training at Fort Eielson, Alaska, Jan. 28, 2026. The technique of retrieving ski poles and using them to pierce the ice helps prevent further breaking of the ice on the surface and is an essential skill in Arctic survival. (U.S. Army photo by Staff. Sgt. David Cordova)





# SNOW FADES, BROTHERHOOD ENDURES

STORY BY SGT SHELBY JONES FROM THE LENSE OF BILL STRASBURG

»» Courtesy Photo from Bill Strausburg

Since 1968, when 10th Group elements moved to Fort Devens and Company A (later 1-10th) remained at Flint Kaserne, 1-10th SFG(A) and SFA Chapters 5 and 65 have participated in Bavarian remembrance ceremonies, placing wreaths on the graves of the eight Americans during Allerheiligen (All Saints Day). After this year's trip, we identified seven additional Americans interred there and will honor them in future ceremonies. (Photo provided by Bill Strasburg)



## BAD TÖLZ, GERMANY

Members of the Sno Bros, a long-standing brotherhood of U.S. Army Special Forces veterans, returned to Bavaria for their 28th annual reunion, reaffirming decades of shared service, sacrifice and remembrance tied to the history of 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) and 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group.

Formed in 1997 by Duke Dewey and Jeff Goddard during their first return to Germany, the Sno Bros tradition blends skiing, fellowship and memorial observances rooted in the unit's Cold War legacy at Flint Kaserne. Members span generations of service, representing 10th SFG(A) from its founding years in 1952 to the present day.

Dewey, who joined 10th Group in 1953, later transitioned to the 77th Special Forces Group before returning to 10th in 1956, serving until 1963. A plank holder of both groups, Dewey was inducted into the 82nd Airborne Division Hall of Fame in 2019. His legacy continues to shape the reunion's purpose: honoring the past while strengthening bonds forged in service.

The 2025 gathering carried a solemn tone as attendees remembered several extended members of the Special Forces family. Among those honored were Gabi Willibald, longtime host and friend to the group; Josef "Sepp" Willibald, a former German Army paratrooper and ski instructor who trained alongside Special Forces in the 1960s; retired Sgt. 1st Class Frank Sicari, a former range master in Bad Tölz and longtime leader of remembrance ceremonies; and Clarence Grant, a 10th Group and 1-10th SFG(A) veteran and SFA Chapter 65 secretary.

Throughout the Jan. 31–Feb. 11 reunion, Sno Bros conducted memorial visits at cemeteries in Wackersberg and Dietramzell, dedicated a plaque in honor of Sepp Willibald at Pension Willibald, and gathered for a group photo at the Special Forces statue on Flint Höhe, the former site of Flint Kaserne.





(Photo provided by Bill Strasburg)

Pictured right is a wooden plaque commemorating the Wolfgang "Wolfie" Frühauf Gedächtnisschiessen (Memorial Shoot) in Lenggries, Germany, 2026. The annual event is conducted with World War II-era Mauser K-98 rifles using iron sights at 100 meters and honors the legacy of Wolfgang Frühauf, former owner of the Stockerwirt in Lenggries, who was known for his friendship with Soldiers assigned to 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) during their time in Bad Tölz. (Photo provided by Bill Strasburg)



The week also included skiing at Brauneck, Christlum, Zillertal and Garmisch; Bavarian fellowship dinners; a meeting of SFA Chapter 65 in Munich; and the eighth annual Wolfgang "Wolfie" Frühauf Memorial Shoot in Miesbach, where participants fired WWII-era Mauser K-98 rifles in tribute to a longtime friend of the unit.

One of the most enduring traditions remained the evening ascent to the Tölzerhütte atop Brauneck, reached after an exclusive nighttime cable car ride and short hike. There, members raised a toast to fallen comrades, including Sgt. 1st Class Tony Hernandez, who died during ski training in 1992. His memorial cross still stands near the hut.

As part of the group's continued commitment to remembrance, members also revisited the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery at Dürnbach, where thousands of WWII servicemen are interred, including Americans who served alongside Allied forces. Sno Bros and affiliated Special Forces Association chapters have participated in Bavarian remembrance ceremonies there since 1968, a tradition they intend to expand in future years.

Plans are already underway for Sno Bros 29, scheduled for January 2027.

Snow fades. Brotherhood doesn't.



**SAME DIRT,  
DIFFERENT BADGES**

STORY BY SGT CHRISTIAN DELACRUZ



Green Berets assigned to the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) and members of the U.S. Marshals Service Special Operations Group run to their next location during a joint training exercise at Fort Carson, Colorado, Jan. 22, 2026. The joint training strengthened surveillance and targeting capabilities while improving interoperability between the organizations in support of future operations. (U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Christian Dela Cruz)

## FORT CARSON, COLO.

Green Berets assigned to the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), partnered with the U.S. Marshals Special Operations Group for a joint training mission aimed at enhancing surveillance techniques, exchanging tactical knowledge, and improving interoperability between federal law enforcement and military special operations forces on Fort Carson, Colorado, Jan. 22, 2026.

The training focused on sharing expertise with the U.S. Marshals by providing instruction based on their extensive experience in domestic law enforcement and fugitive operations.

"One of the big benefits we get from this training is that they do a lot of surveillance operationally in the real world," said a 10th SFG (A) Green Beret. "We get the latest and greatest Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTPs) that they have."

Beyond surveillance techniques, the joint training allowed participants to exchange ideas related to tactics, techniques and procedures, including Close-Quarters Battle (CQB) a high-intensity, close-range, team-based form of combat training conducted inside confined spaces such as buildings, rooms and trench systems.

Close-quarters battle relies on speed, surprise and violence of action to rapidly neutralize threats while minimizing risk to friendly forces and noncombatants.

"A lot of their tactics are similar to ours so if they change anything in their Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), it gives us an opportunity to look at how we can update our SOPs to be more lethal," said a 10th SFG (A) Green Beret.



By integrating law enforcement expertise in fugitive apprehension and domestic operations with military special operations, the training provided a unique opportunity to refine room-clearing procedures, communication methods and team coordination in complex environments.

Unlike conventional forces that often operate in larger formations, special operations units frequently conduct missions in small teams where precise communication, disciplined movement and synchronized action are critical to success.

"A lot of what we do overlaps between Special Forces and the Marshal Services Special Operations Group," said a Marshal Services Special Operations Group team member. "When we come out here and train together, it's an opportunity for us to exchange information, tactics and techniques and overall, just learn from each other."

Working side-by-side allows participants to better understand each other's capabilities, limitations and operational methods, which are a critical factor when coordinating across agencies during high-risk missions.

"Anytime we get to work with an elite group of people who train in somewhat the same realm as special forces it enhances our ability to stay lethal," said a 10th SFG (A) Green Beret. "Because the Marshals are more focused on what they do and as Special Forces there's so many skills, we have to stay sharp on."

Joint training missions like this reinforce readiness, build professional relationships, and enhance overall mission effectiveness.

As threats continue to evolve, partnerships between organizations such as the U.S. Marshals Service and the 10th Special Forces Group remain essential to maintaining national security and public safety.

"It's been great so far, both times we've been out here we learned a ton and hopefully we'll continue to sustain this relationship," said a Marshal Services Special Operations Group team member.



Green Berets assigned to the 10th Special Forces group (Airborne) and members of the U.S. Marshals Special Operations Group conduct close-quarters combat training during a joint training exercise at Fort Carson, Colorado, Jan. 22, 2026. The joint training strengthened surveillance and targeting capabilities while improving interoperability between the organizations in support of future operations. (U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Christian Dela Cruz)

## 10TH SFG (A) TRIVIA

*While the 10th Group never officially deployed as a unit to Vietnam, they were busy elsewhere. In the 1960s, a detachment established the first airborne school in Jordan; they were so successful that King Hussein himself attended the first graduation ceremony and personally participated in the parachute jump.*







U.S. Army Soldiers with Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, lift a simulated casualty into a medical evacuation helicopter during a medical training event at Fort Carson, Colorado, Nov. 26, 2025. The culminating event, and the training leading up to it, was facilitated by Green Berets with the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), improving readiness across Fort Carson. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Mercedes Grove)



**TWO MONTHS,  
ONE BIG IMPACT**  
STORY BY SGT SHELBY JONES

## PETERSON SPACE FORCE BASE, COLO.

Rain tapped steadily against the windows of Special Operations Command North (SOCNORTH) headquarters as service members gathered in the lobby. An overhead announcement echoed through the building.

"In fifteen minutes, please join us in recognizing Sgt. Abigail Aponte-Febus."

Personnel from across the joint headquarters gradually filled the space, gathering to watch as the modest Soldier from 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), smiling quietly among the crowd, prepared to be recognized.

Col. Kevin P. Rowlette, chief of staff for SOCNORTH, awarded Sgt. Abigail Aponte-Febus, assigned to 10th SFG (A), the Joint Service Achievement Medal at Peterson Space Force Base, Colorado, March 3, 2026. Aponte-Febus was recognized for her innovative logistical contributions and operational impact after only two months on assignment.

Originally from Puerto Rico, Aponte-Febus enlisted in the U.S. Army as a unit supply specialist May 31, 2018, out of Colorado Springs, Colorado. After eight years of service, Sgt. Abigail Aponte-Febus arrived at 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) in October 2024 before beginning a six-month assignment at SOCNORTH.

SOCNORTH is a joint headquarters responsible for planning, coordinating and executing special operations to detect, deter and disrupt threats within the U.S. Northern Command area of responsibility. The command's area of responsibility includes the United States, Canada, Mexico and the Bahamas, making logistics coordination across services and organizations a critical component of mission success.



The Joint Service Achievement Medal sits displayed prior to an award ceremony at Peterson Space Force Base, Colorado, Mar. 3, 2026. The medal recognizes members of the U.S. Armed Forces for outstanding achievement or meritorious service while serving in a joint military environment. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Shelby Jones)



Upon arriving at SOCNORTH, Aponte-Febus was assigned to the logistics directorate as a property book officer. Entering a joint environment required her to quickly learn new systems, processes and procedures while simultaneously supporting ongoing operations.

While the Army typically operates using the Global Combat Support System-Army, SOCNORTH utilizes the Defense Property Accountability System. Despite the differences between the platforms, Aponte-Febus quickly recognized their similarities in purpose and adapted to the new system.

“You can’t always apply the things you learn exactly the same way,” Aponte-Febus said. “But you can gain a new perspective from working in a different environment.”

As she settled into the position, Aponte-Febus quickly began strengthening logistics operations within the command. She mentored and developed a multi-component supply sergeant on advanced Global Combat Support System-Army functions, improving proficiency with reporting tools and other key supply transactions. Her direct coaching enhanced technical proficiency and reinforced supply discipline throughout the Theater Special Operations Command logistics directorate.

Her leadership also extended to major logistical operations. Aponte-Febus organized and executed a critical Organizational Clothing and Individual Equipment inventory, accounting for more than \$250,000 worth of Arctic-gear. Following the inventory, she engineered a distribution plan that issued more than 200 sets of mission-essential equipment to a joint force of Soldiers, Airmen and contractors, ensuring zero losses and maintaining full operational readiness for upcoming missions.

While supporting daily operations, Aponte-Febus also worked directly with the property book officer to streamline property accountability processes within the command. She processed more than 35 equipment dispositions and managed complex property transfers within the Enterprise Logistics Management System. Her foresight also contributed to the foundational planning for the command’s future Standardized Property Accountability and Equipment Readiness program, a command-level initiative designed to improve long-term logistics oversight.



Col. Kevin P. Rowlette, chief of staff for U.S. Special Operations Command North, presents the Joint Service Achievement Medal to Sgt. Abigail Aponte-Febus, assigned to 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), during a ceremony at Peterson Space Force Base, Colorado, Mar. 3, 2026. Aponte-Febus earned the award for her logistical initiative and contributions to operational readiness within SOCNORTH. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Shelby Jones)

Recognized as a subject matter expert in supply accountability, Aponte-Febus also developed and delivered a professional development course on Army Regulations 710-4 Property Accountability and 735-5 Property Accountability Policies & Financial Liability for senior leaders within the command. The course enhanced leaders' understanding of property accountability procedures and helped streamline procurement processes for mission-critical equipment.

Within weeks of arriving at SOCNORTH, Aponte-Febus identified a logistical gap affecting personnel entering the joint command. Because Peterson Space Force Base primarily supports Space Force units, some service members arriving at SOCNORTH encountered difficulty obtaining required uniforms and equipment needed to begin their duties.

Seeing the need, Aponte-Febus proposed and implemented a temporary Central Issue Facility within the building. The initiative created a streamlined system allowing incoming personnel to quickly receive required uniforms and gear without delays. She coordinated the effort with minimal guidance and successfully established the process in less than two months.

Her initiative and rapid impact across multiple logistics functions did not go unnoticed by leadership.

"I recommended her for the award because from day one at the theater special operations command she learned an entirely new system and made a significant impact in just two months," said Capt. David Sapre, her supervisor at U.S. Special Operations Command North. "Her work directly improved operational success."

For Aponte-Febus, the recognition came as a surprise.

"This was unexpected," she said. I wish my spouse and teammates could have been there to share the moment with me."

Looking ahead, Aponte-Febus said she is eager to continue building on the experience gained during her time at SOCNORTH and pursue further achievements in her Army career.

Her advice to new Soldiers arriving at the unit is simple.

"Stay focused and dedicated," she said.

This recognition served as a reminder that initiative, adaptability and dedication can make an immediate impact, even within the first few months at a joint command.

## 10TH SFG (A) TRIVIA

*Did you know, a Green Beret from the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) competed in the Olympics?*

*Sgt. 1st Class Nate Weber, a Special Forces medical sergeant at Fort Carson, represented Team USA in the four-man bobsleigh at the 2018 Winter Olympics in PyeongChang, placing 20th overall after previously deploying to Niger, Cameroon and Afghanistan.*



A Green Beret with the 2nd Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) conducts a nighttime breaching operation training during a validation exercise at Muscatatuck Urban Training Center, Indiana, March 3, 2026. Breaching techniques enable Green Berets to quickly and effectively enter structures during missions while maintaining security, momentum and tactical advantage. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Liseth Espinel)







**TRANSITIONING WITH RESILIENCE:  
A SOLDIER'S JOURNEY WITH THE MARCUS  
INSTITUTE FOR BRAIN HEALTH**

STORY BY SSG DENASIA BROOKS

>> Courtesy Photo from MSG Colin Lightfoot

## FORT CARSON, COLO.

Master Sgt. Colin J. Lightfoot with the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) has demonstrated unwavering resilience in the face of adversity over his 20-year career. While serving with 10th (SFG), he sustained multiple traumatic brain injuries (TBIs) and endured challenges that could have led many to despair. Instead, he used these experiences for personal growth, ultimately leading him towards the Marcus Institute for Brain Health (MIBH).

As a Green Beret, Lightfoot pushed his body to unprecedented lengths. Through grit and valor along his journey, he recognized a catalyst for change and drove thunderous bolts of resiliency as a beacon of light for those seeking to lead the Green Beret life.

Lightfoot reflected on his formative years, when he was inspired to join special forces during the Global War on Terrorism. He had a troubled youth and sought to channel his potential through the structure of the U.S. Army into something greater than himself.

"I quickly realized I needed that structure, foundation, camaraderie, and then to start developing that sense of worth," said Lightfoot. "It was in the height of GWOT, and having that baseline of patriotism growing up, I felt like it was the perfect storm to join."

GWOT was not the only challenge that shaped him into the Green Beret he is today. Lightfoot understood the importance of structure and discipline, but often felt the urge to resist it, which subjected him to steep learning curves.



U.S. Army Master Sgt. Colin Lightfoot conducts mission tasks while positioned outside a mud-brick structure during combat operations in Afghanistan. The image captures a moment of focus amid the rugged terrain, reflecting the demands placed on senior noncommissioned officers during the War in Afghanistan in support of the broader Global War on Terrorism. (Courtesy Photo provided by MSG Colin Lightfoot)



U.S. Army Master Sgt. Colin Lightfoot poses with his family for a portrait outside their home, capturing a moment of connection and normalcy beyond military service. The image reflects the vital support systems behind service members, highlighting the strength of military families throughout years of commitment during the Global War on Terrorism. (Courtesy Photo provided by MSG Colin Lightfoot)

"So then there was learning humility, this is one of the bigger things that I had to realize and accept up front," said Lightfoot. Lightfoot went on to become a team sergeant and emulate the leader he wanted to be. He sought out and welcomed the challenges posed by his Soldiers.

"I felt like I had an insider perspective where I could help bring them up," said Lightfoot. "You know the adage of, you learn from your mistakes."

Through his career as an engineer sergeant, he specialized in demolition, construction, and breaching tactics, subjecting him to repeated blast explosive.

"You don't realize that the effects continue to compound, and it might not be one specific incident where you just get rocked," said Lightfoot.

Lightfoot recalls serious incidents during combat, such as direct fire in proximity and being thrown around, which resulted in multiple concussions and TBIs.

"It culminated in 2019 in Afghanistan when I was an assault cell leader and went into a compound, and they initiated a house-borne improvised explosive device," said Lightfoot. "That was the one I was out for medical evacuation, and I began seeing significant changes in my life."

Following the blast in 2019, Lightfoot began to navigate the neurological effects, including pain, speech issues, and memory loss, directly affecting the pattern of his life with his family and Soldiers.

"Then the adverse happens when you come home, and you are delinquent to society, and your relationships with your family and friends are faltering," said Lightfoot. Mental health awareness has elevated and evolved in the armed forces since the GWOT era. However, stigmas still linger around seeking mental health treatment.

"It was my wife and kid, just seeing them that one morning and realizing I don't want to do this," said Lightfoot. "I also want to be better for them."

Lightfoot transformed his recovery journey by seeking resources within the Army, including behavioral health and programs that suited him, which led him to Marcus Institute for Brain Health (MIBH).

"MIBH was a phenomenal experience for me, talking to the psychiatrist and understanding some of the specific issues that I'm having," said Lightfoot. "Then I really tapped into the holistic side of my recovery."

MIBH provided a platform for Lightfoot to explore various therapeutic options customized to his needs, such as meditation and hyperbaric treatments, fostering restoration of both mind and body.

Lightfoot's transition out of the military reflects not only a shift in career but a return to balance after years of living under immense pressure.

"My life has been planning, preparing, and executing within this organization, and the majority of it has been through the GWOT," said Lightfoot. "I look forward to peace."



A Global War on Terrorism Service Medal is pictured, featuring a bronze medallion bearing an eagle, globe, and olive branch beneath the inscription "War on Terrorism Service," suspended from a ribbon of blue, gold, red, and white stripes. Established in 2003 following the September 11 attacks, the medal recognized U.S. service members who supported GWOT operations, symbolizing a generation of military service defined by global deployments and enduring counterterrorism efforts.

To learn more on GWOT visit:

[https://arsof-history.org/articles/22aug\\_history\\_office\\_page\\_1.html](https://arsof-history.org/articles/22aug_history_office_page_1.html)

<https://www.georgewbushlibrary.gov/research/topic-guides/global-war-terror>

Lightfoot speaks to future generations of Green Beret Soldiers and civilians through the vulnerabilities of his career, emphasizing a disciplined approach to prioritizing health by recognizing when to seek treatment and prioritizing health as necessary maintenance.

"The intent is for you to optimize your potential and your performance and then leave here with a great career and still have something left in the tank to do something else," said Lightfoot.

The leading motivating factor for his recovery has been family. He understands that a support system endures the effects of the journey as well, and that responsibility to preserve those relationships with gratitude.

"It is important to recognize early on that it's not just you, it's them, then it's you," said Lightfoot. "You pay them their dues, and you focus just as much on them as you do on yourself."

Lightfoot has traversed his career, enduring TBIs, healing, and maintaining family dynamics while prioritizing health as he transitions into the next chapter.

"It's not work-life balance, because the reality in this career field is you can't balance the two," said Lightfoot. 'It's work-life harmony,' said Lt. Gen. Jonathan P. Braga with U.S. Army Special Operations Command."

Lightfoot defies the odds by applying stoicism and vulnerability with empowerment. He now conducts speaking engagements with the Special Forces Foundation and continues to support the SOF community with future engagements across the U.S.



## *MSG COLIN LIGHTFOOT*

assigned to 3rd Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), is pictured in his Army Service Uniform, representing a career of leadership, dedication, and service. His portrait reflects the professionalism and commitment of Special Forces Soldiers who served during the Global War on Terrorism, embodying the legacy of those who led from the front in complex operational environments. (Courtesy photo provided by Public Affairs Office)



A Green Beret assigned to 3rd Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) engages targets with an anti-armor weapon system during a Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise (CALFEX) on April 8, 2026, on Fort Carson. The exercise combined infantry, armor, artillery, and aviation capabilities to certify combat effectiveness at the company level. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Shelby Jones)



# **NEWCOMER INFORMATION**

**BAUMHOLDER EDITION**

# BAUMHOLDER #'S

**STAFF DUTY:**

379-4192

**SCHOOL LIASON:**

541-9061

**CHILD CARE (CDC):**

531-3415

**SHARP:**

541-9029/9024

**EO:**

541-2200

**LEGAL:**

531-2445

**AER:**

541-9000

**FINANCE:**

531-2896

**ACS:**

531-2850

**LANDSTUHL REGIONAL MEDICAL  
CENTER**

590-5762

**REDCROSS:**

531-3153

**DENTAL:**

464-1009

**TEMPORARY LODGING:**

312-2900

**HOUSING OFFICE:**

531-2978

**ID/CAC CARD OFFICE:**

531-2429

**FAMILY READINESS CENTER:**

531-2850

**CHAPLAIN:**

531-3176

**TRAVEL OFFICE:**

531-7094

**DPW:**

485-1110

**LENDING CLOSET:**

531-2864

**MILITARY POLICE:**

531-2877

**AMBULANCE/FIRE:**

112

**POLICE:**

110

**SHUTTLE BUS SERVICE :**

531-7112



# CLASSIFIEDS

BAUMHOLDER



# CLASSIFIEDS

USAG Rheinland-Pfalz

## Travel

WITH OUTDOOR RECREATION

### MAY

1-3	ISCHGL SKI EXPRESS/TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN CONCERT FEAT. CHRISTINA AGUILERA	\$149+
2-3	FISHING LICENSE CLASS	\$80+
2	HAMELN: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE PIED PIPER	\$149+
2	VIA FERRATA-ROCK CLIMBING	\$89
8-10	GARMISCH SPRING WEEKEND AT EDELWEISS	\$449+
9	AMSTERDAM EXPRESS	\$129+
10	MOTHERS DAY SPA	\$89
10	SAAR BEND RIVER HIKE	\$89
16-17	SAAR RIVER BEND OVERNIGHT BIKE RIDE	\$229+
16	COSTCO SHOPPING SPREE	\$89
16	SELF-DRIVE TROUT FISHING	\$59
21-25	FJORDS & THE FLAM EXPRESS - FLY TO NORWAY	\$2099+
21-25	BARCELONA, MONTserrat & THE SPANISH COAST	\$599+
23	PRAGUE EXPRESS	\$189+
25	SKYDIVING	\$289
30	PARIS EXPRESS	\$169+
31	DEVIL'S CANYON HIKE	\$89

**Coming Soon!**

**Oktoberfest Weekend at Edelweiss Lodge (Sep. 2026)**

**KAISERSLAUTERN ODR**  
Pulaski Barracks, Bldg. 2905  
541-5654 or 0611-143-541-5654  
kaiserslautern.armymwr.com

**BAUMHOLDER ODR**  
Smith Barracks, Bldg. 8167  
531-3401 or 0611-143-531-3401  
baumholder.armymwr.com

INTRAMURAL SPORTS

## Softball

USAG RHEINLAND-PFALZ BAUMHOLDER

### 2026 SEASON

## MAY 25 - JULY 23

**REGISTRATION: APRIL 15 - MAY 15**  
LETTER OF INTENT AVAILABLE AT  
HALL OF CHAMPIONS (HOC) PHYSICAL FITNESS CENTER (PFC)

ALL DOD ID CARDHOLDERS **18 AND ABOVE** ARE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE - NO HIGH SCHOOL OR CYS  
CIVILIAN ID CARD HOLDERS CAN PLAY BUT CAN'T ADVANCE TO IMCOM-E CHAMPIONSHIPS  
OFFICIALS NEEDED FOR ALL MWR SPORTS - CONTACT LEAGUE DIRECTOR

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: [BAUMHOLDER.ARMYMWR.COM](http://BAUMHOLDER.ARMYMWR.COM)

**INTRAMURAL SPORTS PROGRAM**  
SOLDIER FIELD  
FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
531-2924 | 0611-143-531-2924

## OPERATION STORYTIME

ON A MISSION TO INSPIRE LEARNING

JOIN US AS WE EMBARK ON LITERARY ADVENTURES AND CRAFTS

INSPIRING THE YOUTH TO READ - NOT JUST BY OUR WORDS, BUT BY OUR DEEDS

**EVERY 1ST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 3 P.M.**

**BAUMHOLDER LIBRARY, BLDG. 8332, SMITH BARRACKS**



# GERMAN FISHING LICENSE COURSE

Weekend Certification

May 2-3, 2026

Graduate and receive a permit to obtain your German Fishing License. Students must attend both sessions during one full weekend to graduate.

### PRICING

\$80 – Individual  
\$120 – Family

### REQUIRED MEMBERSHIP

All participants 17 and older must be members of the **Hunting, Fishing & Sport Shooting (HFSS) Program**

- 1 Year: \$15
- 3 Years: \$35
- Lifetime: \$99

*\*Download the HFSS Membership Form (.pdf)*

### REGISTRATION

All reservations must be made through **Army Outdoor Recreation**.

#### Kaiserslautern Community

Pulaski Barracks, Bldg. 2905  
DSN: (314) 541-5654  
Commercial: +49 (0)611-143-55656

#### Baumholder Community

Smith Barracks, Bldg. 8167  
DSN: (314) 531-3401  
Commercial: +49 (0)611-143-331-3401



**BAUMHOLDER 101: SPOUSE ORIENTATION**

**EVERY MONTH**

**10:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.**

Baumholder Family Room (Post Office)  
Bldg. 8661, Smith Barracks



SCAN FOR DATES  
REGISTRATION IS NOT REQUIRED, BUT ENCOURAGED



**A GOOD YARN** 

Craft, Chat & Create!

**May 12, 2026 • 3:30 PM**

Baumholder Library • Bldg. 8332 - Smith Barracks

2nd Tuesday of the Month

For Ages 18 & Up

Bring Your Own Crafting Project!

Knit • Crochet • Scrapbook • More! 

No Cost • No Registration Needed

Call for Details:  
**Baumholder Library**  
Tel: 123-456-7890





# SCHOOL REGISTRATION

What do I need to do for school registration?

1. Withdraw from schools in Stuttgart and ask for a copy of school records.
2. Enroll for schools using the QR code.
3. Documentation needed for registration:
  - a. Orders
  - b. Address
  - c. Immunization records
  - d. Proof of age
  - e. Copy of previous school records



Once the online portion is completed, please contact the school registrar to finalize the registration process.

### Eligibility Ages

Students must be 4 by 1 Sep of the enrolling school year for UPK

Students must be 5 by 1 Sep of the enrolling school year for Kindergarten



# HISTORICAL

2026

EVENTS



# CSM FRANK A. SOCHA

# COMBATIVES FACILITY

## GRAND REOPENING

The CSM Frank A. Socha Combatives Facility, located in Building 7464 at Fort Carson, Colorado, was originally dedicated July 23, 2018, during a ceremony at the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) combatives complex. During the dedication, Brenda Socha, Chad Socha and Frank Socha Jr. cut the ribbon honoring the legacy of the late Command Sgt. Maj. Frank A. Socha. Socha served as command sergeant major of 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) from 2009 to 2011 and was instrumental in developing the Group's modern combat-oriented hand-to-hand training program. He passed away in December 2012. Naming the facility in his honor recognizes his lasting impact on combatives training and warrior development within the formation.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the facility experienced temporary closures as health protection measures were implemented across Department of Defense installations. As restrictions began to ease, the combatives dojo reopened in 2021, marked by a special seminar featuring Brazilian jiu-jitsu pioneer Royce Gracie, who demonstrated striking and defensive techniques for Soldiers assigned to 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) on April 19, 2021. The event symbolized the return of hands-on combatives training and the continued importance of close-quarters combat proficiency within the unit.

Following renovations led by the Advanced Skills Company, the CSM Frank A. Socha Combatives Facility reopened March 6, 2026, restoring a dedicated space where Soldiers conduct combatives instruction focused on grappling fundamentals, controlled sparring and practical close-quarters combat techniques. The facility continues to support the Army Combatives Program while reinforcing physical readiness, discipline and confidence among Soldiers training within the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne).

Today, the facility hosts recurring combatives courses and open mat training opportunities designed to build both foundational and advanced hand-to-hand combat skills. Soldiers interested in participating in future combatives training can coordinate with their unit leadership or training representatives to enroll in upcoming sessions at the CSM Frank A. Socha Combatives Facility.

### Combatives Dojo Reopens with Seminar by Royce Gracie

Two U.S. Army Green Berets practice takedown and submission techniques taught during the seminar held by Royce Gracie on April 19, 2021. The event was in celebration of the re-opening of the combatives dojo as COVID restriction begin continue to ease. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Jordan S. Worthy)



# 10TH SPECIAL FORCES GROUP (AIRBORNE)

## SF KIDS

The laughter of children echoed through a small gathering in 2019 as a handful of families from 3rd Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), came together with a simple goal: bring a little more joy to life during deployment. At the time, the unit was deployed to Afghanistan, and those left behind, spouses and children, carried the quiet weight of separation. Recognizing that reality, a group of leaders and families began asking a simple question: How can we better support our kids? What followed was the beginning of something far greater than they imagined. Led by the Military and Family Life counselor, Ms. Kay, alongside the Group Chaplain, service members, and three dedicated families, the group gathered to brainstorm ways to strengthen connection and morale at home. But it wasn't just the adults shaping the vision, the children themselves played a role. During that first meeting, they helped name the program "Special Forces Kids" or "SF Kids," ultimately giving the initiative an identity rooted in their own voices. From there, ideas turned into action, arts and crafts nights, friendly competitions, sports days, presentations and even cooking events became opportunities not just for entertainment, but for connection. These gatherings created space for families to bond, for children to build friendships, and for the community to stand stronger together during challenging times. In those early days, resources were limited. There was no dedicated funding—only commitment. Volunteers and members of the unit worked tirelessly to gather support and make each event possible, driven by a shared belief that even small moments of joy could make a lasting difference. When the unit returned from deployment, Soldiers began hearing the stories—the smiles, the friendships, the sense of belonging that had grown in their absence. They didn't want it to end. What began as a response to deployment quickly evolved into a permanent program. Today, SF Kids has grown into a legacy initiative embraced across all battalions within 10th SFG(A). With the support of command teams and the broader Group community, the program continues to provide meaningful activities and resources for service members and their families, with a special focus on the wellbeing of children. Each April, during the Month of the Military Child, the dandelion stands as a powerful symbol of the strength and resilience found in military-connected youth. Much like the dandelion, which takes root almost anywhere and thrives in a wide range of conditions, military children learn to grow wherever life takes them. They adapt to constant change, form friendships in new places and discover early on that home is not a location, but a sense of belonging carried with them. Their roots run deep in the culture of service, while their ability to move, grow and thrive reflects a quiet strength that often goes unseen. Within 10th SFG(A), the SF Kids program embodies that same spirit, providing a foundation where children can stay grounded in community while embracing the ever-changing journey of military life. It reinforces a simple truth: behind every Green Beret is a family, and behind every family are children whose resilience deserves recognition. What started as a small idea during a time of separation has become a lasting symbol of unity, proving that even in the most demanding environments, community remains the force that holds it all together.

A Soldier assigned to 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) scales a rock climbing wall alongside his daughter during the Group's Organizational Week on Fort Carson, Colorado July 27, 2018. The event is designed to build cohesion and give the Soldiers and family members an opportunity to come together for a week long celebration of the unit. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Brandon Franklin)

# DANDELIONS:

*A Poem by a Military Kid*

*By Abigail B., Age 11*

Dandelions represent us as we float across the states  
Traveling from one place to the next  
Leaving one home after another  
Planting new seeds all along the way

Parents deploy as we wave goodbye to them, like stems swaying in the wind  
We wish they would return soon  
But we know it could be a long wait  
The fruits of a dandelion;  
For who are you  
To call a dandelion a weed?  
Like dandelion fluff on the breeze, we are always moving  
Changing schools,  
Leaving friends behind, and making new ones

We are not weeds, we are the ones that thrive even in the worst conditions  
Not only do we work for individuals, but for a higher purpose  
In a hard packed field we break up the ground, making way for new flowers to grow

Just like dandelions, being a military child means we are different  
We get to travel all around  
Meeting lots of people  
Enduring lots of things

We are proud to be military children  
We are proud of our parents, who they are, and what they do  
We are beautiful and unique just like the flowers that represent our families and us  
We are strong and resilient wherever our roots take place  
We spread all over the world for our families greater cause



"Abigail has always liked writing and had the opportunity to reflect on what it means to be a military child as part of a competition at her DODEA school this spring. Abigail is a 5th grader and recently moved across the county after several assignments at the same location. Being a military child is all she has ever known." - Abigail's mother

# CHAPLAIN'S NOOK



## CHAPLAIN OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

### CHAPLAIN CONTACT INFORMATION:

☎ 719-271-9311

✉ DENNIS.R.STENE.MIL@SOCOM.MIL

### CHAPLAIN ASSISTANT CONTACT INFORMATION:

☎ 719-756-6050

✉ DIANE.L.SETTLEMIRE.MIL@SOCOM.MIL

IF YOU HAVE SPECIAL RELIGIOUS NEEDS OR QUESTIONS ABOUT RELIGIOUS SUPPORT, EMAIL THE RSO TEAM AT [FCCORSO@ARMY.MIL](mailto:FCCORSO@ARMY.MIL).

**FOR EMERGENCY RELIGIOUS SUPPORT ISSUES, CONTACT THE EMERGENCY ON-CALL DUTY CHAPLAIN :**  
719-291-9619.

## CHAPLAIN'S NOOK

### MAJ DENNIS STENE

Moving in the military can be a daunting task. Having grown up in a military family (my dad served over 26 years in the US Air Force) and now myself having been in the Army for over 14 years, the weight of a PCS move is very familiar to my family. However, during all those years, I confess I never experienced an OCONUS move. Therefore, I cannot speak from experience and can only imagine both the excitement and potential uncertainties of moving to a foreign country.

What I can say with full confidence is that in every move our family has made we can look back at our previous duty stations and consider numerous fond memories and relationships associated with each unit and location. A few years ago, my wife had the great idea for the two of us and our four kids (between the ages 18-10 at the time) to make a collective list of all the positive things we can attribute to our military moves. This list consisted of places we'd been, sites we've seen, people we met, the close friends we've established relationships with, different houses we've lived in, types of weather we experienced, favorite restaurants...and on the list goes on. Our family realized that, had it not been for the various moves, we would have missed out on so much. Even in locations that initially did not seem so exciting, we found many blessings that came from the experience of living and serving there.

As many of our Originals are facing moves this summer, I encourage you to look forward to the journey with your family. Count the blessings you've experienced where you currently reside and anticipate new ones in the next endeavor. For our single Soldiers who are moving, the same concept holds true. Who knows what unexpected benefits you'll receive soon from your new circumstance? Whether you continue to serve the Originals at Fort Carson or Baumholder or serving the Regiment and the Army at a totally different duty station, it is my prayer that you all will enjoy the journey that lies ahead!

Chaplain Dennis Stene

## 10TH SPECIAL FORCES GROUP (AIRBORNE) OBITUARIES

“We honor the memory of all United States Army service members who have passed—whether in combat, in service, or after returning home. Their dedication to duty, their commitment to the nation, and their sacrifices—both seen and unseen—will never be forgotten. May their service be remembered with gratitude, and their lives honored with dignity. They will be remembered not only for their service, but for the legacy of strength and selflessness they leave behind. May we never forget the cost of freedom, and may their memory live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved them.”



CW3 CHRISTOPHER D. SPRADLIN  
09/24/71-01/10/26

<https://www.mountainmemorialfh.com/obituary/Christopher-Spradlin>

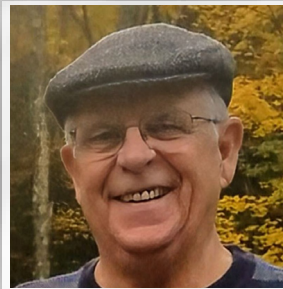


COLONEL DARRELL W. KATZ  
03/12/39-01/16/26

<https://shkd.us/VisEXD3I>

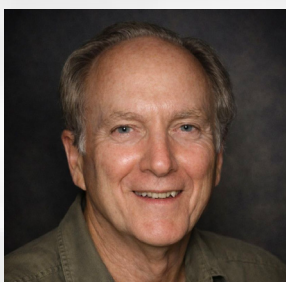


SFC DAKOTA KENO SULLIVAN  
010/07/86-1/21/26



SGT RONALD "FRED" HOWARD FREDERICKSON  
07/28/50-01/04/26

<https://www.legacy.com/legacy/ronald-frederickson>



CPT PETER D. "PETE" POWER  
03/02/47-02/23/26

<https://shkd.us/8kR1tSot>



SSG MICHAEL D. PETOCK  
08/04/30-02/21/26

<https://www.brubakerfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Michael-D-Petock?obId=47324529#/obituaryInfo>



2LT WALLACE "MAC"  
MCCAMMON STROMBERG  
08/11/42-01/01/26

<https://www.birzerfuneralhomes.com/obituary/WallaceMcCammon-Stromberg>



CSM DENNIS C. MCVEY  
08/11/42-01/06/26

<https://specialforcestaps.com/f/csmr-dennis-c-mcvey>



MSG JOSEPH ADELSBERGER  
08/22/53-10/20/25

celebration of life -summer of 2026.  
email [jmawestsmiles@gmail.com](mailto:jmawestsmiles@gmail.com)

<https://www.hamlettdobson.com/obituaries/joseph-adelsberger>

## WE REMEMBER



SFC JAMES MICHAEL JIMMY GINAS III  
04/12/85-04/18/2015

10th SFG(A) pays tribute to Sgt. 1st Class James M. Ginas III during a memorial ceremony at Patch Barracks April 27. Ginas, 30, who passed away April 18, was a highly decorated Special Forces Soldier remembered for his infectious smile, positive attitude and warrior spirit. Ginas, well respected around the world, will be remembered for breaking down barriers between people and being a friend to everyone he met. Tragically, his time on this earth was short, but his impact is permanent.

Ginas was born April 12, 1985, in Long Island, N.Y. The oldest of three children, he graduated from Westlake High School in Waldorf, Md. in June 2003. Awarded an Army Reserve Officer Training Corps scholarship, Ginas ultimately decided to enlist in the U.S. Army in April 2003 as a signal intelligence analyst. He completed basic combat training at Fort Jackson, S.C., and advanced individual training at Good Fellow Air Force Base, Texas, before being assigned as a signal intelligence analyst with B Company, 3rd Military Intelligence Battalion, at Camp Humphries, South Korea. After his tour in Korea, Ginas moved to Fort Campbell, Ky., where he served as a Special Operations Team

Bravo signal intelligence analyst for 3rd Battalion, 5th Special Forces Group. He completed two deployments to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom before attending the Special Forces Assessment and Selection.

Upon being selected for Special Forces training in June 2008, Ginas moved to Fort Bragg, N.C., to complete the Special Forces qualification course. In May 2010, Ginas graduated SF training as a communication sergeant and was selected as the Special Forces qualification course honor graduate. He was then assigned to 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group in Stuttgart. While at 1-10 SFG, Ginas completed two combat tours to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as part of Task Force-10 in Surobi, Kunar and Jalabad.

Since August 2013, Ginas served as the contingency communications planner at SOCEUR and deployed to the Ukraine in support of contingency efforts.

Ginas' awards include the Bronze Star Medal with Valor, Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal with Valor, Army Commendation Medal with three Oak Leaf clusters, Army Achievement Medal with two Oak Leaf clusters, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Meritorious Unit Commendation with Oak Leaf cluster, Army Good Conduct Medal with three loops. National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with two Campaign Stars, Iraq Campaign Medal with two Campaign Stars, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Korea Defense Service Medal, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon with numeral 3, Army Service Ribbon, Army Overseas Ribbon with numeral 4, and NATO Medal. His badges include the Combat Infantryman Badge, Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, Military Freefall Parachutist Badge, Bronze German Airborne Wings, Gold German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge, Gold German Schutzenschnur, Ranger Tab and Special Forces Tab.

Ginas is survived by his wife Bianca Ginas, daughter Alexa, mother, and father and mother Jim and Liz Ginas.



Continue to be the nation's most elite and trusted irregular warfare force, relied on for conflict preparation, competition, and high-end conflict.